


# ANNUAL REPORT

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ICRC



This report is primarily an account of the ICRC's work in the field and its activities to promote international humanitarian law. Mention is made of some of the negotiations entered into with a view to bringing protection and assistance to the victims of international and non-international armed conflicts and other situations of violence. Other negotiations are not mentioned, since the ICRC feels that any publicity would not be in the interests of the victims. Thus, this report cannot be regarded as covering all the institution's efforts worldwide to come to the aid of the victims of conflict.

Moreover, the length of the text devoted to a given country or situation is not necessarily proportional to the magnitude of the problems observed and tackled by the institution. Indeed, there are cases which are a source of grave humanitarian concern but on which the ICRC is not in a position to report because it has been denied permission to take action. By the same token, the description of operations in which the ICRC has great freedom of action takes up considerable space, regardless of the scale of the problems involved.

The maps in this report are for illustrative purposes only and do not express an opinion on the part of the ICRC.

All figures in this report are in Swiss francs (CHF). In 2008, the average exchange rate was CHF 1.0789 to USD 1, and CHF 1.5929 to EUR 1.

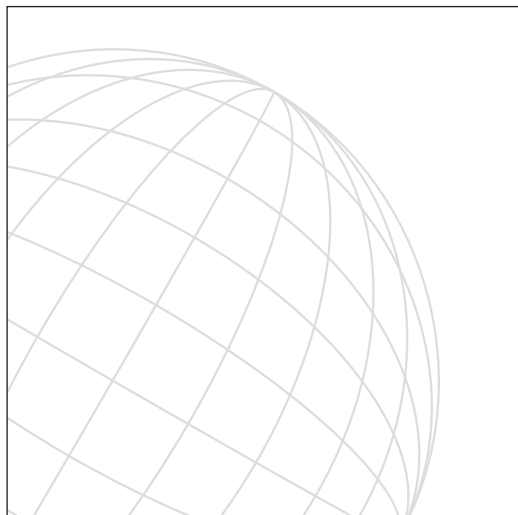
# ANNUAL REPORT 2008



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**ICRC**



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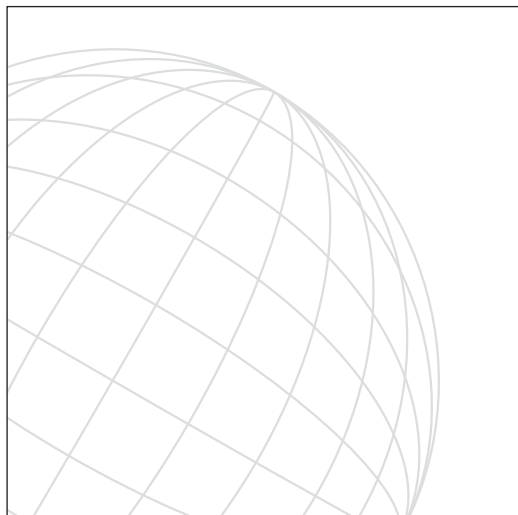
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# abbreviations and definitions

|          |   |  |
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| <b>A</b> | <b>Additional Protocol I</b>                      | Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), 8 June 1977                    |
|          | <b>Additional Protocol II</b>                     | Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), 8 June 1977               |
|          | <b>Additional Protocol III</b>                    | Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III), 8 December 2005                        |
|          | <b>1977 Additional Protocols</b>                  | Additional Protocols I and II  |
|          | <b>AIDS</b>                                       | acquired immune deficiency syndrome  |
| <b>B</b> | <b>Biological Weapons Convention</b>              | Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction                                  |
| <b>C</b> | <b>CHF</b>  | Swiss francs   |
|          | <b>Chemical Weapons Convention</b>                | Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction   |
|          | <b>Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons</b> | Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, 10 October 1980 |
|          | <b>Convention on Enforced Disappearance</b>       | International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance   |
| <b>F</b> | <b>Fundamental Principles</b>                     | Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality                |
| <b>G</b> | <b>1949 Geneva Conventions</b>                    | Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, 12 August 1949  |
|          |   | Convention (II) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, 12 August 1949  |
|          |   | Convention (III) relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 12 August 1949   |
|          |   | Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949  |

|          |  |  |
|----------|--|--|
| <b>H</b> | <b>Hague Convention on Cultural Property</b> | Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 14 May 1954   |
|          | <b>HF</b>                                    | high frequency   |
|          | <b>HIV</b>                                   | human immunodeficiency virus   |
| <b>I</b> | <b>ICRC</b>                                  | International Committee of the Red Cross, founded in 1863  |
|          | <b>IDPs</b>                                  | internally displaced people  |
|          | <b>International Federation</b>              | The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, founded in 1919, works on the basis of the Fundamental Principles, carrying out relief operations in aid of the victims of natural disasters and health emergencies, poverty brought about by socio-economic crises, and refugees; it combines this with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies.   |
|          | <b>IHL</b>                                   | international humanitarian law   |
|          | <b>IOM</b>                                   | International Organization for Migration   |
| <b>K</b> | <b>KCHF</b>                                  | thousand Swiss francs  |
| <b>M</b> | <b>Movement</b>                              | The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement comprises the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These are all independent bodies. Each has its own status and exercises no authority over the others.  |
| <b>N</b> | <b>National Society</b>                      | The National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies embody the Movement's work and Fundamental Principles in about 180 countries. They act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their own countries in the humanitarian field and provide a range of services, including disaster relief and health and social programmes. In times of conflict, National Societies assist the affected civilian population and, where appropriate, support the army medical services. |
|          | <b>NATO</b>                                  | North Atlantic Treaty Organization   |
|          | <b>NGO</b>                                   | non-governmental organization  |
| <b>O</b> | <b>OHCHR</b>                                 | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights  |

|          |   |  |
|----------|---|--|
| <b>O</b> | <b>Ottawa Convention</b>  | Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 18 September 1997   |
|          | <b>Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child</b> | Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000   |
| <b>P</b> | <b>POWs</b>   | prisoners of war   |
| <b>R</b> | <b>Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement</b>               | In November 2007, the Movement's Council of Delegates adopted the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement. The strategy, which covers a ten-year period, aims to strengthen the Movement's family-links network by enhancing the capacity of its components to respond to the needs of those without news of family members owing to armed conflict, other situations of violence, natural disasters or other circumstances, such as migration. |
|          | <b>RCMs</b>   | Red Cross messages   |
|          | <b>Rome Statute</b>   | Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 17 July 1998   |
| <b>S</b> | <b>Safer Access approach</b>  | An approach developed by the ICRC to help National Societies better their response to the needs of conflict victims while enhancing the safety of their workers.   |
|          | <b>San Remo</b>   | The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in San Remo, Italy, is a non-governmental organization set up in 1970 to spread knowledge and promote the development of IHL. It specializes in organizing courses on IHL for military personnel from around the world.   |
|          | <b>Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures</b>               | The 1997 Seville Agreement and its 2005 Supplementary Measures provide a framework for effective cooperation and partnership between the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.   |
|          | <b>Solferino communication campaign</b>                               | A public communication campaign on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino, and thus the beginnings of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This Movement-wide campaign aims to promote humanitarian principles, to emphasize the vulnerability of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, and to highlight the challenges facing humanitarian action throughout the world.               |
|          | <b>Study on customary international humanitarian law</b>              | A 5,000-page text that is the outcome of eight years of research by ICRC legal staff and other experts who reviewed State practice in 47 countries and consulted international sources such as the United Nations and international tribunals.   |



|          |               |  |
|----------|---------------|--|
| <b>U</b> | <b>UN</b>     | United Nations   |
|          | <b>UNDP</b>   | United Nations Development Programme                             |
|          | <b>UNESCO</b> | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
|          | <b>UNHCR</b>  | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees      |
|          | <b>UNICEF</b> | United Nations Children's Fund                                   |
| <b>V</b> | <b>VHF</b>    | very high frequency  |
| <b>W</b> | <b>WFP</b>    | World Food Programme   |
|          | <b>WHO</b>    | World Health Organization  |

# message from the president

Armed conflicts – in some cases exacerbated by natural disaster and high food prices – continued to kill and injure countless people around the world in 2008, causing immeasurable suffering and hardship. The ICRC worked tirelessly to protect and assist the most vulnerable of these people on a strictly neutral and impartial basis, through its network of 12,000 staff in some 80 countries.

Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia and the Russian Federation, Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Iraq, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan (Darfur) and Uganda were among the ICRC's most significant humanitarian operations during the year. In order to respond and adapt in a timely manner to increasing or unforeseen humanitarian needs, the ICRC required 14 separate budget extensions, amounting to CHF 153 million. In Somalia, for example, the combination of armed conflict, drought and the food crisis had a disastrous impact on an already highly vulnerable population. In Pakistan, intensifying armed conflict in the north-west of the country resulted in increased humanitarian needs, while the armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation in August 2008, although brief, had far-reaching humanitarian consequences that required the ICRC to scale up its humanitarian operations there.

Indeed, the ICRC's rapid deployment and response approach, adopted in 2007, was successfully activated in 2008, not only in Georgia and the Russian Federation, but also in Kenya, in response to the post-election violence in January, in Myanmar, where the ICRC intensified its humanitarian relief operations in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, which struck in May, in Pakistan, in response to the earthquake in October, and during the latest escalation of violence in Gaza that started in December. These operations showed yet again that rapid deployment, combined with the will and capacity to deliver on promises, is indispensable to gaining better access to those in need of protection and assistance, and as such lies at the heart of the ICRC's added value in terms of humanitarian action.

One of the most serious humanitarian consequences of armed conflicts and other situations of violence around the world continued to be the internal displacement of millions of people, often as a result of violations of IHL by parties to a conflict – with women and children particularly hard hit. In 2008, more than 3.77 million IDPs worldwide benefited from ICRC relief activities. Humanitarian assistance was provided to those fleeing intensifying conflict (as in north-west Pakistan and in Gaza at the end of the year) or new hostilities (as in Georgia and the Russian Federation) and to families hosting them (as in eastern Chad), for those living in protracted situations of displacement, often in urban settings (as in Colombia), and for vulnerable rural populations in order to increase their self-sufficiency and thereby prevent them from becoming displaced in the first place (as in Darfur). Worldwide, the ICRC distributed food to 2.8 million people in 2008, mainly IDPs and residents, and essential household and hygiene items to close to 3.3 million people, while around 2.4 million people benefited from sustainable food production programmes or micro-economic initiatives.

More than 15 million people around the world benefited from ICRC water, sanitation and construction activities in 2008. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, the ICRC supplied drinking water for 187,000 people affected by the hostilities in North Kivu. In Côte d'Ivoire, six years after the crisis erupted in 2002, the ICRC was finally able to hand back management of the water supply system that provides clean drinking water to over 1.5 million people in the north of the country to the private operator SODECI.

Some 3.4 million people worldwide benefited from ICRC health-related activities. For example, hospitals received support and mobile medical units were provided in north-west Pakistan, where the number of weapon-wounded patients increased significantly in the course of the year, and health specialists were dispatched to Zimbabwe to help tackle the country's cholera epidemic.

In 2008, the ICRC also visited 494,540 detainees, 35,892 of whom were monitored individually in 2,387 places of detention. The aim of such visits, which are based on confidential dialogue with the detainees and the detaining authorities, is to prevent torture, ill-treatment or abuse, which violate essential rights and the basic principles of humanity.

The ICRC was able to scale down its activities in some countries where continuing post-conflict recovery saw significant improvements in the humanitarian situation. In Sierra Leone, for instance, seven years after the peace agreement, the ICRC closed its delegation, although it will maintain an office in Freetown under the supervision of its delegation in neighbouring Guinea. The Freetown office will continue to monitor the situation in the country and support certain programmes of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, such as those focusing on restoring family links. And six years after the end of Angola's civil war, the ICRC continued to reduce its activities in preparation for the eventual closure of its delegation in the country.

Also in 2008, the ICRC further explored the possibilities for and developed its humanitarian action in contexts of urban violence, as in Brazil and Haiti, where, among other activities, it ensured that victims of violence in the shantytowns had access to medical services.

Being seen as relevant, credible and delivering on its promises is crucial to the ICRC's acceptance by all stakeholders and enables the organization to obtain access and provide protection and assistance to those who need them most. The institution's neutral and independent humanitarian status, its action and communication play an essential part in gaining that acceptance. On the basis of this status, the ICRC was able to offer its services as a neutral intermediary on several occasions in 2008, facilitating the release of captured civilians or fighters or the handover of human remains in Colombia, Mali and between Israel and Lebanon, among others.

While the ICRC is convinced that existing rules of IHL provide an adequate legal framework for the necessary restraints to limit human suffering in armed conflict, gaining enhanced respect for the law by parties to conflicts remained a major challenge in 2008. Deplorable violations of IHL were once again witnessed in numerous armed conflicts around the world during the year.

The ICRC's conviction that IHL is as relevant as ever does not mean that there is no scope or need to develop the law and to clarify notions that have become key in today's conflict environments. The Convention on Cluster Munitions, which opened for signature by States in December 2008 and for which the ICRC was one of the leading advocates, is proof that IHL can be developed where there is a strong political will. Another example is the successful conclusion in September 2008 of an intergovernmental initiative on private military and security companies operating in situations of armed conflict. The 17 States participating in the initiative succeeded in reaffirming and clarifying the rules binding States and such companies, and in providing good practice guidance in the relations between them.

A constant challenge facing not only the ICRC but the humanitarian community as a whole is how best to coordinate efforts in order to avoid gaps or overlaps when addressing needs. The ICRC discharges its mandate with strict regard to its own neutral and independent humanitarian approach, but it is committed to all genuine efforts to enhance cooperation and dialogue between humanitarian organizations – where these efforts are based on transparency and clarity on such fundamental issues as beneficiary numbers, access and capacities. The ultimate goal of enhanced coordination must be to achieve a more effective and more reliable humanitarian response where it counts most – i.e. in the field, for the people affected by disaster or armed conflict. While some progress has been made in this respect, there is clearly still a long way to go.

Cooperation and coordination within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement have always been of particular importance to the ICRC, and 2008 was no exception. Together with National Societies around the world, the ICRC undertook various activities, including providing first aid and health care, distributing food, taking war casualties to hospital and restoring family links. In partnership with National Societies in key operational contexts – from Afghanistan to Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Pakistan and Somalia, to name just a few – the ICRC aimed to achieve maximum impact in addressing humanitarian needs effectively.



Jakob Kellenberger  
President



Thierry Gassmann/ICRC



# ICRC operational framework and programme descriptions

## ICRC OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The ICRC endeavours to respond to the humanitarian needs engendered by today's complex armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the most timely, human and professional way possible. Each situation thus requires thorough analysis, a sensitive but objective assessment of the needs and human suffering, and the design and implementation of specific and efficient humanitarian responses.

Today more than ever, situations have to be considered holistically, in a way that integrates local, regional and global elements and takes into account the broad range of problems and needs of the populations the ICRC wants to help. It is important as well to ensure the coherence of ICRC activities both in the medium and long term. To this end, the ICRC works with a dynamic network of multidisciplinary teams composed of both specialists and general staff who are led and coordinated by competent management with clear policies and priorities. Effective monitoring and critical evaluation, drawing on lessons learned from past experience, are also crucial to this process, as is coordination with the numerous actors present on the increasingly complex humanitarian scene.

The ICRC operational framework is characterized by a diverse range of activities requiring varied skills and expertise, a focus on different target populations, and the strategic use of various modes of action at different levels of intervention.

### MODES OF ACTION

The modes of action used by the ICRC depend on the situation, the problems encountered and the objectives to be achieved.

- **persuasion:** confidential representations addressed to the authorities and aimed at convincing them to enhance respect for IHL and/or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence and to take measures which improve the circumstances of people affected by such situations

- **support:** activities aimed at providing assistance to the authorities so that they are better able to carry out their functions and fulfil their responsibilities
- **direct services/substitution:** activities to provide direct services to people in need, often in place of authorities who are not able or not willing to do so
- **mobilization:** activities aimed at prevailing on third parties to influence the behaviour or action of the authorities, to support them, or to provide direct services to people in need
- **denunciation (resorted to by the ICRC only in exceptional circumstances and under strict conditions):** public declarations regarding violations of IHL or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence committed by specific actors, for the purpose of bringing a halt to such violations or preventing their reoccurrence

### LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

The activities carried out under the ICRC's programmes are conducted at the following **complementary** levels to reach common objectives in aid of the affected populations:

- **preventing or alleviating the immediate effects** of an emerging or established pattern of abuse or problem (responsive action)
- **restoring dignified living conditions** through rehabilitation, restitution and reparation (remedial action)
- **fostering a social, cultural, institutional and legal environment** conducive to full respect for IHL and/or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence (environment-building action)

### RESULT-BASED MANAGEMENT

At least once a year, on the basis of an analysis of the given situation and of the humanitarian issues, the ICRC defines objectives and plans of action for the coming year for each context in which it operates. The plans of action describe how the ICRC aims to work towards the objectives in question. Changes in situations and humanitarian issues may require objectives and plans of action to be revised during the year. Objectives and plans of action are

organized according to target populations and list activities according to programme (see descriptions below). The accounting system is structured accordingly (see description below).

ICRC Appeals provide donors with information about these objectives and plans of action and their corresponding budget.

The ICRC also produces its *Annual Report*, which provides information – descriptive, quantitative and financial – regarding those objectives and plans of action.

Whenever possible the reporting is result-oriented. It includes a description of the products and services resulting from processes that use a combination of resources, and their effect or results at output, outcome or impact level.

The ICRC works according to the following definitions of the terminology used, adopted on the basis of a common understanding in existing literature:

- ▶ **input:** resources that enable a person/organization to do something
- ▶ **activity:** any action or process
- ▶ **output:** the products, capital goods and services that are **generated** by an activity, including changes resulting from the activity that are expected to **lead** to the achievement of outcomes
- ▶ **outcome:** the likely, or achieved, medium-term (1–5 year) effects of the output of one or several activities or interventions
- ▶ **impact:** positive and negative, primary and secondary, long-term effects produced by interventions (a combination of factors), directly or indirectly, intended or unintended. The ICRC, as any other actor, is likely only to **contribute** to an impact. Many factors will come into play: some man-made, others occurring naturally

## TARGET POPULATIONS

In setting its objectives, the ICRC has drawn up a standard list of seven target groups, divided into two broad categories. These are defined as follows:

1) **Affected populations/persons** are individuals or segments of the population suffering the direct and/or indirect effects of a confirmed or emerging situation of armed conflict or violence, who do not or no longer take a direct part in the hostilities or violence. The aim of ICRC action for such people is to ensure that they are respected and protected and to alleviate the suffering caused by the situation, in accordance with the provisions of IHL and internationally accepted standards. The ICRC distinguishes between three different groups of people:

- ▶ **civilians:**  
all people who do not take a direct part in hostilities or violence but whose physical or mental integrity and dignity are either threatened or affected during a conflict or another situation of violence
- ▶ **people deprived of their freedom:**  
all individuals deprived of their freedom in connection with a situation of armed conflict or violence, such as prisoners of war, civilian internees and security detainees
- ▶ **the wounded and sick:**  
people injured or suffering from disease in a situation of armed conflict or violence

2) Then there are **influential individuals** or **institutions** that, because of their roles and functions, may directly or indirectly take action to curb, avoid or put an end to violations of IHL or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence, and protect or aid those affected when humanitarian problems arise. The ICRC endeavours to persuade them to take action, in the manner most conducive to promoting full respect for those fundamental rules and to ensuring that the people in need receive protection and assistance. This second broad category comprises the following:

- ▶ **the authorities:**  
political decision-makers (civil, administrative or legislative authorities, whether official or unofficial)
- ▶ **armed forces and other weapon bearers:**  
armed, police and security forces, and all State and non-State actors involved in armed violence
- ▶ **civil society:**  
the public at large, representatives of civil society or other actors exerting influence, such as the media, associations of various kinds, NGOs, religious authorities or opinion-makers, economic entities, young people, university students and academic institutions
- ▶ **the Movement:**  
besides the ICRC, the Movement comprises the National Societies and their International Federation. There is a National Society in almost every country in the world, carrying out humanitarian services for the benefit of the community. For the ICRC, the existence of a local partner in each country is a valuable asset and one of the distinguishing features of cooperation within the Movement

## Particular concerns

The ICRC devotes particular attention to certain individual characteristics and situations which further increase vulnerability. As the civilian population becomes increasingly caught up in armed conflicts, specific problems may engender or exacerbate vulnerability among women, children, the elderly or minorities.

As warring parties fight for territorial control, more and more civilians are displaced. Forced displacement could aim to weaken enemy forces by targeting communities considered to be supportive of them, or to facilitate appropriation of property or access to natural resources. **Internally displaced people** are those compelled to flee their homes, leaving most of their personal belongings behind, often to resettle in over-populated areas in conditions of extreme poverty, without gainful employment and seldom having the benefit of services such as a clean water supply, sewage systems, health care or education.

**Children** are not spared in conflict, as they not only represent a large segment of the population but are also more vulnerable than adults. They should benefit both from the general protection guaranteed by law as people not taking a direct part in hostilities and from specific protection as a particularly vulnerable group (children are covered by 25 articles in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols). Yet three out of every five war victims assisted by the ICRC are children. They are often the powerless witnesses of atrocities committed against their relatives. Many of them are killed, wounded or imprisoned, torn from their families, forcibly recruited into combat, compelled to flee or left without even an identity.



**Women and girls** mostly experience armed conflict as civilians, and as such are often exposed to acts of violence. Such acts include death or injury from indiscriminate attacks and mine explosions, but also direct assaults. Sexual violence, including rape, is widespread and often used as a method of warfare against the civilian population, with women and girls as the main victims. In addition, the loss of male relatives, deprivation of access to the basic means of survival and health care makes women and girls vulnerable. It is therefore imperative to understand in which way, owing to their status and role in a given context, women and girls are affected by a situation of violence and how best humanitarian programmes can contribute to alleviating their plight.

Too often in armed conflicts **people fall victim to the effects of weapon contamination**. The ICRC, together with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, implements activities aimed at reducing the impact of weapon contamination on communities living in contaminated areas. The response provided is adapted to each individual situation and can comprise a range of activities, across all ICRC programmes, which seek to define the scope of the problem, facilitate a flexible and effective response and take into account the activities of others in this field. More specifically, this involves:

- ▶ providing policy guidance and technical support on weapon contamination issues to National Societies and representing the Movement internationally on these matters
- ▶ working with protection, economic security and water and habitat programmes to ensure that weapon contamination as a potential source of vulnerability is included in assessments and programme planning
- ▶ supporting National Society capacity building and the integration of National Societies into national mine-action capability
- ▶ deploying a rapid response capacity to ICRC delegations in emergencies where weapon contamination poses a threat to the ICRC and/or the population
- ▶ contributing globally to the development of international mine-action policy, methodologies and systems

In late 2001, the ICRC launched the “**Missing**” project to heighten awareness of the tragic fate of people who are unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to seek ways of alleviating the anguish suffered by their families. In the wake of the International Conference of Governmental and Non-Governmental Experts on the missing and their families, convened by the ICRC in Geneva in February 2003, and the pledge made at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003, operational guidelines have been established to prevent disappearances and to respond to the needs and suffering of the families left behind. They are currently being implemented on the ground by the relevant ICRC delegations worldwide.

The recommendations pertaining to the forensic sciences and human remains are also implemented. They include:

- ▶ providing operational support, including in the form of evaluations, to ICRC field operations on all matters related to human remains and the forensic sciences
- ▶ providing training and advice on best practices in the forensic sciences as they relate to the search for the missing, including in natural disasters
- ▶ spreading knowledge of and promoting those best practices
- ▶ developing tools, including for the collection and management of information

- ▶ developing guidelines, manuals and publications to empower investigations into cases of missing persons
- ▶ carrying out forensic case-work in ICRC operational contexts that require it

Moreover, the ICRC continues to heighten concern about the issue of missing persons and their relatives among governments, NGOs, UN agencies and relevant segments of civil society and to emphasize the importance of addressing and ultimately resolving the issue.

**As the ICRC aims to provide a comprehensive response to all populations affected by armed conflict or violence, neither its programmes (protection, assistance, prevention and cooperation with National Societies) nor their corresponding budgets are designed in such a way as to cater solely to one or another of the specific groups described above. Donors wishing to help the ICRC manage contributions to its programmes in the most efficient way possible are referred to the proposed criteria for levels of earmarking set out in the “Contributions” section of this chapter available in the Emergency Appeals, Overview of Operations and Annual Report published each year.**

## PROGRAMME DESCRIPTIONS

### PROTECTION

In order to preserve the lives, security, dignity and physical and mental well-being of people adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ICRC has adopted a protection approach that aims to ensure that the authorities and other players involved fulfil their obligations and uphold the rights of individuals protected by law. It also tries to prevent and/or put an end to actual or probable violations of IHL and other bodies of law protecting people in such situations. The protection approach focuses both on the causes or circumstances of violations, targeting those responsible and those who can influence them, and on the consequences of the violations.

Protection programmes cover all activities designed to ensure protection of the victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence. The beneficiaries are resident and displaced civilians, people deprived of their freedom (in particular prisoners of war, security detainees, internees and other vulnerable people), people separated from their relatives by conflict, violence or other circumstances, such as natural disasters or migration, and missing people and their families.

As a neutral and independent humanitarian organization, the ICRC seeks to ensure that all the parties to a conflict and all authorities provide individuals and groups with the full respect and protection that are due to them under IHL and other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence. In response to violations of these rules, the ICRC endeavours, as much as possible through constructive and confidential dialogue, to encourage the authorities concerned to take corrective action and to prevent any recurrence. Delegations monitor the situation and the treatment of the civilian population and persons deprived of their freedom, discuss their findings with the authorities concerned, recommend measures and conduct follow-up activities.

### Respect for persons deprived of their freedom

The objective of the ICRC’s activities for persons deprived of their freedom is purely humanitarian, namely to ensure that their physical and mental integrity is fully respected and that their conditions of detention are in line with IHL and/or internationally

recognized standards. As circumstances dictate, the ICRC strives to prevent forced disappearances or extrajudicial executions, ill-treatment and failure to respect fundamental judicial guarantees, and, whenever necessary, takes action to improve conditions of detention. This involves in particular:

- ▶ negotiating with the authorities to obtain access to persons deprived of their freedom wherever they may be held, in accordance with procedures that guarantee the effectiveness and consistency of ICRC action
- ▶ visiting all detainees, assessing their conditions of detention and identifying any shortcomings and humanitarian needs
- ▶ monitoring individual detainees (for specific protection, medical or other purposes)
- ▶ maintaining family links (such as facilitating family visits or forwarding RCMs)
- ▶ under specific conditions, providing material and medical relief supplies to detainees or engaging in cooperation on specific projects with the detaining authorities
- ▶ fostering a confidential and meaningful dialogue with the authorities at all levels regarding any problems of a humanitarian nature that may arise

Visits to places of detention are carried out by the ICRC in accordance with strict conditions:

- ▶ delegates must be provided with full and unimpeded access to all detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate and to all places where they are held
- ▶ delegates must be able to hold private interviews with the detainees of their choice
- ▶ delegates must be able to repeat their visits
- ▶ detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate must be notified individually to the ICRC, and the ICRC must be able to draw up lists of their names

### Respect for civilians

Protection activities for the civilian population are intended to ensure that individuals and groups not or no longer taking a direct part in hostilities are fully respected and protected, in accordance with IHL or other fundamental rules protecting persons in situations of violence. This involves in particular:

- ▶ engaging in dialogue with the relevant parties at all levels to discuss humanitarian issues and to remind them of their legal obligations
- ▶ monitoring individuals and communities who are particularly vulnerable and/or exposed to serious risks of abuse, and reducing their exposure to those risks

### Restoring family links

These activities aim to restore or maintain contact between members of families, including people deprived of their freedom, who have been separated by an armed conflict, another situation of violence or in relation with a natural disaster, with a view to relieving their mental anguish. This involves in particular:

- ▶ forwarding family news (through various means, such as RCMs, radio broadcasts, the telephone and the Internet) via the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent network (National Societies and ICRC delegations)
- ▶ tracing persons separated from their families, in particular unaccompanied and separated children, including demobilized child soldiers

- ▶ collecting information on detentions, disappearances and deaths, collecting tracing requests from the families of missing people and submitting them to the relevant authorities for clarification
- ▶ organizing repatriations and family reunifications
- ▶ facilitating family visits to detainees or across front lines
- ▶ issuing ICRC travel documents for people who, owing to a conflict, do not or no longer have identity papers and are about to be repatriated or resettled in a third country

### Missing persons

Activities for missing persons are intended to shed light on the fate and/or whereabouts of people who are unaccounted for as a consequence of an armed conflict or other situation of violence, and thereby respond to the suffering caused to their relatives by the uncertainty surrounding their fate. This involves promoting and supporting mechanisms to help clarify the fate of missing persons, including the collection and management of information and the recovery and identification of human remains, facilitating dialogue between the authorities and the families of missing people, and responding to the latter's needs.

## ASSISTANCE

The aim of assistance is to preserve life and/or restore the dignity of individuals or communities adversely affected by an armed conflict or other situation of violence. Assistance activities address the consequences of violations of IHL and other bodies of law that protect people. They may also tackle the causes and circumstances of such violations by reducing risk exposure.

Assistance programmes are designed to preserve or restore acceptable living conditions for people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence, to enable them to maintain an adequate standard of living in their respective social and cultural context until their basic needs are met by the authorities or through their own means. The beneficiaries are primarily resident or displaced civilians, vulnerable groups such as minorities and the families of people who are unaccounted for, the sick and the wounded (both military and civilian) and people deprived of their freedom.

### Economic security

Economic security programmes are designed to ensure that households and communities have access to the services and resources required to meet their essential economic needs, as defined by their physical condition and social and cultural environment. In practice, this translates into three different types of intervention:

- ▶ relief interventions: to protect lives and livelihoods by providing persons in need with the goods and/or services essential for their survival when they can no longer obtain these through their own means
- ▶ production interventions: to protect or enhance a household's or community's asset base – its means of production – so that it can maintain or recover its livelihood
- ▶ structural interventions: to protect livelihoods by influencing processes, institutions and policies that have a direct impact on a target population's capacity to maintain its livelihood over time (such as agricultural or livestock services)

### Water and habitat

Water and habitat programmes are designed to ensure access to water (for both drinking and household use) and to a safe living environment.

In situations of acute crisis, infrastructure may have been damaged by fighting and basic services may not work or be inaccessible. People may be forced to leave their homes to look for water in a hostile environment. By monitoring the situation and implementing projects when and where necessary, in both urban and rural contexts, the ICRC ensures access to water and safe environmental sanitation conditions, and promotes basic health care by taking emergency action and supporting existing facilities.

In emerging crises, chronic crises and post-crisis situations, the priority is to support and strengthen existing structures through initiatives taken in conjunction with the authorities and/or through specific programmes that meet the needs of the population in a viable, sustainable manner.

### Health services

Health-related activities are designed to give people affected by an armed conflict or other situations of violence access to appropriate preventive and curative health care that meets universally recognized standards, a task which entails assisting local or regional health services and sometimes stepping in for them on a temporary basis. This involves in particular:

- ▶ implementing activities, supporting existing structures, organizations and programmes or mobilizing others in order to foster access to health care, especially in the following key areas: health in detention, pre-hospital care (first aid and medical evacuations), emergency hospital care, hospital management, basic health care, mother and child care and support for victims of sexual violence
- ▶ negotiating with the authorities in order to guarantee safe access to quality health care for the affected population and a safe working environment for medical personnel

### Physical rehabilitation

Physical rehabilitation projects are designed to provide physically disabled people with prosthetic/orthotic appliances so that they can recover their mobility and play an active role in society. This involves in particular:

- ▶ manufacturing prosthetic/orthotic appliances and components
- ▶ providing national technicians with theoretical and practical training in accordance with recognized standards
- ▶ engaging in dialogue with the authorities, especially on questions concerning the handover and continuation of projects

## PREVENTION

The aim of prevention is to foster an environment that is conducive to respect for the lives and dignity of those who may be adversely affected by an armed conflict or other situation of violence, and that is favourable to the work of the ICRC. The approach has a medium- to long-term outlook and aims to prevent suffering by influencing those who have a direct or indirect impact on the fate of people affected by such situations, and/or who can influence the ICRC's ability to gain access to these persons and operate efficiently in their favour. In particular, the prevention approach involves communicating, developing, clarifying and promoting the implementation of IHL and other applicable bodies of law, and promoting acceptance of the ICRC's work.

### Implementation of IHL

Implementation activities aim to promote the universal ratification of humanitarian treaties and the adoption by States of legislative, administrative and practical measures and mechanisms to give effect to these instruments at national level. It is also important to ascertain that proposals to develop domestic laws do not undermine existing IHL norms. Implementation activities also aim to foster compliance with IHL during armed conflicts and to ensure that national authorities, international organizations, the armed forces and other bearers of weapons correctly understand the law applicable in such situations. This involves in particular:

- ▶ promoting humanitarian treaties among the relevant authorities by making representations to governments, providing training in IHL and drafting technical documents and guidelines to further national implementation
- ▶ providing technical advice and support for the implementation of IHL, undertaking studies and carrying out technical assessments of the compatibility of national legislation with this body of law
- ▶ translating existing IHL and human rights texts and materials into different languages
- ▶ encouraging and helping authorities to integrate IHL into the doctrine, education and training of national armed, police and security forces, and into the training and education programmes for future leaders and opinion-makers in universities and schools

### Development of IHL

These activities aim to promote the adoption of new treaties to make IHL more effective and to respond to needs which arise as a result of technological progress and the changing nature of armed conflict. At the same time, the ICRC furthers the development of customary international humanitarian law by encouraging constructive State practice. This involves in particular:

- ▶ taking part in meetings of experts and diplomatic conferences held to develop new treaties or other legal instruments, and formulating bilateral and multilateral initiatives to promote their acceptance by governments and relevant organizations
- ▶ monitoring new developments, carrying out studies, organizing meetings of experts and drafting proposals

### Communication

The following complementary communication approaches constitute a key component of preventive action and facilitate ICRC access to the victims of armed conflict and violence:

- ▶ public communication which aims to inform and mobilize key stakeholders on priority humanitarian issues and to promote greater understanding of and support for IHL and the work of the ICRC
- ▶ processes to scan the humanitarian environment at the global, regional and local levels with a view to identifying, understanding and addressing perceptions and issues having an impact on the ICRC's ability to operate
- ▶ developing and implementing strategies to influence the attitudes and actions of political authorities or weapon bearers
- ▶ developing communication strategies and tools to mobilize key target groups – such as leaders and opinion-makers – in favour of respect for IHL and acceptance of ICRC action on behalf of victims of armed conflict



- ▶ supporting the implementation of the youth education programme – Exploring Humanitarian Law – to help young people embrace humanitarian principles and the social and legal norms intended to protect life and human dignity
- ▶ reinforcing links with academic circles to consolidate a network of IHL experts and developing partnerships with institutes and research centres specializing in IHL
- ▶ responding to public information requests on humanitarian norms, issues and action in situations of armed conflict
- ▶ producing – and translating into a range of languages – print, audiovisual and web-based communication materials to support and communicate the ICRC's activities

### Weapons issues and mine action

The ICRC pays particular attention to promoting measures to restrict or prohibit the use of weapons that have indiscriminate effects or cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering. This includes promoting the application of existing IHL norms on the use of weapons and the development, when appropriate, of additional norms in response to the field realities witnessed by the ICRC or the emergence of new technology.

The ICRC, working closely with National Societies, also implements preventive mine-action activities in situations where mines and other explosive remnants of war represent a danger to the population. These programmes are adapted to each individual situation and can comprise a range of activities that seek to define the problem, facilitate a flexible and effective response and take into account the activities of others in this field.

It involves in particular:

- ▶ making representations to governments and other weapon bearers
- ▶ providing an IHL perspective on weapons issues in national and international fora
- ▶ holding meetings of military, legal, technical and foreign affairs experts to consider, *inter alia*, issues relating to emerging weapons technology and the impact in humanitarian terms of the use of certain weapons
- ▶ promoting the full and faithful implementation of treaties such as the Ottawa Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and providing IHL perspectives in meetings on relevant arms treaties
- ▶ providing policy guidance and technical support on mines and other arms issues to National Societies and representing the Movement internationally on these matters
- ▶ attending meetings with key mine-action organizations that contribute to the development of mine-action policy, methodologies and systems
- ▶ planning and implementing preventive mine-action activities, often in cooperation with National Societies, to limit the physical, social and economic impact of mines and explosive remnants of war
- ▶ deploying a mine-action rapid response team to provide technical support to ICRC delegations working in emergencies where mines and explosive remnants of war pose a threat to the ICRC and/or the population

## COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The aim of cooperation is to increase the operational capabilities of the National Societies, above all in countries affected or likely to be affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence. It further aims to increase the ICRC's ability to interact with National Societies and work in partnership with them. The cooperation approach aims to optimize the Movement's humanitarian work by making the best use of complementary mandates and skills in operational matters such as protection, assistance and prevention. It involves drawing up and implementing the policies of the Movement that are adopted during its statutory meetings and building the capacities of the National Societies, helping them to adhere at all times to the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC shares its expertise with the National Societies in their domestic and international activities. It does this by:

- ▶ strengthening both the National Societies' capacity to take action and provide appropriate services in times of armed conflict and other situations of violence in their own country and the ICRC's action and operational capacity through its interaction and partnership with National Societies
- ▶ promoting operational partnerships with National Societies in their own countries and with those working internationally in order to respond to the needs of people affected by conflicts or other situations of violence
- ▶ promoting dialogue and having regular communication on issues of common concern with National Societies and the International Federation Secretariat

The sections below describe these activities, distinguishing between cooperation with a National Society working in its own country and cooperation between the ICRC and National Societies working internationally. The final section discusses overall Movement coordination in the field.

### Building the response capacity of National Societies in their own countries

The ICRC provides expertise in certain areas to all National Societies in order to strengthen their capacity to conduct activities domestically in accordance with their own priorities and plans. These areas include:

- ▶ promoting IHL and spreading knowledge of the Movement's principles, ideals and activities among both internal and external target groups
- ▶ preparing for and providing health care and relief services in situations of conflict and internal strife
- ▶ restoring family links through the worldwide Red Cross/Red Crescent tracing network according to the newly adopted Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement and its corresponding implementation plan
- ▶ developing activities to prevent the risks of weapon contamination
- ▶ supporting National Societies in relevant legal matters, such as recognizing or reconstituting a National Society, drawing up or amending statutes, and preparing for the Movement's statutory meetings

The National Society remains responsible for designing, managing, implementing and monitoring all the activities it carries out. The ICRC facilitates the implementation of planned activities by:

- ▶ providing National Societies with technical expertise
- ▶ making available material and financial assistance in order to help National Societies fulfil their humanitarian role in situations of armed conflict and internal strife
- ▶ mobilizing support from sister National Societies and retaining a monitoring and support role with respect to the achievement of agreed objectives
- ▶ seconding ICRC delegates to National Societies so that they can exercise executive, managerial or support responsibilities in areas agreed with the National Society

Whatever form the ICRC's support takes, it is offered in the spirit of a mutually beneficial partnership. In this regard, the ICRC aims to enhance preparedness and response by optimizing complementarity and strengthening the global Movement network. Written agreements between the ICRC and each National Society ensure that the objectives are clear to each partner and that the working relationship is based on a common understanding of respective roles and responsibilities. The ICRC provides capacity-building support in close consultation and coordination with the International Federation, as activities are carried out with a long-term perspective and are part of each National Society's development process.

### **Operational partnerships with National Societies in their own countries**

The ICRC and National Societies in their own countries often join forces and choose to implement activities together for the benefit of people affected by conflict or internal strife. Activities selected for joint implementation are those which best fit within the National Society's own plan, preserve its ability to function as an independent institution and contribute to further strengthening its operational capacity. The National Society's autonomy in managing such activities may vary, and is contingent on its operational capacity and conditions on the ground.

In its 2007–2010 Strategy, the ICRC identifies operational partnerships with National Societies in their own countries as a management priority that seeks not only to enhance the ICRC's own ability to partner with National Societies, but also to build the National Societies' capacity to conduct their own operations.

Written agreements formalize the operational partnership and specify the objectives to be achieved, respective roles and responsibilities, and corresponding plans of action and budgets. Financial, administrative and reporting procedures form an integral part of such agreements.

This form of cooperation ensures that partnerships with National Societies have an added value for the beneficiaries, the ICRC and the National Society. Details of these activities are published in the ICRC's *Annual Report*.

### **Operational partnerships with National Societies working internationally**

Many National Societies have the resources and willingness to work internationally together with the ICRC, and contribute in cash, in kind or by providing personnel and operational

management. This section focuses on how this kind of operational partnership functions and on the form of projects implemented in the field.

In order to make its operational partnerships with National Societies working internationally more effective, and in line with its Cooperation policy of May 2003, the ICRC developed and tested between 2004 and 2006 new forms of partnership and management procedures that aim to bring added value to the Movement's overall humanitarian response. The first – **Integrated Partnerships** – has been designed for situations where a project carried out by a National Society working internationally forms an integral part of the ICRC's own objectives, and the National Society is integrated into the ICRC's operational management framework. The second – **Coordinated Activities** – has been designed for contexts where work carried out by a National Society working internationally is not part of the ICRC's objectives, but is under the ICRC's leadership and coordination in conformity with the Seville Agreement.

In the future, the ICRC will further invest in the development of partnerships with National Societies that have recently expanded their international work.

### **Coordination within the Movement**

In a given context today, all the types of cooperation outlined above may occur simultaneously. They have to be carefully organized, coordinated and managed in order to achieve their respective objectives. More broadly, the resources made available to the Movement must be coordinated and managed in ways that ensure maximum benefit is derived for the beneficiaries.

The ICRC is responsible for promoting and directing the contribution and involvement of other Movement components in international relief operations in countries affected by armed conflict, internal strife and their direct consequences. It assumes the role of "lead agency" for the Movement operation in accordance with the Movement's Statutes and the Seville Agreement, and in consultation with the National Society of the country concerned.

In such situations, coordination mechanisms are established that cover all the Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions active on the ground.

When the ICRC assumes the role of lead agency, it implements its own activities while also taking responsibility for coordinating the response of other Movement components. It is currently working to improve its practice as lead agency, by working with the National Society of the country as its natural "primary partner". Country-level memoranda of understanding, defining the roles and responsibilities of each Movement component in emergency and normal situations, during periods of conflict, transition and peace, have been developed in a number of contexts and have proven effective in preparing the ground for well coordinated Movement action.

In cooperation with other Movement partners, the ICRC has dedicated further resources to learning from the experience of coordinating the Movement's humanitarian response in a number of contexts. Revised operational guidelines to enhance coordination are under development.

## GENERAL

This programme covers all activities related to the functioning of ICRC delegations, but which cannot be allocated to another programme, such as strategy, management, internal control and certain strategic negotiations.

## OVERHEADS

The budget and expenditure for each operation comprises a 6.5% overhead charge on cash and services as a contribution to the costs of headquarters support for operations in the field. This support is for services essential to an operation's success, such as human resources, finance, logistics, information technology and other support as described in the Headquarters Appeal for the same year. The contribution covers approximately 30% of the actual cost of support provided by headquarters to field operations.

## CONTINGENCY

The overall amount of the Emergency Appeals includes a budgetary reserve of 5% of the total field budget (including overheads). The reserve enables the ICRC to meet unforeseen needs arising from the intensification of armed conflicts or other situations of violence where the total expenditure for its work does not justify a Budget Extension or Special Appeal.

## ICRC FIELD STRUCTURE

The ICRC has developed a broad network of delegations around the world. The ultimate purpose of such a network is to enable the ICRC to fulfill its mandate in favour of those affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence, by responding in a timely, efficient and adequate manner to the resulting humanitarian needs.

ICRC delegations adapt to the specific needs of the contexts in which they are active and endeavour to develop the most appropriate and effective strategies. They also act as early-warning systems with regard to political violence or nascent armed conflicts and their potential consequences in humanitarian terms.

In ongoing or emerging situations of armed conflict or violence, the delegations focus on operational activities such as protection, assistance, cooperation and preventive action at the responsive and remedial levels, for the direct benefit of victims – civilians, people deprived of their freedom and the wounded and sick.

In other situations, the delegations focus primarily on environment-building preventive action, cooperation with National Societies and humanitarian diplomacy, while remaining poised to become more operational should the need arise.

Many delegations cover only one country. Others cover several countries and are called “regional delegations”. Certain delegations are tending more and more to provide regional services for their respective regions, such as the Cairo delegation in terms of communication, Amman in terms of logistics and Colombo as a training provider.

The ICRC's presence in the field can also take the form of a mission or other form of representation adapted to the particularities of the context or the specific functions assigned to the ICRC staff on the ground.

## REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

Delegations are grouped by geographic regions covering the following geographical entities:

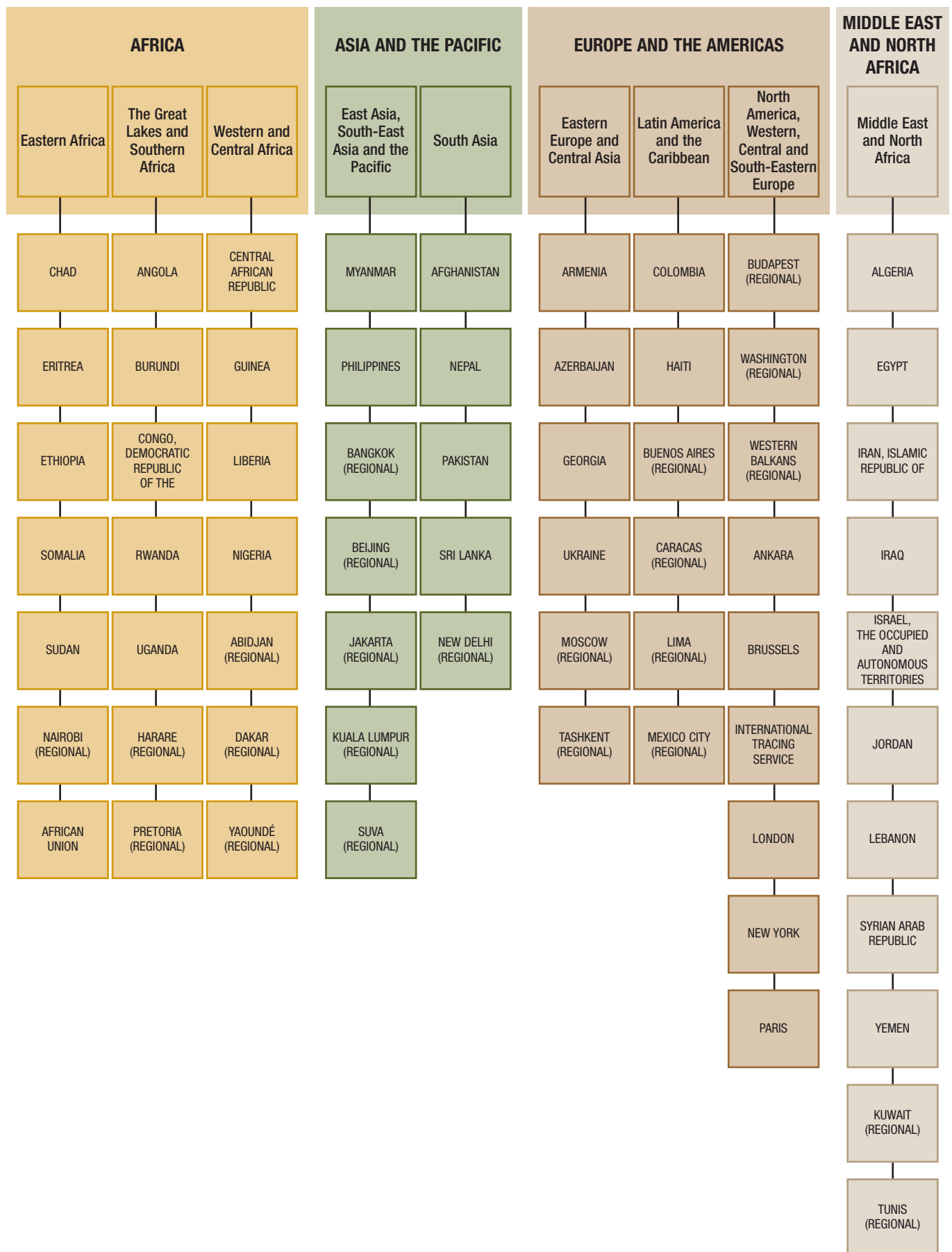
- ▶ Africa
- ▶ Asia and the Pacific
- ▶ Europe and the Americas
- ▶ Middle East and North Africa

There are 9 regions in all:

- ▶ Africa
  - Eastern Africa
  - The Great Lakes and Southern Africa
  - Western and Central Africa
- ▶ Asia and the Pacific
  - East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific
  - South Asia
- ▶ Europe and the Americas
  - Eastern Europe and Central Asia
  - Latin America and the Caribbean
  - North America, Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe
- ▶ Middle East and North Africa
  - Middle East and North Africa

At headquarters, a head of region is in charge of the management of and support for field operations in each region. The head of region answers to the director of Operations and is also in charge of a regional multidisciplinary team representing headquarters services such as Protection, Assistance, Logistics, Law, Communication, Cooperation within the Movement, Humanitarian Diplomacy, External Resources, Human Resources and Finance and Administration, which are involved as needed. The aim is to enhance relations between headquarters and field delegations, and to better coordinate and focus the support provided by these various services.

## OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE



**DELEGATIONS AND MISSIONS IN MORE THAN 80 COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD**

## CONTRIBUTIONS

### LEVELS OF EARMARKING

“Earmarking” is the practice whereby donors require that their funds be attributed to a particular region, country, programme or project, or for the purchase of specific goods. Experience has shown that the ICRC’s operational flexibility decreases in direct proportion to the degree of earmarking demanded by donors, to the detriment of the people the ICRC is trying to help. Coming to terms with specific earmarking and reporting requirements generates an additional administrative workload, both in the field and at headquarters. Existing standard reporting procedures have to be duplicated to meet individual requests, specific reporting, audit and evaluation requirements.

The ICRC has formulated guidelines to ensure greater uniformity and coherence in managing earmarked funds. These standards are designed to maximize the ICRC’s effectiveness in the field, by limiting the number of financing and reporting constraints. The guidelines include rules on contributions which cannot be accepted on principle. These include:

- ▶ contributions which are in contradiction with the Movement’s Fundamental Principles
- ▶ contributions which seek to support only a specific category of beneficiary (e.g. an ethnic or religious minority, a specific age group or a specific gender)
- ▶ contributions which seek to support only a specific sub-region of a country
- ▶ visibility requirements which impinge on the security of beneficiaries or ICRC staff

Earmarking is one of the issues raised in the Donor Support Group (DSG), a discussion forum made up of governments contributing over CHF 10 million annually to the ICRC’s Appeals. The DSG has successfully assisted the ICRC in its efforts to decrease the levels of earmarking on contributions and to improve its standard reporting system. In addition, the majority of DSG members agree that the ICRC’s standard reporting meets the reporting requirements related to their donations. The ICRC continues to try to encourage donors to ease their constraints, while maintaining its commitment to use funds as efficiently as possible. In 2001, the ICRC adapted its standard reporting system to its internal annual planning exercise (known in-house as the PfR, or Planning for Results). This commitment to improve reporting to donors has been further reinforced through, for instance, external audits and enhanced internal planning, monitoring and evaluation procedures.

Contributions which lead to double or over-financing (e.g. two different donors wishing to fund the same programme in the same country) cannot be accepted as this would run counter to recognized audit standards. The ICRC can make exceptions in accepting earmarking to programme or sub-programme level for a specific operation when standard reporting requirements are agreed.

Earmarking guidelines not only seek increased uniformity and coherence in managing contributions, but also establish a correlation between earmarking and reporting. Indeed, greater flexibility on the donor side regarding narrative and financial reporting enables the ICRC to manage tighter earmarking more effectively.

### CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND

Contributions in kind refer to assistance provided in the form of food, non-food items or specific goods needed for the ICRC’s assistance activities. The customary procedure for the acquisition of contributions in kind is as follows: the ICRC makes a request for specific goods needed for a particular field operation; that request is matched by a specific donor offer of goods. Once the offer has been accepted, the goods are delivered by the donor directly to the ICRC’s local or regional warehouses.

### CONTRIBUTIONS IN SERVICES

Contributions in services refer to support given to the ICRC in the form of logistics or staff on loan. The heading “in services” in the regional budget table indicates the portion of the budget that the ICRC estimates will be covered by this sort of contribution.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCOUNTING MODEL

The accounting model draws a clear distinction between financial accounting and cost accounting. Cost accounting enhances the information available for internal management and reporting to donors. Financial accounting illustrates how human, material and financial resources are used, while cost accounting focuses on the use of those resources for the implementation of operational objectives by country, programme and target population, as defined in the PfR methodology. The aim of the system is to enhance understanding of the resources needed to achieve operational results and to determine the reasons for, and the objectives of, the costs incurred.

The table below shows the overall framework agreed with donors for the earmarking level of cash contributions to the ICRC:

| ▶ Level of earmarking | Range/restrictions   | Example  |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| None                  | overall ICRC field budget  | ICRC operations worldwide                          |
| Region                | one of the four geographical entities                                | ICRC operations in Africa                          |
| Programme             | one of the four programmes   | ICRC prevention worldwide                          |
| Programme/region      | one of the four programmes for one of the four geographical entities | ICRC protection activities in Asia and the Pacific |
| Operation             | one of the operational delegations                                   | ICRC activities in Colombia                        |



## OVERVIEW

The objective of the financial accounting system is to record expenses and to report on financial transactions in accordance with legal requirements. The purpose of cost accounting, which is based on financial accounting, is to promote understanding of processes and transactions, to respond to management requirements in terms of detailed information and – in particular for the ICRC – to facilitate general and specific reporting to donors.

The financial accounting system is composed of different data-entry modules that supply the basic information to the cost accounting system (comprising *cost centre accounting* and *cost units accounting*). The costs are allocated from the cost centres to the cost units according to where and by whom the objectives are being implemented. For the system to function, staff must report on the time they spend working on different objectives.

### Financial accounting system

The financial accounting system consists of a number of *modules* (*general ledger, payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable, stocks, fixed assets*). Information recorded in the peripheral modules is stored within the main module, the *general ledger*, and incorporated into a balance sheet and a profit-and-loss statement. As financial accounting does not provide information about the origin of and the reason for costs, it does not in itself serve to assess results. In other words, it does not provide the information needed for reporting purposes. This task is performed by cost accounting.

### Cost or analytical accounting system

The cost accounting system allocates all costs in two different ways: to the *cost centre*, which explains the origin of the costs, and to the *cost units*, which indicate the reason for or the objective of the costs. Thus it not only explains the type and origin of costs (e.g. salary, purchase, communications, etc.), but also creates a link between the internal service supplier (operations, management, warehouse, logistics, administration, etc.) and the beneficiary, thereby providing reliable and meaningful information for both internal and external performance assessment and reporting.

## COST TYPE ACCOUNTING

**Personnel costs** are initiated directly by employees and comprise salaries, social benefits, training and all other expenses directly related to staff remuneration.

**Workplace costs** comprise all costs incurred in connection with the space and infrastructure necessary for the work of staff, and are therefore directly correlated to the number of employees within the cost centre initiating the costs. Examples of such costs are office furniture, IT infrastructure, all types of material and equipment and their maintenance, depreciation of assets, rent for work space and storage space, consumables such as electricity and water, means of transport and communication fees.

**Direct costs** represent all direct costs that bear no direct relation to the number of employees and that can therefore be allocated directly to cost units accounting (see below). Examples are the purchase of goods and services for distribution to beneficiaries or for immediate consumption.

### Financial accounting and cost categories

The chart of accounts comprises three cost categories that serve to allocate costs between cost centres and to cost units accounting.

#### Cost centre accounting

Any unit (department or unit at headquarters or delegation in the field) within the organization generates costs as it consumes goods and services. It is important to identify the initiator of these costs and to specify his or her responsibility for the type, quality and dimension of the transactions concerned. This is the purpose of the *cost centre accounting* system. The cost centre reflects the structure of the unit to which the costs incurred within a given period are initially charged. The person who is answerable for the origin of the relevant costs always manages the cost centre.

#### Cost units accounting

Cost units accounting responds to the information requirements of management and donors, providing greater insight into the financial resources consumed. It is an essential tool for management since it describes the reason for or purpose of the costs. Cost units accounting and reporting is based on the operational objectives defined using the PfR methodology and gives a clearer indication of the purpose for which the costs were incurred.

To make it possible to produce all the reports required, a three-dimensional cost units structure is used. The three dimensions, outlined below, are independent from one another. Set together they are the parameters of the PfR system. The total costs found in cost unit accounting are equal to the total costs found in cost centre accounting. In all three of the dimensions described there are different levels of aggregation in order to monitor activities adequately.

#### a) Financial “organizational unit” dimension

The financial organizational unit (OU) reflects the hierarchy of the organization in terms of responsibility for operational results. As most ICRC field operations are designed for and implemented in a specific geographical area, the OU dimension also reflects the geographical structure of field operations. It serves to determine the costs and income of a delegation, region or geographical entity and to compare those costs and that income with the pre-defined objectives and results to be achieved.

At headquarters, the OU dimension corresponds to directorates, departments and units.

#### b) Programme dimension

Programmes are slices of institutional objectives cut along the lines of the ICRC’s core activities. They therefore represent the ICRC’s areas of competence translated into products and services delivered to the beneficiaries (see “Programme Descriptions” above).

#### c) Target populations dimension

With the introduction of the PfR methodology, it has become necessary to identify target populations as relevant cost units and hence to incorporate them into the project dimension (for the definition of target populations see “Target Populations” above).

### Objectives and plans of action

The objectives are a general statement of intent used for planning purposes on a timescale of one to several years. Via plans of action, this process clearly identifies a result or a measurable change for a target of population.

## CONCLUSION

The ICRC has an ambitious accounting model that has implications not only for financial and data-processing procedures but also for the organization and working methods of the relevant support units. In this connection, it has started to work on performance indicators which aim at enhancing the financial information obtained with operational key indicators.

## ANNEX: THE ICRC'S OPERATIONAL APPROACH TO WOMEN AND GIRLS

### BACKGROUND AND APPROACH

Owing to its unique mandate, the ICRC implements an "all victims" approach aimed at protecting the life and dignity of victims of armed conflict and providing them with assistance. Within this approach, the ICRC acknowledges that women's experience of war is multifaceted (separation, loss of loved ones, loss of sources of livelihood and coping mechanisms, increased risks of sexual violence, greater responsibility for dependents, wounding, detention, even death) and often differs from that of men. The ICRC approaches gender as a means of fostering a better understanding of the respective social and cultural roles of men and women (such as division of labour, productive and reproductive activities, access to and control over resources and benefits) and of the social and economic factors influencing them. It endeavours thereby to obtain a more sensitive and holistic grasp of women's roles, responsibilities and experience, and therefore to provide a more adequate response to their needs in times of conflict. In accordance with its principles of neutrality and impartiality, the ICRC does not claim to reform gender relations.

Often, women and children are lumped together in the same category of vulnerability. Such hasty categorization overlooks the fact that women's needs, experiences and roles in armed conflicts and situations of internal violence differ from those of children and that women often display remarkable strength, as evidenced by the part they play as combatants or agents for peace, or by the roles they assume in wartime to protect and support their families. The relevant question is not who is more vulnerable but rather who is vulnerable to what particular risks (which are context-related and depend on individual circumstances, resources and available coping mechanisms). Different groups face different factors of vulnerability and it is an oversimplification to see one gender as active (male combatants) and the other as passive (female victims).

The ICRC's main objective is therefore to ensure that the needs, situations and perspectives of women and girls are integrated into all activities and programmes, and that special programmes are developed when necessary to respond adequately to their specific social, medical, psychological, economic and protection needs.

Recognizing that armed conflicts have a different impact on men, women, children and the elderly, and that the needs of women are often overlooked, the ICRC pledged in 1999 to better assess and address the needs of women and girls, and to promote the respect to which they are entitled, with a specific focus on situations involving sexual violence. It launched a four-year "Women and War" project (from 1999 to 2003), during which it conducted an in-depth study of the impact on women of armed conflict or internal violence, focusing on issues such as physical safety, sexual

violence, displacement, access to health care and hygiene, food, water and shelter, and the problem of missing relatives and its repercussions on survivors, and produced *Addressing the needs of women affected by armed conflict: an ICRC guidance document*, to translate the study's findings into practical guidelines for staff involved in the planning and implementation of humanitarian programmes. At the end of the four years, the ICRC renewed its commitment to the issue by appointing a focal point for the operational implementation of the study's findings and recommendations.

In armed conflicts and other situations of violence, sexual violence is a widespread phenomenon that affects mostly women and girls. The overall consequences are serious, but given that the stigma associated with sexual violence may prevent victims from coming forward, the true extent of the problem is often concealed. It affects not only the victims, but also their families, and sometimes entire communities. The ICRC has therefore developed the *Frame of reference for sexual violence in armed conflict and other situations of violence*, which gives a comprehensive and detailed overview of the various aspects of sexual violence and defines the ICRC's multidisciplinary approach to the problem. It encompasses preventive action, awareness-raising activities and protection strategies aimed at addressing the causes and consequences of sexual violence while providing victims with timely medical and psychological support.

The development of the ICRC's stance on women and war is reflected today in its operational strategies, programmes and activities.

**Below is a description, by target population, of how ICRC programmes take into account the specific situations and needs of women and girls in times of armed conflict. These descriptions are valid in any ICRC operation. They are not repeated explicitly under each context section, unless specifically required, but they may be cited to enhance understanding of the information therein.**

### CIVILIANS

#### Protection

##### *Protecting the civilian population*

- ▶ The ICRC monitors the situation of individuals and groups not or no longer taking part in hostilities, the large majority of whom are women and their children. Where documented, allegations of abuse committed against women and girls, such as sexual violence and enforced enrolment by armed groups, are raised in the ICRC's discussions with all parties on alleged IHL violations and the measures to be taken to stop them. In some contexts, dialogue with women is possible only owing to the presence of female ICRC staff, both national and expatriate.
- ▶ In addition to formal and informal oral and written representations to the authorities concerned about alleged incidents, preventive dissemination activities are conducted for all kinds of weapon bearers to raise their awareness of their responsibilities under IHL to protect and respect at all times, in particular, women and children not taking part in hostilities.

*Restoring family links*

- ▶ Enabling women to restore and maintain contact with their husbands and families contributes to their psychological well-being and can also help ensure their safety and the respect of others. In certain contexts, where for social and cultural reasons women are less visible or less accessible, awareness-raising sessions to promote existing tracing services are held specifically for women.
- ▶ The ICRC family reunification programme aims to reunite vulnerable people with their families, including children with their mothers, thus preserving the family unit. Similarly, when organizing repatriations, the ICRC pays special attention to enabling families to stay together, with particular emphasis on keeping children with their mothers.

*Unaccompanied girls/girls formerly associated with fighting forces*

- ▶ Boys and girls who have become separated from their parents, including those who have formerly been associated with fighting forces, are registered by the ICRC and their mothers and fathers, or their closest relatives, sought.
- ▶ Working closely with the authorities concerned and other organizations active in child protection, the ICRC pays special attention to the treatment of unaccompanied girls living in host or foster families; whenever necessary, it directs them to the appropriate referral structures.
- ▶ The ICRC advocates that children formerly associated with fighting forces, in particular girls, be provided with adequate care, in particular in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.
- ▶ Family reunifications are organized according to the best interests of the child and only if all parties – the child and the family – want to be reunited.
- ▶ Special attention is paid to the treatment of boys and girls reunited with their families, and to how the children readapt to family life; whenever necessary the families and the children concerned receive material support and are directed to referral structures. The children are often checked on several months after being reunited with their families to ensure that they do not face new protection problems, especially if they were formerly associated with fighting forces or are girls with children of their own.

*Missing persons*

- ▶ ICRC action in relation to missing persons benefits mainly women as they are overwhelmingly the ones left behind after a loved one has disappeared during an armed conflict or other situation of violence.
- ▶ Whenever possible, the ICRC works closely with the relevant authorities and organizations to accelerate the tracing process. It provides support for ante-mortem data collection and the forensic process, and covers the transport costs of families – mainly women – of the missing to visit mass graves or exhumation sites. On its website it updates and publishes lists of persons reported missing. It provides women with administrative help in dealing with matters of inheritance, pensions, legal status, custody of children and property rights.
- ▶ The ICRC organizes meetings with family associations, whose members are chiefly women, to ensure that their interests are represented in various fora and provides the associations with financial and technical support.
- ▶ Directly or through associations or institutions, the ICRC contributes towards the psychological support of relatives of missing persons, principally women and their children, and towards their education and occupational training.

- ▶ It also encourages governments to enact or implement legislation to prevent people from becoming unaccounted for (by establishing an information bureau, for example), to ascertain the fate of missing persons through appropriate measures and to protect and support the families – mainly women who have become heads of household, and children – of those who are missing, notably by making it easier for them to undertake legal proceedings.

**Assistance***Economic security – emergency aid: food and essential household items*

- ▶ When distributing aid, the ICRC gives priority to the most vulnerable households, many of which have been deprived of their main breadwinner and are headed by women. Women and girls are often, therefore, the main beneficiaries of the relief provided to IDPs, returnees and residents.
- ▶ If the need exists, the ICRC provides food rations and essential household items, such as blankets, tarpaulins, jerrycans, kitchen sets and hygiene kits, to enable women to take care of their families. Other items, such as clothes or fabric to make clothing, are also distributed according to need.
- ▶ ICRC food parcels in the Middle East include baby food.
- ▶ Hygiene kits increasingly include specific products for women and their children, such as culturally adapted sanitary materials, baby powder or washable cotton and plastic nappies.

*Economic security – livelihood support*

- ▶ In addition to providing relief, the ICRC also aims to help destitute or very poor families, very often mainly households headed by women or girls, recover their ability to earn a living. Its micro-economic initiatives provide victims of sexual violence who have lost their sources of livelihood and victims of conflict, such as widows and the wives of missing persons, with social and economic support.
- ▶ Livelihood support programmes help women and girls in their endeavour to ensure the family's self-sufficiency. Seed and tool distributions, livestock replenishment and vaccination, cash-for-work projects to rehabilitate community infrastructure, grants or material inputs (e.g. sewing machines, donkey carts, flour mills, oil presses, brick-making machines, irrigation pumps), to give but a few examples, directly improve the standard of living of many women and their children by helping women jump-start an income-generating activity.
- ▶ Occupational training often forms part of livelihood support programmes. Particular attention is paid to increasing the participation of women, who perform most of the activities that provide the household with food or income.

*Water supply, sanitation and shelter*

- ▶ ICRC water, sanitation and habitat projects (trucking of clean drinking water during emergencies; rehabilitation or building of water sources and infrastructure) give displaced and resident women safe access to a source of water for household purposes, ensure better sanitation practices for the whole family, and free up for other tasks time once spent fetching water. They also reduce the incidence of sickness caused by inadequate hygiene and prevent long journeys to water points during which the women may be at risk of attack.
- ▶ In some contexts, the provision of fuel-saving stoves reduces the need for women and girls to go out in search of firewood, thus leaving them more time for other household tasks and reducing their risk of being attacked.



- ▶ As women are in charge of the water resources and bear most of the burden for the household in many contexts, ICRC engineers systematically involve them in the design, implementation and management of water and habitat projects.

#### *Health care*

- ▶ The majority of the people treated in outpatient departments and referral hospitals in violence-affected areas are women and children, and thus are the main beneficiaries of ICRC support to such facilities, which provide comprehensive reproductive health and delivery services and care for children under five.
- ▶ In many contexts where there are not enough skilled birth attendants to cover the population's needs, the ICRC trains traditional birth attendants/midwives in ante and post-natal care, in the identification of at-risk mothers, in skilled attendance for home delivery and in the management of complications. The birth attendants/midwives also play a decisive role in health education (basic care and breastfeeding and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS). In some contexts they also receive instruction in how to identify victims of sexual violence and refer them promptly to appropriate medical services.
- ▶ In contexts where sexual violence is a major problem, the ICRC provides post-rape kits to ICRC-supported hospitals and health centres and runs training courses enabling health staff working in those facilities to treat victims effectively.
- ▶ Local volunteers offering support for victims of sexual violence at community level are trained in counselling techniques, so that they can offer reassuring support to the victims and help them search for solutions. They are also taught mediation skills, enabling them to facilitate the reintegration of victims of sexual violence, who are often rejected by their families and communities.
- ▶ Women and children are the primary target of health and hygiene promotion sessions. Most of the time, for social and cultural reasons, the ICRC uses teams of female health and hygiene promoters, who are especially trained for this task. The teams also play a crucial role in raising awareness among women, especially pregnant women and those with small children, of how malaria is transmitted, and distribute mosquito nets to help contain the spread of the disease.
- ▶ ICRC support for immunization programmes (cold chain, transport, supervision) run by governments, NGOs or international organizations benefits mostly women of childbearing age and children under five, who receive vital vaccinations against, for example, tetanus and polio.
- ▶ In emergencies, the ICRC may also support therapeutic feeding centres to help malnourished children and their mothers.

#### **Prevention**

##### *Mine action*

- ▶ Mine-risk education sessions target primarily children, but also women. They are conducted in schools, places of prayer or/and community fora and aim to ensure the safety of civilians by informing them of the dangers of mines.
- ▶ Communities are given support to create safe, mine-free play areas for their children.

## **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

#### **Protection**

- ▶ During its visits to people deprived of their freedom, the ICRC pays special attention to the conditions of detention of any women or girls being held, in particular to their accommodation, which should include dedicated cells and sanitation facilities, and their access to health services, including to female nurses and gynaecological care when needed. It drafts its confidential reports and recommendations to the authorities concerned accordingly.
- ▶ As far as possible, ICRC delegates and translators visiting places of detention do so in mixed teams, as these are perceived to be more approachable and better able to assess thoroughly the needs of all persons detained.
- ▶ As infants often stay with their detained mothers, their needs are also addressed, in terms, for example, of food, health care, clothing and play.
- ▶ In certain societies, women who are detained are often ostracized and sometimes even abandoned by their families, especially when they are held for so-called moral offences. The ICRC places special emphasis on their plight in its dialogue with the relevant authorities and in its assistance programmes.
- ▶ ICRC support for the penitentiary administration and training for penitentiary staff (medical personnel included) encompasses, whenever relevant, action regarding or consideration of the particular needs of women and children.
- ▶ ICRC family-news services allow detained women in particular to communicate with their families and detained men to communicate with their wives and mothers outside. This contributes to the psychological well-being of all concerned.
- ▶ The ICRC enables detained women to receive family visits and family members, who are mainly women and children, to visit their detained relatives, either by organizing the visits itself or by covering the cost of transport. Family visits are not only essential for the psychological well-being both of the detainees and of their relatives outside, they are also a vital channel through which detainees obtain food and essential items. Family visits can also help ensure respect from other detainees, as women who receive no visits may become more vulnerable to prostitution or sexual exploitation and abuse.

#### **Assistance**

- ▶ ICRC assistance programmes for detainees are adapted to the specific needs of women and girls whenever necessary. For example, women detainees may receive female hygiene items, clothing and recreational materials for themselves and for their children. Occupational training (in sewing, weaving, literacy, for example) aims to break the isolation of imprisoned women and improve their prospects for reintegration into society after release.

#### *Water and habitat*

- ▶ As part of its efforts to improve environmental health conditions for detainees, the ICRC often carries out maintenance, rehabilitation or construction projects in places of detention. These projects always take into consideration the needs of women and children, such as separate accommodation for men and women, separate access to toilets and showers and adequate facilities for women with babies and/or small children.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Assistance

#### *Medical care*

- ▶ Women and children have priority in operations to evacuate the wounded and sick from areas affected by fighting.
- ▶ The specific needs of women and girls are included in training in first aid and medical evacuations and the support provided to ambulance services.
- ▶ ICRC support for hospitals focuses as a priority on emergency surgical, obstetric and paediatric services, as well as medical services for patients in general and women in particular. This support may include the provision of equipment, medical supplies and training, for example in obstetric surgery.

#### *Physical rehabilitation*

- ▶ Women benefit from physical rehabilitation programmes supported by the ICRC. They may receive artificial limbs, walking aids, wheelchairs and physiotherapy. The ICRC pays particular attention to ensuring that women and men have equal access to physical rehabilitation programmes.
- ▶ Where there are no female staff in a rehabilitation centre, the ICRC helps to train women, and may pay the transportation costs for women and their dependants to be treated in a centre with female staff. Many disabled women are also offered employment in ICRC-run or ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres.
- ▶ Women also benefit from projects – education, vocational training or micro-credit schemes – to help them reintegrate into society.

#### *Water and habitat*

- ▶ The renovation or construction of health facilities such as hospitals, health centres and physical rehabilitation centres always takes into account the specific needs of women and children. In most cases, women and children are given special accommodation in line with local customs and international standards.

## AUTHORITIES, ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS, CIVIL SOCIETY

### Prevention

- ▶ Preventive activities targeting political authorities, armed forces, other bearers of weapons and civil society (e.g. the media, schools, universities, NGOs) always emphasize the need to take measures to respect the physical integrity and dignity of all people who are not, or no longer, participating in the armed conflict or other situation of violence. The target groups are systematically made aware that not only do women and children (those under 18 years) more often than not form the majority of that group, their position in society may make them particularly vulnerable and their specific needs must be recognized and addressed. Depending on the target group, preventive activities comprise highlighting the existing provisions of IHL that focus on women, examining legal and practical measures to protect women from abuse and meet their specific needs, and case studies.

- ▶ The ICRC endeavours to raise awareness of the situation of women affected by armed conflict and internal disturbances – and of the international law that accords them protection – among governments, representatives of the diplomatic, political, military and academic communities, international organizations and NGOs. It is often invited to speak about the issue at relevant conferences hosted by donors and regional organizations. The ICRC also provides input when new international resolutions and policies are drafted and encourages their enforcement.
- ▶ The ICRC makes a particular effort to engage with different sectors of society and circles of influence, including women's associations or networks, to help sustain the organization's activities for victims of conflict.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

### Cooperation

#### *National Societies*

- ▶ The ICRC provides support for the development of National Society tracing, first-aid and emergency-preparedness capacities, the better to enable National Society staff and volunteers to meet the specific needs of women in situations of armed conflict or internal violence. It provides training in the Safer Access approach, including the analysis of risk and vulnerability factors affecting National Society staff and volunteers, such as the participation of female workers in certain operations.

#### *ICRC employment policy*

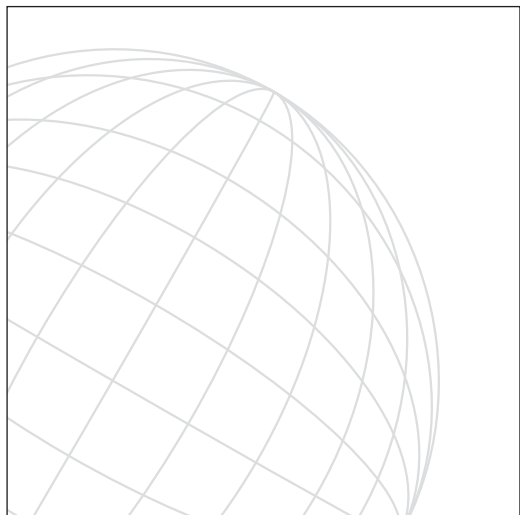
- ▶ The ICRC's employment policy promotes equitable conditions for male and female staff through gender mainstreaming and affirmative action. The ICRC believes there is a strong link between the improvement of women's status within the organization and progress in the protection of and delivery of assistance to women in situations of armed conflict or internal violence.
- ▶ The ICRC has improved its staff training courses by adding key messages consistent with the policies, recommendations and guidelines relative to women affected by armed conflict and internal disturbances, including those related to specific issues, such as sexual violence, and by disseminating the ICRC guidance document. Role playing, which is part of the introductory training course for new delegates, highlights specific aspects related to women and war.
- ▶ In carrying out its activities, the ICRC encourages the use of teams that comprise both men and women. It also promotes the participation of local women as a means of fostering direct contact and dialogue with women, the better to define and respond to their needs.





# HEADQUARTERS





# ICRC governing and controlling bodies

*The governing bodies of the ICRC, comprising the Assembly, the Assembly Council and the Presidency, have overall responsibility for institutional policy, strategy and decisions related to the development of IHL. These bodies oversee all the activities of the organization, including field and headquarters operations and the approval of objectives and budgets. They also monitor implementation by the Directorate of Assembly or Assembly Council decisions and are assisted in this task by a Control Commission and the internal and external auditors.*

## MEETINGS AND DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

In 2008, the Assembly and the Assembly Council held 6 and 13 meetings respectively. The president and director-general of the ICRC kept the Assembly and the Assembly Council informed about the conduct of operations, issues relating to IHL, humanitarian diplomacy, cooperation within the Movement and with other humanitarian practitioners, external communication, and administration and finance. The Assembly and the Assembly Council examined, in particular, ICRC operations in Afghanistan, the Balkans (in particular in Kosovo), Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia and the Russian Federation, Kenya, India, Iraq, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Sahel region (Mali and Niger), Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

The Assembly also held discussions on the following issues: implementation of overall human resources policies, women and war and gender equality, risk management and internal audit, development and interpretation of IHL (cluster munitions; IHL provisions applicable in situations of non-international armed conflicts; the international obligations of private military and security companies), the orientation of ICRC health activities, the financial and food crises, and the future of the International Tracing Service. It reviewed the framework for drafting and updating internal policies, updated the ICRC mission statement and adopted new policies on protection and on the prevention of violations of IHL.

In accordance with its statutory mandate and pursuant to the advice of its Control Commission, the Assembly reviewed and approved the financial accounts (April) and the Directorate's proposals for the 2009 objectives and budgets (November). At its annual seminar in June, the Assembly, together with the Directorate and 10 field staff (delegation employees), reflected on the universality and acceptance of the ICRC within diverse political and cultural contexts.

## MISSIONS

**Mr J. Kellenberger, president of the ICRC**, conducted various missions to hold bilateral discussions with governments; where pertinent, the missions included a visit to ICRC operations in the field. Such missions included visits to the Russian Federation – Moscow (January and August) and Saint Petersburg (November); the United States of America – Washington (January) and New York (UN: March); Warsaw, Poland (February); Ljubljana, Slovenia (February); Tokyo, Japan (February); Dakar, Senegal (Summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference: March); Algiers, Algeria (May); Afghanistan (April); Belgium – Brussels (European Commission: May, September and December) and Mons (NATO: May); Singapore (Shangri-La Dialogue: June); France – Paris (annual meeting of the Donors Support Group: May; International Conference to Support Afghanistan: June) and Strasbourg (Council of Europe: June); San Remo, Italy (International Institute of Humanitarian Law: September); Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (Presidency of the African Union: August); Spain – Madrid and Salamanca (October); Dublin, Ireland (Conference on Cluster Munitions Treaty: May); Oslo, Norway (Convention on Cluster Munitions Signing Conference: December).

**Ms C. Beerli, permanent vice-president:** Bad Arolsen, Germany (International Tracing Service: January and April); Tunis, Tunisia (General Assembly of the Organisation of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies: March); Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (African Union seminar on IDPs: May); Johannesburg, South Africa (Seventh Pan African Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent: October); New York (UN: November).

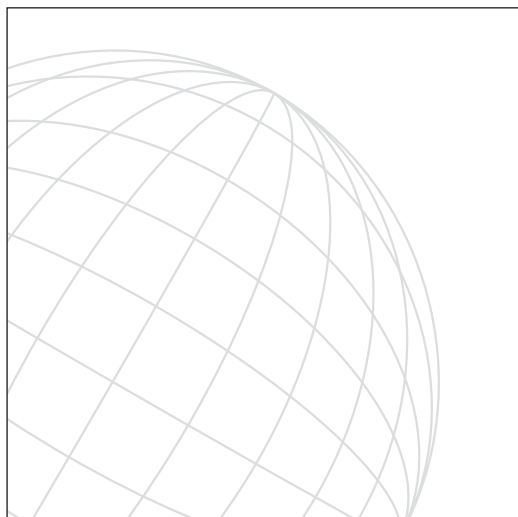
Other members of the Assembly also conducted missions to represent the ICRC or to deliver speeches at international or academic meetings:

- ▶ **Ms C. Augsburger** attended the ceremonies to mark the closure of the ICRC delegation in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in December
- ▶ **Mr J. Forster** travelled to San Remo for meetings at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in March, May and September
- ▶ **Ms C. Le Coultre**, chairwoman of the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled, went to Norway in June, Viet Nam in July, and Ethiopia and Togo in September
- ▶ **Mr J. Moreillon** attended a “Nobel Laureates” event of the Young Presidents’ Organization in Los Angeles, United States of America, in September
- ▶ **Mr J. Staehelin** represented the president at an award ceremony in Zagreb, Croatia, in October
- ▶ **Mr Y. Sandoz** attended conferences on IHL-related issues in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, in April, and in Valencia, Spain, in December
- ▶ **Mr D. Thürer**, together with the president, participated in the ceremony to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the Saint Petersburg Declaration, which was held in Saint Petersburg in November

In addition, two members of the Assembly conducted internal operational missions:

- ▶ **Ms A. de Boccard** to Chad (April)
- ▶ **Ms C. Augsburger** to Haiti (June)





# directorate

*The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC. Its members are the director-general and the heads of the ICRC's five departments: Operations, International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, Communication, Human Resources, and Resources and Operational Support. The Directorate is responsible for defining and implementing the ICRC's general objectives and applying institutional strategy, as defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate also ensures that the organization, particularly its administrative structure, runs smoothly and efficiently.*

*The members of the Directorate are appointed by the Assembly for four-year terms. The current Directorate took up its duties on 1 July 2006.*

## MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES FOR 2007–2010

At the beginning of its four-year mandate, the Directorate established management priorities for 2007–2010 based on the achievements of the Programme of the Directorate for 2003–2006 and on the ICRC's institutional strategy for 2007–2010. The aim is to strengthen the ICRC's position as the benchmark organization for neutral and independent humanitarian action and IHL on the basis of three pillars:

- ▶ strengthening the ICRC's capacity to design and manage its multidisciplinary operations
- ▶ enhancing internal and external accountability
- ▶ increasing the effectiveness of ICRC operations

The Directorate has established a detailed plan of action for each of its management priorities, as described below.

### Manage a wide range of services

The ICRC has been steadily reviewing and enhancing its range of activities in order to provide an appropriate response to all the needs of populations affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence. It intends to pursue most of these activities on its own or in cooperation with National Societies, rather than outsourcing them.

### Plan of action

- ▶ build the capacity of staff at all levels to design and manage multidisciplinary action
- ▶ define the range of services and strengthen expertise in identified core activities, such as protection and health
- ▶ reinforce the skills needed to engage in operational partnerships with National Societies in countries where the ICRC has a significant presence, with a view to bolstering emergency response capacities

### Main achievements in 2008

- ▶ the ICRC introductory training course for new staff members was completely revised and adapted to current needs. The revamped course was held for the first time in September. The course modules are designed to enhance the multidisciplinary skills required for a variety of ICRC career paths, thus helping the ICRC achieve its goal of maintaining a competent, but also highly mobile and flexible, pool of professional staff
- ▶ the People Leadership and Management training courses, launched in 2007 for all senior staff, were completed in the summer of 2008
- ▶ several adjustments were made to enhance the quality of ICRC protection work on the basis of the comprehensive policy on protection activities adopted in 2008. The training curriculum for protection professionals was revised accordingly and put into practice
- ▶ the ICRC health unit was restructured and reinforced with more specialists to enable the organization to maintain its leading role in the field of medical activities in armed conflicts and other situations of violence
- ▶ the ICRC implemented a number of projects aimed at developing the capacities of National Societies working in their own countries to respond swiftly in emergencies, thereby enhancing its own opportunities to work in partnership with them



### Implement results-based management

The ICRC strives to develop a management culture of accountability and learning that allows for enhanced monitoring and critical evaluation of its operations.

#### Plan of action

- ▶ develop a management style that is based on clearly established objectives
- ▶ enhance the skills required for result-based management at all levels
- ▶ define indicators for all levels of established objectives (field operations, programmes, institutional)
- ▶ adapt the existing institutional tools of result-based management to achieve established objectives

#### Main achievements in 2008

- ▶ the newly established Institutional Performance Management Unit took stock of the initiatives under way to improve result-based management and provided support to the corresponding focal points in the various programmes (assistance, protection, prevention and cooperation)
- ▶ the Directorate began discussions on the definition of corporate objectives
- ▶ the new planning and budgeting tool was tested at ICRC headquarters

### Ensure that the ICRC operates smoothly and is able to react rapidly

The ICRC intends to clarify its internal functioning on the basis of a transparent, rapid and efficient decision-making process and appropriate management procedures.

#### Plan of action

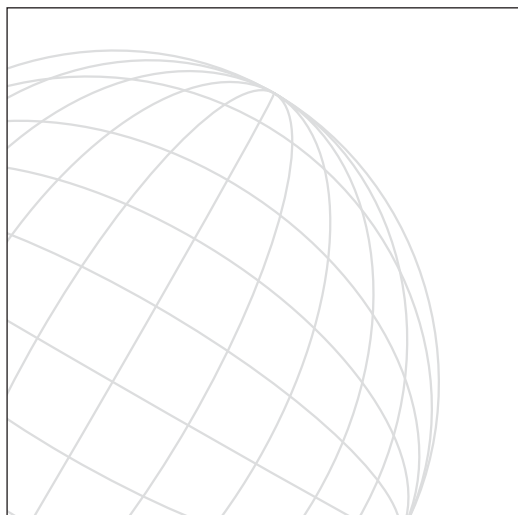
- ▶ reaffirm the ICRC's organizational model of a single headquarters and a worldwide network of delegations
- ▶ clearly define the roles and methods in the institutional decision-making process
- ▶ improve the internal flow of information
- ▶ enhance the mobility (geographical and hierarchical) of personnel so as to be able to respond to emergencies in a timely and efficient manner
- ▶ further improve career management and ensure that dialogue between the organization and its staff is transparent and coherent

### Main achievements in 2008

- ▶ following the creation of a Rapid Deployment Unit, tools for contingency planning and early warning and a human resources deployment roster were created, and a crisis room set up, to enhance the ICRC's emergency response capacity. These tools were employed during the post-election crisis in Kenya in January, following Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar in May, during the armed conflict in South Ossetia in August and during the fighting in Gaza at the end of the year
- ▶ a number of projects were pursued to develop IT tools aimed at improving the flow of information (intranet, electronic professional mail system, electronic archives), with a view to their implementation during the course of 2009
- ▶ a new unit for internal communication was created within the Office of the Director-General. It has already contributed significantly to streamlining internal communication and making it more coherent
- ▶ the mandates and functioning of the internal commissions dealing with career-path management were reviewed and a set of priorities established. Efforts were made to enable both employer and employee to express their values and expectations more clearly

## RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

With the help of external consultants and on the basis of the institutional strategy for 2007–2010, the Directorate established a risk management framework for the ICRC, identifying a number of key factors for success. For each of these factors, risk drivers were identified, along with measures to limit the associated risks. In April, the director-general made his first report to the ICRC's Assembly on the evolution of the key success factors and their associated risks. This will be an annual exercise.



# office of the director- general

*The director-general chairs the Directorate and ensures that its decisions are implemented. He reports to the President's Office and the Assembly on the Directorate's objectives, decisions and activities, and on the results achieved. The Office of the Director-General supervises the directorate of the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, and the headquarters unit responsible for performance management; it also oversees efforts to promote gender equality and a number of key strategic projects.*

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In 2008, as part of its endeavour to improve humanitarian services for persons adversely affected by armed conflict, the ICRC continued to apply a performance management method that facilitates management decisions, enhances learning and documents performance accountability.

Performance management centred on the key functions of planning, monitoring and evaluation, which enable the ICRC to:

- ▶ establish general and specific performance objectives and targets
- ▶ link objectives to budgeting and accounting
- ▶ monitor performance
- ▶ carry out independent evaluations and reviews in order to boost operational performance, knowledge management and the process of learning from experience

The ICRC remained a full member of the Active Learning Network on Accountability and Performance (ALNAP) and continued to work actively with donors and NGOs on issues related to accountability and performance management for humanitarian activities.

### Planning for results

Planning for Results (PfR), the annual planning methodology first introduced in 1999, remained central to the ICRC's performance management in 2008. PfR was designed to define explicit

objectives for ICRC operations formulated in terms of three parameters: target population, programme capacity and geographical location.

In 2008, a pilot project was launched to increase the effectiveness of the budgeting process at ICRC headquarters; it will be further developed in 2009. In addition, the formulation of corporate objectives will structure planning at the ICRC around institutional priorities in order to facilitate alignment with institutional strategy.

### Monitoring and reporting on results

In 2008, the Institutional Performance Management Unit reviewed the achievements of result-based management and found that solid progress had been made in programme management. Examples are the development of monitoring frameworks for assistance programmes, of training modules for the economic security programme, and of a reference handbook for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

The unit also took stock of all institutional strategic initiatives in order to inform the Directorate on progress and results, and to provide support to the annual risk management process.

### Evaluating results

In accordance with its work plan, and under the direct supervision of the Institutional Performance Management Unit, in 2008 the ICRC completed its evaluation of the programme for national implementation of IHL and of the internal management of ICRC prevention programmes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Work continued on a large-scale independent evaluation of the Movement-wide family-links service for people affected by the Asian tsunami and on the evaluation of the ICRC's policy on IDPs.

The ICRC also participated in the Steering Committee on Humanitarian Response peer review on accountability towards disaster-affected populations.

## ISSUES MANAGEMENT

The issues management mechanism run by the Office of the Director-General continued to identify, analyse and put into perspective emerging issues and phenomena of concern to the institution. Particular attention was paid to issues such as urban violence and the ICRC's impact on the environment. Complex challenges in the humanitarian sector, such as the principle of the "Responsibility to Protect" and the general protection framework in the wider humanitarian community, were also debated.

The mechanism also played a key role in periodically defining a small number of priority topics for ICRC humanitarian diplomacy activities, along with related messages and appropriate communication strategies.

## INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

In October 2008, the ICRC Directorate approved the results and recommendations of an internal communication report and appointed a head of internal communication attached to the Office of the Director-General. The project's recommendations were based on qualitative and quantitative research conducted at headquarters and in three delegations. Amongst others, the Directorate recognized internal communication as a management function, decided to strengthen the role of the hierarchy in relaying information and to review internal information access rules, and recognized the need for better staff feedback mechanisms. The project included discussions with peers from the ICRC's Corporate Support Group (see *Resources and operational support*).

The Directorate launched three initiatives in response to the findings of the employee recruitment survey conducted in 2007. The initiatives aim to express more clearly the values and expectations of the employer and employees, to improve the transparency and perceived fairness of human resource planning, and to introduce corporate objectives designed to better measure and communicate internally ICRC progress on strategic issues.

Owing to a number of technical delays, the launch of the new ICRC intranet was postponed to 2009.

## GENDER EQUALITY

Using the 2006–2007 gender equality assessment as a basis, the Office of the Director-General continued to follow up the measures adopted by the Directorate in order to improve gender equality within the ICRC.

The ICRC continued to adapt mechanisms to promote women's career paths and to ensure that both men and women are able to reconcile work and family life. Measures such as mentoring, which aim to encourage and support women's professional development, continued to be implemented. At the same time, work started to modify formal human resource mechanisms and procedures with a view to introducing measures intended to help male staff balance work and family lives.

Based on concrete experience, measures were identified to ease the specific difficulties encountered by women on field assignments and to enable both male and female staff cope when working in difficult ICRC operational environments. The difficulties relate to sexual and gender-based violence, women's health and hygiene, sports and leisure, and the behavioural adaptations required of expatriate staff in contexts where gender roles are markedly different from those in the staff members' countries of origin.

## SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISER

In order to promote the quality and relevance of ICRC medical and health activities and to ensure high ethical standards in these fields, the senior medical adviser took up his post in September 2007; he reports to the Office of the Director-General.

Humanitarian action in situations of armed conflict and violence frequently gives rise to complex ethical issues. It is therefore essential to develop a space for open, organized and transdisciplinary ethical reflection, so that stakeholders can take complex decisions in a way that is concerted, fully informed and accountable, and that can be evaluated.

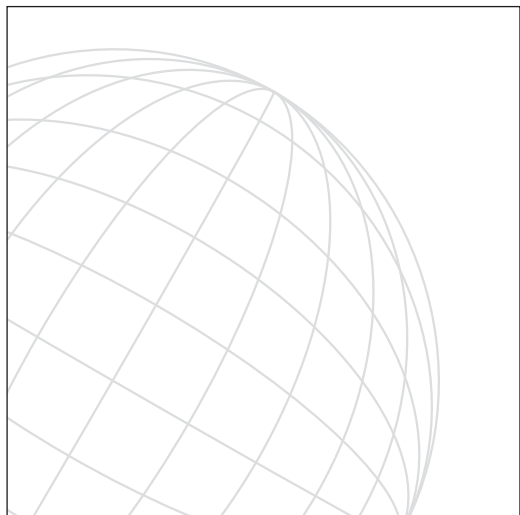
A project was launched for pandemic influenza contingency planning with the cooperation of a specialist consultant. The project aims to address health, social, logistic and global issues related to staff protection, to business continuity, and ultimately to the ICRC's humanitarian response in the event of an influenza pandemic.

In March 2008, a seminar brought together a number of ICRC staff with health professionals to discuss "Trauma, Vulnerability and Resilience in Humanitarian Action", focusing on the impact of violence on affected populations, particularly in chronic situations, and on humanitarian professionals.

## INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE

During its annual meeting in May 2008, the International Commission for the International Tracing Service (ITS) decided to establish a Strategic Study Group to identify the structural and organizational challenges the ITS will face in the future. At its first meeting, organized by the ICRC in Geneva in September 2008, the group discussed the need for a new mandate for the ITS consequent on the opening of its archives for historical research in November 2007, and the ICRC's wish to withdraw from ITS administration and management.

For a description of ITS activities in Bad Arolsen/Germany, see *Europe and the Americas*.



# operations

*The Department of Operations is responsible for the overall supervision of ICRC field activities worldwide. It supervises the drawing up of operational policies and guidelines, oversees the global analysis of key trends and events, and coordinates the conception, planning and budgeting of field activities carried out by ICRC delegations and missions in some 80 countries. It ensures that field activities are conducted coherently and professionally, in line with the ICRC's principles and policies, its code of ethics and staff security. It also ensures that adequate resources are allocated in accordance with ICRC priorities, humanitarian needs as they arise, and the budgetary framework.*

## DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

In 2008, the Department of Operations was composed of nine geographical regions, two operational divisions (Assistance, and Central Tracing Agency and Protection) and two smaller units (Multilateral Diplomacy and Humanitarian Coordination, and Security and Stress). Operational support was provided by an adviser on the specific plight of women in times of conflict and by the Rapid Deployment Unit, both of which form part of the Department.

The ICRC continued to enhance its activities for victims of sexual violence in times of conflict and worked on drawing up best practices based on its experience in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also broadened its response to the specific needs of women and young people to contexts such as Colombia, Haiti, Iraq and Nepal.

The rapid deployment and response approach adopted in 2007 was successfully activated in Kenya (January), Myanmar (May), Georgia and the Russian Federation (August), Pakistan (August) and during the latest outburst of hostilities in Gaza, in late December. It helped ensure quick implementation of a meaningful humanitarian response, a clear decision-making process, and the rapid mobilization of human resources.

The Security and Stress Unit focused on monitoring developments in the security environment in contexts where the ICRC

is operational, conducting missions in support of headquarters and field activities, providing staff training and issuing comprehensive documents on security and stress management. The validity of the principle of decentralized security management based on seven bedrock pillars (acceptance, identification, information, staff, rules, telecommunications and protection) was reaffirmed.

An institutional document, "ICRC security guidelines for the management of Movement security frameworks in armed conflicts or other situations of violence", promoting a coordinated and coherent Movement approach to security management, was shared with National Societies, the International Federation and donor governments. The approach was applied during the crisis in Kenya at the beginning of the year, and later in Georgia, Myanmar and Pakistan.

Headquarters staff with specialized knowledge and skills, grouped into regional teams, continued to second the heads of operations and the field delegations.

## CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY AND PROTECTION

The Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division provides strategic support and professional expertise to field operations in three areas of activity – protection of the civilian population, protection of people deprived of their freedom and restoring family links; the latter also covers activities relating to missing persons and their families (see *Operational framework and programme descriptions* for more details on the protection programme).

The reference framework for protection activities is set out in the protection policy adopted by the ICRC Assembly in 2008, which also provides guidelines for the debate on protection issues with other humanitarian practitioners.

Acting within its three areas of responsibility, the Division participated in the new rapid deployment mechanism in the course of five missions to Kenya, Georgia and Myanmar.

## PROTECTION OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

The ICRC seeks to protect civilians from the effects of armed conflicts and other forms of violence and to secure respect for fundamental rights by weapon carriers and the authorities concerned. It carries out activities that aim to make the authorities aware of their responsibilities and work to fulfil them. It also develops activities that aim to reduce the vulnerability of people exposed to specific risks, especially children, women, the elderly and disabled, and the displaced. These activities are not mutually exclusive.

In 2008, the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division actively disseminated the guidelines established in 2007 for the protection of civilians affected by armed conflict through specific training sessions at headquarters and in the field. At the same time, several delegations revised their own context-specific guidelines for protection work.

A public version of the guidelines, entitled *Enhancing protection for civilians in armed conflict and other situations of violence*, targets practitioners of and scholars interested in protection work, and was published as part of the ICRC's efforts to share its experience and lessons learned.

The Division also worked on finalizing a guidance document regarding activities for separated and unaccompanied children that is based on evaluations of recent ICRC programmes implemented in Africa and elsewhere, and on ongoing discussions with other players involved in this specific field.

Early in 2008, the ICRC initiated a process to bring together the various protagonists involved in protection activities in order to address the challenge of establishing protection standards. It created an advisory group that includes representatives of Amnesty International, the British Overseas Development Institute, Interaction US, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), OHCHR and UNHCR to accompany the whole process. The purpose of establishing such standards is to ensure that protection work as a whole is built on a solid foundation, thereby encouraging both new and experienced protection practitioners to adopt a professional approach that optimizes the results of protection activities and mitigates their potential harmful implications.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The main objective of ICRC work to protect people deprived of their freedom is to prevent or put an end to summary executions, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, inadequate conditions of detention, the severing of contact between detainees and their families and disregard for fundamental judicial guarantees and procedural safeguards. ICRC visits are a means of collecting first-hand information about the treatment and living conditions of detainees. Trained ICRC staff visit places of detention, talk with the authorities concerned, hold private interviews with detainees/internees and prepare an overall analysis of their findings. ICRC findings, assessments and related recommendations are discussed confidentially with the authorities at the appropriate levels, and ICRC visits are repeated in a process that is held to strict professional standards.

Pursuant to the agreement concluded with the International Criminal Court in 2006, the ICRC carried out its fifth visit to five persons held under the Court's jurisdiction in The Hague. In July, it participated in a workshop on family visits organized by the

Court. The ICRC also continued to visit detainees being tried respectively by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (see *Western Balkans*) in The Hague and by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania (see *Nairobi*) and visited 12 detainees serving their sentences in third countries during 10 visits to 10 places of detention.

The ICRC monitored implementation of international instruments pertaining to the protection of persons deprived of their freedom, in particular the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. In November, it attended a workshop on the Protocol's implementation in member countries of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), taking the opportunity thus provided to share various forms of expertise. It also maintained close relationships with institutions and organizations active in the field of prison reform or in monitoring conditions of detention, to the same end.

The Division also assisted field staff by providing information or training to prison management and staff on the legal provisions applicable to the treatment of persons deprived of their freedom, including juveniles, and to issues such as detainees' contacts with their families and prison overcrowding.

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Armed violence and natural or man-made disasters may lead to massive population displacement and the separation of families. Working as a rule in close cooperation with National Societies, the ICRC provides services for restoring family links, including reuniting family members. It pays particular attention and gives priority to children separated from their families and those demobilized from fighting forces, as they may encounter specific protection problems.

The family-links network – comprising the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency, ICRC delegations and National Society tracing services – provides essential services to those with needs in this domain. It enables people to communicate with one another and strives to reunite separated family members, to locate missing relatives and to recover and identify human remains. The ICRC acts both in its direct operational capacity and in its lead role for restoring family links within the Movement. As such, it acts as the Movement's technical adviser in this field and coordinator of the related international response, including in situations of natural disaster occurring outside conflict zones or violence-prone areas.

In 2008, implementation of the Restoring Family Links Strategy (2008–2018) got under way. The strategy, which was adopted by the Movement's Council of Delegates in November 2007, aims to strengthen the Movement's family-links network by enhancing the capacity of its components to respond to the needs of those without news of family members owing to an armed conflict or other situation of violence, a natural disaster or other circumstances, such as migration. The Division prepared a guidance document, adopted by the Directorate, for the Movement's implementation of the strategy, started to monitor its implementation and worked to mobilize the entire Movement in support of it. In 2008, this included enhancing:

- ▶ the response capacity to natural disasters: a test version of the first family-links network field manual was produced, for use and validation during training of tracing teams in 2009



- the management of data and telecommunication tools: an upgraded version was produced of the ICRC family-links website – the standard operational web tool enabling families to restore family links – and headquarters provided support for the electronic transmission of family news in Iraq and between Chad and Sudan, and for video conferences between detainees and their families in Afghanistan

## MISSING PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Armed conflicts and other situations of violence often lead to the disappearance of hundreds, or even thousands of people. ICRC activities in relation to missing persons include: promoting the relevant humanitarian rules; lending support for the development of appropriate national legislation; assisting authorities in setting up mechanisms aimed at addressing the issue of missing persons; cooperating with the authorities and the other players involved with a view to ascertaining the fate of the missing; tracing people who are unaccounted for; handling human remains; and providing support to the families of the missing.

In 2008, the Division continued to chair the internal task force on missing persons and their families, ensuring consistency in the ICRC's humanitarian response in this domain. It also helped the Assistance Division produce guidelines on relations with the families of missing persons.

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The ICRC participated in various meetings, round-tables and conferences on general and specific protection issues. It also maintained bilateral relations with the main organizations and institutions active in this area. It shared views on challenges confronting organizations working in contexts of urban violence with MSF, National Societies and other institutions developing their presence in large urban settings.

Within the UN framework, it actively participated as an observer in protection cluster meetings, both in the field and at headquarters. The main purpose of these contacts was to promote the ICRC's specific combination of an "all-victims" approach and responses to particular segments of the population facing particular risks and/or specific needs, in order to ensure complementarity and avoid unnecessary duplication.

The Division continued to take part in numerous discussions on the protection of IDPs within NGOs or UN fora and in academic circles.

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

The Division devoted considerable attention to the vital area of staff management and development. As concerns the protection training framework in particular, it supplemented existing courses with a new module for field personnel involved in detention-related programmes, enabling delegates with an average three years' experience to enhance their theoretical knowledge and acquire additional skills for dealing with matters such as torture and ill-treatment, judicial guarantees and prison systems.

## ASSISTANCE

The Assistance Division provides field operations with strategic support and professional expertise in three areas of activity – health services, economic security and water and habitat. These activities encompass forensic science and weapon contamination.

To further enhance the quality of its services, the Assistance Division develops and helps shape institutional assistance policies, guidelines and strategy. In 2008, it worked *inter alia* to reinforce the Health Unit's approaches and priorities, examined nuclear, radiological, biological and chemical weapon issues and launched a steering group to draw up environmental management guidelines.

The Division also played an active role in discussions within the Movement and the wider humanitarian community, and with academic institutions, professional associations and other bodies involved in analysing and developing professional standards relevant to its fields of activity.

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

In 2008, most ICRC delegations and offices around the world carried out health, economic security and water and habitat programmes. The most extensive programmes were in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda. All programmes received appropriate routine and pro-active support from the Division for programme design, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, with a view to maintaining and where necessary improving programme performance and quality. During the emergencies in Kenya, Myanmar, Georgia and Pakistan, headquarters staff were dispatched to the field with the rapid deployment team to provide emergency assistance support. In addition, the Division's forensic experts were kept extremely busy answering the rising number of requests from field delegations for help with tracing activities or with the management of dead bodies during emergencies.

The various tools needed to sustain activities – Geographical Information Systems (GIS), specific technical databases, reference manuals and handbooks – were constantly amplified. To increase accountability, internally and externally, result-based management tools were developed and key personnel trained.

## HEALTH

The Health Unit addresses the needs of people in armed conflicts or other situations of violence according to defined minimum packages of health care. Curative and preventive health action remains at the heart of the Unit's projects. Saving lives and alleviating suffering is the central objective of health assistance. In 2008, ICRC health activities were reaffirmed in five core areas, based on the ICRC assistance policy, as follows: first aid, war surgery, health care delivery in conflict situations (access to basic health care and essential hospital activities), physical rehabilitation and health in detention.

Considerable time was dedicated to developing specific tools and operational guidelines. In support of field activities, the unit produced guidelines on the following subjects: ICRC health interventions for civilian populations, accompanying families of missing persons, family needs assessments, baseline health assessments, teaching nursing care, war surgery, and HIV interventions in the field. The latter three were being prepared for publication.

Workshops for ICRC staff were held on hospital administration, nursing, laboratory activities, primary health care and health in detention. Courses and workshops for non-ICRC health practitioners were also organized on topics such as first aid, basic health care, emergency surgery in war-torn areas and hospital management. Presentations were given in external conferences on torture, medical ethics and public health issues in detention, and an Internet course for prison doctors was finalized.

Lastly, the unit set up a working group on protection of the medical mission and adopted a methodology to record events prejudicial to the mission.

## WATER AND HABITAT

ICRC water and habitat programmes provide basic services to groups of people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence, ensuring they have access to water supplies, decent conditions of sanitation and adequate shelter. When necessary, health facilities are renovated or built from scratch to improve access to health care. The services are provided throughout the different phases of a crisis, from the acute stage to the post-crisis period.

The Water and Habitat Unit checked, supplemented and validated about 300 project proposals worth a total of about CHF 30 million. It produced more than 400 GIS maps for ICRC operations, including during emergencies.

The Unit regularly does research and development work. It explored the possibility of using pre-engineered structures in ICRC operations (health structures and premises) as an interesting alternative to classical constructions in contexts lacking local capacities and/or stability (e.g. the project for a new operating theatre in Kaysaney, Somalia). The Unit's engineers tested and used technology to reduce environmental impact and successfully implemented projects ranging from biogas digestion of solid waste to solar-powered pumping systems.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

The ICRC's approach to economic security aims to ensure that households and communities can cover their essential needs and maintain or restore sustainable livelihoods. This involves initiatives ranging from emergency distributions of food and essential household items to sustainable food production programmes and micro-economic initiatives.

In order to support field operations and have accurate guidelines, internal thematic meetings were organized in 2008 on issues such as land tenure or micro-economic initiatives. In addition, the nutrition manual for humanitarian action was translated into English and published, a handbook was produced for economic security coordinators, a leaflet on economic security was issued

for junior staff and external target groups, and a brochure of case studies, *Farming Through Conflict*, was printed.

An operational partnership agreement for work with National Societies was finalized and is currently being tested in the field. With a view to implementing ICRC policies and guidelines on women and war, feminine hygiene items were systematically included in essential household kits.

The Economic Security Unit also analysed the global food and economic crisis in order to advise field operations on the changes inherent in the new situation. In order to strengthen its working methods, it developed a monitoring tool for field teams and three training modules to enhance reporting, monitoring and evaluation capacities. More than 1,000 staff and National Society members received instruction from a network of field-based trainers.

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

In 2008, as in previous years, the Assistance Division worked tirelessly to improve the quality and scope of training for its health, economic security, and water and habitat personnel. It allocated substantial resources to training and contributed its expertise to on-site courses for health care personnel working in places of detention and to war-surgery seminars held around the world. It conducted two courses on weapon contamination, on top of the support it gave in this field to colleagues from other departments.

In addition, six Health Emergencies in Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) courses were organized, in three languages, in Geneva (Switzerland), Baltimore and Honolulu (United States of America), Pretoria (South Africa), Ouidah (Benin), and Fukuoka (Japan). A total of 151 students from 45 different countries attended, including 19 from within the Movement (6 from the ICRC and 13 from National Societies) and 45 from the health sector (26 doctors and 19 nurses).

The Water and Habitat Unit reinforced its GIS expertise, recruiting and establishing a network of competent national officers. It continued to run the professional water treatment education programme, "From Emergency towards Development", jointly with professional training institutes.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HUMANITARIAN DEBATE

The ICRC's expertise in specialized areas such as the rehabilitation of amputees, water and habitat engineering, war surgery, and health and medical ethics in prisons was frequently solicited in international conferences, fora and workshops. Throughout the year, the Assistance Division participated in various events attended by key humanitarian organizations such as specialized UN agencies, notably WFP, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, WHO, UNICEF, the United Nations Mine Action Service, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, UNDP and UNHCR, and NGOs such as Action Contre la Faim, Handicap International, MSF, Oxfam and Physicians for Human Rights. These meetings were opportunities to share experiences and expertise, acquire a better understanding of the approaches and working methods used by others and bring them together whenever possible. In the same spirit, the Division also maintained and developed a network of contacts with professional associations and academic institutions.

## MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

International fora are an essential platform for the ICRC to facilitate its field operations, to defend and promote impartial, neutral, independent and strictly humanitarian action, and to guard against the use of humanitarian activities for military or political ends. Multilateral and bilateral contacts also aim to promote knowledge, understanding and – whenever appropriate – development of IHL, to share the ICRC's position on issues of humanitarian concern and to raise awareness of the plight of those affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence, including IDPs.

The ICRC forges and maintains close relations with a wide range of intergovernmental organizations, among others the UN, the African Union (AU), the Council of Europe (CoE), the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the OSCE, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. It does this from its headquarters in Geneva and from its delegations covering countries that are major global diplomatic players and where such organizations sit, basically in Addis Ababa, Brussels, Cairo, Kuala Lumpur, Moscow, New York, Paris and Washington.

In particular, the ICRC follows the work of UN bodies in New York and Geneva such as the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Commission, the Human Rights Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, offering its expertise on matters related to IHL and issues of humanitarian concern. It also engages in regular exchanges with the various UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies, NGOs and their umbrella organizations, organizations with an economic or development mission such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and private business companies and their industry associations.

The ICRC's Multilateral Diplomacy and Humanitarian Coordination Unit acts as the focal point for relations between the ICRC and these organizations.

## RAISING ISSUES OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

In 2008, issues of humanitarian concern figured prominently on the international agenda, as major international crises and their consequences proved increasingly intractable. The space for neutral and independent humanitarian action was regularly restricted. Reform of the UN humanitarian system progressed, further shaping the environment in which the ICRC operates.

Both in and from New York and Geneva, the ICRC continued to keep a close eye on the UN reform process and its implementation, monitored developments on humanitarian and legal issues at the UN and followed debates and decisions on the various contexts and cross-cutting issues discussed in UN fora. It strived to keep abreast of developments that are relevant to its own humanitarian activities, and to promote understanding of and support for its mandate and work, both generally and in relation with the UN's cluster approach (see *New York*). In Geneva it followed the

work of the Human Rights Council's regular and special sessions and the three sessions of the Universal Periodic Review. It also developed its contacts in diplomatic circles.

In Africa, the ICRC maintained strong cooperation with the AU, the AU Commission and relevant AU departments, particularly the Peace and Security Council, with which the ICRC's head of operations for East Africa discussed the humanitarian situation and ICRC activities in Somalia and Sudan. The ICRC and the Council presidency strengthened their structured dialogue; the ICRC is contributing significantly to the preparation of the special summit on IDPs in Africa, to be held in April 2009 in Kampala, having already provided substantive input for the first convention on the protection of IDPs to be adopted at the summit (see *African Union*). Through its network of focal points in delegations across Africa, the ICRC also strengthened its cooperation with Africa's main regional economic communities and attended some of the events organized under their auspices. In 2008, it signed a cooperation agreement with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

In Latin America and in Asia, the ICRC maintained multilateral contacts with the main regional organizations on institutional priorities, namely IDPs, missing persons and, in Latin America in particular, the recourse to force by police and the military in situations of urban violence (see also *Mexico* and *Washington*). It developed its working relations with ASEAN, which is becoming an international organization with full legal personality following the ratification of its charter by all member States (see also *Kuala Lumpur*). Contacts between the two organizations intensified to strengthen the emergency response to the devastation of cyclone Nargis in Myanmar (see *Myanmar*).

Interaction and cooperation with the CoE and the OSCE – facilitated by the Swedish and Finnish chairmanships respectively – led to a convincing show of support, in particular for the ICRC's response to operational challenges as a result of renewed conflicts. In a resolution adopted in June 2008, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe invited member States to give active support to ICRC efforts aimed at assisting States to accede to and implement IHL treaties. It also encouraged them to support ICRC protection activities, efforts to prevent enforced disappearances and assistance to civilian victims of landmines and cluster munitions. ICRC president Jakob Kellenberger officially addressed parliamentarians from the Council of Europe's 47 member States during discussion of a report of the Assembly's Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population.

The ICRC continued to engage in dialogue on common humanitarian concerns with Muslim organizations and their leaders. It participated as an observer in several high-level meetings, including the 11th Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in Dakar (Senegal), the 35th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Kampala (Uganda), and the 5th Session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of OIC Member States.

The ICRC maintained and developed interaction with the IPU, attending its Assemblies in Cape Town and Geneva, participating in meetings of the ad hoc committee on IHL and monitoring Standing Committee debates and other relevant IPU activities. The IPU and the ICRC continued to work on two joint projects on missing persons: a handbook for parliamentarians, and a study of national implementation by IPU member parliaments of international norms related to the missing.



The ICRC was actively involved in public discussions on issues relevant to its work, including migration, the specific situation of women and children in conflict, internal displacement, conflict prevention, peace building and the strengthening of the humanitarian response to “forgotten” emergencies.

## ENHANCING COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES

In recognition of the scale and complexity of needs arising from crises, the growing number of relief organizations on the ground, the diversity of the humanitarian environment and changes resulting from the UN humanitarian reform process, the ICRC continued to consult and coordinate with other humanitarian actors, both at headquarters and in the field, focusing on reality-based and action-oriented coordination. For the delegation in Iraq, the ICRC maintained a full-time delegate position to liaise with the various players involved in humanitarian assistance for the Iraqi population, in particular with the UN bodies.

The ICRC actively participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), in its capacity as standing invitee. It played an active role in the IASC’s main meetings, working groups, information meetings and sub-groups, such as the IASC Informal Group on Humanitarian Space. ICRC field delegations attended coordination meetings and cooperated with UN staff to develop Common Humanitarian Action Plans in an effort to prevent duplication or gaps in relief aid.

Throughout the year, the ICRC maintained close bilateral operational and institutional relations with various UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies. In the framework of this ongoing dialogue, and because of its particular cooperation with the UNHCR and WFP in most operational contexts, bilateral meetings with both UN agencies were held at the highest level. The ICRC president was the invited guest speaker at the UNHCR 59th Executive Committee. His address focused on the plight of IDPs and the need for effective and meaningful coordination among all actors, based on real needs and agency capacities.

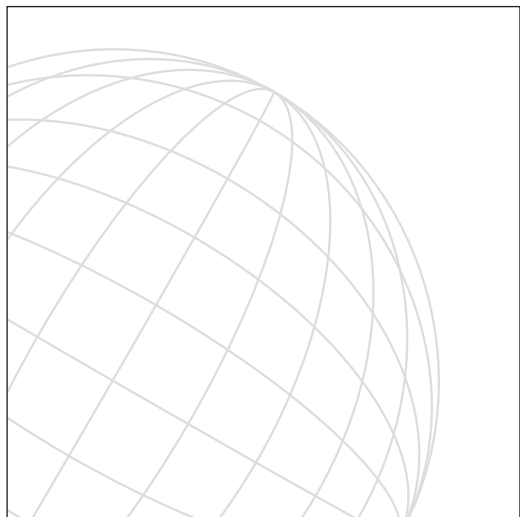
The ICRC also attended several other executive councils, board meetings and special working groups of the UN and other agencies engaged in humanitarian activities (IOM, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WHO). These meetings were repeated opportunities to address issues of common concern, such as humanitarian coordination, the implementation of the UN cluster approach, the humanitarian response to IDPs, access to victims and security constraints, and complementarity, from the point of view of the ICRC’s independent and neutral action.

In the same spirit of reality-based and action-oriented coordination, the ICRC maintained close contacts with the major operational NGOs at field and headquarters levels, both bilaterally and through NGO consortia. It is a full member of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and has observer status with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies. The many meetings it attended or organized were opportunities in particular to share common concerns, to acquire a better understanding of the approaches, working methods, strengths and constraints of others, and on this basis to reinforce coordination and cooperation whenever possible. Such meetings included:

- ▶ a conference organized jointly by the ICRC and Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE) in April on the future challenges of water and conflict
- ▶ a high-level meeting between MSF and the ICRC
- ▶ ICRC participation in the Global Humanitarian Platform, created in 2006 as an outcome of the dialogue between UN and non-UN humanitarian agencies to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian action

Businesses influence conflicts in places where they are operational, prompting the ICRC to participate in initiatives and processes aimed at better understanding and managing that phenomenon. In particular, it contributed where relevant to the work of the UN Special Representative on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; it was also a regular participant in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights process.

A close link was maintained with the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group, which brings together representatives of major donor countries in Geneva to foster dialogue with humanitarian agencies.



# international law and cooperation within the movement

*The Department of International Law and Cooperation within the Movement seeks to reinforce and help implement the rules protecting victims of war, and to promote coherent action and policy among the Movement's components. It spearheads work to develop, explain and promote the provisions of IHL relating to international and non-international armed conflicts, to promote cooperation between the Movement's components in the achievement of their humanitarian mission and to foster implementation of the Fundamental Principles. The Department also archives ICRC records for historical purposes and publishes the International Review of the Red Cross.*

In 2008, the Department's efforts to heighten the protection of civilians during armed conflicts and other situations of violence culminated in the signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions by 94 States in Oslo in December. The Department also worked on other important legal matters linked to modern warfare, such as the use of private military and security companies in armed conflicts and the concept of direct participation in hostilities. Other key issues dealt with by the Department related to enhancing the ICRC's partnerships with host National Societies and Movement coordination in countries where there are major ICRC operations, with a view to reinforcing the Movement's work overall to protect and assist the victims of conflict and other situations of violence in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. Lastly, the Department continued providing ICRC field operations with extensive and substantial support on legal, Movement and policy matters.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The protection of war victims is largely dependent on respect for IHL. In accordance with the mandate conferred upon it by the international community, the ICRC strives to promote compliance with IHL and to contribute to its development.

The ICRC's capacity to protect and assist persons affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence is substantially enhanced by the 84 headquarters agreements it has signed with the governments of the countries in which it works; the privileges and immunities thus conferred on the ICRC, including its testimonial immunity, enable the organization and its staff to work in

an entirely independent manner. With 13 other States or competent entities, the organization's privileges and immunities are established by legislation or other arrangements.

## PROMOTING THE UNIVERSALITY OF IHL INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

If IHL is to be fully respected, it is of paramount importance that States accede to the relevant international instruments and adopt national measures to implement IHL norms in their domestic law and practice. Such measures touch upon many different areas, such as the repression of war crimes, the use and protection of the distinctive emblems of the red cross, red crescent and red crystal, and the prohibition of or restrictions on the production and use of certain weapons.

Throughout 2008, the ICRC's Advisory Service on IHL engaged in active dialogue with national authorities worldwide in order to promote accession to IHL treaties and their domestic implementation. It provided legal and technical advice to governments in many countries seeking to develop domestic legislation, in particular Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yemen and Zambia.

The ICRC also organized, or contributed to, a range of national and regional conferences, seminars and workshops in relation to IHL and its incorporation into domestic law. These included events organized in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates), Apia (Samoa), Bangkok (Thailand), Cairo (Egypt), Lima (Peru), London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), Lomé (Togo), New Delhi (India), Praia (Cape Verde), Pretoria (South Africa),

Rabat (Morocco), Santiago de Chile (Chile), St Petersburg (Russian Federation), Tallinn (Estonia), Tunis (Tunisia) and Vilnius (Lithuania).

The ICRC continued to support and encourage States in their endeavours to establish national interministerial committees entrusted with the national implementation of IHL. In 2008, five new national committees were created (in Iceland, Ireland, Malaysia, Samoa and Zambia), bringing the total number worldwide to 91. In order to promote dialogue and cooperation among national IHL committees, the ICRC held regional meetings of such committees in different parts of the world.

The ICRC also maintained an active dialogue with international and regional organizations such as the Commonwealth, the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe, the European Union, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It took part in meetings of States party to various IHL treaties and related instruments such as the Ottawa Convention, the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and its Second Protocol of 1999, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Rome Statute.

In 2008, the ICRC pursued its interdisciplinary consultation of experts on the role and effect of sanctions against perpetrators of serious violations of IHL in ensuring greater respect for the law. The proceedings of the initiative were published in the *International Review of the Red Cross* (Vol. 90, No. 870, June 2008) and the issue was discussed during a series of regional seminars on the topic of domestic implementation of IHL.

In order to provide national authorities with the tools they need, the Advisory Service on IHL produced a new model law on the red cross, red crescent and red crystal emblems, to assist States in drafting national legislation on their use and protection, and a model law to implement the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The year was marked by the following progress in State participation in IHL treaties:

- ▶ 1 State (Fiji) acceded to Additional Protocol I
- ▶ 1 State (Fiji) acceded to Additional Protocol II
- ▶ 12 States (Albania, Costa Rica, Estonia, Fiji, Guatemala, Macedonia [Former Yugoslav Republic of], Mexico, Moldova [Republic of], Paraguay, Singapore, Slovenia and Uganda) ratified or acceded to Additional Protocol III
- ▶ 4 States (Bahrain, Chad, Chile and New Zealand) ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property
  - 3 States (Bahrain, Barbados and Chile) acceded to its First Protocol
  - 3 States (Bahrain, Barbados and Chile) acceded to its Second Protocol
- ▶ 5 States (Albania, Burundi, China, Iraq and Singapore) ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ▶ 3 States (Cook Islands, Madagascar and Suriname) ratified or acceded to the Rome Statute
- ▶ 1 State (Paraguay) acceded to the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity
- ▶ 1 State (Slovenia) acceded to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare

- ▶ 4 States (Cook Islands, Madagascar, United Arab Emirates and Zambia) ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction
- ▶ 4 States (Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Jamaica and Madagascar) became party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons; 8 States (Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Jamaica, Paraguay, Portugal and Slovenia) became party to the revised Framework Convention
  - 3 States (Guinea-Bissau, Iceland and Madagascar) became party to Protocol I
  - 3 States (Guinea-Bissau, Iceland and Madagascar) became party to Protocol II
  - 4 States (Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Jamaica and Madagascar) became party to Amended Protocol II
  - 3 States (Guinea-Bissau, Iceland and Madagascar) became party to Protocol III
  - 5 States (Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Jamaica, Madagascar and Paraguay) became party to Protocol IV
  - 15 States (Belarus, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Jamaica, Korea [Republic of], Madagascar, Moldova [Republic of], Paraguay, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal and Tunisia) became party to Protocol V
- ▶ 4 States (Holy See, Ireland, Norway and Sierra Leone) ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions

## REAFFIRMING, CLARIFYING AND DEVELOPING IHL

Throughout 2008, the Legal Division attended numerous conferences, seminars and courses and provided States, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and other interested bodies with expertise on a variety of IHL-related topics. The primary aim of these activities was to promote IHL, to stress the relevance of its provisions in contemporary armed conflicts, to identify current challenges as well as possibilities for clarification and development of the law, and to explain the specific role of the ICRC.

The Legal Division also provided legal advice on a daily basis to the ICRC's field delegations, notably regarding confidential representations reminding the parties to armed conflicts of their obligations under IHL. It supported the ICRC rapid deployment and response mechanism in relation to the fighting in South Ossetia by sending a legal adviser to Tbilisi to work on legal issues arising from the international armed conflict.

### IHL and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts

In 2008, the ICRC undertook to analyse current and new types of armed violence with a view to evaluating the present status of laws governing non-international armed conflicts in the light of treaty and customary international law. The results of the analysis will be used in 2009 when the ICRC considers whether there is a need to clarify or develop the law in order to strengthen the protection of persons and objects affected by non-international armed conflicts.

### Study on customary international humanitarian law

The Legal Division continued to promote the study on customary international humanitarian law, the first global and thorough assessment of its kind, which showed that the normative framework for non-international armed conflicts under customary law is more developed than the treaty-based framework. This

enhanced framework should ultimately heighten the protection of victims of such conflicts, in law and in practice. In 2008, the study continued to be used as a reference by courts, rapporteurs, government lawyers, academics and organizations.

In 2008, the Spanish translation of Volume I (the rules) of the study was launched at a regional conference in Bogotá, Colombia. The Farsi translation was launched at a colloquium in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, organized jointly by the University of Tehran, the Iranian National Committee for Humanitarian Law and the ICRC. Similar events were organized in Istanbul (Turkey), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Manila (Philippines) and Sofia (Bulgaria). In addition to Volume I – which now exists in Arabic, Chinese, English, Farsi, French, Russian, Serbian and Spanish – a summary of the study, including the list of customary rules, has been prepared and is now available in nearly forty languages. The report on the 2007 launch of the French version at a colloquium in Paris, France, was published in 2008. The ICRC and the British Red Cross continued their joint project to update Volume II (the practice) of the study.

### **Direct participation in hostilities**

In 2008, the ICRC concluded the process aimed to clarify the concept of “direct participation in hostilities” under IHL with a fifth and final expert meeting involving more than 40 international legal experts from military, academic, governmental and non-governmental backgrounds. Using the results of the expert discussions and on the basis of further internal research and analysis, the ICRC worked on finalizing its “Interpretive Guidance on the Notion of Direct Participation in Hostilities under IHL”.

### **Cluster munitions and the Ottawa Convention**

Since 2000, the ICRC had been calling for a new international instrument to prevent the repeated and widespread harm to civilians caused by cluster munitions – both at the time they are used and for decades afterwards. The appeal by the ICRC’s president in November 2007 for the prohibition of “inaccurate and unreliable” cluster munitions eventually provided a conceptual basis for work in 2008 within the “Oslo Process”, which brought together States three times during the year. The ICRC actively participated in the Wellington Conference in New Zealand in February, which grappled with key issues for a new treaty, the Dublin Diplomatic Conference in Ireland in May, which negotiated the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and the Convention’s Signing Conference in Oslo, Norway, in December. It also provided National Societies and ICRC delegations in dozens of countries with materials to help them raise awareness of the human cost of cluster munitions. In April, the ICRC organized a visit to Laos for representatives of international media, focusing on the human legacy of decades of cluster munitions contamination in the country. It also provided images on the cluster munitions issue which were used by broadcasters in many countries. At the same time, the ICRC contributed its legal and humanitarian expertise to seven weeks of negotiations on cluster munitions among the States party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which have yet to reach an agreement on the matter.

With the States party to the Ottawa Convention, the ICRC focused on ensuring the scrupulousness and credibility of the process for reaching decisions on the 15 requests for extensions to the clearance deadlines that serve the core humanitarian objectives of the Convention. Many of its suggestions regarding the comments and conditions that could accompany extension decisions, or the shortening of certain requests, were implemented

by the Meeting of States Parties in November. Its efforts, both bilaterally and internationally, also helped to ensure that the Meeting expressed serious concern about three States that had been unable to destroy anti-personnel mine stockpiles by their 2008 deadline. These efforts resulted in the announcement by two of the three States concerned of new end-dates for clearance in 2009.

### **Air and missile warfare**

Throughout 2008, the Legal Division actively contributed to the project on “IHL in Air and Missile Warfare” conducted under the auspices of the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. The ultimate outcome of this project should be a manual reiterating customary international law pertaining to air and missile warfare. In April 2008, members of the Legal Division participated in an expert meeting and made substantive comments on the draft manual.

### **Private military and security companies**

The operations of private military and security companies in situations of armed conflict gained even greater prominence as a result of public and media attention on the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq. The ICRC stepped up its activities in this connection in order to position itself more clearly and to recall the existing international law governing the activities of such companies. It pursued its dialogue with them and with the States responsible for their actions (especially States that hire the companies and States in whose territories they operate) to ensure all were aware of their responsibilities in relation to IHL. Legal Division experts participated in numerous external events that addressed the legal issues raised.

In particular, the ICRC pursued close cooperation with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs on an intergovernmental initiative on private military and security companies in situations of armed conflict launched in 2005. The process culminated in the *Montreux Document on Pertinent International Legal Obligations and Good Practices for States Related to Operations of Private Military and Security Companies During Armed Conflict*, which was agreed by the 17 governments participating in the initiative. The document aims to further intergovernmental discussion of the issues raised by the use of private military and security companies, to reaffirm and clarify the obligations by which States and such companies are bound, and to provide guidance to States in their relations with the companies.

### **Procedural principles and safeguards on internment or administrative detention**

In 2008 the ICRC continued disseminating its institutional position on the procedural principles and safeguards applicable to internment or administrative detention in armed conflicts and other situations of violence. The text was widely distributed at a number of governmental and academic conferences and was used by ICRC field delegations. In September 2008, the ICRC and Chatham House organized a one-and-a-half-day expert meeting on security detention in non-international armed conflicts. The purpose of the meeting, which brought together military and governmental experts, in their personal capacity, and representatives of NGOs, was to examine a number of unresolved legal issues, along with some major practical problems associated with security detention in different types of non-international armed conflict.

### **Occupation and other forms of administration of foreign territory**

As part of its project on occupation law, the ICRC organized two meetings in Geneva, in May and December, involving more than



20 experts. The experts were consulted on legal issues pertaining to the beginning and end of occupation, the delimitations of the rights and duties of an occupying power, and the relevance of occupation law for the UN administration of territory. The aim of the meetings was to help clarify and reaffirm the law applicable to occupation and other forms of administration of foreign territory, and to enable substantive and procedural proposals to be made for addressing the challenges posed by modern occupations.

### **Improving compliance with IHL in non-international armed conflicts**

In 2008, the ICRC published a report on the need to enhance respect for IHL in non-international armed conflicts. The text, the outcome of a broader internal study on the issue, provides States, armed groups, humanitarian players and other stakeholders with suggestions on how the law could be better implemented. It outlines a range of legal tools that can be used to persuade parties to non-international armed conflicts to abide by the law.

### **Other matters**

The fact that the ICRC concentrated on the issues outlined above did not preclude it from dealing with a number of other topical matters.

During the 63rd Session of the UN General Assembly, the ICRC paid particular attention to legal developments on issues such as “terrorism”, IDPs, missing persons, and humanitarian coordination, and delivered a statement to the Sixth Committee on the status of the 1977 Additional Protocols. It also contributed to a report issued by the Secretary-General on 11 July 2008 on the status of the 1977 Additional Protocols pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 61/30 of 4 December 2006.

Throughout the year the ICRC observed the deliberations of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review system. It also took part as an observer in meetings of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law.

Other issues, such as the protection of women and children in armed conflicts, humanitarian assistance, the protection of journalists, multinational forces and cyber-attacks, were also addressed.

## **MOVEMENT COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

### **MOVEMENT ACTION**

In 2008, the Division for Coordination and Cooperation within the Movement continued to provide substantial guidance and support to ICRC field delegations and to headquarters regarding cooperation and coordination with other components of the Movement. Particular emphasis was placed on further developing partnerships with the National Society in countries and contexts in which major ICRC operations are carried out, such as Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan (Darfur). The Division also provided crucial support to the ICRC’s rapid deployment and response mechanism for major emergency crises, mobilizing additional staff to ensure optimal coordination among Movement components in the context of the Kenyan post-electoral violence, cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, the armed conflict in South Ossetia, the earthquake in Baluchistan (Pakistan) and the surge in hostilities in Gaza.

### **Operational partnerships and capacity-building with National Societies**

Strengthening the ICRC’s capacity to be an effective partner for host National Societies was the Division’s key priority in 2008. Within the framework of the ICRC’s institutional strategy for 2007–2010 and during the process of planning for 2009, the Division advised delegations when an operational partnership with the National Society in the host country could improve the Movement’s overall humanitarian impact. It started to develop guidelines and tools with a view to ensuring the effectiveness of such operational partnerships, without neglecting efforts to bolster National Society capacities. Pilot projects involving a modification of the ICRC planning process were launched in four major contexts: Colombia, Lebanon, Nepal and Sudan. Extensive consultations on possible strategies for strengthening partnerships with National Societies were undertaken with all cooperation delegates in the field and with key units at headquarters. A project manager was recruited and a steering committee set up to guide the work process at headquarters throughout 2009 and 2010.

Enhancing National Society operational capacities has remained a priority, and project management procedures have continued to be revised to that end. In accordance with the ICRC’s expertise, special attention was paid to National Society operational programmes to assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, to restore family links, to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and to deploy mine-action activities. At the end of the year, a guide for National Societies wishing to engage in visits to detained migrants was being finalized by the Central Tracing Agency and Protection and the Cooperation Divisions.

Ongoing consultations and constant coordination with the International Federation and National Societies concentrated on harmonizing Movement approaches to National Society organizational development and capacity building, on development of a Code of Good Partnership, and on issues relating to National Society statutes and integrity.

### **Support for Movement coordination**

The Division worked to help implement the backbone policy documents for Movement coordination: the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures. The ICRC and the International Federation jointly organized nine training sessions on the topic for over 130 management staff. They also began to revise the corresponding training module.

Together with the ICRC Security Cell, the Division finalized internal guidelines on the ICRC’s management of Movement security in countries affected by armed conflict or violence. The key elements of these guidelines were shared with all National Societies.

Intensive support was provided to the field delegations for the preparation, in accordance with the Supplementary Measures to the Seville Agreement, of Movement memoranda of understanding relating to Burundi, Lebanon, Nepal and the Philippines.

In order to ensure effective coordination with the International Federation’s new regional structures, the Division reviewed the ICRC’s overall cooperation set-up in the field in conjunction with its cooperation staff in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Panama City, Panama. In addition, bi-monthly meetings between the senior management of the two organizations were held in Geneva.

Representatives from 40 National Societies working internationally were invited to the annual information meeting organized jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation. The meeting focused on rapid deployment in emergencies and on international migration. Other such events included the second annual meeting for Gulf National Societies, and a partnership meeting on the Movement operation in Afghanistan. Furthermore, the Division prepared for the ICRC's participation in the 7th Pan African Conference of National Societies in October.

Together with the International Federation, the Division organized a Leadership Development Programme course in Spanish for 16 senior National Society staff members. It also helped develop the new online self-taught course (World of Red Cross/Crescent) and revise the Basic Training Course (in future to be called IMPACT) organized by National Societies for their staff working internationally. It arranged ICRC participation in 26 Basic Training Courses organized by 16 National Societies, and in several training sessions for International Federation staff seconded to emergency operations in the field.

## MOVEMENT PRINCIPLES AND RULES

The Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes continued to help National Societies adhere at all times to the Fundamental Principles by strengthening their legal base (i.e. their statutes and their country's national legislation). The Commission met six times in 2008; it provided formal comments and recommendations to 35 National Societies on draft statutes, and assistance and guidance to 12 National Societies regarding the revision of national legislation. It also sent all National Societies two letters (in March and December) reminding them that, in accordance with the Strategy for the Movement, by 2010 all National Society statutes should conform to the Movement's minimum requirements.

The ICRC continued to attach great importance to helping National Societies protect their integrity in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. The relevant internal database was developed further, and a reference library for integrity and Fundamental Principles was set up and shared with the field in CD-ROM form. The ICRC pursued its coordination with the International Federation on integrity matters at management and governance level. It attended the meeting of the International Federation's Working Group on Integrity in May and that of the new Compliance and Mediation Committee in August.

In 2008, the Policy Division dealt with some 60 enquiries about the proper use of the red cross, red crescent and red crystal emblems, providing advice and recommendations to ICRC delegations, National Societies, government authorities and private individuals. In particular, using existing material as a basis, it started drafting model internal regulations on the use of the emblems by National Societies, an exercise it will continue in 2009 in consultation with National Societies. Similarly, time was devoted to discussing, with the European Union Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, the issue of several trademarks registered across the European Union over the past few years. The discussions will continue into 2009 with a view to solving the problem.

In keeping with Resolution 7 of the 2007 Council of Delegates, the ICRC pursued its study of operational and commercial and

other non-operational issues involving the use of the emblems, the first version of which had been submitted to the Council in 2007, in accordance with the Strategy for the Movement. In 2008, the study was elaborated further and a new version sent to all States, all National Societies and the International Federation for feedback. Consultations and incorporation of the feedback were set to continue into 2009 with a view to finalizing the study for submission to the 2009 Council of Delegates.

Together with the International Federation, the ICRC remained committed to providing National Societies with guidance on operational interaction with the UN system in order to ensure effective coordination and complementary action while safeguarding the Movement's distinct identity. In this regard, work began on revising the format of the agreement used by WFP and its implementing partners to ensure that a new model was adapted to the specific nature of the Movement. The model format for agreements between UNHCR and Movement components, negotiated together with the International Federation in 2007, was translated into Arabic, French and Spanish and sent to all National Societies.

The Division supervised and administered various Movement funds, medals and prizes. It examined, jointly with the International Federation, a total of 36 applications from 33 National Societies to the Empress Shôken Fund, and decided to finance 10 projects. It also organized 33 official visits by 218 National Society leaders and representatives to ICRC headquarters.

The English-language version of the new *Handbook of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*, containing an updated collection of the most important IHL treaties and Movement policy documents, went to press in late 2008 for distribution in 2009.

## MOVEMENT POLICY

Preparations got under way for the 2009 Council of Delegates in Nairobi, Kenya. Two joint assessment missions were carried out to Nairobi and the administrative and logistics set-up was agreed with the Kenya Red Cross Society.

The Division provided support for the monitoring of the memorandum of understanding between the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom in Israel and participated in three missions to Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, in May, September and November. As per Resolution 2 of the 2007 Council of Delegates and Resolution 5 of the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the independent monitor, Mr Pär Stenbäck, submitted a report on the state of implementation of the memorandum of understanding to the ICRC and the International Federation on 31 May. The ICRC and the International Federation shared the report with all National Societies at the beginning of June, requesting them in turn to share it with their respective national authorities, and asked the monitor to continue his work and provide them with another interim report by 31 January 2009.

Pursuant to Resolution 5 of the 2007 Council of Delegates, the ICRC was invited to contribute to the development of an International Federation policy on international migration. It participated in the meeting of the reference group set up for this



purpose and engaged in regular dialogue with the International Federation Special Representative on Migration. It also initiated a process to develop a Movement policy on internal displacement together with National Societies and the International Federation.

## POLICY-MAKING

In 2008, the Department embarked on an overall revision/updating of its numerous policy documents with the aim of ensuring that as a group they were more coherent and thus provided clearer policy guidelines on major humanitarian issues for field delegates. Making most of these documents publicly available will also help render the ICRC's work more transparent and predictable.

A new policy document adopted in 2008, "The ICRC, its mission and work", contains a revised version of the ICRC's mission statement, along with a commentary. It provides a comprehensive explanation of how the ICRC uses four approaches (protection, assistance, cooperation and prevention) to carry out its mission. Protection and prevention policies were also adopted in 2008: all four approaches are now the subject of a policy text.

## ARCHIVES

Reports on all ICRC activities, registers of official decisions and legal and operational correspondence have been stored since 1863 in the ICRC's archives. In June 2007, UNESCO added the archives of the International Prisoners of War Agency (1914–1923) to its Memory of the World Register, in testimony to "the extent of human suffering during the First World War, but also of pioneering action to protect civilians". The extensive programme launched by the ICRC in 2006 to restore and digitize these archives is to be completed in 2012.

In 2008, the Archives Division handled some 3,200 requests from victims of past armed conflicts and their next-of-kin for official documents such as attestations of detention, mostly related to the Second World War but also concerning the First World War or conflicts that occurred after 1950. Under the rules governing access to ICRC archives, the organization's records are subject to a protective embargo for a general period of 40 years and an extended period of 60 years. Hence, records up to 1965 have been opened to the general public for consultation.

The Archives Division also replied to some 1,200 requests for information on the ICRC's film and paper archives and received researchers in its reading room for the equivalent of about 600 working days. Furthermore, in order to improve accessibility, the ICRC and Memoriav, an association founded to preserve Switzerland's audiovisual cultural heritage, began a long-term project to preserve and restore the ICRC's 16mm film archives on its activities for people affected by conflicts between 1950 and 1980. The two organizations also discussed a project to preserve and restore ICRC audio archives.

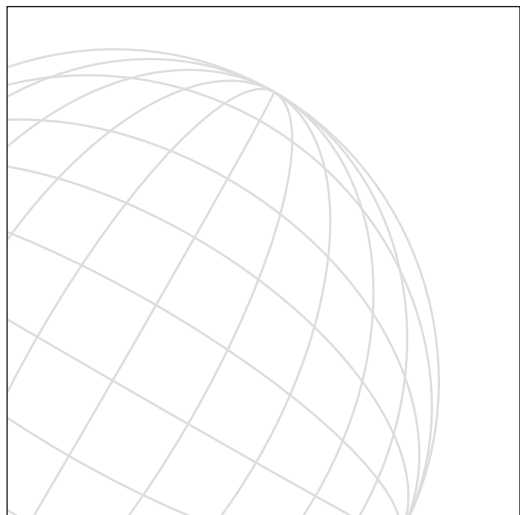
The purpose of ICRC historical research activities is to make the organization's history more widely known. In January, the Archives Division cooperated with a group of Harvard University researchers interested in preparing a study on ICRC activities during the Korean War (1950–1953). In October, it provided the Centre of Historical Memory, based in Salamanca, Spain, with digitized copies of documents concerning the organization's action during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939).

The Archives Division continued to create ICRC institutional reference files (about 7,000 files a year), and regularly advised ICRC units at headquarters and delegations in the field on management of their records. It also responded to some 800 internal research requests. This year again, 500 linear meters of records were transferred from headquarters support units and from delegations to be secured in conditions optimal for their preservation.

Finally, as part of the project to set up a new electronic professional messaging system, the Archives Division remained actively involved in the revision of the ICRC records management policy.

## INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

The *International Review of the Red Cross* is a peer-reviewed academic journal. It is published by the ICRC with the assistance of an international editorial board and printed and distributed by Cambridge University Press. The four issues produced in 2008 centred on the conflict in Iraq (Vol. 89/90, No. 868/9), sanctions in relation to IHL (No. 870) and human rights (No. 871). The articles they contained are available free online, and a selection has been published in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish and Turkish.



# communication

*The Communication Department seeks to ensure that the ICRC's mandate and activities are accurately conveyed to a variety of audiences throughout the world, and to promote more widespread respect for IHL. The ICRC engages both in public communication, to mobilize key stakeholders to act on pressing humanitarian issues, and in operational communication, to gain acceptance for its work and access to victims. Its wide-ranging preventive activities aim to ensure that IHL is integrated into armed forces' doctrine, education and training, and into school and university curricula, with a view to building an environment conducive to better respect for IHL, the ICRC and its work.*

## COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

In 2008, in recognition of the strategic importance of communication and the need to integrate it into all decision-making processes and activities, both at headquarters and in the field, the ICRC maintained its focus on developing a range of communication strategies and tools to convey key messages relating to its activities for people affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence and to its role as an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organization.

ICRC public communication centred on the humanitarian consequences of a number of major crises. In order to reach key target groups worldwide, the ICRC pursued a multimedia approach, producing professional communication materials and making more strategic use of its multilingual website. At the same time, it deployed its environment-scanning capacity, both at headquarters and in a number of regional delegations, to monitor the media and analyse global, regional and thematic trends.

As part of its work to prevent violations of IHL, the ICRC concentrated its educational and promotional activities on those in a position to influence humanitarian action. It also continued to train and consolidate its network of field-based communication staff in support of its operational and public communication endeavours.

## PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

### PUBLIC AND MEDIA RELATIONS

As in the past, the overarching objective of the ICRC's public and media relations was to support the organization's humanitarian field operations while positioning it as a key global provider of protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict and other forms of violence. Controlling the ICRC's "message" in a global environment where everyone – including the parties to conflicts – communicates publicly, sometimes making reference to the ICRC and its activities, remained a constant major challenge.

While contacts with "traditional" media outlets such as newspapers, broadcasters and online communication channels remained vitally important in endeavours to achieve these objectives, the ICRC increasingly embraced a more holistic view of public communication projected via its website, publications and audiovisual productions. To this end, 2008 saw a more intense focus on producing quality content for distribution to the media and for use in ICRC communication products.

Where possible, public communication aimed to position the ICRC as a principal reference organization on humanitarian issues related to the numerous operational contexts, characterized by armed conflict or other forms of violence, prioritized by the institution's external stakeholders. In 2008 these included Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia/Russian Federation, Iraq, Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Pakistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka. In all such contexts the ICRC consistently tried to illustrate the real added value of its neutral, impartial and independent approach to humanitarian action for people affected by conflict. On several occasions it successfully shaped the news agenda proactively rather than just reacting to events, thereby underscoring its position as an independent "voice".

Public communication was again used to advocate action to address specific humanitarian concerns such as the plight of IDPs and the ICRC's campaign to promote the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The ICRC-produced audiovisual footage on cluster munitions, which was distributed to broadcasters worldwide, had a particularly strong impact.

On several occasions the ICRC demonstrated its ability to respond rapidly to emergencies not only operationally but also in terms of public communication. Particularly notable in this respect were the crises involving Georgia and the Russian Federation, the Pakistan earthquake, the outbreak of post-election violence in Kenya and the armed conflict in Gaza. The inclusion of skilled public communicators in the ICRC rapid-deployment teams dispatched to deal with these crises proved to be particularly valuable. One of the most complex challenges was presented by the intense media and public interest in the ICRC's reaction to the misuse of the emblem by the Colombian authorities in a hostage release operation.

The ICRC's network of communicators in Geneva and in its field delegations, particularly in media hubs such as those in its Beijing, Buenos Aires, Jordan, London, Moscow, Paris and Washington delegations, enabled it to promote the organization's work to great effect across the globe and around the clock. Most delegations invested considerable effort in building quality relationships with local media in conflict areas, encouraging them to take account of humanitarian concerns and IHL in their reporting.

## ONLINE PUBLISHING

The Online Publishing Unit, which was established in September 2008, is responsible for the ICRC's online presence via the Internet, various ICRC sites, extranets and an intranet (under development). It was created in response to the growing importance of online vectors of communication and their increased role in supporting the institution's operational and strategic priorities. At the same time, the ICRC Directorate adopted the Online Publishing Governance and Management Principles, aimed at ensuring the overall quality, coherence and performance of these services in line with institutional and communication objectives.

The [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org) site, offered in seven languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian), plus the IHL databases in English and French, registered some 3.2 million visitors during the year and around 14.8 million page views. This represents 24% more visitors than in 2007 and an increase of 20% in the number of pages consulted. The proportion of pages viewed by language remains similar to 2007, with the English reference site accounting for almost half (48%) of all pages viewed, followed by Spanish (20%) and French (18%). Web statistics showed that the topics of greatest interest were the emblem, the Movement, children and war, women and war, customary law, the missing, mines, water and cluster munitions. The contexts of greatest interest were Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Iraq, Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Somalia and Sudan. The ICRC's new Internet and intranet services were not launched in 2008 as planned owing to unforeseen delays with the external contractors. Progress was nevertheless made towards the end of the year with the signing of a single technical specification document covering the requirements of both the Internet and intranet projects, setting a solid foundation for their rollout in 2009.

## PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION

Producing, promoting and distributing interesting, credible and consistent audiovisual and print materials describing the organization's work and positions are key to the ICRC's global communication strategy. In 2008, 35 new products were created, promoted and distributed to external and internal target groups. In addition, more than 5,000 orders were processed and an estimated 650,000 copies of films and publications distributed worldwide. Increased efforts were put into *AV News* distribution and digital watermarking, making it easy for broadcasters to pick up ICRC footage and for the ICRC to monitor its usage. The watermark tracking shows a rise in the use of ICRC footage around the globe.

Major new audiovisual and print materials produced in 2008 included: public communication materials supporting ICRC efforts to limit the use of cluster munitions, the institutional film *Panorama 08*, a new edition of the *Handbook of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*, an updated brochure on woman and war, a comic strip on the history of the Movement and a film and brochure on wound ballistics. Cover stories in the Red Cross/Red Crescent magazine featured issues such as the missing, shelter and neutral and independent humanitarian action. In addition, sixteen *AV News* releases were produced and made available to broadcasters worldwide; they included footage on Afghanistan, Georgia, Iraq, Kenya and Pakistan. Footage was also distributed on themes such as the global food crisis, cluster munitions, tuberculosis in prisons and IDPs.

The ICRC corporate visual identity is a crucial component of all productions worldwide, and the ICRC therefore continued to attach great importance to its visual guidelines, conducting training sessions to ensure understanding, respect and correct use of its identity throughout the organization. A series of product categories were put into practice and precise guidelines drawn up, and a training module for regional production officers was tested in several workshops in various parts of the world.

## MARKETING

Communication Department research in 2008 focused on the implementation of a comprehensive plan to enable the ICRC to track its reputation among key target groups. The aim is to establish a means of identifying the factors on which that reputation is based and a method for gauging its reach, with a view to ensuring that the ICRC's work and messages are understood and accepted. The first part of the research was completed among some of the organization's key stakeholders (military, media and political authorities). The ICRC also continued working on its study to obtain a more thorough understanding of the impact of its neutrality on its work and to demonstrate the practical applicability of a neutral approach in the field, using several contexts as examples. Field work in Sudan and an internal report provided valuable insight into how the ICRC practice of neutrality was perceived.

A campaign concept and a communication strategy were developed with a view to launching a global communication campaign in 2009 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino. The "Our world. Your move." campaign will be jointly headed by the ICRC and the International Federation. From the ICRC's perspective, the campaign examines the lasting impact of conflict on civilians and the need to keep the latter safe from harm. It spotlights eight contexts or "Solferinos of today": Afghanistan,

Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia and the Philippines. An in-depth study is being undertaken to give a voice to the victims and the most vulnerable. The campaign will highlight the power of individuals to make a difference and will be a call to action for everyone to reach out to help others. It will adopt a new style of communication for the ICRC by exploring the current trend of online campaigning and social networking and will also use the media to present today's humanitarian challenges through the eyes and voices of those affected by conflict.

In 2008, the ICRC participated in the annual Gallup "Voice of the People" omnibus survey which measured perceptions of the ICRC and benchmarked these against other humanitarian actors, providing global, regional and country-specific perspectives. The ICRC also built on its existing partnership with the Geneva Marathon, enabling it to promote its work within the local community and to strengthen its working relationships with other Movement partners. Efforts were maintained to promote the full range of ICRC publications and films, with particular emphasis on developing e-marketing capabilities and enhancing the position of [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org) on the web. At the same time, the ICRC further developed evaluation tools to assess the pertinence and impact of its products, campaigns and public communication activities.

## MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION

In keeping with its mission to help victims of conflicts and violence worldwide, the ICRC communicates with a wide range of stakeholders at the local, regional and international levels. In 2008, some 7 million words were processed at headquarters using internal and external resources. The ICRC's language staff and their external partners edited, translated and proofread a broad variety of public communication materials, including media products and materials for the ICRC website, publications, donor documentation and public statements, and documents of a legal and operational nature.

## DIALOGUE WITH ARMED, SECURITY AND POLICE FORCES, AND OTHER WEAPON BEARERS

The ICRC strives to ensure that the rank and file of armed, security and police forces know and apply IHL and human rights law as they go about their daily work, and that other weapon bearers respect IHL and support, or refrain from actively opposing, humanitarian action. To this end, it maintained relations throughout 2008 with the armed forces of 160 countries and with 60 armed groups and several private military and security companies. Conducted within a reference framework for relations with all weapon bearers, these activities are performed by a variety of ICRC personnel, including some 30 specialized delegates.

During the year in review, the ICRC consolidated its relations in particular with armed forces that resorted to force, either at home or abroad. An additional position was created in Iraq (based in Amman, Jordan) to reinforce the existing dialogue with US and coalition forces. Specialized ICRC delegates in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America observed the implementation of IHL or human rights law in a dozen international military exercises. They took part in numerous pre-deployment briefings or exercises, in particular for US and NATO units going to Afghanistan or Iraq.

Specialized delegates continued to support the efforts of weapon bearers to disseminate IHL or human rights law, to integrate these norms into their doctrine, education and training, to purchase adequate equipment and to adopt disciplinary and penal sanctions in the event of a violation. They engaged in dialogue with armed, police or security forces on the use of force, further consolidating contacts with key individuals at the policy-making level and with academies and institutes.

The second "Senior workshop on international rules governing military operations" enabled the ICRC to reinforce its relations with nearly 50 generals and senior officers from 50 countries, using practical case studies to foster exchanges on ways of implementing relevant legal norms. A new publication, *Violence and the Use of Force*, summarizes the essential norms of IHL and international human rights law.

Delegates around the world again strove to engage in dialogue with armed groups and to strengthen acceptance of the ICRC and respect for IHL in places such as Afghanistan, the Palestinian territories and the Russian Federation. A CD-ROM of material for other weapon bearers, including the film *Words of Warriors*, was finalized to raise awareness among armed groups of the need to respect IHL and ICRC action. It will be distributed to delegations in 2009.

In November, 20 governmental experts from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and specialists from the ICRC held a two-day meeting in Lima, Peru, to discuss the use of force and the protection of persons in situations of violence other than armed conflicts. The meeting led to the acceptance of various recommendations aimed at ensuring better protection for victims. A regional workshop on "Guidelines governing the use of force in internal security and counter-insurgency operations" took place in November in Jakarta, Indonesia. Co-organized by the ICRC and the Indonesian army, it brought together military and police officers from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The participants explored the legal framework for such operations and the interaction between military and police forces, and debated the difficulties that armed forces have in adapting their training and doctrine accordingly.

Delegates held discussions with some of the most active private military or security companies. In London and Washington, they talked with government representatives about the need for a regulatory framework and for disciplinary or criminal sanctions in the event of violations of the relevant laws. The ICRC thoroughly reviewed its own use of security companies around the world and adopted internal guidelines on the matter.

Internally, the coherence of the ICRC's dialogue with armed forces operating at a global level was reinforced. At an important meeting chaired by the deputy director of operations, seven specialist delegates, heads of delegation and other ICRC representatives gathered in Geneva in order to enhance the organization's strategy and activities with global players such as the US armed forces and NATO.

The International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo continued to receive financial and technical assistance and advice from the ICRC, which in 2008 sponsored courses for air force and naval operators and granted fellowships to some 25 military officers from 11 countries. The ICRC also financed projects to review the basic courses offered and to modernize classes.



## REACHING OUT TO DECISION-MAKERS AND OPINION-FORMERS

### ACADEMIC CIRCLES

For the ICRC, partnerships with universities remained vital to fostering respect for IHL. In order to realize the full potential of its contacts with universities, it provided support for the teaching of IHL at universities and involved professors in the development, implementation and promotion of the law. In 2008, more than 70 delegations worked with universities, and many were developing context-specific course materials. To support these efforts, a brochure was produced explaining why and how the ICRC works with universities.

Various activities confirmed the ICRC's commitment to encouraging the incorporation of IHL into university curricula. The organization provided curricular input and support for a network of academic institutes and universities identified as training grounds for future leaders and decision-makers. ICRC delegations organized a number of training opportunities designed to introduce professors to IHL and to explore ways of teaching it. In addition, an advanced training course on IHL for university teachers was organized in cooperation with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. Twenty-seven professors and senior lecturers from Africa, Europe, the Indian sub-continent, Latin America, the Middle East, North America, the Pacific and South-East Asia took part. Moreover, about 300 faculty members and advanced students benefited from intensive IHL courses organized by the ICRC in Belgium and Poland.

ICRC delegations supported a number of student events to create momentum for the inclusion of IHL in university curricula and to generate interest in IHL. They also facilitated the participation of 25 teams of university students from around the world in the 20th edition of the annual Jean Pictet Competition, the largest international IHL event.

In line with its mandate to spread understanding of IHL and foster its development, the ICRC encouraged related research by university professors and students and provided them with a wide range of documents and teaching aids during the course of the year. More than 600 copies of the ICRC's casebook, *How does law protect in war?*, were distributed to practitioners, lecturers and students of IHL around the world. Research started on new case materials in 2008 with a view to publishing revised and updated English and French editions of the casebook in 2009–2010.

### YOUTH

Work continued to consolidate two large-scale programmes for young people in formal education settings: the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and the secondary school programme on IHL for member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 2008, the ICRC increasingly focused on strengthening programme ownership by education authorities in numerous countries, developing clear strategies for integrating IHL education into the formal school curriculum and promoting programme sustainability. It also developed strategies for successfully completing these programmes by 2010–2011. The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was successfully concluded, with the

ICRC formally handing over the programme to the Ministry of Education in December 2008. In a number of other countries programmes were on track for completion and handover to the education authorities in 2009.

In 2008, the ICRC completed its revision of the Exploring Humanitarian Law teaching modules and developed a new visual design and packaging concept for programme materials. The Exploring Humanitarian Law Virtual Campus was promoted to a broader range of education stakeholders – education websites, teacher organizations and human rights education/citizenship education groups – with a view to establishing the website as a reference for IHL education among a global audience of educators.

As part of a new approach to working with young people, the ICRC began to look into the feasibility of developing new prevention programmes for children at risk of involvement in organized armed violence. It also developed plans gradually to scale down its involvement in large-scale, formal education programmes and to focus increasingly on more contextualized responses that incorporate a children's rights perspective.

### OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY TARGET GROUPS

The ICRC developed a greater understanding of National Society aims and expectations in terms of promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles. It examined the focus of the efforts being made by various National Societies to promote IHL, in order to determine how best to support them. ICRC partnerships with Nordic National Societies on "Communicating IHL and Neutral and Independent Humanitarian Action" aided this process.

In cooperation with the Harvard University Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, a course on IHL and current conflicts was organized for policy-makers and practitioners from around the world concerned with the role of IHL in the work of governments, international organizations and humanitarian NGOs. Similar courses were organized at the national and regional level. The ICRC also began to develop a digital IHL training programme for media professionals for production in 2009.

The ICRC Visitors' Service continued to raise awareness of the ICRC and IHL and to liaise with present and future decision-makers and opinion-leaders, welcoming more than 5,000 people to ICRC headquarters.

### COMMUNICATION RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

Over the past decade, the ICRC has carried out a number of studies on people's attitudes towards IHL, on the roots of combatants' behaviour, and on IHL violations. Such studies have given the organization a clearer understanding of the complex psychological and social factors influencing behaviour, and have highlighted both the limitations of strategies to influence that behaviour and the need to define clear and realistic objectives for prevention activities. Periodic evaluations and reviews of prevention activities have confirmed these conclusions, helped clarify the success criteria for such activities and emphasized the synergies between different ICRC activities.

In 2008, the ICRC pursued its research on preventing children's involvement in organized armed violence. This prompted it to initiate an action-research project aimed at strengthening its multidisciplinary response on behalf of children at risk of involvement in organized armed violence. In particular, plans were made to conduct feasibility studies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nepal in 2009, and to compile the lessons learned within the Movement.

The prevention policy, which defines the ICRC's prevention approach as aiming to foster an environment conducive to respect for the life and dignity of persons affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence and for ICRC action, was adopted by the ICRC Assembly in September. This important text confirms the conceptual framework, the underlying logic and the scope of ICRC prevention activities, and identifies the guiding principles, engagement criteria and broad strategic considerations that apply to their implementation.

Concurrently, the ICRC further developed monitoring tools for its prevention activities and pursued efforts to develop a cohesive and comprehensive approach to evaluating their effects as part of the organization's overall goal to enhance accountability by means of result-based management.

## **SUPPORT FOR COMMUNICATION IN THE FIELD**

The challenge of securing acceptance of the ICRC's mission and promoting respect for IHL in highly polarized contexts calls for coherent communication strategies at the global, regional and local levels. In 2008, regional communication meetings were organized in Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and South-East Asia in order to consolidate analyses of regional trends and to share best practices. Priority issues and influential stakeholders were identified and communication plans prepared to address perception issues and to support ICRC objectives.

Fifteen support missions were carried out to delegations throughout the year. Particular emphasis was placed on: 1) developing context-based communication strategies and planning (China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Sudan, Tunisia and Uzbekistan); 2) strengthening the capacity and professional skills of communication teams (Kenya, South Africa, Thailand, the United States of America and Zimbabwe); and 3) bolstering National Society capacity to communicate on conflict situations (Cambodia, Sierra Leone and at a first meeting in Bahrain with communicators of National Societies in Gulf Cooperation Council countries, together with the International Federation).

Strengthening the capacity of ICRC delegations to communicate effectively in complex and sensitive environments remained a top priority. In 2008 a dozen training courses were conducted at headquarters and in the field in order to enhance staff skills and the ability to develop context-based communication approaches and products. This enabled both newly appointed and experienced staff to develop coherent communication and networking strategies with and for a wide variety of target groups, and to enhance their expertise in IHL and print material production capabilities. To enable non-specialized staff to communicate more effectively, Communication Department representatives continued to participate in institutional training courses organized for newly recruited staff and managers. Operational communication workshops were held in priority contexts such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and Yemen with a view to more effective integration of communication into ICRC operational activities and to enhanced acceptance of and support for the ICRC and its work. As part of efforts to heighten the impact of ICRC communication, skills sharing/training workshops on "communication in contexts with a global reach" were organized for experienced communication staff and operational managers.

Developing the environment-scanning capacity of delegations is a key element of ICRC communication. In 2008, a study was conducted in Israel in order to assess how the ICRC was perceived by influential groups there. The results were used to identify critical gaps in the ICRC's communication and to review the future strategy to close them.

A course was also specifically designed to train staff involved in the perception surveys to be conducted in the 2009 "Our World. Your Move." campaign.

A key priority remained the development of professional human resources. In the follow-up to the 2007 study on human resources, a strategy implemented to improve the ability to recruit, manage and retain qualified communication staff in the field produced encouraging initial results.

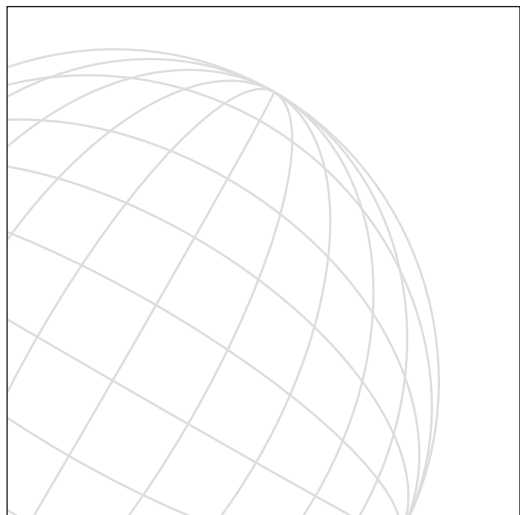


## RESEARCH SERVICE, LIBRARY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

The Research Service helps the ICRC achieve the best possible understanding of its operational and institutional working environment. To that end, it uses a range of tools and internal and external resources to scan media and other public sources of information. It also provides comprehensive information on contexts in which the ICRC operates and offers guidance on sources of information. It plays an essential role in providing context-specific information for delegates before their departure for the field, and in drawing their attention to the services and information sources they can have access to while in the field.

A structured and systematic approach to tracking external trends and issues made it possible to provide pertinent and timely information to ICRC management and operational staff throughout 2008. In crisis situations, a daily synthesis of information is provided on public issues linked to communication and operational strategies. This support is organized and closely undertaken with regional delegations to enhance the ICRC's capacity to monitor issues by drawing on local, regional and international information sources. In 2008, a methodology was developed to measure ICRC visibility in public information sources (print, audiovisual and online media, blogs), as a contribution to result-based management and to guide public communication strategies. A range of standard products (the newsletter *ICRC in the Press*, Information Bulletin and press reviews) were produced on a regular basis and distributed electronically both at headquarters and in the field. Documentary support was also provided for ICRC field operations in the form of ad hoc thematic and context-related research and environment-scanning products, issued on request or in response to events of particular significance for the ICRC and its work.

Through its library and related services, the ICRC promotes knowledge of its role as a reference organization for IHL and of its mandate and operations among students, teachers, civil society, the media and the general public by providing access to its collection of over 140,000 books, periodicals, photographs and videos. An online catalogue is accessible through the ICRC's website. Virtual access is possible to 100 print titles from the ICRC library, and e-journals currently available internally will eventually be part of the electronic library on the ICRC website.



# human resources

*The Human Resources Department is responsible for ensuring that the ICRC has a sufficient pool of trained staff to meet its operational needs worldwide. It recruits, trains and supervises the career development of staff. Its policies are geared towards raising professional standards, developing the particular skills required for humanitarian work and promoting and supporting management of staff through its professional hierarchy. The Department strives to promote internal cohesion within the ICRC by encouraging staff to identify with the organization's visions and objectives. The ICRC is an equal opportunity employer.*

The Human Resources Department recruits staff, plans their assignments and supervises their management and career development. In 2008, an average of 9,512 national employees<sup>1</sup> (a slight decrease compared with 2007) and 1,457 expatriates (no change) were working in the field.

## MEETING ONGOING CHALLENGES

The Department strives constantly to reinforce the ICRC's capacity to manage its multidisciplinary and multicultural staff in increasingly complex environments.

An internal enquiry (VOICE) among all expatriate staff and at Geneva headquarters helped identify the main factors underpinning staff adherence to the institution and its management policy, as well as their reservations in this regard. The Directorate subsequently approved a plan of action based on the enquiry's findings and aimed at sustaining staff motivation and strengthening dialogue with senior staff members. The ICRC's management culture and how to help managers develop best practices are also subjects of ongoing reflection and analysis.

## PLANNING AND CAREER PATH MANAGEMENT

Thanks to the decision to maintain a pool of personnel, more than 97% of field posts were filled at any one time.

In keeping with the conclusion of a 2007 external evaluation of the ICRC's internal planning process that synergy between the Human Resources Department and the Department of Operations should be reinforced, six human resource focal points worked in close cooperation throughout the year with regional coordination teams within the Department of Operations. The outcome of this process will be assessed in 2009.

Following their analysis by a working group, the working procedures of the staff evaluation commissions, which play a key role in career path management, were revised and validated.

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A project was initiated to identify key performance indicators. The aim is to define, set up and implement the process and organization of such indicators for human resource management, in order to measure staff performance and provide input for the Human Resources Department. The indicators will also serve to measure the impact of human resource policies and their alignment with ICRC institutional strategy.

## REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS SYSTEM

The remuneration and benefits system introduced almost 10 years ago is under review. The review has several aims: to strike a better balance between the field and headquarters, to address today's reality of increasing internationalization, to enable further progress to be made towards gender equality, to enhance recognition of the capacities of regional and specialist staff, and to provide staff with improved management and fringe benefits.

1. Daily workers not included

## ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

An analysis of the Department's management processes resulted in the identification of organizational changes designed to reinforce control procedures in administrative management; these were supplemented by the findings and recommendations of the ICRC's external auditors on the same subject.

The administrative management and control procedures are currently being updated in order to meet the new internal control system requirements of the Swiss authorities.

## CONSOLIDATING THE RECRUITMENT BASE

The Department worked in closer cooperation with units seeking to hire staff, with a view to ensuring that new recruits correspond as closely as possible to the profiles required and are available as needed.

The ICRC remained an attractive employer in 2008, with the number of job applicants increasing to 4,800 from 4,500 in 2007. There was a marked increase in the need for Arabic-speaking delegates able to facilitate ICRC access and proximity to the beneficiaries of ICRC operations in the Middle East and North Africa. The appointment of a decentralized human resource specialist in Cairo facilitated the recruitment of Arabic-speaking personnel.

Overall, the number of newly hired staff members increased from 260 in 2007 to 330 in 2008.

In keeping with the ICRC's policy of enhancing the international character of its expatriate staff, 84% of the delegates recruited for the first time in 2008 came from countries other than Switzerland. In addition, 61% of new recruits in 2008 were women.

In another first, the ICRC engaged in cooperation on human resource matters with the Qatar Red Crescent Society, which made health professionals available for ICRC operations.

## TRAINING

In 2008, having completed its reassessment of the introductory training course, the Department launched a new introductory programme for newly recruited staff. This programme no longer consists of a single course but combines distance learning, on-the-job learning and traditional courses. Three hundred new staff members followed the introductory training programme in 2008.

The People Leadership and Management course launched in 2007 was maintained. All senior managers (137 participants: 34 women and 103 men) have now attended the course, including 49 in 2008. After evaluating the results, the Directorate defined and approved a number of follow-up measures. The course has also been taken by around half of all middle-level managers (210 participants: 56 women and 154 men), including 143 in 2008. The objective is to ensure that 550 management staff have taken the course by 2010.

Most of the training courses conducted in the field were coordinated by the four Regional Training Units in Amman (Jordan), Colombo (Sri Lanka), Dakar (Senegal) and Nairobi (Kenya). They included 20 courses in presentation techniques and 21 courses on team leadership. Courses were also dispensed on stress and security issues, IHL, communication, logistics, training of trainers and other specialized subjects.

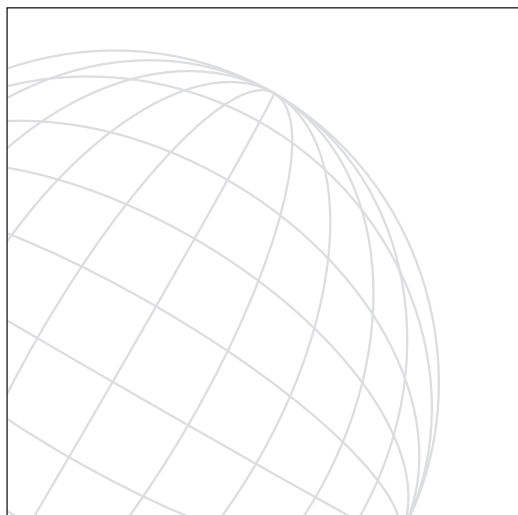
In order to ensure that training is commensurate with staff needs, delivered and evaluated, training relay teams are being appointed in nearly all delegations. Training evaluation missions were carried out in Côte d'Ivoire and Sudan.

The training cycle to enhance the computer skills of the ICRC's secretaries was pursued.

## STAFF HEALTH

The HIV/AIDS workplace programme aims to protect the rights of employees and fight stigmatization/discrimination of those who are or may be infected with HIV. It also aims to prevent HIV/AIDS through awareness-raising, training, education, voluntary counselling and testing, and by promoting behavioural changes among delegation employees, their families and expatriate staff via a global policy of prevention and awareness-raising. Complete medical care is provided and includes drug therapy to lower morbidity and mortality. In 2008, the programme was implemented in 21 countries. Fifty people were provided with anti-retroviral treatment.

By the end of the year over 3,000 people had benefited from the programme.



# resources and operational support

*The Department of Resources and Operational Support provides support for field operations in terms of finance, administration, logistics and information systems. It is also responsible for raising and managing funds for the ICRC as a whole. It works closely with the Department of Operations to support field activities, while at the same time maintaining close contact with donors so as to keep them abreast of ICRC financial requirements. The Department conducts regular reviews to ensure that the support it provides to the field is in line with operational needs and verifies compliance by ICRC delegations with institutional procedures.*

## DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

In a year that witnessed a sustained high level of operational activities, the ICRC's support services worked steadily to ensure that delegations had the logistics, communication technology and other resources they needed. Fourteen budget extensions were added to the initial annual budget (9 for 2007), reflecting the scope of unforeseen emergencies requiring a flexible and well-organized use of resources to address the most urgent needs in an efficient and timely manner.

The extreme volatility of fuel, food and other commodity prices throughout 2008 was an additional factor that necessitated tight planning and forecasting in order to find adequate solutions for the procurement of assistance goods and other items such as transport fuel. The major global financial crisis that came to the fore in mid-September placed an additional strain on financial management, in particular as a result of the sharp exchange-rate fluctuations affecting the main currencies used by the ICRC. Fortunately, the organization was able to secure its financial assets and keep losses linked to market fluctuations within a manageable range.

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### Financial management

The purpose of financial management is to provide the ICRC with trustworthy and cost-effective information, enabling it to make sound and effective decisions and to provide its donors and partners with reliable information.

In 2008, the Finance and Administration Division focused on:

- ▶ mitigating the financial risks related to a forecast deficit
- ▶ adapting to changes in Swiss law, including a provision that requires external auditors to confirm that each of their clients has an internal financial control system in place
- ▶ creating a single software tool available from 2012 onwards and serving the information technology needs of both finance/administration and logistics, in order to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these support services at headquarters and in the field
- ▶ ensuring that the financial control framework and methodology and related responsibilities are relevant and appropriate in terms of performance and workload
- ▶ piloting an improved headquarters planning/budgeting cycle and approach so as to provide management with more relevant information on headquarters services
- ▶ initiating a worldwide review of infrastructure using ecological/sustainable development criteria
- ▶ consolidating and improving the institution-wide data warehouse for reporting purposes

### Infrastructure management

The purpose of infrastructure management is to make sure the ICRC has the requisite office space and to ensure long-term maintenance of the entire infrastructure at a reasonable cost.

Construction work started in 2007 on extensions to existing buildings that will replace rented space will be completed on schedule and within the allocated budget by the end of 2009. The extensions will integrate ecological and sustainable development criteria. Construction work on a new logistics centre is to start in spring 2009.

### Information delivery

The ongoing objective in this area is to optimize the speed of information delivery while maintaining reasonable cost levels. The focus in 2008 was on integrating and enhancing the new outsourced mailroom services.

## FUNDING

All ICRC funding is coordinated by and channelled through the External Resources Division, which raises the funds the organization needs to carry out its humanitarian activities while securing its independent status. The ICRC seeks the widest possible range of predictable, sustained and flexible sources of financial support in order to meet its objectives. It guarantees that donor requirements are given due consideration.

### Budgets

The initial budget appeals for 2008, launched by the ICRC in December 2007, totalled CHF 1.1 billion. This was CHF 90.9 million higher than the preceding year's overall initial budget. The largest increase was in the Emergency Appeals for ICRC field operations, which amounted to CHF 932.6 million in 2008 as opposed to CHF 843.3 million in 2007. The Headquarters Appeal for its part, increased from CHF 159.9 million in 2007 to CHF 161.5 million in 2008.

In the course of the year, donors were informed of 14 budget extensions drawn up in response to unforeseen events and substantial humanitarian needs brought about by the resurgence or intensification of hostilities in Afghanistan; Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal (Dakar regional); the Democratic Republic of the Congo; South Ossetia (Georgia and Moscow regional); Kenya (Nairobi regional); Pakistan (on two occasions); the Philippines; Somalia; Sudan; and Yemen; or in response to the need for contingency funds (Harare regional and Myanmar).

### Expenditure

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| ► Overall expenditure (including overheads) | CHF 1,157.7 million |
| ► Headquarters                              | CHF 167.1 million   |
| ► Field operations                          | CHF 990.6 million   |

The implementation rate (field expenditure in cash, kind and services divided by final field budget – excluding contingency funds – multiplied by 100) for the activities the ICRC had planned to carry out in order to meet its objectives for the year was higher in 2008 than in previous years (2007: 90.8%; 2006: 86.2%), with expenditure reaching 95.1% of the overall final Emergency Appeals budget. This reflects the ICRC's enhanced access, and therefore greater response, across a wide range of contexts.

(in CHF million)

| ► Name of donor<br>(DSG member)                         | Cash:<br>Headquarters | Cash:<br>Field | Total<br>Cash | Total<br>Kind | Total<br>Services | Grand<br>Total |
|---|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Australia   | 1.93                  | 21.02          | 22.95         |               |                   | 22.95          |
| Belgium   | 1.23                  | 12.65          | 13.87         |               |                   | 13.87          |
| Canada  | 2.91                  | 28.59          | 31.51         |               |                   | 31.51          |
| Denmark   | 4.44                  | 10.14          | 14.58         |               | 0.61              | 15.19          |
| European Commission                                     | 0.00                  | 129.15         | 129.15        |               |                   | 129.15         |
| Finland   | 1.57                  | 9.95           | 11.52         | 0.40          |                   | 11.92          |
| France  | 1.62                  | 13.55          | 15.17         |               |                   | 15.17          |
| Germany   | 2.36                  | 30.91          | 33.27         |               |                   | 33.27          |
| Ireland   | 0.21                  | 13.73          | 13.94         |               |                   | 13.94          |
| Italy   | 1.33                  | 17.04          | 18.36         |               |                   | 18.36          |
| Japan   | 0.76                  | 14.79          | 15.55         |               |                   | 15.55          |
| Luxembourg  | 1.28                  | 10.09          | 11.37         |               |                   | 11.37          |
| Netherlands   | 6.21                  | 59.76          | 65.97         |               |                   | 65.97          |
| Norway  | 2.34                  | 39.89          | 42.24         | 0.93          |                   | 43.16          |
| Spain   | 1.10                  | 21.41          | 22.51         |               |                   | 22.51          |
| Sweden  | 6.16                  | 72.99          | 79.14         |               |                   | 79.14          |
| Switzerland   | 70.00                 | 32.50          | 102.50        |               |                   | 102.50         |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain<br>and Northern Ireland | 1.35                  | 137.71         | 139.06        |               |                   | 139.06         |
| United States of America                                | 15.00                 | 222.86         | 237.85        |               |                   | 237.85         |

## Contributions

### ► Total contributions received in 2008: CHF 1,139.4 million

Funding sources and patterns were similar to previous years. In 2008, the proportion of support from governments remained at 80.1% (2007: 80.1%; 2006: 79.8%), while that from National Societies fell to its lowest level ever at 4.6% (2007: 5.9%; 2006: 8.6%). Funding received from the European Commission increased to 11.3% (2007: 11.1%; 2006: 9%), while contributions from various other public and private sources amounted to 3.6% (2007: 2.6%; 2006: 2.5 %).

The United States of America remained the ICRC's largest donor, accounting for 20.9% (CHF 237.9 million) of all contributions received and 22.3% (CHF 222.9 million) of funding for field operations. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ranked second with a contribution of CHF 139.1 million, which accounted for 12.2% of all contributions received and 13.8% (CHF 137.7 million) of funding for field operations. Some of those funds were contributed pursuant to the partnership agreement signed by the Department for International Development (DFID), the British Red Cross and the ICRC in 2006, whereby the DFID pledged GBP 80 million in non-earmarked funding for the 2006–2010 period. The European Commission's total contribution of CHF 129.1 million was the third largest. Switzerland came fourth (CHF 102.5 million, including 70 million for the headquarters budget), followed by Sweden (CHF 79.1 million) and the Netherlands (CHF 66.0 million).

The ICRC's operational flexibility was enhanced by the fact that a number of governments provided advance information on the level of funding and either did not earmark their contributions or did so in a relatively broad fashion (mostly by geographical region). Governments that made substantial contributions over 40% of which was flexibly earmarked include Australia, Austria, Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and the United States of America.

The ICRC's Donor Support Group (DSG) – made up of those governments contributing more than CHF 10 million in cash annually – comprised 19 members in 2008. Its annual meeting was hosted by the French government.



### Contributions in response to the Headquarters Appeal

A total of CHF 141.6 million was received in contributions for the headquarters budget: 129.9 million from 87 governments, 6.2 million from 79 National Societies and 5.5 million from a number of other private and public sources.

### Contributions in response to the Emergency Appeals

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ► <b>Cash component</b>    | <b>CHF 977.4 million</b><br>(2007: 849.8 million; 2006: 786.8 million) |
| ► <b>In-kind component</b> | <b>CHF 9.1 million</b><br>(2007: 4.2 million; 2006: 16.7 million)      |
| ► <b>Services</b>          | <b>CHF 11.3 million</b><br>(2007: 9.3 million; 2006: 13.2 million)     |
| ► <b>Assets</b>            | <b>CHF 0.0 million</b><br>(2007: 0.01 million; 2006: 0.04 million)     |

In total, CHF 782.8 million were provided for ICRC field operations by 38 governments, 129.1 million by the European Commission, 46.3 million by 37 National Societies and the International Federation, 4.2 million by a variety of supranational and international organizations, and 35.3 million by public and private sources such as Parthenon Trust and Rotary International.

### Flexibility in funding

Specific donor requirements in terms of earmarking and reporting were generally the same in 2008 as in previous years.

To meet needs effectively, it is essential for the ICRC to enjoy flexibility in the use of its funds, particularly in relation to earmarking and reporting. The level of earmarking remained unchanged and, as in the past, was often accompanied by both rigorous project implementation timetables and stringently specific reporting conditions. Experience has shown that there is a direct correlation between flexible funding policies and the ability of the ICRC to maintain its independence and capacity to react quickly.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| ► <b>2008 non-earmarked cash contributions</b>     | <b>CHF 287.5 million / 25.8%</b><br>(28.4% in 2007; 28.4% in 2006) |
| ► <b>2008 tightly earmarked cash contributions</b> | <b>CHF 205.5 million / 18.4%</b><br>(13.8% in 2007; 15.9% in 2006) |

At 25.8% in 2008, the proportion of non-earmarked cash contributions ("core funding") made in response to the ICRC's Emergency and Headquarters Appeals was lower than in 2007 (28.4%). Apart from certain private donations, most non-earmarked funds for both the Emergency Appeals and the Mine Action Special Appeal came from eight governments (Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Northern Ireland), the Norwegian Red Cross and the canton of Geneva.

Cash contributions loosely earmarked for a given region, country or programme represented 55.8% (CHF 621.5 million) of the total. Of this amount, CHF 178.6 million (16.0% of total cash contributions) represented broad, geographically earmarked funding received primarily from the United States of America.

### Predictability in funding

The ICRC's system of funding does not rely on set (statutory) contributions. Moreover, its programmes are implemented according to needs and are not contingent on the level of contributions received or pledged. The organization relies on donors to provide the funding it needs to achieve its objectives through the programmes it plans to implement in a given year. To minimize financial risks, the ICRC seeks, on the one hand, to be realistic in terms of its objectives and budgets and, on the other, to ensure a degree of predictability with respect to funding. Ideally, it needs funding commitments from donor countries spanning several years, and in fact it already has such agreements with Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The ICRC is aware that donor planning constraints and national budget and financial regulations do not easily allow donors to commit themselves over the medium term, as the ICRC would prefer. Nevertheless, it will continue to seek ways of obtaining longer-term funding commitments. Clear indications from donors early in the year regarding the annual level of funding and the timing of their transfers would facilitate financial planning and reduce risk.

From the one-year perspective, predictability of funding improved in 2008, in large part owing to arrangements made early in the year with the majority of DSG members.

### Diversity in the donor base

The ICRC remained concerned about the slow progress made towards enlarging the range of its main financial contributors despite its ongoing efforts to broaden its donor base. In view of its universal mandate and worldwide activities, the organization would like to be able to count on the broadest possible support in Asia and in the Middle East. While the general data provided above would at first appear to indicate broad support in terms of the level and number of sources, a closer look reveals that the ICRC is reliant on a relatively small number of key donors for the bulk of its funding.

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <b>Overall ICRC funding</b><br><b>(CHF 1,139.4 million)</b>      |
| ► <b>90 governments and the European Commission</b>           | <b>CHF 1,041.9 million / 91.4%</b><br>(2007: 91.2%; 2006: 88.8%) |
| ► <b>Top 10 governments including the European Commission</b> | <b>CHF 884.6 million / 77.6%</b><br>(2007: 78.4%; 2006: 76.5%)   |
| ► <b>Top 5 governments including the European Commission</b>  | <b>CHF 687.7 million / 60.4%</b><br>(2007: 59.8%; 2006: 59.3%)   |

Contributions were received from 85 National Societies (2007: 77; 2006: 70).

In all, 90 governments (2007: 80; 2006: 83) and the European Commission responded to the ICRC Appeals, representing an appreciated increase in the number of governments contributing to the ICRC.



### Relations with the corporate sector

The ICRC also sees the business sector as a major stakeholder in its work. The ICRC and a group of selected Swiss companies set up the Corporate Support Group in 2005, establishing an innovative and long-term partnership. The Group's founding members are: ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd, Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie, F. Hoffmann La Roche Ltd., Swiss Reinsurance Company, Vontobel Group, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf and Zurich Financial Services.

In 2008, the Credit Suisse Group and the AVINA STIFTUNG joined the Corporate Support Group and the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf renewed its partnership agreement with the ICRC. The 2008 plenary meeting took place in November and was hosted by Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie in Geneva.

On 19 September 2008, 17 experts from the ICRC's corporate partners attended a workshop on "Business and International Humanitarian Law" in Zurich. A similar workshop held one week later in Geneva was attended by six executives. Both events were hosted by Lombard Odier Darier Hentsch & Cie. The objectives of the workshops were threefold: to introduce the participants to IHL; to familiarize them with specific constraints related to operating – directly or indirectly – in conflict environments; and to explore situations where business operations may either benefit from the protection afforded by IHL or be constrained by its rules.

The ICRC's corporate partners were selected in accordance with ethical guidelines designed to ensure that the companies had neither policies nor activities that would in any way compromise the ICRC's image or hinder its work.

Members of the Corporate Support Group provide additional sources of funding for the ICRC, thereby increasing the private-sector component of ICRC financing. Their contributions are used either for operational activities or to train staff – the ICRC's most valuable asset.

### Reporting to donors

The ICRC kept donors informed of its activities through a variety of documents and publications. Its 2008 Emergency and Headquarters Appeals, which were launched in December 2007, were followed in the course of 2008 by 3 preliminary appeals and 14 budget extensions approved by the Assembly Council.

The ICRC reported to donors on all its field operations by means of the midterm report, which covers field operations from January to May. The second part of the year is covered by the country reports contained in the present Annual Report. These reports discuss progress achieved for each target population in the light of the objectives set out in the Emergency Appeals for 2008. They are result-based whenever possible and include the standard figures and indicators about ICRC activities by context, which have been enhanced since their introduction in the 2005 Annual Report.

Financial updates were similarly provided on a quarterly basis. In September the ICRC issued its Renewed Emergency Appeal, which presented the overall funding situation for field operations, including contributions received by that time.

Donors were kept abreast of the main developments in ICRC operations and related humanitarian issues in 42 updates covering a wide range of operations and in the special report on mine action in 2007.

The ICRC Donor Site, a password-protected extranet site on which all documents issued by the ICRC's External Resources Division are posted, continued to give donors immediate access to reports and other funding-related documents.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The main goal of the Information Systems Division is to align information and communication technology projects and services with the ICRC's strategic objectives in order to achieve maximum efficiency and optimize both investments and operating costs through the best possible allocation of human and financial resources.

### Field

The ICRC WAN (Wide Area Network), adopted to provide permanent connections between the field and headquarters, was deployed for more than 60 sites worldwide.

VSAT (very small aperture terminal) technology was tested and validated. Bandwidth was acquired on two satellites with a view to the technology's installation in more than 30 delegations and offices, particularly in Africa and Asia, some of which have already been equipped. The remaining sites will be equipped after authorization to do so is granted by the authorities in the countries concerned.

A new concept of connections via Internet was defined for small facilities (sub-delegations and offices) equipped with appropriate servers. A set of high-level security principles was implemented for this communication tool, which was installed in 10 out of 100 sites after it was formally validated in November 2008.

Numerous software applications were deployed in the field. New applications were developed as Internet interfaces to take advantage of the changing architecture of worldwide communication connections. For instance, the Air Operation Management System (AOMS V2) will enable staff to work online with a centralized database in Geneva or locally with offline databases, if necessary.

Other software applications, such as the second version of the field supply management system (FSS V2), are being developed and tested for introduction in 2009. An electronic tool was developed and distributed for the management of data collected for the identification of human remains of missing persons, particularly ante-mortem and post-mortem data. The tool was designed for use by external specialists, but the ICRC may employ it itself in exceptional circumstances. It is intended to facilitate the identification process by streamlining the management, archiving, standardization and basic matching of ante-mortem and post-mortem data. At the same time it will provide and promote implicit guidelines for best practices in this domain.

### Headquarters

The production, testing and development of IT working environments were entirely virtualized. Infrastructure resources were divided into separate areas to prevent any major disaster, in line with a strategic disaster-recovery plan.

Major strategic software applications continued to be analysed and developed. The new professional mail system is still in development and will be deployed worldwide in 2009. A content management system was developed for the Internet and intranet and will be implemented soon.

Phase 1 of the “donation to distribution” system was implemented. The second phase is being developed and will be connected with the data from the FSS V2 and from the ICRC’s economic security software. A cash management application was also deployed successfully.

## LOGISTICS

### A network on a global scale

The ICRC runs a worldwide logistics network. Thanks to the range of services available – from air freight to vehicle workshops – it is able to maintain field operations and to take rapid and effective action in emergencies. In 2008 it operated 3,500 vehicles and trucks, 130 warehouses and over 15 aircraft.

During the year logistics activities were carried out on three main fronts.

- ▶ Within the framework of the LOG 2010 Organization and Infrastructure Project, the ICRC logistics set-up was reinforced with a regional air support post and additional emergency relief stockpiles pre-positioned in Amman (Jordan), Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) and Peshawar (Pakistan) to enhance logistic capacity and flexibility.
- ▶ In Darfur (Sudan), the ICRC continued to mobilize extensive logistical and human resources to carry out substantial and complex distributions of food aid in remote areas.
- ▶ In response to conflict-related crises in the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories and Somalia, the ICRC bolstered its logistical capacity to provide relief and surgical supplies through its logistics bases in Nairobi (Kenya) and Geneva. In order to minimize operational costs and enhance logistics coordination during emergencies, it maintained technical and operational links throughout the year with the International Federation, with WFP and other UN organizations, and with other Movement components conducting further studies on the use of Emergency Response Unit logistics.

Logistics tools such as AOMS V2 were deployed in the field and operated in close collaboration with WFP to avoid duplication. The FSS and the International Transport Application were further enhanced, and the new versions should be deployed in the field in 2009. The Air Operation Safety System was introduced. In addition, all ICRC AOMS V2 operators were audited.

In 2008, the ICRC had about 120 expatriate logistics experts plus crews, drivers and convoy leaders working in some 30 relief operations. They were backed up by more than 2,000 national staff worldwide. Half of the expatriate staff came from countries other than Switzerland and many ICRC national staff volunteered for short missions within large-scale operations abroad. Specialist training was developed in all logistics functions.

In the framework of LOG 2010, and in close cooperation with other departments and divisions, the Logistics Division worked on three projects:

- ▶ it reviewed and analysed organization and infrastructure in the light of the changing environment and assistance needs; the proposed changes were validated by the Directorate and are being introduced
- ▶ it continued to analyse human resource management and mobilization capacity in emergencies; the proposed improvements will be examined in 2009
- ▶ it pursued its review of the ICRC supply chain information system, for implementation by 2012

### Working in harmony with partners

The ICRC continued to strengthen its working relations with various agencies in the UN system and with NGOs. In responding to the complex emergencies in Chad, the Central African Republic, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur), the ICRC engaged in constant dialogue with the United Nations Joint Logistic Centre (UNJLC) and logistics cluster members on logistics issues.

Following the signature in 2007 of the memorandum of understanding for air operations management, audit and safety, WFP and the ICRC conducted a number of joint and coordinated audits. This had the advantage of ensuring that the two organizations did not duplicate audits, of maximizing efficiency and coordination, and of promoting information-sharing in the field and at headquarters. In order to reduce costs, one aircraft operated by the ICRC in the Central African Republic was shared with Médecins Sans Frontières, and another aircraft operated by WFP in Liberia was shared by the ICRC.

In close coordination with the International Federation, ICRC logistics staff participated actively in the UNJLC Logistics Cluster Group and met regularly with other leading logistics players. After the successful launch of the Certification in Humanitarian Logistics programme agreed at inter-agency level (CARE, ICRC, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, etc.), the second phase of the Humanitarian Supply Chain Management project was launched.



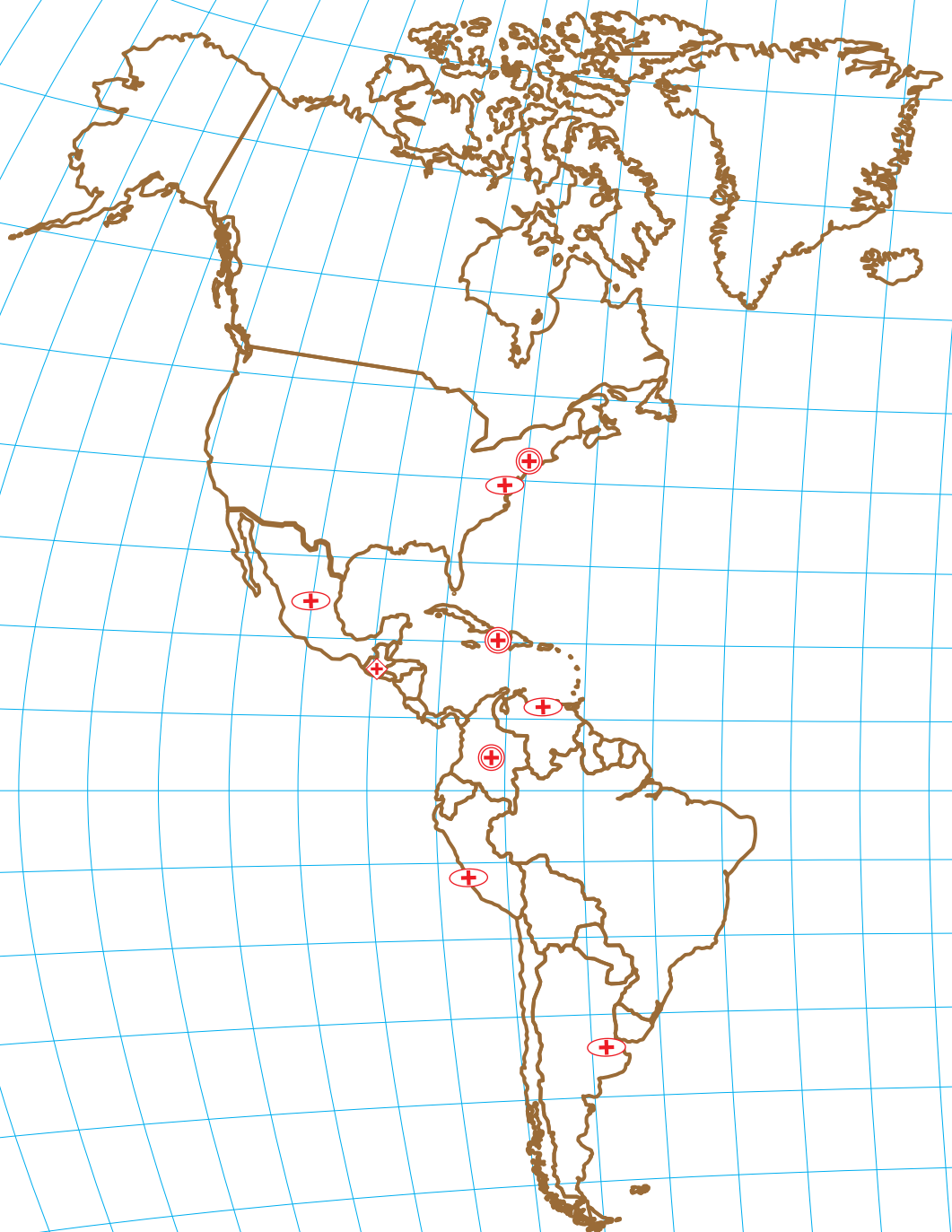


# OPERATIONS








# the ICRC around the world





|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | <b>AFRICA</b>                       |
|  | <b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>         |
|  | <b>EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS</b>      |
|  | <b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b> |



ICRC headquarters



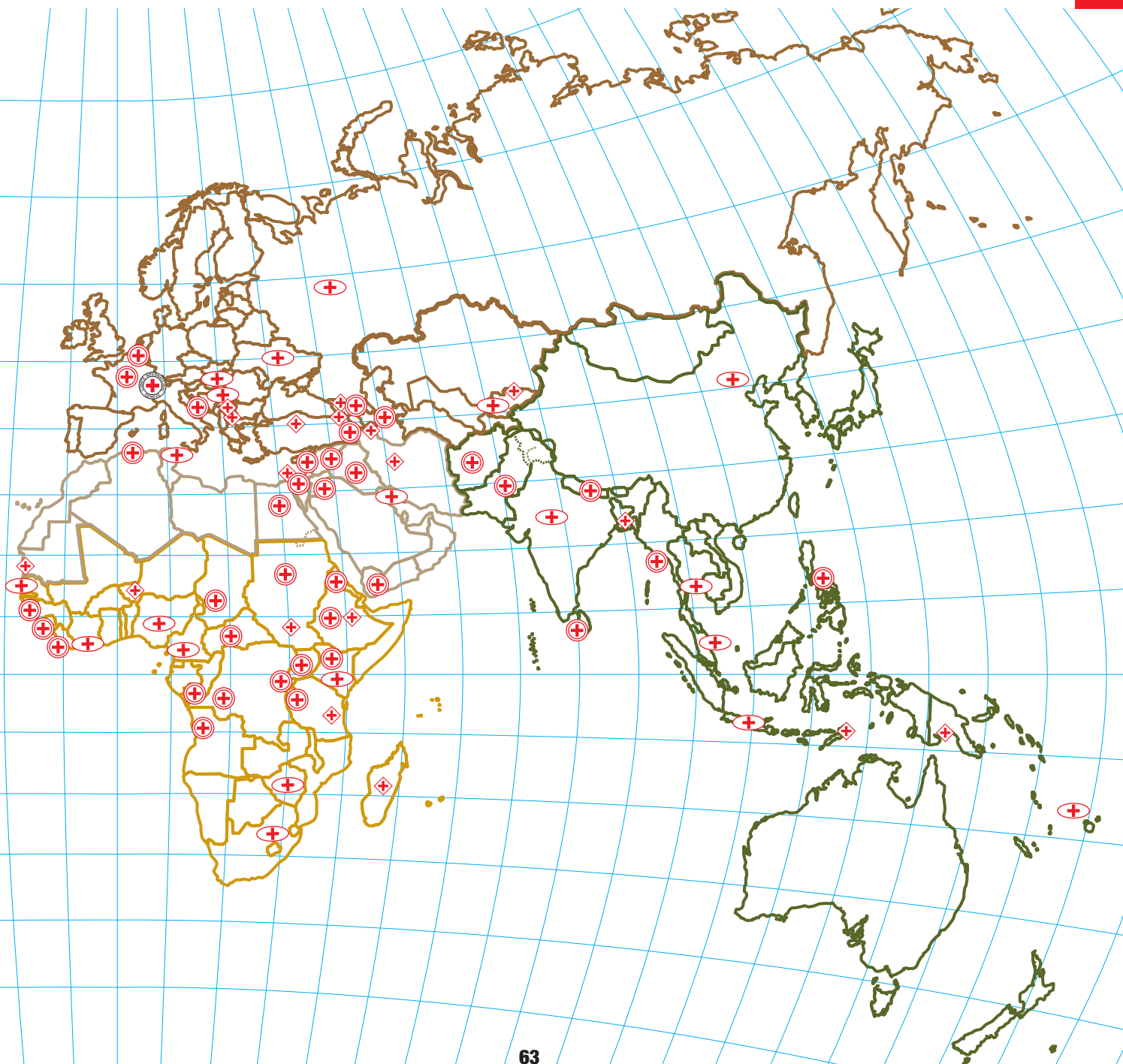
ICRC delegation

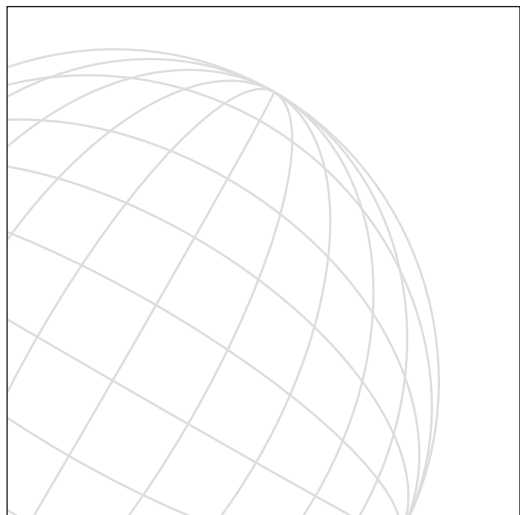


ICRC regional delegation



ICRC mission





# operational highlights



Thierry Gassmann/ICRC

Pierre Krähenbühl  
Director of Operations

## CONFLICT ENVIRONMENTS AND CHALLENGES FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

From a humanitarian perspective, armed conflicts and other situations of violence are about *people*, the risks, vulnerabilities and suffering they are exposed to, and about the *action* that must be taken to prevent, mitigate or put an end to that suffering. While this appears to be stating the obvious, it was once again crucial in 2008 for the ICRC to keep the plight of individuals and communities at the forefront of its analysis and action.

This implies understanding the multiple factors that affect people's safety and well-being, and comprehending the profound physical and psychological scars that armed violence leaves on those who survive it. Historically, the focus of humanitarian action has been on saving the lives of people *directly* affected by fighting: the wounded, endangered civilians, IDPs fleeing battle zones, and detainees who risk ill-treatment or disappearance. Any response to the immediate survival needs of people at risk must have this focus.

Armed conflicts also have *indirect* effects, the result of prolonged restriction of movement and diverse forms of humiliation, the steady deterioration in health and sanitation conditions in and around conflict zones that leads to deaths from largely preventable illnesses and communicable diseases, and the lack of access to safe water, arable land, basic services or humanitarian assistance.

In addition to these direct and indirect *physical* consequences, armed conflicts have an impact on people's *mental health* and *safety*. Again, the priority, the essence of humanitarian action, is to save lives and to make a real difference in efforts to reduce human suffering. In its endeavours to integrate the multiple perspectives of conflict victims, the ICRC has realized what a potent impact lasting trauma can have on their coping and survival mechanisms, whether in the context of chronic crises or in terms of their ability to resume or restore livelihoods and focus on the future, once the conflict has come to an end.

It is also worth noting that, although the *rural* population remains the focus of humanitarian attention in many contexts,

such as eastern Chad, Darfur (Sudan), the Philippines and Sri Lanka, in other places, such as Baghdad (Iraq), Mogadishu (Somalia) or Port-au-Prince (Haiti), the spotlight is tending to shift more and more to the needs of people affected by *urban* forms of conflict and violence.

Today's conflicts are increasingly economic in nature and revolve primarily around competition for access to critical energy resources, something that was confirmed in 2008. They also have tribal, ethnic or religious dimensions, and are characterized by the coexistence of political and non-political players, in particular armed groups whose *raison d'être* tends to switch from banditry to land ownership and a stake in the nation's wealth redistribution.

There were few wars between States in 2008, the exceptions being the conflicts over South Ossetia and between Djibouti and Eritrea. The number of very complex non-international armed conflicts involving a plethora of actors remained high. They confirmed the marked influence of armed groups that are often unstable and have a tendency to fragment into splinter groups and reform under new commands. In 2008, as in recent years, several armed groups were engaged in a confrontation on a global scale with a number of States across numerous countries, mainly in the form of acts of "terrorism" or "counter-terrorism".

## OPERATIONS: REVIEW, APPROACH AND THEMATIC CHALLENGES

The ICRC further consolidated the added value of its neutral and independent humanitarian action and the relevance of IHL in several critical contexts in 2008, obtaining greater access and extending its operational reach in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Georgia, Iraq, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Sahel region and Somalia. It also held steady under very demanding conditions in contexts such as the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Yemen. The setbacks it experienced in 2007 in Ethiopia and Myanmar remained unresolved 12 months on, despite sustained dialogue with the authorities concerned.

Thanks to its commitment and resolve, the ICRC was able to shoulder the combined pressures of a demanding initial overall field budget of CHF 933 million and of 14 separate budget extensions amounting to CHF 153 million for operations in Afghanistan, the DRC, Georgia, Kenya (Nairobi regional), Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation (Moscow regional), the Sahel region and Casamance in Senegal (Dakar regional), Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe (Harare regional). It thus confirmed its ability to maintain a broad and meaningful scope of action and to adapt to changing needs throughout the year.

In 2008, the rapid deployment and response approach adopted in 2007 was successfully activated in Kenya (January), Myanmar (May), Georgia and the Russian Federation (August) and Pakistan (August) and for the latest escalation of armed violence in Gaza as of late December. Aspects of the approach that proved to be especially effective and relevant included the use of a human resources roster for emergency operations enabling rapid mobilization of experienced personnel, speedier decision-making in respect of, for example, initial assessments, the formulation and launch of preliminary appeals, implementation of operations and prompt reaction to lessons learned from past experience.

Access possibilities and operational impact continued to be tightly linked to security parameters. Ensuring operational reach often implied daily exposure to multiple risks, in a global context in which humanitarian agencies and staff were increasingly targeted. In 2008, the ICRC experienced serious security incidents in Chad, Pakistan and Sudan. In addition, Afghanistan, Colombia, the DRC, Iraq, the Philippines, the Sahel region, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Yemen, as well as several other sensitive contexts, required particularly attentive management and monitoring regarding security. The ICRC maintained a decentralized system of security management through its broad network of national and international staff.

Very worrying in 2008 was the number of humanitarian workers killed in conflict zones, notably in Afghanistan, Somalia and Sudan. Humanitarian action appears to be rejected with growing frequency by a wide range of armed groups, for a variety of reasons that range from political opportunism to the perception that humanitarian work is part of a broader political and military agenda. Attacks on humanitarian workers have become so numerous that they raise the spectre of a profound crisis for humanitarian action in general.

The validity of the ICRC's individual and collective networking efforts, which consist of engaging in dialogue with a wide range of State and other actors, was apparent in a variety of contexts. Its ongoing investment in dialogue with diverse protagonists throughout the Muslim world again proved effective. Greater attention was also paid to dialogue with key and emerging influential State players.

The ICRC continued to strive, as it must, to sustain a broad scope of action and a multidisciplinary response capacity. Apart from a primary focus on operations to help the victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, this encompasses ICRC action in early recovery and transition phases and when natural disaster strikes in conflict-affected regions. It also encompasses ICRC readiness to explore the outer rims of urban-type mixed political-criminal situations, with a view to learning for the future.

In 2008, the ICRC further developed its combined protection and assistance activities. For example, in Afghanistan it sought to help respond to the immediate needs of people injured in the conflict while making representations to the different parties involved on matters related to the conduct of hostilities. It also continued to place emphasis on the reinforcement of its medical activities. The ICRC broadened its response to the needs of women and young people to contexts other than those which have been at the forefront of increased activities in this domain – namely countries such as Colombia, the DRC, Iraq and Nepal.

Worldwide, armed conflicts continued to bring about significant population displacements. The ICRC was very active in 2008 in responding to the plight of over 4 million IDPs in contexts such as Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, the DRC, Georgia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Yemen. In many of these contexts, displaced families have been taken in by neighbours or relatives, which is one reason why the ICRC also analyses the situation of resident families and addresses their needs in parallel. They are also included in attempts to prevent further displacements from occurring, as in Darfur (Sudan).

## AFRICA

East Africa remained one of the most volatile regions on the planet throughout 2008. Sudan was the single largest ICRC operation for a fifth consecutive year. Overall, the ICRC was able to carry out its activities in acceptable security conditions, although levels of banditry have become very worrying there and in neighbouring Chad. In Darfur, the ICRC remained focused on the assistance and protection of residents, the prevention of displacements and assistance to 120,000 IDPs in Gereida Camp. In Chad, it worked primarily in the sensitive border regions, assisting IDPs and their host families, providing much needed medical and surgical support, and rehabilitating water and health facilities.

Somalia experienced a further serious deterioration, with a population affected by years of conflict and natural disaster-related calamities. The conflict pitting the Transitional Federal Government and the Ethiopian forces against a range of opposition groups intensified. The ICRC significantly stepped up its response for the high number of wounded and displaced people, in close partnership with the Somali Red Crescent Society.

The DRC also saw a resumption of intense fighting in the eastern North Kivu region, resulting in widespread population displacements, attacks against civilians including sexual violence and family separations. In close cooperation with the Red Cross Society of the DRC, the ICRC increased its response, in particular in the medical, water and habitat and economic security fields.

Through its regional set-up in Dakar and offices in Mali and Niger, the ICRC sought to consolidate its activities in the broader Sahel region, with assistance to IDPs and vulnerable migrants, medical aid and training, and visits to detainees featuring prominently in operations.

During the post-electoral violence in Kenya at the beginning of 2008, the ICRC stepped up its operations in cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross Society. Food, material and medical assistance as well as medical and surgical teams were immediately dispatched to areas where tens of thousands of people had taken refuge from the violence, a rapid response that was instrumental in preventing a bigger humanitarian crisis.

Other countries in Africa in which the ICRC carried out substantial activities included Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Zimbabwe.

## ASIA

South Asia experienced multiple crises. First among them was the ongoing and intensifying conflict in Afghanistan, with mounting numbers of civilians affected by a range of attacks and the consequences of the fighting. The ICRC significantly stepped up its medical activities. It also further improved its dialogue with the different parties to the conflict, including the armed opposition, which enabled it to make specific representations relating to respect for IHL. ICRC visits continued to detainees held by the Afghan authorities, US troops and the International Security Assistance Forces. Cooperation with the Afghan Red Crescent Society remained outstanding.

The situation in Pakistan became more critical, notably in relation to armed confrontations in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan. The ICRC reinforced its medical response for people wounded in the clashes and mounted a significant response, in close cooperation with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society, related in particular to IDPs from the Bajaur district. It made further visits to detainees in various places of detention in Pakistan, and coordinated the Movement response to the earthquake in Baluchistan.

Sri Lanka experienced significant developments in the conflict dynamic, especially in the Vanni region. The ICRC was able to maintain a sizeable team of expatriate and national staff inside the Vanni that moved together with the IDPs, providing them with assistance. It remained greatly concerned about the issue of disappearances.

In India, the ICRC pursued its activities in Jammu and Kashmir, visiting persons arrested and detained in relation to the prevailing situation there. During the dramatic events that unfolded in Mumbai in late November, with the death of close to 200 people, the ICRC made its services, notably its expertise in the handling of human remains, available to the Indian Red Cross Society and the city's medical institutions.

In another major endeavour, the ICRC undertook assistance and protection activities in the Mindanao region of the Philippines together with the Philippine National Red Cross, assisting large numbers of IDPs at a time of intensifying conflict.

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the government of Myanmar, including at ministerial level, in an effort to overcome the difficulties it had encountered in carrying out visits to detainees and assisting civilians affected by violence in sensitive border regions since 2005. It maintained its physical rehabilitation activities in Myanmar and its support for family visits to detainees. It also lent back-up for the Movement response to cyclone Nargis in May.

## EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

In Europe, 2008 was marked by the dramatic outbreak of an international armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation. The ICRC was able to scale up its activities rapidly, being the only international organization to gain access to South Ossetia in the first days of the crisis. It focused on medical, protection and assistance activities in favour of IDPs and residents.

Colombia experienced a year of significant shifts in its conflict dynamics, as the armed opposition fragmented into ever smaller groups and new armed groups emerged. The conflict continued to take a heavy toll on the civilian population and was characterized by various reported violations of IHL, such as forced disappearances, summary executions, sexual violence and deliberate use of landmines. The ICRC's operation had to adapt in many ways to developments in the conflict and to the growing number of people in need.

In July 2008, the Colombian armed forces mounted an operation to secure the release of several hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In the course of the operation, they used the ICRC emblem unlawfully, a violation of IHL deeply deplored by the ICRC. The State's highest representatives apologized for the incident. It nevertheless remains a fact that any misuse of this nature has the potential to seriously undermine respect for the emblem and for the ICRC's neutrality, with implications that go far beyond any one context.

The ICRC consolidated its response in contexts of urban violence, notably in Brazil and Haiti. In Haiti it focused on addressing humanitarian needs in particularly violent areas of the capital, Port-au-Prince, providing support for Haitian National Red Cross Society medical evacuation programmes and ensuring safe access to water supplies for the population. It also visited places of detention in the capital. In Rio de Janeiro it began working on medical and first-aid activities in several *favelas*, together with the Brazilian Red Cross.

ICRC visits continued to people held by the United States authorities in Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and in Afghanistan and Iraq. The dialogue between the ICRC and the United States administration remained strong and constructive.

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

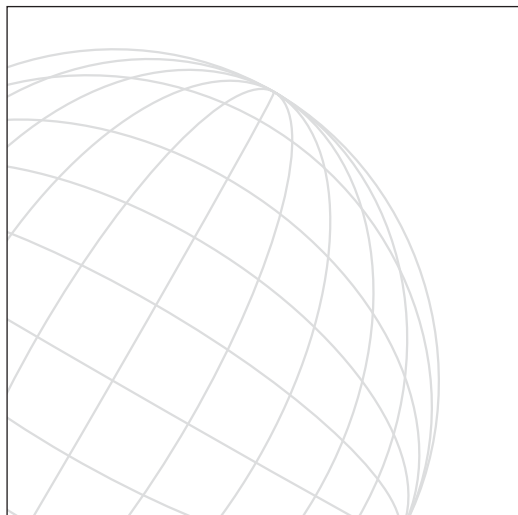
Iraq experienced improvements in the overall security context, and the numbers of people killed and wounded in attacks and military operations were lower than in past years. Civilians continued, however, to live in fear of acts of violence and attacks, and livelihoods were only very gradually stabilized. Of great concern was the fact that the lack of basic services was affecting the population at large. The ICRC operation experienced significantly greater access and expanded its capacity to implement field programmes directly. These included assistance to IDPs and residents through support to numerous health structures, water institutions and plants, as well as ongoing visits to detainees held by the United States forces in Iraq and, increasingly, to those held under Iraqi authority.

In Israel and the autonomous and occupied territories, the ICRC remained deeply concerned about the impact of the occupation on the population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It maintained

considerable activities, especially in the medical and water and habitat fields, notably to alleviate the effects of the lasting closure of the Gaza Strip. Working closely with and supporting the Palestine Red Crescent Society, it scaled up its capacities at year end when Israel made renewed military incursions into the Strip. The ICRC also supported the activities of the Magen David Adom, in particular in southern Israel. ICRC visits continued to some 11,000 detainees held in Israeli places of detention and several hundred held by the Palestinian Authority. The ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary during the summer of 2008, facilitating the return of human remains from Lebanon to Israel and of detainees and human remains from Israel to Lebanon.

Elsewhere in the Middle East and North Africa, the situations in Algeria, Mauritania and Yemen received particular attention. In Yemen, this included significant medical/surgical and IDP assistance activities run together with the Yemen Red Crescent Society.





# ICRC operations in 2008: a few facts and figures

## PRESENCE

In 2008, the ICRC was present in more than 80 countries through delegations, sub-delegations, offices and missions. Its delegations and missions were distributed throughout the world as follows:

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| ► Africa                       | 28 |
| ► Asia and the Pacific         | 15 |
| ► Europe and the Americas      | 26 |
| ► Middle East and North Africa | 11 |

## PERSONNEL

The average number of ICRC staff in 2008 was as follows:

|                                     |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| ► Headquarters:                     | 816           |
| Field: expatriates                  |               |
| Expatriates                         | 1,323         |
| National Society staff              | 118           |
| National staff on temporary mission | 16            |
| Field: national staff               | 9,512         |
| ► Field: total <sup>1</sup>         | 10,969        |
| <b>Final total</b>                  | <b>11,785</b> |

1. This figure does not include an average of 1,130 daily workers hired by the ICRC in the field

## FINANCE

| ► ICRC expenditure in 2008 | In million |           |           |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Headquarters               | CHF 167.1  | USD 154.9 | EUR 104.9 |
| Field                      | CHF 990.6  | USD 918.2 | EUR 621.9 |

The sub-total comes to CHF 1,157.7 million, from which field overheads (CHF 59.9 million) must be deducted in order to reach the final total.

|                     |                    |                    |                  |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Final total:</b> | <b>CHF 1,097.8</b> | <b>USD 1,017.5</b> | <b>EUR 689.2</b> |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|

| ► 10 largest operations in 2008 in terms of expenditure | In million |           |          |
|---|------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 Sudan   | CHF 109.9  | USD 101.9 | EUR 69.0 |
| 2 Somalia   | CHF 102.3  | USD 94.8  | EUR 64.2 |
| 3 Iraq  | CHF 95.5   | USD 88.5  | EUR 60.0 |
| 4 Afghanistan   | CHF 69.8   | USD 64.7  | EUR 43.8 |
| 5 Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories       | CHF 62.1   | USD 57.6  | EUR 39.0 |
| 6 Congo, Democratic Republic of the                     | CHF 49.8   | USD 46.2  | EUR 31.3 |
| 7 Colombia  | CHF 37.6   | USD 34.8  | EUR 23.6 |
| 8 Sri Lanka   | CHF 30.1   | USD 27.9  | EUR 18.9 |
| 9 Chad  | CHF 26.6   | USD 24.7  | EUR 16.7 |
| 10 Pakistan   | CHF 24.9   | USD 23.0  | EUR 15.6 |

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.0789; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.5929

## VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited **494,540 detainees**, **35,892** of whom were monitored individually (1,124 females; 1,490 minors), held in **2,387 places of detention** in **83 countries**. Of this number, **21,046 detainees** (752 females; 1,244 minors) were registered and visited for the first time in 2008.

With support provided by the ICRC, **32,735 detainees** benefited from **family visits**.

A total of **18,358 detention attestations** were issued.

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected **345,634** and distributed **321,444 Red Cross messages**, thus enabling members of families separated as a result of armed conflict, disturbances or tensions to exchange news. Among these messages, **116,201** were collected from and **101,833** distributed to **detainees**. In addition **3,958 phone calls** allowed people, mainly detainees, to inform their families of their whereabouts.

The ICRC **registered 1,984 unaccompanied/separated children** (including **335 demobilized children**) during 2008. Once their families had been located and with the agreement of the children and their relatives, it organized and supported the reunification of **818 children** with their families. By the end of the year, the cases of **2,017 unaccompanied/separated minors** (including **240 demobilized children**) were still being handled, which involved tracing their relatives, maintaining contacts between the children and their families, organizing family reunification and/or identifying another long-term solution for the children concerned.

The ICRC established the **whereabouts of 6,072 people** for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families. The ICRC website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org) allowed the **publication of 88,587 names** of people providing news to relatives and friends or being sought by their relatives. At the end of the year, the ICRC was still taking action to locate **48,018 people** (5,725 females; 5,150 minors at the time of disappearance) for their families.

The ICRC helped **880 people** (including 818 minors) **to rejoin their families**. It organized the **transfer or repatriation of 3,363 people**, including **202 detainees after their release**. It also organized the transfer or repatriation of **1,556 sets of human remains**. It issued **travel documents** that enabled **3,285 people** to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

It relayed **3,660 official documents** of various types between family members across borders and front lines.

A total of **983,147 people** contacted ICRC offices worldwide for services or advice regarding issues related to protection and family links.

## ASSISTANCE

In 2008, the ICRC ran assistance programmes in **49 countries**. The bulk of the work was carried out in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia and the Russian Federation, Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories, Pakistan, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Uganda.

## ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

In 2008, the ICRC purchased or received as contributions in kind the following assistance supplies:

|   |                        | In million     |
|---|------------------------|----------------|
| ▶ Food items                                | 121,000 tonnes         | CHF 109        |
| ▶ Seed                                      | 6,750 tonnes           | CHF 9          |
| ▶ Essential household items                 | 19,500 tonnes          | CHF 53         |
|   | <i>Including:</i>      |                |
|   | 898,500 blankets       |                |
|   | 10,000 tents           |                |
|   | 323,400 tarpaulins     |                |
|   | 184,500 kitchen sets   |                |
|   | 212,400 hygiene kits   |                |
|   | 951 tonnes of clothing |                |
| ▶ Medical and physical rehabilitation items |                        | CHF 32         |
| ▶ Water and habitat items                   |                        | CHF 20         |
|   | <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>CHF 223</b> |
|   |                        | <b>USD 207</b> |
|   |                        | <b>EUR 140</b> |

Exchange rates: USD 1.00 = CHF 1.0789; EUR 1.00 = CHF 1.5929

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security, many times implemented together with host National Societies, directly benefited households and communities in **40 countries** worldwide. More than **2,791,000 internally displaced people, returnees, residents** (in general, people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure) and **people deprived of their freedom** received aid in the form of **food** and **3,315,000** in the form of **essential household and hygiene items**. Around **72% and 83%** of the beneficiaries of food and essential household and hygiene items respectively were **IDPs**. In addition, **2,355,000 people** (of whom around **33%** were **IDPs**) benefited from livelihood support through **sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives**. These included various response mechanisms ranging from the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation systems to small-scale community-based cash-for-work and livestock-management/support projects.

## WATER AND HABITAT

In 2008, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit was involved in water, sanitation and construction work in **43 countries**. These projects catered for the needs of more than **15 million people** worldwide (IDPs, returnees, residents – in general, people living in rural areas and/or areas difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure – and people deprived of their freedom). They were implemented by **expatriate and national engineers and technicians**.

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

During the year, the ICRC regularly supported **284 hospitals** and **394 other health care facilities** around the world. An estimated **3,496,428 people** (31% women; 52% children) benefited from ICRC-supported health care facilities. **Community health programmes** were implemented in **22 countries**, in many cases with National Society participation.

More than **19,300 weapon-wounded** and **101,000 non-weapon-wounded** (surgical case) patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals in **21 countries** where more than **108,000 surgical operations** were performed. The ICRC regularly supported **first-aid posts** located near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment, mainly for weapon-wounded patients.

## CARE FOR THE DISABLED

The ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Unit provided support to **82 centres** in **25 countries**, enabling **167,968 patients** (including 28,872 women and 45,725 children) to receive services. A total of **9,781 new patients** were fitted with **prostheses** and **24,817 with orthoses**. The centres produced and delivered **20,817 prostheses** (including 2,734 for women and 1,428 for children; 8,326 for mine victims) and **39,667 orthoses** (including 6,422 for women and 22,096 for children; 562 for mine victims). In addition, **2,503 wheelchairs** and **35,088 crutches and sticks** were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training of local staff was a priority in order to ensure sustainable services for patients.

## WEAPON CONTAMINATION

Throughout the year, the Weapon Contamination Sector provided operational support to delegations, National Societies and political authorities in **30 countries**. The Sector also worked with the UN and NGOs to further develop and strengthen international mine-action standards and coordination.

## FORENSICS SERVICES

During 2008, the ICRC's forensic services supported field operations in **43 countries** to help prevent and resolve cases of missing persons. Activities ranged from support to local forensic services to substitution, including the forensic identification of human remains prior to their handover and/or repatriation. In addition, regional meetings of medico-legal institutes were organized in Asia and the Pacific and in Latin America with a view to improving cooperation among the institutes in investigating cases of missing persons. A variety of other internal and external training courses and dissemination events, including for National Societies, were conducted to build countries' capacities to deal with the problem and to raise general awareness of the issue.

## ICRC COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The aim of the ICRC's cooperation with National Societies is to strengthen working relationships and dialogue with Movement partners for the greater benefit of people affected by armed conflict and internal strife.

In the vast majority of the countries where the ICRC operates, it does so in partnership with National Societies. Overall, it is estimated that more than **one third of the ICRC's operational activities are carried out in cooperation with the National Society of the country concerned**.

The ICRC also spent **CHF 84 million** to assist National Societies in their own countries in building and strengthening their capacity to carry out activities. This includes:

- ▶ **CHF 15.8 million** for their work to promote and spread knowledge of **IHL and the Fundamental Principles**
- ▶ **CHF 14.5 million** for their work to restore **family links**, including responding to needs resulting from natural disasters, in conformity with the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement
- ▶ **CHF 30.4 million** for their **preparedness for health and relief assistance** during conflict
- ▶ **CHF 2.9 million** for carrying out **activities to reduce the impact of weapon contamination on people**

A total of **3 National Societies** working internationally were involved in the **implementation of 5 ICRC projects in 5 countries**.

## PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

In 2008, the Public and Media Relations Unit in Geneva issued **250 press releases** and **40 information bulletins** and organized **six press conferences** and its **first ever webcast news conference**. The ICRC also produced some **50 print and audiovisual products**,

including **18 video news items**, which were issued to broadcasters worldwide, and **10 other video news items and films** for use with various target groups.

The ICRC website received around **3.2 million visitors** who viewed about **14.8 million pages** in total.

The ICRC distributed some **8,000 copies of films** and **560,000 publications** worldwide.

According to the Factiva database, which compiles print and online media sources worldwide, the ICRC was **mentioned more than 14,000 times** in 2008. For example, in relation to the conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation, information from ICRC news releases was specifically mentioned 340 times in print media reports between 8 and 28 August 2008.

Broadcast tracking showed that the ICRC's news footage was widely broadcast all over the world. For example, nearly **800 news items**, broadcast on over **60 channels**, including BBC World and Al Jazeera International, used ICRC footage to report on the convention banning cluster munitions.

## RELATIONS WITH WEAPON BEARERS

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates met with various weapon bearers present in conflict zones, from members of the military and the police to paramilitary units, armed groups and staff of private military companies.

- ▶ **28 specialized ICRC delegates** conducted or took part in more than **100 courses, workshops, round-tables and exercises** involving some **10,000 military, security and police personnel** in more than **80 countries**; **25 military officers** from **11 countries** received ICRC scholarships to attend **8 military courses** on IHL in San Remo
- ▶ **56 general and senior officers** from **55 countries** received ICRC scholarships to attend the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations (SWIRMO) in Switzerland
- ▶ a two-day meeting took place in Lima, Peru, bringing together 20 governmental and ICRC experts to discuss the use of force in situations of violence other than armed conflict; a regional workshop was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, co-organized by the Indonesian army and the ICRC, during which participants explored the legal framework and other topics relating to the use of force in internal security operations
- ▶ specialized delegates in Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America represented the ICRC and observed the implementation of IHL or international human rights law during a dozen international military exercises

## RELATIONS WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES

In practically every country covered by the ICRC, university lecturers in law, international relations and journalism have incorporated IHL into their teaching. At national level, the ICRC supported the teaching of IHL at universities by distributing books and other teaching materials and co-organizing academic events on IHL, which addressed the theoretical and practical dimensions of the law, and IHL competitions for students. The ICRC sponsored the participation of academics in key regional and international IHL events.

In 2008, the ICRC organized or co-organized:

- ▶ **13 regional and international IHL training seminars for academics** (3 in Africa; 2 in Asia and the Pacific; 7 in Europe and the Americas; 1 in the Middle East and North Africa;), involving **over 300 professors, lecturers and graduate students**
- ▶ **5 regional IHL competitions** for students (1 in Africa; 2 in Asia and the Pacific; 2 in Europe and the Americas), involving some **250 students and lecturers**

## SUPPORTING IHL EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, launched in 2001, has been integrated into the official secondary school curricula in several countries in 2008 (Seychelles, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Malaysia). It is currently being implemented in almost 40 other countries, where the aim is to integrate the programme into the formal school curriculum, ensuring both full ownership by the education authorities and the longer-term sustainability of the programme.

In 2008:

- ▶ the ICRC revised Exploring Humanitarian Law materials including a new teaching guide and a training video for teachers, along with a short promotional video clip
- ▶ more than **50,000 people consulted the Exploring Humanitarian Law Virtual Campus**, a web-based resource centre for the programme
- ▶ the "MinEduc" programme in the Commonwealth of Independent States was on track towards completion by the end of 2010, focusing on support to the education authorities in integrating IHL into curricula as part the broad education reform process
- ▶ the ICRC initiated a research project on preventing children's involvement in organized armed violence

## INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION MANAGEMENT AND MULTILINGUAL COMMUNICATION

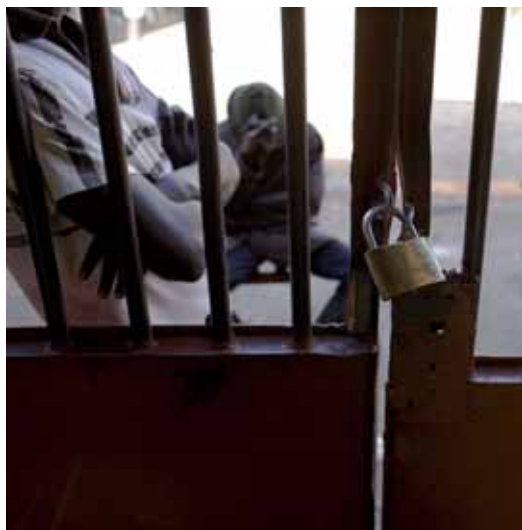
Some **3,600 people** made use of the ICRC's Library and Research Service and some **2,400 people** from National Societies, NGOs, academia, government departments and the media, received responses to their **requests** for information.

ICRC headquarters received nearly **200 groups** totalling some **5,000 visitors** (university students: 54%; members of armed forces: 9%; National Society staff and volunteers: 9%; diplomatic community: 7%).

Some **7 million words** were translated, edited and proofread by translators and editors working for or contracted by the ICRC through its language service.







## DELEGATIONS

Angola  
Burundi  
Central African Republic  
Chad  
Congo  
Congo, Democratic Republic of the  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
African Union  
Guinea  
Liberia  
Rwanda  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Uganda

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Abidjan  
Abuja  
Dakar  
Harare  
Nairobi  
Pretoria  
Yaoundé

# AFRICA

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection

**61,785**

Assistance

**324,477**

Prevention

**39,212**

Cooperation with National Societies

**38,461**

General

**2**

**463,937** of which: Overheads **28,042**

**Implementation rate**

**96%**

⊕ ICRC delegation  
⊕ ICRC regional delegation  
⊕ ICRC mission

## AFRICA

In 2008, the ICRC maintained a strong operational presence in sub-Saharan Africa (hereafter referred to as Africa), with 26 delegations and missions carrying out a wide range of activities to protect and assist victims of past and present armed conflicts or other situations of violence. Just under 2 million people (93% of them IDPs) received ICRC relief goods, some 1.3 million (79% of them IDPs) were given food rations, and more than 2 million (34% of them IDPs) benefited from quick-impact livelihood-support projects designed to improve their economic situation. At the same time, the ICRC worked to promote much wider implementation of IHL throughout Africa, both to protect vulnerable populations and to ensure that its staff had safe access to people in need.

Sudan was the ICRC's largest operation worldwide for the fifth consecutive year, while Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Somalia were among the ten biggest. Despite international peace initiatives, conflict escalated in North and South Kivu in the DRC and in central and southern Somalia, persisted in the Central African Republic (CAR), in Chad and in Darfur in Sudan, and flared up around Sudan's disputed north-south border. ICRC activities were stepped up in the conflict-affected northern area of Niger and in Guinea, Mali, Kenya and Zimbabwe, all of which experienced internal unrest.

The ICRC gradually scaled down its operations in post-conflict countries where the situation had stabilized, notably in Angola, Congo and Sierra Leone, at the same time helping the National Societies boost their capacities to take the lead in Red Cross matters.

In Ethiopia, activities had to be further reduced, given government restrictions on ICRC access to federally run detention centres and to the conflict-affected Somali Regional State.

Despite security constraints, the ICRC was able to operate in most regions of Africa affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence. This was in large part because of its strict principles of neutrality and independence, which allowed it to develop contacts with all parties to conflict and thus gain acceptance in the field. The ICRC also stressed to all parties their obligations under IHL towards those not or no longer taking part in hostilities. Delegates documented alleged IHL violations and, where necessary, made representations to the relevant parties to halt the abuses.

Flexibility was another key factor contributing to the ICRC's ability to provide aid rapidly and effectively, for example in the DRC, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia. Delegations constantly adapted their operations to the scale and urgency of needs and based their activities on a realistic assessment of the constraints on the ground and their own capacities.

The ICRC worked with a growing number of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to deliver relief goods, carry out assistance projects, run family-links services and promote IHL, and the National Societies received ongoing ICRC support to strengthen their capacities in these fields. For example, with the ICRC as its primary partner in the field, the Kenya Red Cross Society led a relief operation that assisted several hundred thousand victims of post-election violence. With ICRC support, the Red Cross of Chad provided life-saving first-aid services when armed groups attacked N'Djamena, while in Uganda a joint Swedish-Ugandan Red Cross Society hygiene promotion programme reached thousands of IDPs and returnees. The National Societies' knowledge of local conditions also helped the ICRC work effectively and safely in places like Somalia.

To maximize the impact of humanitarian efforts, the ICRC coordinated its activities with those of Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors working in areas of common interest, including through its attendance as an observer at UN cluster meetings.

According to their circumstances, beneficiaries of ICRC economic security programmes received shelter materials, food rations, essential household items, staple-/cash-crop seed and farm tools, and participated in agricultural, veterinary and other livelihood-support initiatives. The assistance aimed, among other things, to prevent population displacement, to ensure that families who were displaced, as well as their host communities, had the resources to cope, and to provide returning or resettled IDPs – and the communities absorbing them – with the means to rebuild their livelihoods. Aid was tailored to local needs and to the context, and strove to be balanced, for example by addressing nomads and farmers alike, to avoid fuelling tensions.

In Darfur, the ICRC focused on helping farmers and pastoralists preserve their livelihoods so that they were not drawn to already overcrowded urban areas, where the bulk of international aid was concentrated. Vulnerable resident communities in the DRC and central and southern Somalia also benefited from a range of assistance to help them avoid destitution, including seed, farm tools, fishing gear, and cash-for-work and irrigation projects.

Wherever possible, the ICRC assisted IDPs in their place of refuge, often close to their village. This meant that families were less likely to go to IDP camps, where they risked aid dependency, and were in a better position to return home, security permitting. This strategy was applied in countries such as Burundi, the CAR, Chad, the DRC and Somalia, and advocated to other aid organizations. Where needed, however, the ICRC assisted IDPs in camps, for example in Kenya, where some 300,000 people displaced by the post-election violence ended up in camps, and in Uganda, where thousands of families were still in camps or in transit camps en route home. As a result of a security incident in late 2006 (see *Sudan*), the ICRC was also obliged to provide, for the second consecutive year, all essential services to some 135,000 people in Gereida IDP camp (South Darfur).

In areas where IDPs had returned home or been resettled, the ICRC focused on helping rebuild livelihoods. In Liberia and Uganda, for example, cash-for-work projects, such as the clearing of agricultural land and the rehabilitation of access roads and dams, provided households in returnee catchment areas with immediate income and improved agricultural production and infrastructure. In Eritrea, communities with returnees had their fields ploughed for planting by tractors hired by the ICRC, and their livestock were treated against parasites. In Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal (Casamance), associations comprising mainly women heading households revived market gardening with ICRC vegetable seed, fertilizer and tools.

The ICRC also worked to ensure that IDPs, returnees and vulnerable residents had an adequate supply of water and access to basic health care. By year-end, some 8.5 million people in 18 African countries faced fewer health risks after the ICRC built or rehabilitated key urban and rural water facilities. IDPs in Kenya, the DRC and Somalia weathered crises thanks to water trucked in by the ICRC. Similarly, an average total catchment population of 1.8 million people a month had access to health care at ICRC-supported clinics in 11 countries. Most clinics offered curative and

mother and child care, as well as immunization, malaria control and hygiene programmes. In Darfur and North and South Kivu, treatment and counselling for victims of sexual violence were also available.

Tens of thousands of refugees and IDPs restored or maintained contact with relatives through the tracing and RCM services. During 2008, 134,060 RCMs were collected from people for distribution to their relatives, and 125,850 such messages delivered in Africa. As a priority, children were put in touch with their parents and, where appropriate, reunited with them. The tracing and RCM network was reduced in countries where the situation had stabilized. In Rwanda, for example, the ICRC helped the National Society assume full responsibility for running the network and provided the government with a report on unaccompanied children to contribute to the development of national child-protection legislation and programmes. The ICRC also assisted in the voluntary repatriation of 1,766 civilians across the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border.

Delegates visited some 126,000 people held in 977 detention centres in Africa. They followed individually the cases of 4,519 security detainees, registering 2,871 new cases in 2008, monitored general detention conditions, and informed the authorities confidentially of their findings and recommendations, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. Despite ongoing efforts, the ICRC had not yet gained or regained access to all detainees falling within its mandate in certain countries, including Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gambia and Sudan. Plans to visit detainees in Somalia were suspended, largely because of security constraints. In Mali, Niger and Sudan, the organization, at the request of all parties, acted as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the release and handover to the relevant authorities of people, usually government soldiers, held by armed groups.

Detainees were offered the tracing and RCM network to contact families and received any basic items, mainly hygiene products, they lacked. Where necessary, the ICRC stepped in to improve detention conditions. Some 123,500 detainees benefited from the ICRC's rehabilitation of infrastructure, mainly water and sanitation, in detention facilities in countries such as Burundi, the DRC, Ethiopia, Guinea, Niger, Rwanda and Uganda. In emergencies, the ICRC ensured inmates received medical treatment and nutritional supplements. For example, widespread malnutrition among detainees in Guinea prompted the ICRC to launch nutritional programmes in 18 prisons, while 5 prisons in the CAR provided free health care to all inmates using ICRC supplies. At the same time, delegations encouraged and supported the authorities' initiatives to upgrade detention conditions. With ICRC support, Uganda's Prison Medical Services began regularly screening inmates in three prisons for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, with cases followed up by partner NGOs. In Madagascar, the ICRC shared the report on its delegates' findings in prisons with the authorities and selected international players as part of joint efforts with the Malagasy government to enhance support for the country's penal reform process and to encourage increased funding and other measures to improve prison conditions.

To help ensure treatment of the wounded and sick in violence- or conflict-affected countries, the ICRC supported hospitals in various countries, among them Chad, the DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Niger, Somalia, Uganda and Zimbabwe, providing, as needed, funds, supplies, training and help with infrastructure rehabilitation and maintenance. ICRC surgical teams were deployed to work in hospitals and/or as mobile field units in Chad, the DRC, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia and Sudan. During 2008, ICRC-supported hospitals in Somalia alone treated more than 3,200 weapon-wounded.

To boost the availability of physical rehabilitation services, the ICRC provided support to a total of 30 prosthetic/orthotic centres located in Angola, Chad, the DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda, which treated some 19,000 war-amputees and other physically disabled people. In Angola, the ICRC wound up 29 years of support in this sector, handing over a report to the relevant personnel and authorities on best practices, with recommendations on how to sustain services. It also built and equipped Southern Sudan's first physical rehabilitation referral centre.

IHL promotion remained a cornerstone of ICRC activities in Africa. The aim was to prevent IHL violations and ensure that the authorities and all weapon bearers endorsed the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities.

Delegations engaged in dialogue on IHL and humanitarian issues with the national, regional and international authorities concerned, including the African Union, African regional economic groupings and the diplomatic community. The ICRC lent governments its expertise to ratify IHL treaties and adopt national laws incorporating their provisions, and sponsored the participation of ministry officials in IHL events abroad. Such initiatives contributed, for example, to Liberia's adoption of a domestic law prohibiting the recruitment of children into the armed forces. At the regional level, following an IHL seminar held by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ICRC, 14 of the 15 ECOWAS member States went on to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Djibouti-based Intergovernmental Authority on Development also signed a cooperation agreement with the ICRC on promoting IHL among its member States.

Armed, security and police forces worked with the ICRC to incorporate IHL, international human rights law and humanitarian principles into their training, doctrine and operations, while peacekeepers deployed on the continent were briefed on IHL. With ICRC support, for example, the Sudanese armed forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army initiated three-year IHL training programmes, and the CAR, Lesotho and South Africa established bodies to oversee IHL's integration into the military.

Initiatives were also developed to broaden support for IHL among civil society sectors with an influence on public opinion and policy decisions, such as traditional and religious leaders, the media, academics, women's groups and NGOs. The ICRC was helping Burundi, Cameroon, Djibouti, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, the Seychelles and South Africa introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in their secondary school curricula. In universities throughout Africa, delegations ran seminars and competitions, gave presentations and provided teaching materials to spark interest in and support the teaching of IHL.



# angola

The ICRC has been present in Angola since the start of the armed conflict in 1975 that devastated the country's infrastructure and economy and left the population dependent on aid. Relative normality has returned since the 2002 Luena peace agreement, although mines remain a major problem. The ICRC cooperates with the Angola Red Cross in raising awareness of landmine risks. The two organizations also operate a tracing network to enable family members separated by the conflict to re-establish contact. Following the closure of the Luanda delegation in mid-2009, activities in Angola will be pursued by the ICRC's regional delegation in Pretoria.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 3,181 |
| Assistance                          | 696   |
| Prevention                          | 982   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 394   |
| General                             | -     |

► **5,254**

of which: Overheads **321**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>81%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>8</b>  | expatriates                                 |
| <b>79</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- closed its 3 sub-delegations in Huambo, Lubango and Luena
- produced a report summarizing its 29 years of experience supporting physical rehabilitation activities in Angola
- reduced the caseload of pending tracing cases prior to the cessation of ICRC tracing activities in Angola in 2009
- published names of people still seeking or being sought by relatives in an addendum to the *Red Cross Gazette* and on the ICRC's family-links website
- enhanced the technical capacities and autonomy of Angola Red Cross mine-risk reduction activities

## CONTEXT

In 2008, Angola remained relatively stable and continued to recover from the political, economic and social consequences of the 27-year-long armed conflict that ended in 2002.

In September, the country successfully held its first parliamentary elections since 1992. President José Eduardo dos Santos's governing Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola (MPLA) party won around 82% of the vote, with the main opposition party, União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), winning over 10%. Presidential elections were scheduled for 2009.

Angola grew economically and, by the end of the year, had become the largest oil producer in Africa. The government budgeted more generously in 2008 for the renovation of infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, and for increased spending on public and social services. However, the majority of the population did not feel the benefits of these improvements, as poverty and unemployment remained widespread. In addition, the global financial crisis and the drop in the price of oil led to a cut in Angola's projected economic growth from 26% to 15%.

Sporadic skirmishes in the north of the oil-rich Cabinda enclave were reported on an infrequent basis, allegedly between the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda-Armed Forces of Cabinda (FLEC-FAC) and the Angolan national army.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |                             | Total    | Women | Children |     |
|--|-------|-----------------------------|----------|-------|----------|-----|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)   |       | WOUNDED AND SICK            |          |       |          |     |
| Detainees visited  | 21    | Physical rehabilitation     |          |       |          |     |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 21    | Patients receiving services | Patients | 3,048 | 714      | 382 |
| Number of visits carried out   | 5     | Prostheses delivered        | Units    | 420   | 81       | 18  |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 3     | Orthoses delivered          | Units    | 80    | 28       | 33  |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| RCMs collected   | 5,664 |                             |          |       |          |     |
| RCMs distributed   | 4,933 |                             |          |       |          |     |
| People reunited with their families  | 37    |                             |          |       |          |     |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 31    |                             |          |       |          |     |
| of whom females  |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance  |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 79    |                             |          |       |          |     |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 1,890 |                             |          |       |          |     |
| of which for females   |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance   |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 14    |                             |          |       |          |     |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 33    |                             |          |       |          |     |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008   | 138   |                             |          |       |          |     |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |       |                             |          |       |          |     |
| People to whom travel documents were issued  | 6     |                             |          |       |          |     |

## ICRC ACTION

Given the stability and the accompanying decrease in humanitarian needs, the ICRC continued to scale down its activities and presence in Angola in 2008 after more than three decades of activity in the country. In preparation for the closure of its Luanda delegation, scheduled to become an office attached to the Pretoria regional delegation as of July 2009, the ICRC closed its sub-delegations in Luena, Lubango and Huambo in January, March and December respectively. It also reduced the number of expatriate and national staff in Luanda and focused on ensuring the sustainability of ICRC programmes upon their handover to the Angola Red Cross or other partners.

The ICRC prioritized building the autonomy of the three State-run physical rehabilitation centres that it had been supporting, to ensure uninterrupted services for the physically disabled after its withdrawal from physical rehabilitation activities at the end of June 2008. This included providing them with financial and material support and conducting on-the-job training for medical and administrative staff at the centres and for health authority personnel. The ICRC produced a report detailing the best practices and lessons learned from its 29 years of experience in supporting physical rehabilitation activities in Angola. The report also recommended that the authorities increase the funding and staff levels of the country's physical rehabilitation services.

In preparation for the cessation of ICRC participation in family-links services in Angola in March 2009, the caseload of pending tracing cases was reduced, and emphasis was placed on finding durable solutions for unaccompanied children and other vulnerable people. In addition, the names of people still searching for or being sought by their families were published in an addendum to the *Red Cross Gazette* and on the website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org).

The ICRC continued to offer the RCM service until the end of the year and, in parallel, sought ways to build the National Society's capacity in this field.

The ICRC provided technical and financial support to strengthen the Angola Red Cross's mine-risk reduction activities and to ensure their sustainability after 2008. It also supported the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) in implementing and reviewing the country's 2006–11 mine-action strategic plan to meet Ottawa Convention targets, highlighting the key role the National Society had to play within that plan.

In Cabinda province, the ICRC conducted visits to detainees and shared its findings and recommendations with the authorities concerned. It also maintained contact with the civilian population and military forces in the region.

Countrywide, the government, politicians, the military, armed groups, the media, traditional and religious leaders and other sections of civil society were informed about IHL and the ICRC, including its plans to transfer responsibility for ongoing ICRC involvement in Angola to the regional delegation in Pretoria, South Africa, as of July 2009.

## CIVILIANS

## Protecting civilians in Cabinda

Intermittent skirmishes in Cabinda province, reportedly between FLEC fighters and the Angolan national army, led to occasional incidents allegedly involving the civilian population. Civilians were also affected by sporadic actions attributed, for the most part, to ill-disciplined soldiers. Where appropriate, representations were made to the authorities concerned.



### Assisting communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW)

Some 150 villages in 6 provinces benefited from visits by Angola Red Cross volunteers as part of the National Society's mine-risk reduction activities supported by the ICRC until the end of 2008 (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). These visits helped villagers identify which areas of land and daily activities posed a risk of mine and ERW incidents and which groups of people were particularly at risk. Based on this information, villagers received training to reduce mine and ERW risk in their communities, and teachers were provided with ideas for classroom activities to change and monitor children's behaviour so as to avert mine/ERW injuries. More than 80 communities were also provided with materials to support the creation and maintenance of warning signs and fences to cordon off dangerous areas.

In order to render mined areas safe, National Society volunteers collected mine/ERW information and shared it with clearance teams, including the army, the police, CNIDAH, the National Institute of Demining, and NGOs such as the Halo Trust and Norwegian People's Aid. As a result, more than 30 of the mine/ERW-contaminated communities that received Red Cross visits in 2008 were later declared free of mines. More than 1,500 pieces of unexploded ordnance were reported destroyed in Bié, 50 in Kuando Kubango, 20 in Kwanza Norte, 350 in Moxico and 60 in Zaire, and 25 anti-personnel mines were cleared in Benguela. In order to reduce the size of suspected mine/ERW-contaminated land, as stipulated in Angola's 2006–11 mine-action strategic plan, CNIDAH personnel attended an ICRC workshop on the procedures and best practices for identifying and categorizing minefields and for the safe release of previously suspect areas for civilian use.

### Restoring family links

In light of the ICRC's planned withdrawal from tracing activities in Angola in March 2009, the delegation concentrated on serving the needs of unaccompanied children and endeavoured to resolve the backlog of pending cases. Thus, as of July, no new cases of unaccompanied minors were registered, and, at the end of year, the ICRC stopped accepting RCMs.

Throughout the year, and with the aid of the National Society's tracing network, priority was given to reuniting unaccompanied children with their families, when in their best interests. Other vulnerable people, such as the elderly, the sick or the disabled, were also reunited with relatives. All persons thus reunited received a kit containing basic items to facilitate their reintegration. Centres and orphanages caring for unaccompanied children yet to find their families received similar kits, and, where necessary, unresolved or hardship cases were referred to the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration, local authorities or NGOs for appropriate follow-up and assistance in finding suitable long-term solutions for them.

Other work to resolve pending tracing cases, of both adults and children, included the publication in May of an addendum to the 2005 final edition of the *Red Cross Gazette* containing 8,531 new names. In addition, the names of people still seeking or being sought by relatives were published on the website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org).

- 5,658 RCMs collected from and 4,933 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 21 from and 18 to unaccompanied/separated children

- new tracing requests registered for 31 people (14 females; 15 minors at the time of disappearance); 79 people located; 1,890 people (630 females; 396 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 26,924 and 50,218 names of people still seeking or being sought by relatives circulated via the 2005 edition of the *Red Cross Gazette* along with its 2008 addendum and on [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org) respectively
- 37 people reunited with their families, including 33 unaccompanied/separated children, and 12 civilians transferred
- 14 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 138 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 6 people issued with an ICRC travel document

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Cabinda, detainees held in municipal and provincial prisons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior continued to receive visits from delegates, conducted according to ICRC standard working procedures. The authorities were provided with confidential information and recommendations regarding detainees' treatment and detention conditions.

- 21 detainees visited and monitored individually during 5 visits to 3 places of detention.
- 6 RCMs collected from detainees

### WOUNDED AND SICK

According to official figures, there were an estimated 105,000 physically disabled people in Angola, including some 70,000 mine victims. However, the existing national policy in this area did not address the financial and human resource constraints faced by the country's 11 State-run physical rehabilitation centres. Three of these centres, in Huambo, Kuito and Luanda, continued to receive ICRC support until the organization's withdrawal from physical rehabilitation activities in Angola at the end of June 2008.

In order to ensure uninterrupted services for the physically disabled after June, building the three centres' autonomy and the capacities of the provincial health authorities (DPS) was the main focus of ICRC physical rehabilitation work in Angola during the first half of the year. Personnel at the three ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres, along with DPS staff, improved their management and administration skills as a result of ICRC training in budgeting, fundraising, and stock procurement and handling. The three centres were also provided with a database for the preparation of statistical activity reports for potential donors, and staff members were given lessons in how to use it.

In addition, centre employees and authorities received technical training specific to the provision of effective physical rehabilitation services, such as the production and handling of materials and equipment used by the physically disabled. Fourteen staff members were taught to prescribe, assemble and ensure the safe usage of wheelchairs so as to plug the knowledge gap created by the absence of national guidelines in this area. To avoid an interruption in the production of prostheses and orthoses, a final donation of raw materials was made by the ICRC, and personnel were given lessons in operating and maintaining the machines used for such purposes.

Upon the closure of the ICRC's physical rehabilitation programme in Angola, management and medical staff at the centres and the relevant authorities received a report summarizing the best practices and lessons learned from the ICRC's 29 years of experience in this domain. At a meeting in July, the Minister of Health was also presented with this report, which included recommendations for increasing the level of State funding and staff made available to physical rehabilitation centres in the country.

From January–June 2008:

- ▶ 3,048 patients (including 714 women and 382 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 112 new patients (including 21 women and 6 children) fitted with prostheses and 58 (including 19 women and 28 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 420 prostheses (including 81 for women, 18 for children and 301 for mine victims), 80 orthoses (including 28 for women, 33 for children and 1 for a mine victim), 1,419 crutches and 21 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

With the political establishment focused on September's election, the ratification of IHL treaties received little attention. However, ministerial awareness of the issue increased as a result of ICRC advocacy and the participation of two government representatives in regional IHL meetings funded by the ICRC. In December, Angola signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Oslo, Norway.

Ongoing contacts with local and national authorities increased their awareness of the ICRC, its mandate and its planned reduction of activities in Angola.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As part of ongoing efforts to encourage the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operations and to ensure that the civilian population was treated accordingly, 32 officers and 70 soldiers in the Angolan national army based in northern Cabinda attended two information sessions on IHL and ICRC activities.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Press, radio and television networks covered humanitarian issues and ICRC activities on the basis of press releases, newsletters and interviews produced by the delegation. Public attention was drawn to humanitarian issues and IHL through ICRC-supported events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) and International Day of Families (15 May).

In order to raise awareness of Red Cross activities to restore family links, as well as of the ICRC delegation's planned closure in 2009, community, political and religious leaders attended information sessions in a number of provinces.

- ▶ 224 people took part in 12 sessions on the ICRC and its operations in Angola

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

After almost six years of cooperation with the ICRC in addressing the effects of mines and ERW in Angola, the Angola Red Cross had built up a sufficient level of technical ability, along with national recognition from bodies such as CNIDAH, to enable the ICRC to cease support to it in this domain at the end of 2008. Nonetheless, throughout the year, the National Society continued to receive ICRC technical and financial support for its mine-awareness activities (see also *Civilians*), including the training of 51 staff members and volunteers in the development of mine/ERW-risk reduction plans with affected communities and in the integration and coordination of those plans at national level. Demonstrating its role as a key partner of CNIDAH, the National Society also helped organize a two-day meeting to initiate a survey to deepen understanding and encourage the prioritization of mine-risk reduction activities across the country. The findings of this survey would contribute to CNIDAH's progress review of Angola's 2006-11 mine-action strategic plan in 2009 (see *ICRC action*).

As well as conducting tracing activities alongside the ICRC (see *Civilians*), the National Society received ICRC technical support provided with a view to strengthening its capacity to deliver family-links services autonomously. For example, 64 Angola Red Cross volunteers in 14 provinces around the country attended ICRC training sessions on tracing.

In 2008, the Angola Red Cross responded to the emergency needs of people affected by floods in Cunene province, and evacuated people injured in the collapse of a seven-storey building in Luanda using stretchers and vehicles provided by the ICRC.

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross Society was able, with ICRC support, to increase people's access to safe water by installing boreholes in one district in Principe.

The International Federation established a new office in Angola and Movement partners ensured coordination of their activities in the country.



# burundi

For 37 years until 1999, the ICRC monitored the situation in Burundi and took action on an ad hoc basis. Since then, it has been present in the country, focusing on helping people to overcome the worst consequences of armed conflict. It works with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards. It rehabilitates water and sanitation systems for vulnerable groups. It reunites children separated from their parents with their families and restores family links. It also supports training in IHL for the armed and security forces.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,429 |
| Assistance                          | 3,537 |
| Prevention                          | 1,003 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 655   |
| General                             | -     |

► **7,625**

of which: Overheads 463

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 90% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 18  | expatriates                                 |
| 123 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- responded to emergency needs by distributing essential household items to 26,000 IDPs, in partnership with the Burundi Red Cross
- covered the costs of hospital treatment for 286 weapon-wounded patients
- contributed to more than 260,800 people's access to safe water in urban and rural communities
- monitored the treatment and living conditions of over 11,000 detainees during some 340 visits to detention facilities
- completed an in-depth study on respect for judicial guarantees in places of permanent and temporary detention
- organized dissemination sessions on human rights and humanitarian principles for over 15,000 police personnel, including for the first time members of the national intelligence service and the penitentiary police

## CONTEXT

Despite diplomatic efforts to revive the peace process to resolve the non-international armed conflict between the government and the Parti pour la libération du peuple Hutu-Forces nationale pour la libération (Palipehutu-FNL), hostilities resumed on 17 April, when the FNL reportedly attacked Burundian army positions in the capital. Subsequent clashes between the FNL and the army affected Bujumbura Rural, Bubanza, Kayanza and Cibitoke provinces and caused the displacement of tens of thousands of people.

In late May, the Palipehutu-FNL resumed its participation in the mechanisms overseeing the implementation of the 2006 comprehensive ceasefire agreement. However, sensitive issues remained, including the integration of FNL members into national defence and security forces, the status of FNL dissidents and the Palipehutu-FNL's political representation. A summit of the Regional Peace Initiative on Burundi held in December attempted to move discussion on these issues forward.

The rift in the ruling Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie-Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) deepened upon the sentencing of deposed chair Hussein Radjabu to 13 years' imprisonment in May. However, after the Constitutional Court ruled that 22 parliamentarians could not retain their seats as "independents" following their expulsion from the CNDD-FDD, the president restored his working majority in the National Assembly by replacing the dissident members with people loyal to him.

The security situation, particularly in the west and north-west of the country, remained fragile and was compounded by the large number of weapons still in circulation and a rising crime rate. Sporadic armed attacks on civilians, incidents of looting and targeted attacks on provincial officials were recorded.

Burundi continued to suffer from poverty and underdevelopment, and concern grew over worsening food shortages as a result of climate change, a lack of seeds and the rise in food prices. Friction over access to land increased as a result of rapid population growth driven by high birth rates and the return of former refugees, a process accelerated by the closure of refugee camps in the neighbouring United Republic of Tanzania.

The consultation process to establish transitional justice mechanisms, initially planned for April 2008, was delayed. The UN Peacebuilding Commission continued to support the peace process in Burundi.

## ICRC ACTION

To facilitate access to victims, the ICRC maintained regular contact with army officers and developed a dialogue with the Palipehutu-FNL. Upon the resumption of hostilities, the ICRC reminded all parties to the conflict of their responsibilities under IHL, including their obligations towards the civilian population. Ongoing work with the armed and security forces included the facilitation of IHL dissemination sessions, some of which were attended for the first time by members of the national intelligence service and penitentiary police. In addition, the ICRC promoted IHL and the ICRC among parliamentarians, students and the media.

The ICRC helped strengthen the National Society's decentralized structure and built up its disaster management and communication operations and capacities. It also helped create a National Society-run family-links network tasked with collecting and distributing RCMs in three provinces from 2009.

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## CIVILIANS

### Providing relief goods, water and sanitation

People displaced by clashes in Bujumbura Rural province between April and May received essential household items distributed by the Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC following assessments to identify the most vulnerable. To help people cope with influxes of IDPs, 10 new water points were installed by the ICRC in one village and the local water authority received materials to repair a primary school's water supply.

Rural communities, particularly those affected by displacement or the return of former refugees, also benefited from ongoing rehabilitation work on water infrastructure carried out by the ICRC in partnership with the rural water board. Residents of Buhiga, Butihinda, Giteranyi, Isale, Kije and Rwanzari saw their water supply systems restored or extended. Health centres and schools in Buhiga, Isale and Matongo also enjoyed improved water and sanitation facilities. In addition, people in Bikobe and Gihofi were set to benefit from improvements in water quantity and quality. A programme to train local committees to maintain water systems rehabilitated since 2004 continued, complemented by ad hoc ICRC maintenance work.

Thousands of people in Bujumbura, Bururi, Gitega and Makamba provinces looked forward to improved access to safe water as a result of repairs to dilapidated or damaged urban water systems, carried out by the ICRC in close cooperation with Regideso, the urban water and electricity board. Residents of Mutaho, in Gitega province, also benefited from improvements to a hospital's water, sanitation and electrical systems. To enhance the capacities of Regideso and the rural water board, staff members participated in a two-week training course on water network and pumping station management.

- 26,000 IDPs (5,200 families) received essential household items
- 260,861 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

### Supporting access to emergency health care

Civilians wounded during the fighting in April and May had their hospital treatment and food paid for by the ICRC. Patients requiring specialized surgery or treatment, including some injured combatants, were evacuated to hospitals equipped to provide such care. One private hospital continued to receive material and financial support from the ICRC to treat the weapon-wounded and other medical emergencies. Palipehutu-FNL medical staff were also provided with 23 medical and dressing kits to help them care for wounded FNL members, including those in holding camps awaiting demobilization.

- 286 weapon-wounded treated in referral hospitals with ICRC support

### Restoring family links

Family members separated when fleeing the renewed or past fighting in Burundi, including Burundian refugees in or returning from the United Republic of Tanzania, were able to restore contact through the ICRC's tracing and RCM services. Congolese and Rwandan refugees in Gasorwe, Giharo, Musasa and Mwaro refugee camps in Burundi continued sending and receiving family news by the same means.

Wherever possible, unaccompanied children were reunited with their families in their countries of origin, for which purpose

coordination with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations was strengthened. Particular attention was paid to ensuring proper care for children separated from their parents or left unaccompanied after the current fighting.

- 4,287 RCMs collected from and 4,458 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 107 from and 93 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 138 people (62 females; 58 minors at the time of disappearance); 93 people located; 96 people (42 females; 41 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 9 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 5 reunited with their families (including 1 demobilized child), 40 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 3 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The population of Burundi's 11 central prisons grew from 8,375 in December 2007 to 9,942 at the end of 2008. An estimated 2,500 people held in places of temporary detention were also increasingly affected by overcrowding. The growth of the prison population was the result of a rising crime rate, weaknesses in the judicial process and the arrest of new security detainees, including alleged members of the FNL's political wing, following the resumption of hostilities in mid-April. Supporters of former party chair Hussein Radjabu, as well as a few opposition party members, were also detained.

As the number of detainees rose, the ICRC increased the frequency of its visits, conducted in accordance with its standard working procedures, to both central prisons and places of temporary detention. The treatment and living conditions of detainees were the subject of a continuing confidential dialogue between the authorities and the ICRC. Particular attention was paid to the situation of security detainees.

Dialogue with the authorities was backed up by an increased number of written reports, including reports based on an in-depth ICRC study on respect for judicial guarantees in both central prisons and places of temporary detention. To further address overcrowding caused by a lack of compliance with judicial guarantees, over 100 prison personnel responsible for judicial processes attended a series of seminars organized by the ICRC in Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi. In addition, in coordination with the authorities, delegates continued to mobilize international support for the authorities' efforts to address the needs of women and children in detention, as well as of sick inmates, and to rehabilitate prisons.

Through the RCM service, detainees restored and maintained contact with their relatives in Burundi and abroad.

- 11,053 detainees visited, of whom 712 monitored individually (18 females; 29 minors) and 539 newly registered (18 females; 21 minors), during 343 visits to 99 places of detention
- 85 RCMs collected from and 57 RCMs distributed to detainees

Cooperation continued with the prison authorities and the relevant government ministries in support of their efforts to improve detention conditions and bring them in line with internationally recognized standards.



To improve detainees' living conditions, renovation of the water supply system was completed in Bubanza prison and repairs were made to the water and sanitation facilities in Muyinga and Rumonge prisons. To enable some 200 detainees to carry out basic maintenance tasks, training in electrics and plumbing was provided by the ICRC in all 11 central prisons. Building work was carried out by the ICRC in Muyinga prison to separate women's and children's living areas from those of adult males, and detainees in three places of temporary detention also benefited from renovations to living quarters.

A total of 104 detainees and 62 staff in 6 prisons attended ICRC seminars on hygiene and health issues, where they learnt how basic changes in behaviour could contribute to an improvement in living conditions. In addition, pest-control interventions were carried out in 4 prisons and detainees in central prisons received monthly provisions of soap and, where necessary, other items, such as blankets.

During regular ICRC prison visits, the focus was on monitoring detainees' health and helping to improve the quality and accessibility of health care, including services for sufferers of malaria, tuberculosis and onchocercosis (river blindness). Inmates' access to adequate primary health care through Ministry of Health dispensaries in central prisons was boosted by the provision of drugs and equipment paid for by the ICRC. The prison health authorities and the ICRC also coordinated their efforts to ensure that detainees' access to preventive and curative HIV/AIDS services was equivalent to that of the general Burundian population. As a result, the number of detainees undergoing antiretroviral treatment increased from 37 in 2007 to 43 in 2008, and another 223 were undergoing prophylactic treatment.

- ▶ 1,600 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects
- ▶ 9,174 detainees received essential household or hygiene items

## AUTHORITIES

Ongoing dialogue with the national authorities promoted adherence to IHL provisions and the implementation and ratification of IHL instruments.

Following the resolution of the parliamentary impasse, legislation implementing the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted. The revised penal code was also adopted, pending senate and presidential approval. The code outlawed capital punishment and integrated other human rights and IHL provisions.

Burundi signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December. Two workshops organized by Handicap International for politicians, civil servants and other opinion-makers and supported by the ICRC elicited support for this convention.

Representatives of government ministries learnt about the Ottawa Convention at an ICRC workshop. To comply with the convention's provisions, the national stock of anti-personnel mines was destroyed.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

When violence broke out in April, all belligerents were reminded of their responsibilities and obligations under IHL, including respect for civilians and their property. Ongoing dialogue with the leadership and operational hierarchies of the Burundian military and the Palipehutu-FNL also raised awareness of IHL and ensured safe humanitarian access to victims.

The military and police worked towards integrating IHL into their training procedures, with ICRC support as requested and agreed in 2007. In addition to IHL sessions run by the ICRC, some 90 military IHL instructors, trained by the ICRC between 2006 and 2008, taught army ranks countrywide. For the first time, members of the national intelligence service and the penitentiary police attended training sessions on humanitarian principles and the ICRC.

- ▶ 30 army officers participated in an IHL train-the-trainer course
- ▶ 2,022 senior and other ranking military officers attended IHL sessions
- ▶ 60 army and police officers participated in IHL and human rights law refresher courses
- ▶ 462 administrators and police, prison and intelligence officers introduced to IHL, human rights and ICRC activities
- ▶ 14,613 police officers trained using the ICRC's To Serve and Protect modules

The demobilization of former members of armed groups was monitored by the ICRC, including the living conditions in holding/demobilization camps. Ad hoc distributions of medical and essential household items were made in the camps.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The public learnt about ICRC activities in Burundi from media coverage based on press releases and interviews provided by the ICRC. Events were organized for media and civil society representatives who could then raise wider public awareness of IHL and human rights provisions applicable during armed conflict and other situations of violence.

- ▶ 21 journalists and 91 members of local associations attended 3 IHL workshops
- ▶ 30 religious leaders attended a dissemination session on the ICRC and IHL

To introduce young people to IHL, teachers based part of a new civic education course on material drawn from the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. Universities also received ICRC training and reference material on IHL.

- ▶ over 500 students attended 4 IHL conferences at 4 universities
- ▶ students from 6 universities participated in an IHL competition in Bujumbura
- ▶ 2 professors attended the 4th French-speaking pan-African IHL course in Brazzaville, Congo

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society received ICRC technical, material and financial support in developing and running emergency response operations, often implemented in partnership with the ICRC (see *Civilians*) and other Movement components and in coordination with governmental authorities and other humanitarian actors. For example, in 2008, such capacity-building efforts contributed to the National Society playing a key role in the management of transit camps for Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania.

- 702 volunteers instructed in first aid, emergency water and sanitation provision, stock management and the Safer Access approach
- 4 first-aid instructors attended a regional workshop in Rwanda
- 1 staff member participated in a Health Emergencies in Large Populations course in Benin
- emergency stocks replenished with essential household items and materials for water and sanitation projects

National Society general assembly members, staff and branch volunteers were briefed by the ICRC on the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement. With ICRC support, National Society volunteers were recruited, trained and equipped to take up responsibility for RCM collection and delivery in the provinces of Bubanza, Makamba and Ruyigi in 2009.

ICRC technical and financial input helped reinforce and expand the National Society's network to promote the Fundamental Principles among its volunteers and the wider public. Through press releases, radio broadcasts and events, the National Society ensured media coverage of its activities.

- 47 dissemination focal points trained
- 1,000 volunteers and 100 local councillors briefed on the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities

Meetings between Movement partners enhanced coordination and helped to consolidate the National Society's decentralized operational structure. In particular, newly created provincial branches were supported by the ICRC through office renovations and the provision of stationery and vehicles.



# central african republic

The ICRC opened a delegation in the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2007 in the context of the non-international armed conflict in the north of the country, but has carried out activities in the CAR since 1983. It protects and assists people affected by armed conflict, providing emergency aid, carrying out livelihood-support projects and rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities. It also visits detainees, restores family links for people separated by conflict, promotes IHL among the authorities, armed forces, armed groups and academic institutions, and supports the development of the Central African Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,948 |
| Assistance                          | 8,499 |
| Prevention                          | 1,466 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,021 |
| General                             | -     |

► **12,934**

of which: Overheads **768**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>82%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|   |
|---|
| <b>26</b> expatriates                                 |
| <b>88</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- distributed essential household items to some 126,600 IDPs and seed and tools to more than 77,500 conflict-affected people, including some 63,300 IDPs, to help them regain their self-sufficiency
- together with the Central African Red Cross Society, improved hygiene and water facilities for 180,000 people
- regularly provided 5 prisons with medical supplies to treat inmates
- rehabilitated Am Dafok clinic, providing health care to some 8,400 people in a remote north-eastern region
- enabled detainees and Sudanese refugees to contact relatives through the tracing and RCM network
- to ensure the safety of civilians and aid workers, held IHL presentations for some 1,500 weapon bearers, local authorities and civil society leaders

## CONTEXT

The situation in the Central African Republic (CAR) remained volatile, although an all-inclusive political dialogue launched at year-end raised some hope of resolving the three-year conflict in the north.

Following a decrease in fighting in the north, the government and two armed groups – the Armée populaire pour la restauration de la République et la démocratie (APRD) and the Union des forces démocratiques pour le rassemblement – signed a global peace accord in June. Conflict, however, flared up again from August, mainly in the north-west, involving the armed forces, the APRD and the Front démocratique du peuple centrafricain, a group which had rearmed after being dormant for some months. The chronic problem of banditry, the rise of community self-defence militias and cross-border incursions from Chad added to the lack of security. The conflict, combined with widespread lawlessness, displaced more people, prevented the tens of thousands already displaced from returning home and hampered aid delivery.

As part of international peacekeeping efforts, the European Union Force Chad/CAR was deployed in the north-east from March, while in July the Mission de consolidation de la paix en Centrafrique, under the command of the Economic Community of Central African States, replaced the Multinational Force under the authority of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community.

The all-inclusive political dialogue foreseen by the global peace accord was launched in December, bringing round the table representatives of the government, the main armed groups, the political opposition and civil society. The participants agreed to form a government of national unity, to hold elections in 2010 and to grant an 18-month period for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of members of armed groups.

Following decades of political instability, the CAR continued to suffer from chronic poverty, a lack of public services and infrastructure, high unemployment and recurring social unrest.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total                | Women   | Children  |
|---|-------|---|----------------------|---------|-----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                      |         |           |
| Detainees visited   | 1,586 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                      |         |           |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 118   | Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 18,160  | 29% 47%   |
| Number of visits carried out  | 178   | Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 131,234 | 29% 48%   |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 52    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 77,606  | 30% 50%   |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 180,000 | 32% 43%   |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |       | <b>Health</b>   |                      |         |           |
| RCMs collected  | 336   | Health centres supported                              | <i>Structures</i>    | 1       |           |
| RCMs distributed  | 262   | Consultations   | <i>Patients</i>      | 2,831   |           |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |       | <i>of which curative</i>                              | <i>Patients</i>      |         | 535 1,108 |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 16    | <i>of which ante/post-natal</i>                       | <i>Patients</i>      |         | 290       |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 4     | Immunizations   | <i>Doses</i>         | 681     |           |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>               | 8     |   |                      |         |           |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 4     |   |                      |         |           |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 11    |   |                      |         |           |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 3     |   |                      |         |           |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>               | 8     |   |                      |         |           |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC's new delegation in the CAR pursued efforts to protect and assist people affected by the non-international armed conflict in the north.

The ICRC was in contact with all parties to the conflict both to remind them of their obligations under IHL towards civilians and to obtain the necessary security guarantees for safe access by its staff to people in need. This was complemented by formal presentations on IHL to weapon bearers, local government officials and civil society leaders in the north. The ICRC also lent the government its expertise in drafting laws incorporating IHL and assisted the armed forces in integrating IHL into their training. Encouraging signs of progress included the government's revision of the military penal code to include sanctions for IHL violations and the establishment of an armed forces IHL committee. In the field, delegates documented alleged violations of IHL and, where necessary, made representations to the relevant parties to stop further abuses.

To assist conflict-affected populations in regaining their self-sufficiency, the ICRC provided tens of thousands of people in the north with, as needed, shelter materials, essential household items, food, seed, farm tools and training in techniques to boost crop yields. Residents and IDPs who returned home also received construction materials to repair their conflict-damaged homes. In a pilot project, communities and the ICRC worked together to repair ploughs, which helped revive agricultural production and boost local income.

To reduce health risks, the ICRC, assisted by the Central African Red Cross Society, initiated a water and sanitation programme in the rural north, combining hygiene promotion with the construction or rehabilitation of water points and latrines. A similar, successful programme in the south was handed over to the National Society.

A large number of NGOs had initiated health projects in the north over 2007 and early 2008. The ICRC, therefore, limited its health programme to the rehabilitation of one clinic located in Am Dafok, a remote north-eastern town bordering Sudan. To help

ensure treatment for the weapon-wounded, the delegation conducted a war-surgery seminar for CAR doctors and provided Bangui Community Hospital with medical supplies and a generator for its trauma unit.

The ICRC visited inmates in detention centres countrywide, monitoring the individual cases of security detainees and general conditions and sharing its findings confidentially with the authorities. Delegates stepped in to provide more than 1,000 malnourished inmates with food supplements and to ensure health care for detainees in five prisons.

Relatives dispersed by conflict were able to communicate through the tracing and RCM services. Most messages were relayed between Sudanese refugees and their families in Sudan or Chad.

As well as participating in ICRC assistance activities, the CAR Red Cross received funds, materials and technical back-up to develop its relief, tracing and dissemination programmes. The ICRC also coordinated the activities of Movement partners and kept in close contact with UN agencies and NGOs active in the CAR to maximize impact, identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

## CIVILIANS

## Protecting civilians

Three years of conflict in the north of the CAR had exacted a heavy toll on the civilian population. Villages were attacked and looted, with civilians killed or wounded, forcibly displaced, and harassed or arrested on suspicion of supporting armed groups.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with regular armed forces, armed groups and national and local authorities to promote better knowledge of and respect for IHL. Delegates documented alleged IHL violations and, where necessary, made confidential representations to the parties concerned, emphasizing their obligation to stop the abuses and sanction the perpetrators. In certain areas, the population reported a clear improvement in weapon bearers' behaviour, largely owing to the ICRC's dissemination and monitoring activities. In some cases, a single gesture following ICRC representations,

such as the return of stolen goods or moving a military check-point further away from a village school, had a significant impact on communities.

### Providing emergency aid and livelihood support

Though the exact number was hard to estimate, tens of thousands of people had been driven from their homes by violence linked to the three-year conflict and armed incursions in the north. While sporadic military confrontations caused some villagers to flee during 2008, most IDPs had been displaced for a year or more. The small number who returned home faced the difficult task of rebuilding their lives and livelihoods. Adding to the problems, the mainly agricultural economy had generally declined through years of chronic poverty, lack of development, recurring conflict and widespread lawlessness.

Newly displaced and longer-term IDPs, as well as returnees, received any basic relief goods they lacked to set up or maintain makeshift homes, including shelter materials, mosquito nets to combat malaria, and household items. The most needy families also received one-off food rations.

IDPs with access to land, returnees and near-destitute residents were provided with seed and tools by the ICRC to grow crops again and, where needed, two-month food rations to tide them over until the harvest. Farmers also participated in a training programme on techniques to boost crop yields, co-organized by the ICRC and the Central African Agency for Agricultural Development. In addition, some 2,500 returnees were able to repair their conflict-damaged homes using ICRC construction materials.

In a pilot project, struggling communities, mainly those with returnees, worked with the ICRC to repair disused or conflict-damaged ploughs, which they then rented out to neighbours. This provided much-needed income for families and helped revive farming in the region.

- ▶ 126,624 IDPs (28,043 households) received essential household items
- ▶ 17,012 people (4,282 households), including 8,971 IDPs, received food
- ▶ 77,531 people (16,355 households), including 63,302 IDPs, benefited from agricultural or other micro-economic initiatives

### Improving rural water, sanitation and health facilities

People living in rural areas of the CAR faced serious health risks because of the lack of adequate water and sanitation facilities. In the north, a large number of water points had been vandalized as a result of past and present conflict, and the technicians who maintained water facilities had either fled or could not reach rural areas because of the lack of security.

To improve public health, a water and sanitation programme was initiated in conflict-affected areas of the north, modelled on the ICRC's successful pilot project in the southern prefectures of Basse-Kotto and Mbomou. The Central African water authority, villagers and the ICRC together installed some 1,000 public and household latrines, built or rehabilitated 62 water points, repaired 50 hand pumps and drilled 26 wells. In parallel, 70 Red Cross volunteers, trained and equipped by the ICRC, coached the residents of 259 villages on personal hygiene, ways to keep water clean, and how to dispose of waste. National Society personnel were also trained to maintain water points to ensure that the improved

facilities were sustainable. The programme in the south, initiated in 2005, was handed over to the CAR Red Cross in June, with the ICRC providing supervision until September.

In the remote north-east, some 8,400 residents and IDPs in and around the town of Am Dafok had year-round access to primary health care after the ICRC rehabilitated and equipped the health centre, which reopened in June, and organized training for the Health Ministry personnel. Previously, the population had had to cross into neighbouring Darfur in Sudan for health care, with the associated security risks.

- ▶ 180,000 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

In the 1 ICRC-supported health centre (catchment population: 8,417):

- ▶ 2,831 people given consultations, including 290 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 2,541 attending curative consultations
- ▶ 681 vaccine doses administered (including 234 to children aged five or under and 447 to women of childbearing age)

### Restoring family links

Family members dispersed by conflict were able to restore contact using the tracing and RCM services. Most messages were sent between Sudanese refugees in the UNHCR camp in Sam Ouandja in the north-east and their families in the Darfur region of Sudan and in Chad.

- ▶ 286 RCMs collected from and 246 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 2 from unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 16 people (4 females; 8 minors at the time of disappearance); 4 people located; 11 people (3 females; 8 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The resurgence of conflict in the CAR had led to people being detained in connection with State security. Most security detainees were released after an amnesty came into force on 13 October. Conditions in detention centres mirrored the poverty and hardship faced by the general population. A small number of people were being held by armed groups.

The ICRC regularly visited places of temporary and permanent detention, monitoring the individual cases of security detainees, as well as general conditions and respect for judicial guarantees, according to its standard procedures. Detainees' state of health, in particular, was closely screened. The authorities were informed confidentially of the ICRC's findings and recommendations. Delegates also visited some people held by armed groups.

Inmates were offered the RCM service to contact their families and, if needed, received essential items such as soap, brooms and buckets. Where necessary, the authorities were assisted in improving detention conditions. Using ICRC medical equipment and supplies, pharmacies in five prisons, including the women's facility in Bangui, provided free health care to all inmates, giving a total of 5,878 consultations in 2008. Malnutrition among inmates was endemic. Malnourished detainees received life-saving nutritional



supplements, while a vegetable garden in Bossangoa prison, maintained with the aid of ICRC funds and materials, helped to alleviate malnutrition for the 75 inmates there.

- 1,586 detainees visited, of whom 118 monitored individually (4 minors) and 101 newly registered (4 minors), during 178 visits to 52 places of detention
- 50 RCMs collected from and 16 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 1,148 detainees received nutritional supplements
- 4,610 inmates received hygiene or other essential items

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Medical facilities in the CAR lacked the material and human resources, especially surgeons, to treat wounded fighters and civilians. Bangui Community Hospital had the country's only trauma unit, so was the referral facility for all weapon-wounded.

To boost surgical capacities, 23 doctors working in Bangui or in the north learnt more about treating weapon wounds during a three-day seminar conducted in the capital by the ICRC. Bangui Community Hospital also received medical supplies to treat up to 200 weapon-wounded and a generator to keep emergency services running during the frequent power cuts.

In the north, a number of weapon-wounded were evacuated to medical facilities by the ICRC.

## AUTHORITIES

Government representatives and the ICRC met regularly to discuss humanitarian issues arising from the conflict in the north, as well as the organization's activities.

With ICRC support, the government also took some steps to incorporate IHL provisions into national law. For example, a Red Cross Act, drafted with ICRC and CAR Red Cross input, awaited parliamentary approval, and, under ICRC sponsorship, one representative each from the Defence and Justice ministries participated in an all-Africa course on IHL in Brazzaville, Congo. Parliament was also set to vote on a revised code of military justice incorporating sanctions for IHL violations. On two occasions during 2008, the government arrested CAR armed forces commanders on charges of violating the military code.

Local authorities in the north were also briefed on IHL and updated on ICRC activities.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In the north of the CAR, some 1,200 members of regular armed forces and armed groups participated in ICRC presentations on the basic principles of IHL and the role of the Movement. The aim was both to enhance respect for IHL and to ensure safe access by Movement personnel to people in need. The regional and international forces stationed in the CAR also took part in IHL briefings.

At the national level, a government committee was established in October, by interministerial decree, to oversee the integration of IHL into the CAR armed forces training, doctrine and operations.

As support, the committee received teaching materials and legal advice from the ICRC, as well as help with designing courses. At a two-day ICRC workshop in December, 18 armed forces officers also agreed on ways of standardizing training curricula and operational procedures to incorporate IHL.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Influential sectors of civil society remained important relays for generating support for IHL and ICRC operations.

A core of CAR journalists regularly reported on Movement activities in the north, drawing on the delegation's press releases, newsletters and briefings. Local radio stations also aired spots on the ICRC's mandate and activities, and, to mark International Women's Day, the national television station broadcast an ICRC film on the effects of armed conflict on women. At the international level, visits by the BBC and the British Red Cross to the CAR, facilitated by the ICRC, produced a series of media reports drawing worldwide attention to the plight of civilians in the north.

In parallel, leading community members in the north were briefed on IHL and Movement activities.

Some 160 law students from Bangui University participated in a seminar organized by the delegation on the ICRC's study on customary IHL to promote the topic among academic circles.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The CAR Red Cross continued to receive ICRC funds, materials and technical back-up to develop its activities on behalf of needy communities, especially in conflict-affected areas. During 2008, the National Society was systematically involved in the ICRC's relief distributions and water and sanitation programme, so was gradually building up its assistance capacities. It also reinforced its infrastructure and gained experience in collecting and distributing RCMs.

With ICRC support, the CAR Red Cross:

- trained 104 volunteers in first aid and 20 first-aid instructors in the north
- built new offices in Bangassou in the south and in Kaga Bandoro and Paoua in the north
- trained volunteers to collect and distribute RCMs in UNHCR's camp for Sudanese refugees in Sam Ouandja
- provided the branches of Paoua, Kaga Bandoro and Sam Ouandja with bicycles to facilitate their work
- acquired 2 vehicles and 2 computers to facilitate assistance and dissemination activities

To maximize the impact of aid efforts, Movement partners active in the CAR met at monthly meetings convened by the ICRC to coordinate their activities on behalf of needy populations and in support of the CAR Red Cross.

# chad



The ICRC has been operating in Chad since 1978. It focuses on protecting and assisting people internally displaced, detained or otherwise affected by non-international armed conflict or other situations of violence, or by the spillover of hostilities in the neighbouring Darfur region of Sudan. It provides emergency aid, supports livelihoods, assists in treating people who are wounded, sick or physically disabled, visits detainees and restores family links, primarily for Sudanese refugees. The ICRC also pursues long-standing programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, armed forces and civil society and supports the Red Cross of Chad.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 5,868  |
| Assistance                          | 17,611 |
| Prevention                          | 1,972  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,153  |
| General                             | -      |

► **26,605**

of which: Overheads **1,557**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 95% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 55  | expatriates                                 |
| 209 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- delivered relief goods to some 54,200 IDPs affected by armed conflict or communal clashes
- helped boost the economic security of 92,782 people, including 48,355 IDPs/returnees, through agricultural and veterinary projects and improve access to water for 93,200 people
- assisted in ensuring treatment of the wounded and sick by supporting 4 health centres and deploying mobile surgical teams
- visited inmates in 56 detention centres countrywide, where necessary providing life-saving food and medical care and upgrading sanitation facilities
- enabled thousands of Sudanese refugees to contact relatives through the tracing and RCM services
- helped the Chadian armed forces step up IHL promotion among the rank and file

## CONTEXT

Chad remained mired in poverty and armed conflict.

In early February, a coalition of armed groups launched an unsuccessful assault on N'Djamena, then drew back to their bases in the east. The three-day battle with the army left scores of people dead and hundreds wounded.

Following the attack, eastern Chad was the scene of isolated conflict between government forces and various armed groups. The large-scale communal violence that had marked the region in 2006–07 subsided, but small-scale clashes persisted, fuelled by a mix of ethnic and political grievances, rivalry over dwindling resources and chronic poverty.

Since the resurgence of armed conflict in late 2005, small arms had proliferated in the east, government officials had fled and the authority of traditional leaders had been eroded. Public services were breaking down, and the mainly subsistence economy was severely disrupted. The security situation improved in some areas after the European Union Force (EUFOR) became operational in March, but crime, especially banditry, remained rife, including attacks on aid workers. The UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), whose mandate included training a Chadian police force to help stabilize the east, was still not fully deployed by year-end. Amid widespread lawlessness, few IDPs returned home, leaving some 150,000 people still displaced. Eastern Chad was also hosting around 255,000 Sudanese refugees.

In September, the World Bank cancelled an oil pipeline deal with Chad, saying the government had failed to use the revenues to tackle poverty, as pledged.

Relations between Chad and Sudan remained tense, with both sides trading accusations of supporting armed groups to bring down the other's government.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total  | Women | Children |
|---|-------|---|--------|-------|----------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)  |       | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM                          |        |       |          |
| Detainees visited   | 2,982 |   |        |       |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 325   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                             |        |       |          |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 1     | Food <i>Beneficiaries</i>   | 42,781 | 24%   | 60%      |
| <i>of whom minors</i>   | 16    | Essential household items <i>Beneficiaries</i>                          | 55,916 | 23%   | 57%      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 113   | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 92,782 | 24%   | 60%      |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 56    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects <i>Beneficiaries</i>             | 93,540 | 35%   | 35%      |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS  |       | <i>Health</i>   |        |       |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |       | Health centres supported <i>Structures</i>                              | 4      |       |          |
| RCMs collected  | 6,749 | Consultations <i>Patients</i>   | 7,959  |       |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 6,228 | <i>of which curative</i> <i>Patients</i>                                |        | 1,772 | 2,960    |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |       | <i>of which ante/post-natal</i> <i>Patients</i>                         |        | 1,792 |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 2     | Immunizations <i>Doses</i>  | 28,326 |       |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 31    | WOUNDED AND SICK  |        |       |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 48    | Hospitals supported <i>Structures</i>                                   | 7      |       |          |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 17    | Admissions <i>Patients</i>  | 1,205  | 184   | 202      |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>   | 17    | Operations <i>Operations performed<sup>1</sup></i>                      | 587    |       |          |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |       | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>  |        |       |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 52    | Patients receiving services <i>Patients</i>                             | 3,315  | 569   | 1,374    |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 346   | Prostheses delivered <i>Units</i>                                       | 325    | 45    | 25       |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED  |       | Orthoses delivered <i>Units</i>   | 473    | 88    | 233      |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 10    |   |        |       |          |

1. Only the operations performed by ICRC surgical staff

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC in Chad stayed focused on protecting and assisting people directly affected by armed conflict or communal clashes. Apart from an emergency operation in N'Djamena, assistance activities were concentrated in areas of the east bordering the Darfur region in Sudan. Few organizations were working there because of security constraints.

The delegation regularly reminded all parties to the conflict in Chad of their obligations under IHL and of the ICRC's principles of independence and neutrality. This was crucial for both the protection of civilians and the safe delivery of aid. In parallel, the ICRC and the Chadian armed forces launched initiatives to ensure that all military personnel were trained in IHL. The delegation also reinforced contact with influential sectors of civil society to better understand needs and to build grassroots support for IHL and the ICRC.

Together with the Red Cross of Chad, the ICRC mounted an emergency operation that saved many lives in the aftermath of the attack on N'Djamena. ICRC surgical staff operated on the wounded, while National Society volunteers administered first aid, evacuated the wounded to medical facilities, worked in hospitals, and collected and buried the dead. Delegates also visited people detained in connection with the attack, ensuring the wounded were treated, the malnourished received food, and minors were released and cared for.

In eastern Chad, ICRC assistance aimed to help struggling communities regain their self-sufficiency, thus avoiding aid dependency, an approach which was advocated to other aid organizations. For example, IDPs were assisted, wherever possible, in their host communities, where they were often close to their villages and able to access their own or their hosts' fields to grow food. This favoured their return home, security permitting, rather than risk them

becoming aid dependent in IDP sites. Aid also addressed the needs of nomads and residents alike in order not to fuel community tensions. IDPs, returnees and conflict-affected residents received, as needed, shelter materials, household items, seed, tools and food rations. Communities also benefited from ICRC water, veterinary and income-generating projects and support to four health centres.

To ensure treatment of the weapon-wounded, N'Djamena's Liberty Hospital had the full-time services of a mobile ICRC surgical team, which also operated on the wounded in eastern Chad. In addition, the ICRC provided medical facilities with supplies to care for wounded people, conducted a war-surgery seminar for Chadian medical staff and supported Chad's two physical rehabilitation centres.

Delegates continued to follow the individual cases of security detainees and to monitor general conditions in detention centres countrywide. They stepped in, where necessary, to improve conditions, while impressing upon the authorities the need to assume their responsibilities towards detainees.

Several thousand dispersed family members, mainly Sudanese refugees, contacted relatives through the tracing and RCM services. As a priority, the ICRC worked with the authorities and UN agencies to put children, including those formerly associated with fighting forces, back in contact with their parents and, if appropriate, reunite the families.

The ICRC assisted the Chadian Red Cross in launching a small-scale mine-action programme and developing its first-aid, tracing and dissemination activities. It also coordinated Movement activities in Chad. To further maximize the impact of aid, the delegation worked in coordination with UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest, including through its attendance at Inter-Agency Standing Committee and UN cluster meetings.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

In a confidential dialogue, the authorities, armed forces and armed groups were reminded by the ICRC of their obligations under IHL to protect civilians and wounded and captured fighters. The ICRC underlined its concern about the recruitment of minors into fighting forces and contamination of land by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). It also stressed the need for improved security in eastern Chad to prevent further displacement, allow IDPs to return home and facilitate aid delivery. Delegates documented alleged abuses and, where necessary, made representations to the parties concerned.

### Delivering emergency aid

Some 54,000 people affected by armed conflict or communal clashes in the Assoungouha, Dar Sila and Dar Tama border regions of eastern Chad were able to set up makeshift homes using ICRC shelter materials and household items. The majority were IDPs who had fled communal violence in 2006–07 or been driven from their homes in 2008 when their villages were attacked by armed groups or caught in the crossfire during military confrontations. About 5,000 were refugees from Darfur, who received stop-gap assistance until UNHCR could move them away from the border.

- ▶ 54,233 IDPs (10,798 households) received essential household items
- ▶ 1,055 IDPs (234 households) received a one-off food ration

### Preserving livelihoods

The arrival of IDPs strained the already meagre resources of many host communities, triggering greater economic hardship. The few IDPs who returned home lacked the means to resume their livelihoods, having lost their assets during attacks or in flight.

To restore food production in the Assoungouha and Dar Sila regions, IDPs with access to land, returnees, and needy residents hosting IDPs received seed and tools. The worst-off were also given food rations to survive until the harvest. Initial assessments showed the resulting crop yield was good. To ensure that the aid did not encourage or prolong displacement, IDPs were informed that they would receive the same assistance when, security permitting, they returned home. Struggling families in six villages with IDPs or returnees also began growing vegetables to sell, with the ICRC providing the seed and pedal-operated irrigation pumps.

Nomads were also suffering economically. Communal violence and conflict had blocked their migration routes and disrupted veterinary services, leaving their herds vulnerable to disease. To boost livestock health, 160 pastoralists in the Dar Sila and Dar Zaghawa regions were trained and equipped by the ICRC and the Animal Husbandry Ministry to provide basic veterinary services in their communities. The regional veterinary centre in Goz Beida also received 48,250 doses to vaccinate herds against common diseases.

- ▶ 41,260 IDPs/returnees (8,252 households) received food
- ▶ 92,782 people (18,556 households), including 48,355 IDPs/returnees, benefited from agricultural, veterinary or other micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 48,200 people from distributions of seed and tools
  - 44,192 pastoralists from veterinary training and animal vaccinations

### Providing water and health care

Health and water services in eastern Chad were breaking down, mainly because local authorities had fled volatile areas, leaving public infrastructure unsupported. Communities, therefore, faced serious health risks, especially where IDPs put additional strain on local facilities.

The availability of drinking water improved in border regions after the ICRC upgraded urban supply networks in Adé, Adré and Iriba and trained local technicians to maintain them and, together with farmers and nomads, dug or rehabilitated 16 rural wells.

- ▶ 93,200 people benefited from water projects

In the Assoungouha region, four health centres (in Arkoum, Borota, Goungour and Kawa) offered curative and mother and child care and vaccinations, with the ICRC providing medical supplies and staff training. The Arkoum, Borota and Goungour centres were handed over in July to Pharmaciens Sans Frontières Comité International. In the same region, 95 traditional birth attendants were trained and equipped by the ICRC. This contributed to the safer delivery of babies in villages, and the attendants also encouraged more women to attend clinics.

Following outbreaks of measles and whooping cough, the government, supported by ICRC vehicles and staff, vaccinated some 8,000 children in the Assoungouha and Dar Sila regions.



In the 4 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population: 55,000):

- 7,959 people given consultations, including 1,792 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 6,167 attending curative consultations
- 28,326 vaccine doses administered (including 23,625 to children aged five or under and 4,701 to women of childbearing age)
- 143 patients referred to a second level of care

### Restoring family links

Dispersed family members, mainly Sudanese refugees living in 12 UNHCR camps in eastern Chad, used the tracing and RCM services to communicate with relatives. As a priority, the ICRC worked with UNHCR and UNICEF to put children, including those formerly associated with fighting forces, back in contact with their parents and, where appropriate, reunite the families. Six children whom the French charity Zoe's Ark had attempted to fly out of Chad in October 2007 were reunited with their families in Sudan in April by the ICRC, with the agreement of the Chadian and Sudanese authorities (cases included in figures under *Sudan*, where the tracing requests were registered).

Following the attack on N'Djamena, when telephone services were down, 205 people in the capital used ICRC satellite phones to call worried relatives.

- 6,700 RCMs collected from and 6,221 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 117 from and 108 to unaccompanied/separated children (55 of them from and 62 to demobilized minors); 229 calls facilitated between family members
- new tracing requests registered for 2 people; 31 people located; 48 people (17 females; 17 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 52 unaccompanied/separated children registered (including 42 demobilized children); 346 cases of unaccompanied/separated children (including 20 demobilized children) still being handled

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People continued to be detained by the Chadian authorities in connection with armed conflict. Reflecting the general poverty in Chad, few prisons could afford to provide inmates with health care and regular meals.

The ICRC visited detention centres countrywide, monitoring the individual cases of security detainees and general conditions, in accordance with its standard procedures. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the ICRC's findings and recommendations.

Detainees could contact relatives through RCMs and received any hygiene items they lacked, such as soap, brooms and buckets. Inmates also faced fewer health risks after the ICRC upgraded sanitation facilities in two prisons and stepped in to help several detention centres address medical problems. In N'Djamena, for example, 99 detainees were treated for weapon wounds, with the ICRC organizing medical supplies and hospital care. In another prison housing 120 inmates, the malnutrition rate had halved by year-end after 36 detainees received ICRC nutritional supplements for seven weeks, hygiene items were distributed, and the authorities, following ICRC representations, boosted food rations and instituted regular visits by a nurse.

- 2,982 detainees visited, of whom 325 monitored individually (1 female; 16 minors) and 221 newly registered (1 female; 12 minors), during 113 visits to 56 places of detention
- 49 RCMs collected from and 7 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 10 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- 340 detainees benefited from sanitation projects
- 466 detainees received food
- 1,683 detainees received hygiene items

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating the weapon-wounded

To improve care of the weapon-wounded, N'Djamena's Liberty Hospital received supplies and equipment, as well as funds to treat destitute patients, and had the full-time services of a mobile ICRC surgical team. To further reduce fatalities, 40 civilian and military health professionals from across Chad participated in a two-day war-surgery seminar conducted in N'Djamena by the ICRC.

In eastern Chad, 54 weapon-wounded were treated by the ICRC's surgical team during three missions. Many weapon-wounded were evacuated to a medical facility by ICRC staff, and various hospitals and clinics received ad hoc supplies to cope with influxes of wounded patients.

In the aftermath of the attack on N'Djamena, the surgical team, reinforced by two more ICRC surgical staff, performed 181 operations, while civilian and military medical facilities received emergency supplies to treat the wounded. Chadian Red Cross personnel, supported by ICRC funds and materials, administered first aid to some 950 people, evacuated the wounded to medical facilities, worked round-the-clock in hospitals whose staff had fled, and collected and buried the dead. The operation was coordinated with the Health Ministry and the few other aid agencies that stayed on during the attack.

- 159 wounded people treated in the 3 ICRC-supported health centres/first-aid posts that provided data

In the 2 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- 1,205 surgical patients (including 184 women and 202 children) admitted: of whom 228 weapon-wounded (including 24 women, 27 children, and 10 people injured by mines/ERW)
- 587 surgical operations performed by the ICRC team

### Supporting physical rehabilitation services

People continued to lose limbs in mine/ERW incidents in Chad, especially in the east and north.

Chad's two physical rehabilitation centres, the Kabalaye Centre d'Appareillage et de Rééducation in N'Djamena and the Maison Notre Dame de Paix in Moundou, fitted all patients using ICRC equipment and materials; 184 war amputees had their treatment, accommodation and transport costs covered by the ICRC. Personnel at both centres received on-the-job training for six months from two ICRC experts, and four technicians completed a one-month course in Addis Abba, Ethiopia.

- 3,315 patients (including 569 women and 1,374 children) received services at 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres



- ▶ 159 new patients (including 21 women and 20 children) fitted with prostheses and 305 (including 57 women and 133 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 325 prostheses (including 45 for women, 25 for children and 203 for mine victims), 473 orthoses (including 88 for women, 233 for children and 19 for mine victims), 1,182 crutches and 42 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

With its energies focused on the armed conflict, the government did not view IHL implementation as a priority. Various ministry representatives, however, showed a renewed openness to discussing humanitarian issues following the life-saving and neutral and impartial response of the ICRC and the Chadian Red Cross during the attack on N'Djamena. Chad's ratification of the Hague Convention on Cultural Property in September was a welcome development. The ICRC reaffirmed its offer to assist the government in integrating the provisions of IHL treaties into Chadian law.

National and local authorities were briefed on IHL and updated on ICRC activities. Their support for humanitarian principles and acceptance of the ICRC were crucial for the protection of the civilian population and the safe delivery of aid.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Defence Ministry and Chadian armed forces, with ICRC support, launched a series of IHL briefings for field units and took key steps to further enhance the quality of IHL instruction in officer training schools.

More than 3,500 armed forces personnel based in units in N'Djamena and in the south and east of the country took part in presentations on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. The participants included, for the first time, general staff of the directorates overseeing State security and military instruction. Many such talks were given jointly by Chadian military instructors and ICRC delegates. This contributed to constructive exchanges on humanitarian issues, including the recruitment of child soldiers and the negative impact of insecurity on communities and aid delivery. Armed groups were also briefed on IHL at every opportunity.

In another new initiative, 15 directors of military training institutions agreed, during an ICRC-organized workshop, on ways to standardize IHL curricula. In parallel, two military instructors completed an advanced IHL course in San Remo, while another 53 were trained to teach IHL or refreshed their skills during two courses held in Chad. The Defence Ministry's school for IHL instructors, opened in 2007, and other military training centres also received IHL teaching materials.

EUFOR and the ICRC initiated a dialogue on their respective mandates and activities. The ICRC expressed concern about the blurring of lines between military and political mandates and the delivery of aid, stressing the need to safeguard neutral and independent humanitarian action. EUFOR troops and MINURCAT-trained Chadian police also attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Given the volatile situation in Chad, it was important that the public, especially influential sectors of civil society, supported IHL, including the principle of humanitarian access to conflict victims.

Many people in the east of the country were introduced to IHL and the Movement through interviews and plays broadcast on local radio, Chad's most popular mass communication medium. To encourage more coverage of humanitarian issues, a key radio journalist participated in an IHL workshop organized by the ICRC in Nairobi, Kenya. A travelling exhibition marking 30 years of ICRC activities in Chad also led to various press articles and magazine features on the Movement.

Diverse audiences, including traditional and religious leaders, medical staff, and UN and NGO personnel, were briefed on IHL and its application in Chad.

To reach young people, 650 students at the Adam Barka University of Abéché attended lectures on IHL and the ICRC. The university also received a standard set of reference documents for its IHL courses, and, under ICRC sponsorship, a law lecturer completed an IHL course abroad.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Chadian Red Cross personnel, with ICRC support, showed a high level of dedication and professionalism during the attack on N'Djamena, assisting civilians and injured fighters from both sides in a neutral and impartial manner (see *Wounded and sick*). The National Society, supported by ICRC funds, materials and technical back-up, also launched a small-scale mine-action programme, adopted new statutes in line with Movement standards and made progress in establishing a standard first-aid course.

With ICRC support, the Chadian Red Cross:

- ▶ expanded its infrastructure, building or rehabilitating 3 regional offices and a training centre
- ▶ ensured headquarters and branch offices were adequately equipped
- ▶ trained and equipped personnel in emergency response, tracing and the promotion of the Movement and Fundamental Principles
- ▶ gathered data on mine/ERW contamination and conducted mine-risk education sessions for communities in eastern and central Chad
- ▶ ran a horse-and-cart ambulance service, transporting patients to medical facilities from the isolated Adré border region, and an information and fumigation campaign in the Faya-Largeau region to reduce deaths by scorpion bites

To maximize the impact of aid efforts, the ICRC convened regular meetings with Movement partners in Chad to coordinate their activities and assisted them with security management and logistics.



# Congo

The ICRC has operated in Congo since 1994, first through the Kinshasa regional delegation, and since 1998 as a separate delegation. The ICRC promotes respect for IHL and human rights law by the authorities in their treatment of civilians and detainees. It encourages the inclusion of IHL in the instruction of the armed forces, police and *gendarmérie*. The ICRC provides civilians affected by the conflict with agricultural tools and seeds; improves water, sanitation and health care facilities; and restores contact between separated family members, where necessary reuniting children with their families. It also helps strengthen the operational capacities of the Congolese Red Cross.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 535   |
| Assistance                          | 278   |
| Prevention                          | 1,463 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 471   |
| General                             | -     |

► **2,748**

of which: Overheads **168**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>73%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>5</b>  | expatriates                                 |
| <b>43</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- gradually wound down its operation in Congo, ending its water, shelter and health programmes and closing the Kinkala sub-delegation
- helped shore up the population's food and economic security in the Pool region
- assisted refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in restoring and maintaining family links and, where possible, unaccompanied/separated children in joining their families
- strengthened the National Society's capacity to restore family links and to coach farmers in farming techniques to ensure food security
- jointly with the authorities, organized a seminar for officials from various ministries resulting in a proposal to set up an interministerial committee to address issues identified in the course of ICRC visits to security detainees

## CONTEXT

President Sassou Nguesso's ruling coalition retained its majority as Congo geared up for presidential elections in 2009.

The leader of the National Council of Republicans (CNR), formerly the National Resistance Council, Frédéric Bintsangou, alias Pasteur Ntoumi, disbanded the CNR's armed branch, though he had still not taken up his post in the office of the head of State, tasked with promoting peace and post-conflict reconstruction. The programme to disarm, demobilize and socially reintegrate militias in the Pool region progressed, albeit slowly.

The situation in Pool stabilized somewhat, despite occasional banditry. Better security allowed trade and small stock-breeding to pick up and provided more favourable conditions for businesses and humanitarian and development organizations to move in.

Despite continued external funding, large segments of Congo's population remained mired in poverty, aggravated by soaring prices for basic commodities. In Pointe-Noire, this led to clashes between protesters and police and a number of arrests.

In June, Congo ratified the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total         | Women | Children |
|---|-------|---|---------------|-------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited   | 873   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 6     | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | Beneficiaries | 6,663 | 33% 19%  |
| Number of visits carried out  | 17    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | Beneficiaries | 9,000 | 30% 40%  |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 6     | <i>Health</i>   |               |       |          |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       | Health centres supported                              | Structures    | 8     |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |       | Consultations   | Patients      | 3,036 |          |
| RCMs collected  | 1,141 | of which curative                                     | Patients      |       | 928      |
| RCMs distributed  | 1,041 | of which ante/post-natal                              | Patients      |       | 972      |
| People reunited with their families   | 3     | Immunizations   | Doses         | 3,200 |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 15    |   |               |       |          |
| of whom females   | 8     |   |               |       |          |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance   | 9     |   |               |       |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 10    |   |               |       |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 6     |   |               |       |          |
| of which for females  | 2     |   |               |       |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance  | 2     |   |               |       |          |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |       |   |               |       |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 4     |   |               |       |          |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 3     |   |               |       |          |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 9     |   |               |       |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 5     |   |               |       |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 1     |   |               |       |          |

## ICRC ACTION

Given the progressive stabilization in Congo, the ICRC scaled back its operational presence in the country in preparation for the change of status of the Brazzaville delegation to a mission covered by the Yaoundé regional delegation as of 2009. As security in the Pool region improved, the ICRC encouraged the authorities and other organizations to step in, while phasing out some of its own programmes. As agreed, the Agriculture Ministry started funding efforts to help farmers deal with the mosaic crop virus. ICRC health and water and sanitation programmes ended with the completion of the last two projects in February, and the Kinkala sub-delegation closed in March. Economic security activities, monitoring of water and sanitation programmes, promotion of IHL and cooperation with the National Society carried on from the Brazzaville delegation.

ICRC delegates regularly visited detainees in Brazzaville, Madingou and Pointe-Noire and checked that their conditions of detention and treatment were in line with internationally recognized standards. A seminar organized jointly by the Justice Ministry and the ICRC raised official awareness of the need to address detention issues.

The family-links programme continued for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda and for unaccompanied children seeking reunification with their families.

The ICRC kept up its work with the authorities, the armed forces and other weapon bearers, academic circles and the general public to build an environment conducive to respect for IHL and the Movement.

Through cooperation activities, the ICRC helped strengthen the capacity of the Congolese Red Cross to revitalize its local committees and carry on programmes begun by the ICRC. Support to National Society branches for the collection and distribution of RCMs was extended from Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire to the Bouenza, Cuvette and Niari departments. In the Pool region, the National Society became increasingly involved in the agricultural programme to ensure food security.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with the UN and other organizations, particularly those working in Pool.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

Refugees, particularly in remote areas, used the RCM service provided by the Congolese Red Cross and the ICRC to restore or maintain contact with relatives in their home countries.

As a result of past violence, there were still children, mainly of Congolese and Rwandan origin, looking for their families. Those who had been separated from their parents but were accompanied by a relative received help from UNHCR, while those who were not accompanied by any family members were monitored by the ICRC and reunited with their families where possible. To that end, government authorities, various other partners and the ICRC coordinated their approach.

- 1,111 RCMs collected from and 1,037 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 15 people (8 females; 9 minors); 10 people located; 6 (2 females; 2 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 3 unaccompanied/separated children reunited with their families; 9 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 5 people issued with an ICRC travel document

### Health care

Civilians in Pool had access to better health care as eight health centres continued to receive medicines and other supplies, along with supervision and training, from the ICRC until end-February. They also had access to the Expanded Programme on Immunization, delivered with ICRC logistic support. The health authorities gradually assumed responsibility for the functioning of the centres, carrying out joint supervisory visits with the ICRC. An evaluation of measures taken to make the centres sustainable beyond ICRC assistance, such as a cost-recovery system involving patients' financial participation, showed that the centres were well integrated into the national health system and performing to national standards. To maintain and enhance the quality of services, the authorities were encouraged to take further measures, such as supervising the centres regularly and making health workers public sector employees.

A surgical kit and medical materials to treat up to 100 weapon-wounded were kept on hand by the ICRC in case of an emergency.

In the 8 health centres supported by the ICRC until end-February (average monthly catchment population: 56,000):

- 3,036 people given consultations, including 972 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 2,064 attending curative consultations
- 3,200 vaccine doses administered (including 2,704 to children aged five or under and 496 to women of childbearing age)

### Building food and economic security

Food security was not only undermined by the worldwide food crisis, but also still threatened by the most severe strain of the mosaic crop virus. This prompted the authorities to increase their financial commitment to the ICRC-initiated programme to propagate imported virus-resistant cassava varieties. Local authorities in Pool, with ICRC logistic and material support, propagated another four varieties. At year's end, over 110,000 cuttings were distributed to farmers' associations.

Encouraged by the programme's success, farmers continued to distribute or sell the six high-yielding varieties provided by the ICRC at the end of 2007, thereby increasing their households' income, contributing to their communities' economic security and containing the spread of the mosaic virus. Another 54 farming associations were waiting their turn to receive cuttings.

Members of communities where agricultural projects were running, including residents not directly associated with ICRC projects, participated in training sessions to learn improved farming techniques, including disease control. As borne out by an evaluation, this enabled them not only to diagnose the disease but also to increase their production fourfold.

To make all ten virus-resistant varieties available countrywide, 14 National Society representatives from all the country's departments received training enabling them to spread knowledge about virus control in their respective areas. They went on to plant multiplication fields in each department, using 45,000 cuttings provided by the ICRC.

- 6,179 people (1,234 households) benefited from agricultural initiatives, including:
  - 2,850 people from distributions of cassava cuttings
  - 3,329 people from training sessions on the mosaic virus

### Access to safe drinking water in rural areas

As planned, the ICRC completed its remaining water and sanitation projects in two sites in the Pool region.

- 9,000 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held by the Ministries of Defence, Justice and Security and Public Order in places of temporary and permanent detention in Brazzaville, Madingou and Pointe-Noire continued to receive ICRC visits, including the opportunity to contact their families. Their treatment and detention conditions were monitored, in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures. As part of a confidential dialogue with the ICRC, the authorities were given recommendations for improvements where necessary. At a seminar on detention issues organized jointly by the Justice Ministry and the ICRC, 23 officials from 12 ministries proposed the creation of an interministerial committee to implement recommendations.

Detainees in the Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire prisons improved their nutrition by growing their own food, using seed and farming tools provided by the ICRC. This enabled them to produce more than 8 tonnes of vegetables. In addition, prison libraries were stocked with 125 books.

- 873 detainees visited, of whom 6 monitored individually, during 17 visits to 6 places of detention
- 30 RCMs collected from and 4 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 1 detention certificate issued to a former detainee
- 484 detainees benefited from agricultural projects

## AUTHORITIES

An ICRC conference on humanitarian diplomacy held in Brazzaville in June enabled 23 top officials representing Congo, the African Union, the Pan-African Parliament, the African Parliamentary Union and UN agencies to familiarize themselves with regional humanitarian issues and remedial action.

In November, the Congolese authorities participated in a series of events organized by the ICRC to promote the implementation of IHL treaties, giving priority to the Rome Statute and emblem legislation and acquainting officials with the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Congo moved a step closer to establishing a national IHL committee when the interministerial body in charge finalized the necessary decree after incorporating the Supreme Court's comments.

A draft bill on emblem protection, prepared with input from the National Society and the ICRC, was also finalized and awaiting submission to the Council of Ministers for approval.

At a workshop on IHL and related topics such as customary law and the repression of war crimes, 16 magistrates of the Supreme Court and Brazzaville courts gained a better understanding of their part in driving the implementation process. The Court's library received essential IHL documentation. In addition, more than 180 Foreign Ministry officials were briefed on the ICRC and IHL principles.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Although the armed forces permanent committee on IHL and human rights integration could still not be mobilized to convene, the joint efforts of some committee members and the ICRC resulted in the publication of a soldiers' training manual adapted to the Congolese context. The manual was then used by Congo's military training centres.

A joint review by a committee representative and the ICRC concluded that IHL was well integrated into training and that Congo had enough qualified instructors to keep IHL/human rights training going. The ICRC programme ended with a number of IHL training events, in the course of which eight ICRC-trained senior officers and legal advisers cooperated on revising IHL instruction programmes with the aim of creating an instructor's manual.

To develop IHL/human rights instruction for *gendarmerie* and police, representatives of training establishments worked together with the security forces' permanent committee on IHL/human rights integration. With ICRC support, they drew up a plan of action and designed a manual for young recruits.

- 75 army, police and *gendarmerie* officers and instructors took part in IHL/human rights train-the-trainer and refresher courses
- 1,216 army, *gendarmerie* and police members briefed on IHL and/or human rights and the ICRC

In the Pool region, the epicentre of Congo's past crisis, more than 1,000 former opposition fighters and villagers watched a new ICRC play raising awareness of humanitarian principles and action.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The public was informed through media reports about ICRC activities in Congo in 2007–08 following a press conference attended by 25 journalists from 12 newspapers and TV stations. Press releases and other communications issued to some 20 newspapers also contributed to better coverage of Red Cross activities in the press. An art exhibition on humanitarian themes, jointly organized by the National Society and the ICRC, attracted some 1,500 visitors.

At an ICRC/UNHCR workshop, 24 representatives of human rights NGOs discussed the protection of refugees and IDPs and formulated recommendations regarding IHL treaties Congo had yet to ratify and implement.

Six student teams from Congo's three universities where IHL was taught tested their skills in a national IHL moot court competition, organized with ICRC support to select a team for the 2009 regional competition. Lecturers from Congo and the region enhanced their IHL knowledge at a number of other events organized by the ICRC.

Youngsters in the Pool region studied humanitarian principles using an educational comic book entitled *The battle of the villages*. Their teachers had attended ICRC training workshops on IHL and the methodology. In subsequent evaluations, the students showed their understanding of IHL basics.

- 22 lecturers from 15 countries attended the 4th French-speaking pan-African IHL course held in Brazzaville
- 10 lecturers and 50 law students from Congo participated in a conference on customary IHL
- 2,025 students taught by 43 ICRC-trained teachers acquired knowledge of humanitarian principles

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The newly elected National Society leadership began a process of restructuring to enhance its effectiveness and public image, with salary support and management training provided by the ICRC.

The Congolese Red Cross became involved in the mosaic virus control campaign (see *Civilians*). It strengthened its emergency response capacity, setting up first-aid teams at departmental level with the help of its national trainers. Of 140 volunteers trained in dissemination, 6 went on to present Red Cross radio broadcasts. Through its RCM service, the National Society enabled refugees from Rwanda and the DRC to contact their families. The ICRC contributed training and financial, material and logistic support to all these activities.





# Congo, democratic republic of the

The ICRC opened a permanent delegation in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 1978. It ensures that displaced people and residents affected by armed conflict and violence have the means to survive and become self-sufficient and that the wounded and sick receive adequate health care. It works to restore contact between separated family members – where necessary and possible, reuniting children with their families – and supports the development of the National Society. It also promotes respect for the basic rules of IHL and human rights law by the authorities in their treatment of civilians and detainees.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 10,059 |
| Assistance                          | 32,390 |
| Prevention                          | 3,478  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 3,906  |
| General                             | -      |

► **49,832**

of which: Overheads **2,869**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>109%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>70</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>555</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- stepped up its work, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to respond to the protection and assistance needs of civilians in North and South Kivu
- supplied food to more than 202,000 IDPs/returnees, water to more than 129,000 on a daily basis and seed/tools to more than 81,000
- improved urban and rural water supply systems serving more than 472,000 people
- supported 34 community health centres, 22 hospitals and 5 physical rehabilitation centres as well as 34 counselling centres for victims of sexual violence
- ran regular radio spots and poster and photo campaigns to help locate people sought by relatives, as part of Red Cross family-links activities in North and South Kivu
- visited individuals detained in relation to the conflict, including some held by an armed group, to monitor their conditions and treatment

## CONTEXT

The humanitarian and security situation in North and South Kivu (hereafter the Kivus) deteriorated considerably in 2008. Despite the peace process initiated in January, armed confrontations persisted and full-blown hostilities resumed in late August between the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Congrès national de la défense du peuple (CNDP). After reaching the gates of Goma, the CNDP declared a ceasefire in late October, although clashes continued between the many armed groups operating in the region. Numerous violations of IHL against civilians by armed forces and groups were reported. Extensive population displacement, particularly after August, left many people dependent on aid. Many others were in areas too insecure for humanitarian agencies to reach.

During the second half of the year, parts of Province Orientale saw a rise in violent confrontations, displacement and attacks on civilians, provoked by the presence of the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). A military campaign against LRA bases, launched in December by Uganda with support from the DRC and Southern Sudan (see *Uganda*), compounded the plight of civilians in the region.

In February, isolated incidents of violence erupted between members of the political/religious organization Bundu dia Kongo and State security forces in Bas-Congo.

Other challenges facing the DRC included military and security sector reform, the demobilization of former weapon bearers, uneven development and rising fuel, food and commodity prices.

Much regional and international attention was given to the situation in the DRC, particularly the conflict in the Kivus. In December, the governments of the DRC and Rwanda came to an agreement on joint action to address the presence of the Forces démocratiques de la libération du Rwanda (FDLR) in the Kivus. In parallel, rounds of talks between the DRC government and the CNDP were facilitated by the UN and the African Union. The UN Security Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) until 31 December 2009. It also agreed to increase MONUC's force-strength by an additional 3,000 peacekeepers, although at year-end it remained at 17,000.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |  | Total                     | Women         | Children |       |        |
|--|--|--|---------------------------|---------------|----------|-------|--------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)   |  | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM     |                           |               |          |       |        |
| Detainees visited  | 9,081  | Economic security, water and habitat               |                           |               |          |       |        |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 957  | Food   | Beneficiaries             | 203,800       | 40%      | 30%   |        |
|  | of whom females                                  | 21   |                           |               |          |       |        |
|  | of whom minors                                   | 73   | Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 113,064  | 35%   | 24%    |
| Number of visits carried out   | 99   | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries             | 128,024       | 40%      | 30%   |        |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 32   | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | Beneficiaries             | 631,135       | 30%      | 40%   |        |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |  | Health   |                           |               |          |       |        |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |  | Health centres supported                           | Structures                | 34            |          |       |        |
| RCMs collected   | 50,270   | Consultations                                      | Patients                  | 48,390        |          |       |        |
| RCMs distributed   | 41,666   |  | of which curative         | Patients      |          | 8,900 | 21,252 |
| People reunited with their families  | 358  |  | of which ante/post-natal  | Patients      |          | 9,157 | 5,441  |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |  | Immunizations                                      | Doses                     | 28,882        |          |       |        |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 495  | WOUNDED AND SICK                                   |                           |               |          |       |        |
|  | of whom females                                  | Hospitals supported                                | Structures                | 22            |          |       |        |
|  | of whom minors at the time of disappearance      | Admissions   | Patients                  | 28,682        | 16,144   |       | 8,267  |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 406  | Operations   | Operations performed      | 5,298         |          |       |        |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 316  | Physical rehabilitation                            |                           |               |          |       |        |
|  | of which for females                             | Patients receiving services                        | Patients                  | 674           | 100      |       | 76     |
|  | of which for minors at the time of disappearance | Prostheses delivered                               | Units                     | 589           | 86       |       | 65     |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |  | Orthoses delivered                                 | Units                     | 129           | 18       |       | 16     |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 827  |  |                           |               |          |       |        |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 358  |  |                           |               |          |       |        |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008   | 603  |  |                           |               |          |       |        |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |  |  |                           |               |          |       |        |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued  | 39   |  |                           |               |          |       |        |

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, the ICRC delegation in the DRC concentrated on supporting civilians suffering the effects of recurring violence in the Kivus. In March, the ICRC appealed for additional financial resources for this work and, following the renewed hostilities in August, increased its relief activities implemented in partnership with the Red Cross Society of the DRC in the districts of Goma, Kalehe, Lubero, Masisi and Rutshuru. To facilitate access to Lubero, an ICRC office was opened in Beni. Ituri, where six ICRC staff members were killed in 2001, remained off-limits.

Contacts with the parties to the non-international armed conflict in the Kivus, including with the relevant authorities, were pivotal in obtaining access to victims and security clearances for relief teams. Following the renewed fighting, the ICRC issued a public appeal to all belligerents to protect civilians and people no longer taking part in hostilities. It also continued its confidential dialogue with weapon bearers, where necessary and possible, regarding alleged violations of IHL. In addition, it briefed armed forces and groups on IHL and raised local and national awareness of Red Cross operations.

The ICRC supplied emergency relief, including food and water, to IDPs and residents affected by violence in the Kivus. To help communities repair damaged infrastructure and cope with influxes of IDPs, it upgraded rural and urban water supply systems, in coordination with the authorities where possible. Seed and tools, sometimes distributed along with food rations, helped people restore livelihoods disrupted by the conflict. In South Kivu and Katanga, where the situation was more stable, farming and fishing associations received support to resume production.

ICRC material and technical input that included the support of an ICRC surgical team helped hospitals and health and physical rehabilitation centres treat conflict-affected people. With National Society/ICRC backing, counselling centres continued to provide medical, psychological and social support to victims of sexual violence.

Family-links services provided by the ICRC and the National Society helped separated relatives restore and maintain contact. Where appropriate, unaccompanied children, including demobilized children, were reunited with their families. Local radio broadcasts and poster and photo displays enhanced these efforts following the renewed hostilities in the Kivus.

The ICRC visited and monitored the conditions and treatment of individuals detained in relation to the conflict or for other security reasons, including some people held by the CNDP. Where needed, the living conditions of detainees in Katanga, Kinshasa and the Kivus were improved through the provision of medicine and hygiene items and the construction of latrines.

The ICRC provided technical and financial support to the National Society's operations and boosted its capacities and processes.

ICRC coordination with humanitarian actors on the ground, while preserving its principles of independence and neutrality, aimed to maximize impact, respond to unmet needs and avoid duplication.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

A public appeal to all belligerents to protect civilians (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*) from violations of IHL/human rights law, including murder, sexual violence, forced displacement, the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, looting and the destruction of property, was made by the ICRC. Confidential dialogue with weapon bearers also urged that respect be afforded to the civilian population and was instrumental in ensuring safe access to conflict-affected civilians, sharing information about humanitarian needs and action and reiterating the independent, impartial and neutral role of the Red Cross.

### Providing emergency relief and economic security

IDPs in the Kivus and, to a lesser extent, in Bas-Congo, received food and essential household items from the National Society and the ICRC to meet immediate needs and reduce the burden on host families. From late August, emergency assistance was stepped up to people displaced, some of them multiple times, as well as residents affected by violence.

To help them re-establish sustainable livelihoods, communities in the Kivus affected by violence, looting and displacement received seed and tools, in some cases coupled with food rations. Farming and fishing associations in South Kivu and Katanga also received supplies, equipment and training so that people were able to feed their families and supplement their income and local markets were stocked with fresh produce. Micro-economic initiatives also helped vulnerable people, such as the physically disabled and victims of sexual violence, earn a living.

- 202,720 IDPs/returnees (40,539 households) received food
- 106,325 people (21,265 households), including 97,225 IDPs, received essential household items
- 128,024 people (25,533 households) benefited from agricultural and other micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 81,415 IDPs/returnees from distributions of seed and tools
  - 30,905 people from distributions of mosaic-resistant manioc cuttings and cash-crop seed

### Improving water and sanitation

In the Kivus, IDPs living in situations with inadequate infrastructure, such as overcrowded camps or ill-equipped public buildings, had their daily water needs met through water-trucking undertaken by the National Society and the ICRC.

Residents and IDPs in Katanga and the Kivus faced fewer health risks thanks to the installation, rehabilitation or maintenance of rural and urban water facilities by the ICRC. Water systems were installed or rehabilitated in 14 villages and similar work was ongoing in five more. In addition, the urban water and electricity boards received ICRC logistical and technical support to improve water supply infrastructure in three towns.

Preparations got underway for hygiene promotion sessions to be delivered to communities in South Kivu by the Swedish and DRC Red Cross Societies in partnership with the ICRC.

- 624,190 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 129,301 people from emergency water provision
  - 147,704 people from improved access to water supply in rural areas
  - 325,002 people from repairs to urban water and electricity networks

### Strengthening health care

The violence in North Kivu limited people's access to health care and placed a strain on health facilities' financial, material and human resources. To address these problems, community health centres in the Kivus received medicines and supplies from the ICRC. Residents and IDPs attending ICRC-supported centres that charged for treatment had their costs reimbursed by the ICRC. The Ministry of Health received logistical support to safely transport drugs and vaccines and, when necessary, used ICRC vehicles for its immunization campaigns.

In the 34 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 61,000):

- 48,390 people given consultations, including 14,598 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 33,792 attending curative consultations
- 28,882 vaccine doses administered (including 20,946 to children aged five or under and 2,863 to women of childbearing age)
- 1,247 patients referred to a second level of care
- 542 health education sessions held

### Supporting victims of sexual violence

Allegations of rape and other forms of sexual violence increased along with the fighting in North Kivu. To address victims' physical, psychological and social needs, specialized counselling centres received material and technical support from the ICRC. Where necessary, patients were referred to local health facilities. Some victims took part in micro-economic initiatives to generate income and increase their self-sufficiency. To reduce stigma and discrimination, local populations were made aware of the issue of sexual violence through Red Cross information campaigns.

- 1,675 victims of sexual violence counselled at 34 ICRC-supported centres
- 1,536 patients referred to local health facilities; 485 patients received post-exposure prophylaxis within 72 hours of being raped
- 177 staff trained in the provision of psychological and social support

### Restoring family links

Families dispersed across borders and within the country, particularly those displaced in North Kivu, restored and maintained contact through the tracing and RCM network run by the National Society and the ICRC. Unaccompanied children, including demobilized children, were registered and, where appropriate, reunited with their relatives. From August, local radio broadcasts and poster or photo displays in IDP camps helped to facilitate such reunifications. For children whose families could not be found or who could not be reunited with their families, suitable follow-up arrangements were sought in coordination with other organizations working in this field.

- 48,467 RCMs collected from and 40,488 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 749 from and 499 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 495 people (240 females; 308 minors at the time of disappearance); 406 people located; 316 people (162 females; 197 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

- ▶ 827 unaccompanied/separated children registered (including 257 demobilized children); 358 reunited with their families; 603 cases of unaccompanied/separated children (including 171 demobilized children) still being handled
- ▶ 273 names of people sought by their relatives broadcast or displayed on posters

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held by the DRC authorities in places of permanent and temporary detention in relation to ongoing or past conflicts or for reasons of national security, including those detained following the disturbances in Bas-Congo in February, were visited and monitored individually by ICRC delegates, according to the organization's standard procedures.

Detainees' general living conditions and treatment were checked on, with particular attention paid to the situation of women and children. To ensure compliance with international law and standards, as well as national legislation, a confidential report summarizing the ICRC's findings and recommendations was presented to the authorities, and ad hoc representations were made following prison visits.

Detainees in some CNDP-run places of detention were visited by the ICRC. Dialogue continued with the CNDP and other armed groups to facilitate the ICRC's access to all detainees.

- ▶ government: 9,061 detainees visited, of whom 937 monitored individually (21 females; 68 minors) and 390 newly registered (1 female; 58 minors), during 93 visits to 29 places of detention
- ▶ armed group: 20 detainees visited, monitored individually and newly registered (5 minors), during 6 visits to 3 places of detention
- ▶ 1,803 RCMs collected from and 1,178 RCMs distributed to detainees; 7 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- ▶ 39 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

In prisons in Kinshasa and the Kivus, latrines were constructed and material and logistical support provided for cleaning and waste disposal. Detainees in Katanga, Kinshasa and the Kivus also received monthly rations of soap, as well as blankets and buckets.

Five prison dispensaries in Katanga, Kinshasa and the Kivus received technical support and medical supplies from the ICRC to support detainee health care. To address high levels of malnutrition in some of the prisons monitored by the ICRC, vulnerable detainees were given food. In Goma, where the renewed fighting had put further strain on the detaining administration's ability to provide adequate food, detainees' diets were supplemented by the ICRC. In Katanga, ICRC provisions and technical support helped detainees produce fresh food to supplement their diets.

- ▶ 5,779 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects
- ▶ 6,739 detainees received essential household or hygiene items
- ▶ 1,080 detainees received food

## WOUNDED AND SICK

To facilitate access to emergency surgery, 22 hospitals in the Kivus received ICRC medical equipment and drugs. An ICRC surgical team, reinforced by extra personnel in September, operated on patients in the Kivus and supported local medical personnel. Staff at four hospitals received regular training in governance, finance and stock management. Panzi hospital, Bukavu, was equipped to treat osteomyelitis autonomously as a result of ICRC material, technical and financial support.

In the 17 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 28,682 patients (including 16,144 women and 8,267 children) admitted: of whom 502 weapon-wounded (including 59 women, 42 children, and 1 person injured by mines or explosive remnants of war), 4,022 other surgical cases, and 13,242 medical and 10,916 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- ▶ 5,298 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 52,214 outpatients given consultations, including 44,259 attending surgical or medical consultations and 7,955 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations

Physically disabled people received treatment, paid for by the ICRC, at physical rehabilitation centres in Kasai Oriental, Kinshasa and the Kivus. Some patients benefited from micro-economic initiatives to boost their livelihoods.

- ▶ 674 patients (including 100 women and 76 children) received services at 5 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 155 new patients (including 31 women and 11 children) fitted with prostheses and 38 (including 8 women and 3 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 589 prostheses (including 86 for women, 65 for children and 93 for mine victims), 129 orthoses (including 18 for women, 16 for children and 11 for mine victims), 557 crutches and 15 wheelchairs delivered

Various ICRC-supported hospitals, as well as community health and counselling centres (see *Civilians*), benefited from the rehabilitation of infrastructure.

- ▶ health facilities (average number of consultations per day: 1,166) benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

## AUTHORITIES

Contacts forged with parliamentarians focused on increasing understanding of the ICRC's mandate and of State obligations under IHL, including the protection of civilians and medical staff in conflict zones. Dissemination sessions on these issues were held for provincial representatives in Bas-Congo, Province Orientale and South Kivu.

In partnership with the National Society and various coalitions, the ICRC promoted the national implementation of Additional Protocol III, other IHL provisions protecting the emblem, the Rome Statute and the Ottawa Convention. The National Assembly debated the draft law on the Ottawa Convention, and events were organized to mark International Day for Mine Awareness.



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

A regular, confidential dialogue was developed with weapon bearers to increase their understanding of and respect for IHL provisions, including those protecting civilians, and to secure safe access to civilians for Red Cross workers. In response to the fighting in the Kivus, the ICRC issued a public appeal to all belligerents to spare civilians and people wounded or captured during the fighting, in accordance with IHL.

As conditions were not conducive to the systematic integration of IHL into military and police doctrine, training and operations, ongoing work focused on facilitating training sessions on IHL, international human rights law and the ICRC for army and security personnel at all levels, including for new brigades integrating former members of armed groups. Such sessions, including those led by a group of DRC armed force instructors previously trained by the ICRC, were held for:

- 1,323 military personnel in Katanga
- 1,808 army officers/other ranks and police officers in Kinshasa and Bas-Congo
- 1,863 military and police officers and members of the Republican Guard in the Kivus
- 1,181 army officers and police personnel in Province Orientale
- 690 military personnel and police officers in Kasai Oriental

As a result of contacts developed with armed groups, especially those in the Kivus, 1,100 members of the CNDP, the FDLR and various Mayi-Mayi groups attended dissemination sessions on basic humanitarian principles and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Some 207 MONUC officers also attended an information session on IHL and the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The public learnt about ICRC activities and humanitarian principles through media coverage, aided by the publication of newsletters, articles and press releases. In cooperation with the National Society, a weekly radio programme was broadcast in Goma and Kinshasa, and a club for journalists was held each month in Kinshasa. In addition, students, academics and other civil society actors requested IHL input into their activities from the ICRC.

With ICRC help, journalists and photographers visited the Kivus to raise national and international awareness of the situation in the region. Local people living there learnt about IHL through radio adverts, a poster campaign and dissemination sessions for community and religious leaders, students and journalists. These actions also helped to involve local communities in Red Cross protection and assistance activities, thus increasing their effectiveness.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

As well as working closely with the ICRC on joint assistance activities (see *Civilians*), the DRC Red Cross received material, technical and financial support to reinforce its own emergency operations in response to the conflict in the Kivus, as well as to violence in Bas-Congo and Province Orientale, a plane crash in Goma and earthquakes in Bukavu and Kindu. Such actions included:

- the assessment of needs and the organization of emergency relief distributions
- the provision of first aid, the transfer of wounded people to medical facilities and the management of human remains
- water and sanitation interventions, including hygiene campaigns, for IDPs and affected communities

To develop emergency preparedness, 26 first-aid courses and 13 workshops were held, with ICRC financial support, for community volunteers and emergency response team leaders respectively. In particular, National Society staff in the Kivus learnt about ensuring safety during assistance activities.

To reinforce the Red Cross tracing and RCM network (see *Civilians*), technical and financial support continued for the work and staff of provincial National Society tracing offices, including the organization of refresher courses for volunteers. With ICRC technical input, a 10-year development plan was elaborated to increase the autonomy of the National Society's tracing services.

With ICRC technical and financial input, the National Society produced documents to promote Red Cross activities and humanitarian principles among Red Cross staff and volunteers and among the general public, and held 13 internal and 44 external dissemination sessions.

To improve governance, accountability and effectiveness, the National Society received ICRC support for its restructuring process, for the travel, training and payment of personnel, for the organization of statutory meetings and for the construction of essential infrastructure.

The National Society and the ICRC coordinated their activities with other Movement partners and with local and international humanitarian actors working in the DRC.





# eritrea

The ICRC opened a delegation in Eritrea in 1998 in the context of the international armed conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea and is responding to the needs remaining from the two-year war. Its priority is to protect and assist the population displaced, detained or otherwise affected by the conflict, ensuring compliance with IHL in respect of any persons still protected by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The ICRC also supports the development of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,961 |
| Assistance                          | 7,034 |
| Prevention                          | 519   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 113   |
| General                             | -     |

► **9,626**

of which: Overheads **588**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>89%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>16</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>101</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- implemented water and livelihood-support projects benefiting thousands of residents and former IDPs affected by past conflict
- had to scale back or suspend assistance programmes from June, mainly because of fuel restrictions
- assisted in the voluntary repatriation of 1,766 people across the closed Ethiopia-Eritrea border
- monitored the individual cases of detainees of Ethiopian origin, including POWs
- provided staff, training and supplies to help rebuild Eritrea's medical services
- assisted the Red Cross Society of Eritrea in resuming its activities

## CONTEXT

The border issue between Eritrea and Ethiopia remained unresolved. This stalled the physical pegging out of their frontier for the sixth consecutive year following the 2002 ruling by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in The Hague delimiting the internationally recognized border.

By a unanimous vote, the UN Security Council terminated the mandate of its Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) on 31 July. UNMEE's some 1,700 peacekeepers had, however, already been withdrawn by March from the Temporary Security Zone (the border buffer zone on Eritrean territory), leaving only a skeleton staff in Asmara and Addis Ababa. The early withdrawal had followed Eritrea's announcement in late 2007 that, for technical reasons, it could no longer supply fuel to UNMEE. The UN stressed that, while UNMEE's mandate had been terminated, Eritrea and Ethiopia must still comply with the Algiers Agreement, which ended their 1998–2000 international armed conflict. Both countries maintained a significant military presence along the border: there were several skirmishes, which both governments played down.

At the government's initiative, all but a small number of IDPs had returned to their homes or been resettled along the southern border between 2005–07. Border communities, however, faced a host of obstacles to economic recovery, including limited public services, mine infestation, and the insecurity and loss of trade with Ethiopia caused by the border stalemate.

The Eritrean government pursued its stated policy of promoting self-reliance, preferring, wherever possible, to plan and implement internationally funded aid programmes itself.

In another development, the armed forces of Djibouti and Eritrea clashed for two days in June along their mutual border. The international community called on both sides to show restraint and re-establish dialogue.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total                | Women   | Children |
|---|-------|---|----------------------|---------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                      |         |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 492   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                      |         |          |
| of whom females   | 103   | Food  | Beneficiaries        | 170     | 30% 11%  |
| of whom minors  | 29    | Essential household items                             | Beneficiaries        | 18,838  | 26% 43%  |
| Number of visits carried out  | 115   | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | Beneficiaries        | 179,855 | 31% 58%  |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 49    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | Beneficiaries        | 23,889  | 29% 51%  |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK<sup>1</sup></b>                   |                      |         |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |       | Hospitals supported                                   | Structures           | 3       |          |
| RCMs collected  | 5,750 | Admissions  | Patients             | 269     | 66 76    |
| RCMs distributed  | 8,339 | Operations  | Operations performed | 278     |          |
| People reunited with their families   | 60    |   |                      |         |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |       |   |                      |         |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 25    |   |                      |         |          |
| of whom females   | 6     |   |                      |         |          |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance   | 2     |   |                      |         |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 45    |   |                      |         |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 209   |   |                      |         |          |
| of which for females  | 60    |   |                      |         |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance  | 53    |   |                      |         |          |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |       |   |                      |         |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 22    |   |                      |         |          |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 21    |   |                      |         |          |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 3     |   |                      |         |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |   |                      |         |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 61    |   |                      |         |          |

1. Figures refer only to surgical patients treated and operations performed under ICRC supervision

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC, in accordance with its mandate, focused on meeting the needs of people still affected by the 1998–2000 conflict with Ethiopia. It worked mainly in the south (Debub and Gash Barka), the area of Eritrea worst affected by the conflict and the ongoing border tensions. It was the only international aid agency with a permanent presence in Gash Barka. Activities were implemented in cooperation with the authorities and coordinated with the few international organizations active in Eritrea.

The delegation concentrated on helping border communities, especially those with former IDPs, to improve their access to clean drinking water and their overall economic situation. The majority of beneficiaries were households headed by women, as many men had been killed or disabled during the war or were fulfilling their national service requirement. Livelihood-support projects included hiring tractors to plough fields, treating livestock against parasites and providing assets such as goats, donkeys, seed and treadle-operated irrigation pumps to generate food and income. Most water projects involved installing solar-powered systems, which needed no fuel. Recent returnees and resettled families also received shelter and essential household items and, if needed, materials and funds to construct permanent homes.

To help Eritrea rebuild its medical services, the ICRC maintained its surgical training programme in three Gash Barka hospitals and conducted trauma management and surgical courses for medical personnel from across Eritrea.

Diesel fuel restrictions in Eritrea, combined with the departure of UNMEE and its mine-risk assessment capacity, hampered the implementation of assistance programmes. The delegation had to

suspend water projects from June and the surgical training programme from August and scale back livelihood-support initiatives. Despite an ongoing dialogue with the authorities, the fuel problem had yet to be resolved at year-end. The ICRC rented petrol-driven vehicles to complete some projects.

Delegates followed the situation along the border, ready to document alleged incidents of violence against civilians. They also visited detainees of Ethiopian origin, including POWs captured during a late-2007 border skirmish, and monitored the situation of the Ethiopian community in Eritrea. The aim was to ensure that the rights of those people were respected, in accordance with IHL. The ICRC was awaiting a reply to its request for any information that Eritrea had on the fate or whereabouts of 19 Djiboutian soldiers reported missing in action after the June border conflict.

Following UNMEE's withdrawal, Eritrea and Ethiopia both gave the ICRC the green light to maintain its programme to repatriate people in Eritrea who wished to return to Ethiopia, and vice versa. This was the only legal means for such people to cross the closed border. Relatives separated by the border continued to be able to exchange news through the tracing and RCM services.

Small-scale programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, armed forces and civil society progressed as planned.

In April, the government lifted its suspension of the activities of the Red Cross Society of Eritrea, in effect since February 2007, following an investigation into the Society's internal affairs. With ICRC support, the Society resumed responsibility for tracing and RCM services, which the ICRC had taken over temporarily, and began building up its first-aid and communication programmes.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

ICRC delegates followed the situation in the border region, maintaining relations with the Eritrean authorities and UNMEE, and stood ready to document alleged incidents of violence against civilians.

Delegates also monitored the situation of civilians of Ethiopian origin living in Eritrea and made any necessary representations on their behalf to the relevant authorities. With ICRC financial assistance, 166 such people on low incomes obtained or renewed their Eritrean residence permits. The ICRC had had to suspend this type of aid in 2006 because of new government procedures but received the authorities' approval to reinstate it in 2008.

### Providing clean water

Water shortages posed serious health risks for remote rural communities along the southern border. Many villagers, usually women and children, had to walk for hours to reach shallow wells or ponds, which were often contaminated or had dried up after the rainy season was over.

To provide clean water at a reasonable distance, the authorities and the ICRC together identified water sources, then the ICRC drilled the boreholes, installed solar-powered pumps and worked alongside the villagers to build the connecting pipelines and fountains. Each system was designed to provide 20 litres of water a day per inhabitant. Given the fuel shortages and villagers' limited resources, the use of solar power helped ensure that the water supply was sustainable. The communities also set up water committees, which were trained by the ICRC to maintain the systems and promote hygiene.

After four weeks of ICRC training, 39 employees of Eritrea's Water Resources Department were also better able to maintain, upgrade and design water systems countrywide by using two software packages: EPANET, created by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and a geographic information system, commonly known as GIS.

- 21,139 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

### Helping former IDPs set up home

Displaced families who returned to their villages or were resettled in southern border regions received tarpaulins, rope, blankets, jerrycans and soap from the ICRC to help them set up home. The assistance was coordinated with the authorities, UNDP, which financed the families' transport, and UNICEF, which rehabilitated health posts and schools.

In areas with insufficient housing, resettled families constructed their own homes, as well as fuel-efficient stoves, with the ICRC providing the materials, technical advice and funds to hire carpenters and masons. The stove, which was designed by Eritrea's Energy Research Training Centre, burnt less firewood than the traditional model and also ran on other types of fuel such as dung and leaves, so cut down on deforestation. It also produced less smoke, which reduced health risks.

- 13,004 people (3,075 households), including 10,159 IDPs, received essential household items
- 2,750 people benefited from support to build 550 houses

### Boosting economic security in southern border regions

To boost food security, struggling families in the Debub region, most of them headed by women, had their fields ploughed ahead of the planting season by tractors hired by the ICRC. The families lacked the farm equipment, fuel and/or manpower to do the work, so would otherwise have left their land fallow, thereby reducing their already meagre resources. After the ploughing, the families planted crops or rented their fields to other farmers, which increased their income. Crops suffered, however, from poor rainfall, which reduced the impact of the ploughing initiative.

To improve livestock health and productivity, animals were inoculated against parasites by the ICRC, in cooperation with the authorities. With healthier animals, households were in a better position to survive the droughts which regularly hit East Africa.

Low-income families were also able to improve their economic situation after receiving donkeys or goats (one donkey or five goats per household) or seed, tools and a treadle-operated irrigation pump to grow vegetables. The donkeys saved women and girls both time and energy fetching water. They were also used to collect and carry crops, firewood and fodder and take produce to market to sell or barter. The goats provided meat and milk, could be sold for cash, needed little upkeep and were hardy, so likely to survive lean periods. The vegetables were usually sold, which also helped vary the nutritional intake in the area.

- 179,855 people (35,971 households) benefited from agricultural, veterinary or other micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 94,540 people from the inoculation of 470,958 animals against parasites
  - 79,810 people from the ploughing by tractors of 7,700 hectares
  - 5,505 people from animal restocking or market garden projects

### Restoring family links

Relatives separated by the Eritrea-Ethiopia border – which remained closed – continued to rely on the tracing and RCM services to exchange news.

People in Eritrea who wished to return home to Ethiopia, and vice versa, had only one legal means of crossing the border – under ICRC auspices. At their request, more than 1,700 people were repatriated. The ICRC also arranged for children travelling alone and the sick and elderly to be met by relatives. In Eritrea, 144 people received financial assistance to obtain exit visas. Following ICRC interventions, both governments continued to approve repatriations to reunite couples where one spouse was of Ethiopian origin and the other of Eritrean origin. People also had their official documents forwarded so that they could apply for jobs or further studies.

- 5,576 RCMs collected from and 8,149 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 25 people (6 females; 2 minors at the time of disappearance); 45 people located; 209 people (60 females; 53 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 1,714 people voluntarily repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia and 52 from Ethiopia to Eritrea
- 60 people in Eritrea reunited with family in Ethiopia (including 21 unaccompanied/separated children), and 34 people in Ethiopia reunited with family in Eritrea (including 22 unaccompanied/separated children)
- 22 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 3 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 50 official documents relayed from Eritrea and 33 from Ethiopia across the border

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees of Ethiopian origin held in Eritrea, including two POWs captured during a border skirmish in late 2007, were visited by the ICRC, which monitored their treatment and living conditions according to its standard procedures. Inmates were offered the RCM service to exchange news with their families and, if necessary, received hygiene products and other basic items. After the

visits, the authorities were informed of the ICRC's findings and recommendations in line with the 1949 Geneva Conventions and internationally recognized standards. To reinforce this dialogue, 36 prison officers from 11 detention centres were briefed on IHL and ICRC detention-related activities during a 10-day law course taught by Eritrean experts.

The situation of the few remaining former POWs related to the 1998–2000 conflict was also followed closely by the ICRC. At their request, two of them were repatriated in 2008.

Both Eritrea and Djibouti were officially informed by the ICRC of the provisions of IHL applicable to their June border conflict. Eritrea was duly notified of the Eritrean POWs registered and visited by the ICRC in Djibouti. The authorities were also asked to provide any information they had about 19 Djiboutian soldiers reported by their government as missing in action. The ICRC followed up the request but by year-end had had no official reply.

- 492 detainees visited and monitored individually (103 females; 29 minors), of whom 402 newly registered (96 females; 25 minors), during 115 visits to 49 places of detention
- 174 RCMs collected from and 190 RCMs distributed to detainees and 43 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- 61 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- 5,834 inmates received hygiene and/or other essential items
- 170 inmates received nutritional supplements

### WOUNDED AND SICK

Decades of armed conflict had left Eritrea short of qualified surgeons and staff for physical rehabilitation services. Outside Asmara, for example, general practitioners (GPs) performed surgery in hospitals.

To boost surgical capacities, GPs, anaesthetists and nurses at Agordat, Barentu and Tessenay hospitals in the Gash Barka border region (population 700,000) participated in an ICRC programme combining theoretical and on-the-job training. Barentu, a referral hospital, had the full-time services of a four-person ICRC surgical team, which made supervisory visits to the other two hospitals. The facilities also received ad hoc supplies, equipment and logistics back-up. While the hospitals still lacked resources, they had, since the start of the ICRC programme in 2006, improved triage, the range and quality of surgery, and pre- and post-operative care. The programme had to be suspended from August because of fuel restrictions.

Alongside the surgical programme, some 220 civilian and military medical personnel from across Eritrea updated their skills in trauma management, war surgery and physiotherapy during a total of 8 courses co-organized by the ICRC and the relevant ministries.

Under ICRC supervision, in the 3 hospitals supported:

- 269 surgical patients (including 66 women and 76 children) admitted: of whom 10 weapon-wounded (including 1 woman, 3 children, and 5 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war)
- 278 surgical operations performed

## AUTHORITIES

Wherever it worked, the ICRC's ability to protect and assist victims of armed conflict depended on the authorities' support for IHL.

To aid the Eritrean government in drafting laws implementing IHL, the Information Ministry received the ICRC's Tigrinya translation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions. In the field, local authorities were provided with promotional materials outlining basic IHL principles and the ICRC's mandate. National and local authorities were also regularly updated on the ICRC's activities and humanitarian concerns.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Given the border stalemate, the Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF) were deployed on a large scale throughout the country, including along the boundary with Ethiopia.

The Defence Ministry and the EDF reaffirmed their commitment to IHL training, organizing with the ICRC three courses for military personnel and completing a Tigrinya translation of the ICRC's IHL instructor's manual. The training included a week-long course for 16 EDF officers on the role of military legal advisers in ensuring orders and operations complied with IHL. In the other two courses, 31 more officers qualified as IHL instructors and another 24 refreshed their knowledge of IHL. An EDF instructor trained previously by the ICRC helped teach the courses. With ICRC sponsorship, two other high-ranking instructors completed a two-week IHL course in San Remo in March. Senior military officers' knowledge of IHL helped facilitate ICRC activities, for example the visit to the two Ethiopian POWs (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

To back up the training, the Defence Ministry was provided with a standard set of IHL reference documents, while soldiers at checkpoints received promotional materials on IHL and the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Public support for IHL and the ICRC was essential for the delegation to carry out its activities.

In Asmara, a popular public exhibition and a ceremony attended by over 130 key stakeholders, including four government ministers, highlighted the Movement's work on World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May). Some 4,500 people also visited the ICRC stand at the 10-day National Book Fair in the capital.

Young people, as tomorrow's leaders, also needed to know about IHL. In two firsts for the ICRC, headquarters staff of the National Union of Eritrean Youth took part in an IHL presentation, and a page on ICRC activities appeared in the bulletin for the 3,000 new graduates of the Sawa National Vocational Training Centre.

In the field, people living in areas where the ICRC was working received promotional materials explaining basic IHL principles and the ICRC's activities.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Eritrean Red Cross gradually resumed its activities from April (see *ICRC action*) and, with Movement partners, reassessed its capacities and defined its priorities.

With ICRC support (funds, materials and technical back-up), the Society aimed to improve its first-aid, tracing and communication programmes by building up its management skills and volunteer network. By year-end, it had, under ICRC supervision, resumed responsibility for the tracing and RCM services. From September, Eritrean Red Cross personnel started again to give talks on the Movement to government officials and civil society groups. This helped both to recruit volunteers and to gain support for official recognition of the Society's status within the Movement. Through training, Red Cross personnel also strengthened their emergency response capacities.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ 88 volunteers trained in tracing in the Debub, Gash Barka and Central regions, where 80% of RCMs were handled
- ▶ 150 members of branch disaster response teams participated in relief management courses
- ▶ 98 volunteers trained as disseminators
- ▶ some 7,000 people, mainly government officials, business leaders and students, attended presentations on the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and activities
- ▶ 23 volunteers trained in mine-risk education
- ▶ 2,300 people in weapon-contaminated regions took part in mine-risk education sessions
- ▶ 26 staff and volunteers trained as first-aid instructors
- ▶ 872 police, industrial workers, transport drivers and students participated in first-aid courses





# ethiopia

The ICRC has been continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977. Its priority is to protect and assist people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea or by other armed conflicts, often compounded by natural disasters. The ICRC provides emergency aid, but also implements medium-term assistance projects to preserve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, and supports physical rehabilitation services. It visits detainees, restores family links, particularly for relatives separated by the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border, promotes IHL and supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,772 |
| Assistance                          | 6,181 |
| Prevention                          | 1,783 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,138 |
| General                             | -     |

► **11,874**

of which: Overheads **725**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>75%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

**32** expatriates

**185** national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

**In 2008, the ICRC:**

- significantly scaled down its operations, given government restrictions on ICRC access to federally run detention centres and to the conflict-affected Somali Regional State
- improved access to water and sanitation for some 199,000 people in Afar, Gambella and Tigray
- assisted in the voluntary repatriation of 1,766 people across the closed Ethiopia-Eritrea border
- supported 6 physical rehabilitation centres, which treated some 8,600 patients and established a five-year plan to improve services
- upgraded water, sanitation and other infrastructure in 18 regional detention centres housing around 12,600 inmates
- launched initiatives to help regional police training centres teach IHL and international human rights standards

## CONTEXT

Ethiopia's ruling party increased its electoral majority in 2008, while the government grappled with drought and was involved in armed conflicts at home and abroad.

In April, the party in power swept parliamentary and local council by-elections, which passed off peacefully. The opposition boycotted the poll, alleging intimidation during campaigning.

In the Somali Regional State (SRS), the armed forces remained engaged in a non-international armed conflict against the Ogaden National Liberation Front. Various reports alleged that civilians continued to be killed, wounded, displaced, arrested and harassed as a result of the conflict. Low-intensity violence between armed groups, triggered by a mix of ethnic and political grievances, erupted sporadically in other regions, principally Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS).

Ethiopia was also hit by drought, while food costs shot up, triggered by global price rises in commodities. The government estimated that 6.4 million drought victims needed emergency food aid, while the UN said the figure could be as high as 8 million.

The border issue between Ethiopia and Eritrea remained unresolved, stalling the physical demarcation of their frontier for the sixth consecutive year. By a unanimous vote, the UN Security Council terminated the mandate of the UN Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) on 31 July (see *Eritrea*). Both countries maintained a significant military presence along the border: there were several skirmishes, which both governments played down.

At year-end, Ethiopia announced its imminent troop withdrawal from neighbouring Somalia. It had been engaged there militarily since late 2006, backing Somalia's transitional federal government against various armed groups.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |  | Total         | Women   | Children |       |
|--|-------|--|---------------|---------|----------|-------|
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |       | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM     |               |         |          |       |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |       | Economic security, water and habitat               |               |         |          |       |
| RCMs collected   | 7,411 | Essential household items                          | Beneficiaries | 15,256  | 6%       | 4%    |
| RCMs distributed   | 6,536 | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries | 16,614  | 20%      | 60%   |
| People reunited with their families  | 34    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | Beneficiaries | 211,659 | 24%      | 47%   |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |       | WOUNDED AND SICK                                   |               |         |          |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 178   | Hospitals supported                                | Structures    | 5       |          |       |
| of whom females  | 83    | Admissions   | Patients      | 52      | 14       | 3     |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance  | 57    | Physical rehabilitation                            |               |         |          |       |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 96    | Patients receiving services                        | Patients      | 8,681   | 2,111    | 1,598 |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 420   | Prostheses delivered                               | Units         | 1,959   | 249      | 118   |
| of which for females   | 112   | Orthoses delivered                                 | Units         | 2,874   | 834      | 869   |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance   | 87    |  |               |         |          |       |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |       |  |               |         |          |       |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 75    |  |               |         |          |       |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 22    |  |               |         |          |       |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008   | 18    |  |               |         |          |       |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |       |  |               |         |          |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued  | 124   |  |               |         |          |       |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued  | 158   |  |               |         |          |       |

## ICRC ACTION

Given the restrictions in Ethiopia on carrying out its mandate, the ICRC reduced its set-up and programmes, concentrating activities in Tigray, the region worst hit by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea and the subsequent border tensions.

The ICRC was not granted permission to resume work in the conflict-affected SRS, despite persistent efforts to clarify to the authorities its mandate and strict principles of neutrality and independence. The government had expelled the ICRC from the SRS in July 2007, alleging that it supported armed groups, an accusation the ICRC had firmly denied.

The ICRC was also unable to regain access to detainees held under federal jurisdiction, denied in stages by the authorities from 2004 onwards. As a systematic follow-up of security detainees was no longer possible, the ICRC suspended detention visits and discontinued health assistance to detention centres from March and phased out projects to upgrade prison water and sanitation infrastructure by year-end. The exceptions were northern Afar and Tigray, where delegates monitored individually the cases of detainees of Eritrean origin, as well as general conditions, in regionally run detention centres. The delegation was also awaiting a reply from the authorities to its request to visit Eritrean soldiers allegedly captured during a border incident in March.

As planned, the five-year assistance programme in Afar was completed and livelihood-support projects were wound down in Gambella. The security situation had improved in Gambella, while ethnic clashes had subsided in Afar. Needs in both regions were now more of a development nature. The ICRC's sub-delegation in Gambella closed on 27 February and in Awash (Afar) on 24 April.

In Tigray, the ICRC continued to improve vital rural water and sanitation infrastructure.

After UNMEE's withdrawal, Ethiopia and Eritrea both gave the ICRC the green light to continue its programme to repatriate people in Ethiopia who wished to return to Eritrea, and vice versa. This was the only legal means for such people to cross the closed border. Tracing and RCM services were also maintained, enabling family members separated by conflict to exchange news. Most of the RCMs were sent between relatives living on opposite sides of the Ethiopia-Eritrea border.

With significant ICRC support, six physical rehabilitation centres improved their services and agreed on a five-year plan to further boost patient numbers and the quality of care for physically disabled people.

The promotion of IHL remained a priority. With ICRC input, regional police training centres made progress in integrating IHL into their curricula, while the government went ahead with plans to establish a standard university law course on IHL. After years of cooperation, the Ethiopian armed forces had suspended contact with the ICRC in 2007 after the organization was expelled from the SRS. At the request of the Military Justice Department, however, the ICRC conducted one specialized IHL course for armed forces legal advisers.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society continued to build up its relief, tracing and dissemination programmes with ICRC support. The delegation also facilitated coordination of the Movement's activities, and coordinated its operations with the relevant UN agencies and other humanitarian actors, including through its attendance as an observer at UN cluster meetings.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

The ICRC was concerned by reports of alleged IHL violations committed in the conflict-affected SRS. Despite an ongoing dialogue with high-ranking authorities, the organization was not, however, allowed to resume work in the SRS (see *ICRC action*), so had no first-hand knowledge of the situation there.

Elsewhere, delegates monitored the situation of people displaced by violence, mainly ethnic clashes, and of Somalis and people of Eritrean origin, and informed the authorities of any concerns, in accordance with humanitarian principles and IHL.

### Preserving community livelihoods

#### Afar

The ICRC's assistance programme in Afar's Boromodaitu district (population 44,000) was completed in April. When the programme began in 2004, the district was struggling to recover from a severe drought, combined with ethnic tensions over scarce resources.

To conclude the programme, another 315 farmers learned how to grow maize for animal fodder, with the help of ICRC training, seed and tools. This allowed them to feed their herds without relying solely on natural pastureland, which was dwindling rapidly. The resulting harvest was good, which helped boost livestock health and productivity. In parallel, through a voucher system, 2,000 more families had their animals treated against parasites by ICRC-trained community animal-health workers. To help the authorities sustain veterinary services, the vouchers also paid for drugs to restock the pharmacy built by the ICRC in 2007.

To ensure the continuation of health services, the authorities and ICRC-trained traditional birth attendants and community health workers received copies of a primary health care manual, and the ICRC-built pharmacy was stocked. To further reduce health risks, households received water filters and the ICRC dug or repaired wells, but a campaign to link clean water to good health had limited success.

- 15,426 people (2,571 households) benefited from agricultural and veterinary initiatives, including:
  - 13,536 people from the treatment of their 45,210 livestock
  - 1,890 people from fodder-production training and the provision of seed and tools
- 61,212 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

#### Gambella

Communities in Gambella had benefited since 2004 from ICRC assistance to help them weather the ethnic violence between late 2003 and 2006 and recover their self-sufficiency.

To wind up the projects, another 198 heads of Nuer households completed a basic veterinary and herd-management course to improve the health of their livestock, their main economic asset. Local authorities, assisted by ICRC materials and expertise, also rehabilitated hand pumps to provide clean water for both Anuak and Nuer communities, and organized training in pump maintenance and hygiene.

- 1,188 people (198 households) benefited from veterinary initiatives
- 13,978 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

### Providing clean water in Tigray

Reflecting conditions countrywide, rural border communities in Tigray faced serious health risks because of inadequate water and sanitation facilities. The region also still suffered economically from the consequences of past conflicts and the ongoing border tensions. To improve public health, the local authorities, rural communities and the ICRC pooled their resources to build, repair and maintain wells, hand pumps and latrines. Households also received water filters and hygiene-awareness training.

- 123,825 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

### Restoring family links

Families split by the closed Ethiopia-Eritrea border continued to rely on the tracing and RCM services to exchange news. Refugees in Ethiopia also used the network to communicate with relatives. As a priority, children in refugee camps who were separated from their parents were put in touch with their families through RCMs and, where appropriate, reunited with them.

People in Ethiopia who wished to return home to Eritrea, and vice versa, had only one legal means of crossing the border – under ICRC auspices. At their request, more than 1,700 people were repatriated. The ICRC also arranged for children travelling alone and the sick and elderly to be met by relatives. Following ICRC representations, both governments continued to approve repatriations to reunite couples where one spouse was of Ethiopian origin and the other of Eritrean origin. People also had their official documents forwarded so that they could apply for jobs or further studies.

- 7,294 RCMs collected from and 6,421 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 83 from and 27 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 178 people (83 females; 57 minors at the time of disappearance); 96 people located; 420 people (112 females; 87 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 52 people voluntarily repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 1,714 from Eritrea to Ethiopia
- 1,714 people repatriated from Eritrea to Ethiopia received essential items such as blankets and hygiene products
- 34 people in Ethiopia reunited with family in Eritrea, (including 22 unaccompanied/separated children), and 60 people in Eritrea reunited with family in Ethiopia (including 21 unaccompanied/separated children)
- 75 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 18 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 33 official documents relayed from Ethiopia and 50 from Eritrea across the border
- 124 people, all Somalis, issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visiting detainees

People continued to be detained in Ethiopia for reasons of State security.

Given the restrictions imposed on its access to detainees (see *ICRC action*), the ICRC had been limited since July 2007 to visiting regionally run prisons outside the SRS. This meant that delegates could no longer follow up the cases of security detainees, as most were held in federally run facilities. ICRC detention visits were therefore suspended from March 2008.

The exceptions were northern Afar and Tigray, where the ICRC continued to visit regionally run prisons, according to its standard procedures. During visits, delegates monitored both general conditions and the cases of detainees of Eritrean origin to ensure that their rights under IHL were respected, including voluntary repatriation upon their release. The authorities received confidential feedback on the ICRC's findings and recommendations. Inmates were offered the RCM service to contact relatives and, if necessary, were given hygiene and other basic items.

After follow-up with the authorities, the ICRC closed the pending cases of former POWs of Eritrean origin. Meanwhile, it was awaiting a reply to its request to visit Eritrean soldiers allegedly captured during a border incident in March 2008.

### Improving detention conditions

Outside Tigray, ICRC assistance to improve health care in detention facilities, mainly the provision of basic supplies and emergency treatment, stopped in March, and projects to upgrade infrastructure were phased out by December. The authorities were informed beforehand, with the ICRC citing access constraints and the fact that prison and nearby civilian health services were now of roughly the same standard.

During 2008, several thousand inmates faced fewer health risks after the ICRC upgraded water, sanitation and kitchen facilities and accommodation for women in 18 detention centres located in Afar, Amhara, Gambella, Oromia, the SNNPRS and Tigray. The authorities often contributed materials, labour or cash. After receiving ICRC training and tool kits, relevant personnel in Amhara, Oromia, the SNNPRS and Tigray were also better able to maintain prison infrastructure themselves. Those four regions had, at the ICRC's recommendation, appointed coordinators in 2007 who were responsible for prison infrastructure.

- ▶ 5,214 detainees visited, of whom 119 monitored individually (4 minors) and 86 newly registered (4 minors), during 17 visits to 11 places of detention
- ▶ 117 RCMs collected from and 115 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 158 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ 13,542 detainees received hygiene/recreational items
- ▶ 12,644 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating the weapon-wounded

Armed conflict and other situations of violence continued to claim casualties in Ethiopia.

In Tigray, 38 health professionals learned more about treating weapon-wounded patients at a two-day seminar organized by the ICRC with the regional authorities.

In Afar, weapon-wounded and other patients needing emergency surgery were treated at the region's referral hospital in Dubti or transferred to Addis Ababa, with the ICRC providing supplies and funds until its Afar sub-delegation closed in April.

In the two ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 19 weapon-wounded (including 4 women) and 33 other surgical cases (including 10 women and 3 children) admitted
- ▶ 54 outpatients attended surgical consultations

### Supporting physical rehabilitation services

Ethiopia lacked the resources to treat the estimated 400,000 physically disabled people in the country, about 25,000 of whom were conflict victims.

During 2008, six physical rehabilitation centres (in Arba Minch, Asela, Bahir Dar, Dessie and Mekele and the Cheshire Services' centre in Menagesha) improved their services with the help of ICRC materials, on-the-job training and a refresher course for staff in treating amputees. Between them, the six centres treated 37% more patients and boosted overall production of mobility devices by 25% compared with 2007. Four of the centres had ICRC specialists on staff full-time; the other two received supervisory visits. War amputees and destitute patients had their transport, accommodation and treatment paid for by the ICRC.

To ensure the centres' long-term sustainability, the managers and relevant regional authorities and NGOs agreed with the ICRC on a five-year plan to further upgrade their services and boost management skills. The federal authorities were also formulating, with ICRC input, a national strategy to develop the sector. Government and centre personnel kept abreast of those developments and shared expertise through a physical rehabilitation newsletter launched by the ICRC in October.

- ▶ 8,681 patients (including 2,111 women and 1,598 children) received services at 6 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 1,166 new patients (including 169 women and 72 children) fitted with prostheses and 2,106 (including 678 women and 619 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 1,959 prostheses (including 249 for women, 118 for children and 520 for mine victims), 2,874 orthoses (including 834 for women, 869 for children and 65 for mine victims), 5,186 crutches and 697 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

With energies focused on its military engagement in Somalia and other internal issues, the government did not consider IHL implementation an immediate priority. The authorities were, however, reminded by the ICRC of Ethiopia's obligation under the Ottawa Convention to destroy its stockpile of anti-personnel mines by July 2009. The government declared officially in November that it would do so.

Outside the capital, around 500 local government representatives took part in ICRC briefings on IHL. This helped generate support for the protection of people, including aid workers, in time of armed conflict or other situations of violence.



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

With ICRC support, the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) and the federal police college taught IHL and international human rights standards using their own instructors.

The ENDF had suspended cooperation with the ICRC in 2007 after the organization's expulsion from the SRS. In 2008, however, at the request of the Military Justice Department, the ICRC conducted one specialized course for around 100 ENDF legal advisers on their role in counselling commanders on the application of IHL in time of armed conflict. In addition, about 1,000 cadets were briefed on IHL rules governing combat. The ENDF also informed the ICRC that its rules of engagement and standing orders had been revised, incorporating IHL and sanctions against IHL violations, and that training and operations were being updated accordingly.

The police, with ICRC input, launched initiatives to standardize the teaching of international human rights norms in their 10 regional training centres. Police representatives first evaluated the curricula at an ICRC-organized round-table in April, then, at the participants' request, 16 police instructors and the ICRC together gave two-day seminars on international standards for good policing at six regional centres, reaching some 250 police officers. In parallel, around 900 police officers and members of civilian militias stationed in violence-prone regions attended ICRC briefings on the same subject.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media and traditional leaders influenced public opinion in Ethiopia, so could help generate support for IHL and the ICRC.

To enhance coverage of humanitarian topics, 34 journalists participated in a two-day ICRC workshop on IHL, including the protection afforded war correspondents. Various media outlets also received press releases on ICRC repatriation operations (see *Civilians*). In regions prone to sporadic violence, around 300 elders and other community leaders learned about IHL and the ICRC during presentations by field staff.

University students, as tomorrow's leaders, also needed to be familiar with IHL. As part of internationally funded judicial reforms, Ethiopia was establishing a national university curriculum for a law degree. In support of this, the Gondar University lecturer in charge of drafting the IHL syllabus participated in the ICRC's all-Africa course on IHL (see *Pretoria*). The reform committee also received drafts of various standard university-level IHL courses. To spark student interest in IHL, a team of three law undergraduates from Mekele University were sponsored to compete in the ICRC's international moot court event in the United Republic of Tanzania (see *Nairobi*), where they came second.

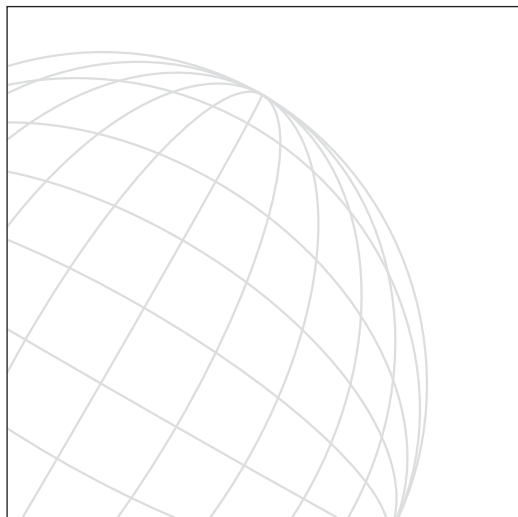
## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Throughout 2008, the Ethiopian Red Cross received ICRC funds, materials and technical back-up to boost its tracing, assistance and dissemination capacities, especially in violence-prone regions. The National Society had a well-established tracing and RCM network and by year-end had gained more experience in assessing needs and delivering relief goods to people affected by situations of violence. It had also built up its dissemination skills, taking part in 17 ICRC sessions on IHL for local authorities and community leaders. As part of management reforms, it appointed new department heads and revised financial procedures.

With ICRC support:

- the salaries of 3 key headquarters and 27 branch staff covered
- 25 vehicles maintained and 1 new vehicle purchased
- some 12,000 IDPs provided with, as needed, essential household items and one-month food rations
- 22 branch staff trained in emergency preparedness
- 34 branch staff, 2,044 volunteers and 750 prison inmates trained in first aid
- tracing officers recruited for 3 branches, 154 volunteers trained in tracing, and 3 branches provided with motorbikes for delivering and collecting RCMs
- a regional dissemination officer recruited for the SRS
- 51 programmes about the Movement broadcast on television and radio
- local authorities and civil society representatives introduced to the Movement and its Fundamental Principles during 46 National Society presentations





# african union

The ICRC's delegation to the African Union (AU) aims to achieve better understanding and wider acceptance of the ICRC within the AU Commission and other AU bodies. In its capacity as official observer to the AU, it works with AU member States to draw attention to problems requiring humanitarian action, to promote greater recognition and much wider implementation of IHL throughout Africa and to raise awareness of the ICRC's role and activities. It also endeavours to build strong relations with AU-accredited intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and UN agencies.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

see Ethiopia

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

see Ethiopia

## PERSONNEL

see Ethiopia

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- ▶ co-organized a seminar with the African Union (AU) Commission on internal displacement as part of the lead-up to the AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in 2009
- ▶ gave 2 presentations to the AU Peace and Security Council on ICRC humanitarian concerns and activities in Africa, including AU/ICRC cooperation
- ▶ offered its expertise to the AU Peace and Security Department to raise awareness of the issue of cluster munitions
- ▶ stressed the need to safeguard the neutrality and independence of humanitarian action at a consultation on the AU Continental Early Warning System
- ▶ presented its study on customary IHL to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

## CONTEXT

Conflict resolution remained high on the agenda of the African Union (AU), with the organization repeatedly calling for additional support from its member States and the international community to meet ongoing and emerging challenges.

The largest AU peacekeeping missions remained those in Somalia and Sudan's Darfur region. To help address any security vacuum created by the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia, the mandate of the AU mission there was extended into 2009 and efforts were made to meet its authorized force strength. A legal framework for the hybrid UN/AU Mission in Darfur was agreed with the government of Sudan and a new joint AU-UN chief mediator for Darfur was appointed. Meetings between the AU Peace and Security Council and the UN Security Council broached the financing of such AU-led peacekeeping operations.

The AU sent diplomatic missions to countries affected by or emerging from armed conflict or other situations of violence, including Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Uganda. It expressed concern about tensions between Djibouti and Eritrea and the situation in Guinea. The AU also backed a short military operation in the Comoros to regain control of Anjouan and supported initiatives to restore political stability in Burundi, Kenya, Mauritania and Zimbabwe.

In November 2008, a draft Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Displaced Persons was adopted for submission to heads of States at a Special Summit for Refugees, Returnees and IDPs in 2009.

The two ordinary AU summits in 2008 saw the election of Tanzania's president Jakaya Kikwete as AU chairperson and Gabon's former foreign affairs minister Jean Ping as chairperson of the AU Commission, as well as the selection of ten new Peace and Security Council members. In addition, a protocol merging the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights with the Court of Justice of the AU was adopted.

## ICRC ACTION

A central focus for the ICRC delegation to the AU throughout 2008 was the lead-up to the AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs to be held in 2009. By organizing an AU/ICRC seminar on displacement for AU-affiliated ambassadors and by providing legal expertise to AU Commission staff and member State representatives, the delegation supported AU efforts to enhance the protection and assistance afforded to IDPs in Africa. The ICRC took particular interest in the drafting of an AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Displaced Persons and helped to ensure that IHL and other humanitarian concerns were incorporated into the final draft.

The ICRC continued to raise awareness of IHL among AU member States and AU Commission staff and to draw their attention to humanitarian issues in Africa. This included monthly meetings with the rotating presidency of the AU Peace and Security Council and regular exchanges with AU political analysts. The ICRC also addressed AU Peace and Security Council members on 15 years of ICRC/AU cooperation and on the ICRC's humanitarian activities in the Horn of Africa. Meetings with AU Peace and Security Department officials consolidated cooperation efforts on IHL training, particularly for the African Standby Force. The ICRC also offered to help develop and promote laws and policies pertaining to disarmament and weapons, including cluster munitions.

Conferences and meetings organized by the AU provided the ICRC with further opportunities to promote the integration of IHL into policies and programmes to address conflict-related issues in Africa. At a consultation on the AU Continental Early Warning System, the ICRC reiterated its readiness to cooperate with the AU in the field of conflict prevention and to share information to the extent permitted by its mandate. In addition, the ICRC presented its study on customary IHL to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and distributed an updated version of its publication on IHL produced jointly with the Commission.

In parallel, the ICRC forged closer links with NGOs and other international organizations represented in Addis Ababa to deepen understanding of IHL. For example, at one seminar an ICRC expert gave a presentation on the legal provisions regulating the obligations of mercenaries and private military companies involved in armed conflicts.

The ICRC delegation to the AU continued to animate and organize meetings for a network of focal points from various ICRC delegations in Africa to consolidate and coordinate efforts to promote IHL among AU member States and pan-African institutions. Through this network, the ICRC initiated dialogue with members of the AU Panel of the Wise with a view to ensuring that IHL be included in its work on conflict prevention. In addition, through contacts developed by the delegation to the AU, the ICRC's Nairobi regional delegation signed a cooperation agreement with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in August 2008 to pave the way for future joint initiatives.

## AUTHORITIES

### Protecting and assisting IDPs

Throughout 2008, AU preparations for the Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, due to be held in 2009 in Kampala, Uganda, benefited from ICRC support and input. At a joint AU Commission/ICRC seminar in May on the theme of internal displacement of populations in armed conflicts and other situations of violence, participants explored the legal framework for IDP assistance and protection, as well as the mandates of actors working with IDPs. Recommendations from the seminar were shared with AU bodies and member States for use in future documents, such as the outcome of the Special Summit.

To further prepare for the Summit, AU and State representatives involved in the drafting process of the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Displaced Persons were offered ICRC legal and policy advice. These technical contributions helped ministers take humanitarian priorities, such as the prevention of forced displacement, compliance with IHL and the safeguarding of neutral and independent humanitarian action, into consideration when agreeing on the final version of the draft convention to be formally adopted by heads of State at the Special Summit.

The AU Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees, Returnees and IDPs was revitalized in 2008 to provide pertinent advice to the AU Commission on displacement issues. The AU Political Affairs Department and its partners, including the ICRC, worked to increase member States' ownership of the Committee and the involvement of international organizations and NGOs.

### **Promoting IHL among AU and other pan-African bodies and member States**

In addition to monthly meetings with the AU Peace and Security Council president, the ICRC was invited to brief Council members, along with UN and European representatives, on its 15 years of cooperation with the AU and its predecessor the Organization of African Unity. The presentation highlighted joint work on IHL training for the African Standby Force and conflict prevention and management and emphasized the importance of a neutral and independent humanitarian response to armed conflict. Following this, the ICRC was invited to give another presentation to Council members in December 2008, to update them on ICRC activities and the challenges facing humanitarian actors in Africa, with particular reference to the Horn of Africa.

To support ongoing efforts to unify AU policies on disarmament and weapons, the AU Peace and Security Department and the ICRC explored the idea of holding joint ICRC/AU seminars to raise awareness of these discussions, including those on cluster munitions.

Participants in the 43rd session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights deepened their knowledge of customary IHL thanks to a presentation of the ICRC's study on this topic. Commission members subsequently received the 2008 version of the IHL publication produced jointly by the Commission and the ICRC. The Pan-African Parliament's Justice and Human Rights Committee also attended an ICRC information session on IHL.

ICRC relations with the Secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism were strengthened by ICRC input that enabled IHL to be incorporated into the questionnaires on which country self-assessments were based.

At an African Parliamentary Union conference on migration in Africa, the recommendations of a workshop run by the International Federation, UNHCR and the ICRC calling for adherence to IHL were incorporated into the final declaration. Another event on migration, co-organized by the AU, IGAD and IOM, gave ICRC delegates further opportunities to discuss humanitarian issues with opinion-makers in Africa.

### **Integrating IHL into armed forces' training and operations**

AU Peace and Security Department officials were visited by ICRC headquarters staff to bolster cooperation on the integration of IHL into the African Standby Force's training and operations. To this end, Malian army officers discussed integrating IHL into their training programmes with the ICRC, and technical advice was provided to the AU regarding the inclusion of IHL in Standby Force statutory documents upon their review in the future. The ICRC also strengthened its work with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), which commanded one of the five African Standby brigades. An IHL module facilitated by the ICRC during a course in Harare, Zimbabwe, helped prepare SADC Brigade member States for the command post exercise due to take place in March 2009 (see *Harare*).

ICRC input also resulted in the inclusion of two recommendations on integrating IHL into national legislation and armed forces' doctrine in the report of a preparatory meeting for the Tokyo International Conference on African Development held in Libreville, Gabon, and attended by representatives of African and Asian States, as well as by AU, UN and NGO staff (see *Yaoundé*).

### **Preventing conflict**

An AU Peace and Security Department consultation on the AU Continental Early Warning System enabled the ICRC to explain its emergency decision-making processes and facilitated the identification of areas of cooperation between the AU and its partner organizations, such as conflict prevention and the exchange of information. In acknowledgement of the principles of confidentiality and neutrality, it was also agreed that information would only be shared to the extent permitted by the mandate of the organization concerned.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY**

The ICRC, NGOs, think-tanks and other opinion-makers working with the AU maintained regular contact throughout the year to deepen mutual understanding and coordinate humanitarian diplomacy to achieve greater respect for people affected by armed conflict or violence. Events organized by NGOs such as the African Child Policy Forum, Femmes Africa Solidarité and Oxfam enabled the ICRC to engage in discussions on operational contexts and challenges in Africa. In an Institute for Security Studies seminar, participants learnt from an ICRC legal expert about the relevant domestic and international legal instruments regulating the involvement of mercenaries and private military and security companies in armed conflicts, including State obligations in this regard.



# guinea

The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970 and opened its operational delegation in Conakry in 2001. Since then, the ICRC has been extensively involved in protection activities, particularly restoring family links, visiting detainees and advising the penal authorities. At the same time, it promotes IHL among the armed and security forces, political authorities, the media and the public. It works with the Red Cross Society of Guinea to strengthen its capacities to respond to emergencies and restore family links.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,449 |
| Assistance                          | 2,777 |
| Prevention                          | 1,298 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,474 |
| General                             | -     |

► **6,997**

of which: Overheads 421

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>92%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>17</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>106</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- trained 300 surgeons, nurses and stretcher-bearers in war surgery, pre- and post-surgery care and stretcher handling
- visited 2,710 detainees during 135 visits to 31 places of detention and set up emergency nutritional programmes for around 600 detainees
- completed rehabilitation work in 4 major hospitals (1,410 beds) in Conakry, Mamou and N'Zérékoré
- via the Red Cross Society of Guinea, distributed essential household items to 6,710 people (782 households) whose homes had been destroyed by fire
- with the National Society, held dissemination sessions for 1,000 representatives of civil society and the authorities
- added 2 more universities to its network of academic contacts, increasing to 5 the number of law faculties teaching IHL

## CONTEXT

The situation in Guinea remained volatile. Growing popular discontent with worsening living conditions, lack of political participation and ailing public services was further fuelled by the unfolding worldwide economic crisis.

Although trade unions cancelled a general strike announced for January, protests became more outspoken as the year progressed. The prime minister's dismissal by President Lansana Conté in May was followed by a violent mutiny staged by soldiers claiming wage arrears. The following month, police mutinied and were repressed by the armed forces. Many casualties were reported.

Legislative elections scheduled for 2008 were kept on hold.

The year ended in uncertainty, with a bloodless military coup following the long-serving president's death at the end of December.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total         | Women   | Children |
|---|-------|---|---------------|---------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |               |         |          |
| Detainees visited   | 2,710 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |               |         |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 65    | Food  | Beneficiaries | 623     | 1%       |
| Number of visits carried out  | 135   | Essential household items                             | Beneficiaries | 6,710   | 40%      |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 31    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | Beneficiaries | 348,867 | 50%      |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |               |         |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |       | Hospitals supported                                   | Structures    | 12      |          |
| RCMs collected  | 36    | Admissions  | Patients      | 616     | 36       |
| RCMs distributed  | 61    |   |               |         | 8        |
| People reunited with their families                                   | 1     |   |               |         |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |   |               |         |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 1     |   |               |         |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                     | 3     |   |               |         |          |

## ICRC ACTION

In response to the unstable situation, the ICRC extended its war-surgery training for health professionals and stepped in to cover emergency needs in hospitals and prisons.

In connection with the sporadic outbursts of violence, more than 500 people with weapon wounds were hospitalized in Conakry's five ICRC-supported hospitals. The ICRC kept a close eye on their treatment and contributed medicines, surgical equipment and materials. In addition, the organization trained 300 doctors, nurses and stretcher-bearers in dealing with surgical emergencies.

Medical facilities elsewhere received similar supplies and maintenance tools. In several cholera-prone areas, the ICRC conducted assessments with a view to improving access to safe water.

The ICRC continued visits to detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions. As before, it encouraged the Justice Ministry to improve prison conditions according to internationally recognized standards. Given the authorities' persistent lack of funds, the ICRC carried out emergency nutritional programmes for over 600 malnourished detainees, tripling its prison assistance budget, and provided 25 prisons with essential medicines and medical supplies. In addition, hygiene promotion sessions were conducted in all prisons, in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Guinea, enabling the National Society to build its capacity in that respect.

The ICRC made repeated efforts, to no avail, to obtain access to security detainees held in facilities of the Ministry of Defence.

As more refugees returned to their countries of origin and communications in the region improved, the number of people requiring ICRC services to restore family links, such as children looking for their families, dropped further. Accordingly, the ICRC cut back its activities after solving all remaining cases, either through family reunification or by finding other lasting solutions in cooperation with other organizations.

The ICRC shared dissemination activities increasingly with the Guinean Red Cross, strengthening the National Society's capacity, network of contacts and image in the country. The ICRC expanded its contacts with academic circles, supporting universities in introducing IHL modules in law curricula. At the end of 2008, five universities taught IHL.

With its contingency plan activated and volunteers on alert countrywide, the Guinean Red Cross was well prepared to respond to emergencies, and did so on several occasions, with ICRC logistical and financial support. Technical and financial support from the International Federation and the ICRC enabled the Guinean Red Cross to organize its first National Society partnership meeting in April.

Through training and joint monitoring missions funded by the ICRC, the National Society strengthened the tracing and emergency response capacities of its local branches.

## CIVILIANS

## Restoring family links

With relative political stability and easier communication across the sub-region, the few remaining refugees no longer needed the family-links service to restore and maintain contact with their relatives. Only vulnerable individuals requiring protection, and children already registered and individually monitored by the ICRC were still potential users, although no new cases of children separated from their families were registered.

Children whose parents could not be located generally chose integration into local communities, which was accomplished with some assistance from UNHCR or similar organizations. All children reunited with their families were subsequently visited and checked on to make sure they were well integrated.

A local NGO working with vulnerable children separated from their families received some data-processing equipment from the ICRC.

- ▶ 28 RCMs collected from and 61 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 1 from and 6 to unaccompanied/separated children and 28 phone calls made to restore family links
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 1 person; 1 person still being sought
- ▶ 1 unaccompanied/separated child reunited with family
- ▶ 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document



### Providing clean water and basic necessities

Given the inability of the State-run water board to make any improvements to its failing network, repair work carried out by the ICRC began at three water treatment plants (Boffa, Dubreka, Forecariah) and was still under way at year-end.

The water board refurbished the water treatment plant in Labé, with materials furnished by the ICRC. Similar work begun at the plant in Kankan had to be postponed because of the early onset of rains. More than 10,000 people living in the outskirts of Conakry gained access to drinking water from 10 wells drilled by the ICRC.

► 344,340 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

After fire had destroyed their homes, 6,710 people (782 households) were better able to cope thanks to essential household items provided by the ICRC via the Guinean Red Cross.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights were regularly visited by the ICRC, according to the organization's standard procedures, to check that their treatment and living conditions met internationally recognized standards. The authorities were informed of the ICRC's findings and recommendations in a confidential dialogue. During the visits, detainees had the opportunity to exchange news with their families via RCMs.

The detainees' judicial circumstances were systematically checked for irregularities, and interventions made as needed, where possible in cooperation with local and international NGOs.

Repeated requests for access to security detainees held in facilities of the Defence Ministry were unsuccessful.

Given the lack of government funds, living conditions in Guinean prisons remained dire, with few or no medical or food supplies. Malnutrition was widespread among detainees, prompting the ICRC to launch nutritional programmes in 18 prisons. The programmes were only partly successful as it proved impossible to turn the situation around in all but a few cases. This was due to a number of factors including the paucity of food credits allocated by the central penitentiary administration, poor management and the absence of regular family visits. All were brought to the attention of the authorities to remind them of their responsibilities regarding the detainees in their custody.

Failing the provision of health credits by the central administration, detainees in 25 prisons still had access to basic health care thanks to medicines and medical supplies delivered by the ICRC.

Some 2,350 detainees in 26 facilities contributed to better prison hygiene after taking part in hygiene promotion and training sessions, given by the ICRC in conjunction with the Guinean Red Cross. In Conakry's main prison, some 900 detainees lived in more salubrious conditions following repairs to the water supply system and renovation work carried out by the ICRC.

- 2,710 detainees visited, of whom 65 monitored individually (1 female; 3 minors) and 40 newly registered (1 female; 3 minors), during 135 visits to 31 places of detention
- 8 RCMs collected from vulnerable detainees
- detainees in 26 prisons benefited from hygiene promotion training sessions
- 623 detainees benefited from emergency nutritional programmes
- 3,117 detainees benefited from water/sanitation projects, including 768 detainees in Conakry's main prison

### WOUNDED AND SICK

More than 500 people with weapon wounds were hospitalized in Conakry's five ICRC-supported hospitals in connection with the various spates of violence. They were treated with medicines and materials donated by the organization. Other hospitals in Guinea received similar deliveries from the ICRC, enabling them to care for patients with bullet wounds. In total, 12 hospitals received medical support.

Appropriate emergency surgical care was provided by 300 doctors, nurses and other staff who had been trained in war surgery, nursing, emergency room techniques and stretcher-handling by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Guinean Red Cross.

Four major hospitals in Conakry, Mamou and N'Zérékoré were able to provide care in better conditions thanks to various ICRC water and habitat projects, such as the renovation of an operating theatre. The Labé hospital had a new generator installed. The hospitals were given maintenance tools enabling them to keep up the improved standards.

► hospitals (1,410 beds) benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

During the upheavals, the National Society proved to be well prepared, with its first-aid volunteers on full alert and its contingency plan operational throughout the country. Its work was facilitated by ICRC support in the form of fuel, vehicles and telephone cards.

To test the emergency response plan, 120 National Society volunteers took part in a simulation exercise at the Donka Hospital, Conakry's main medical centre.

In the only ICRC-supported hospital that provided data:

- 557 weapon-wounded patients (including 34 women and 7 children) and 59 other surgical cases admitted
- 25 outpatients given consultations

## AUTHORITIES

Political uncertainty focused the authorities' attention on issues other than the ratification of IHL treaties and their incorporation into national law. Scheduled ICRC projects were therefore put on hold. Guinea nonetheless signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

UN and NGO representatives and diplomats were briefed on IHL and the ICRC.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During unrest, the armed and security forces were mobilized to restore law and order. This made it all the more important that they were aware of IHL principles and human rights norms and understood and accepted the work of the ICRC and the Guinean Red Cross. When the National Society was hindered in assisting weapon casualties, the ICRC reminded the armed and security forces of the need to allow medical personnel to discharge their duties.

Year-round, more than 100 military instructors and officers took part in interactive IHL sessions, and 15 police instructors refreshed their knowledge at an IHL/human rights law training course.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Through an ICRC/Guinean Red Cross campaign to mobilize support for the National Society, nearly 1,000 trade unionists, local NGO staff and religious/traditional leaders learnt about IHL and the Movement's role in emergency situations. At a conference for media representatives, another joint ICRC/National Society event, 25 journalists were informed about the protection due to them in situations of violence.

After introductory IHL talks given by the ICRC at several universities, lecturers expressed their interest in the subject and were given the opportunity to take part in a specially organized IHL workshop. Two more universities added IHL to their curricula, bringing to five the number of establishments where IHL was taught.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In situations of unrest, the Guinean Red Cross was often the only humanitarian player, where possible acting promptly and efficiently to give first aid and evacuate people requiring hospitalization. To that end, it received support from the ICRC, which provided mostly logistics back-up and on one occasion made representations to the armed forces with a view to facilitating future National Society action in emergencies (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

With training, advice, monitoring and financial support from the ICRC, the National Society worked to build its dissemination, tracing and first-aid capacities, particularly at branch level. It enhanced its management capacity through ICRC structural support, including salaries, IT, logistics and transport equipment and two newly built regional branch headquarters in Labé and Mamou.

Supported by the International Federation and the ICRC, the National Society organized its first partnership meeting in April to mobilize additional support for its programmes to assist vulnerable communities and individuals. The National Societies of Denmark and Spain, a multinational company and the Guinean government responded favourably regarding future joint projects.

With ICRC support, coordinated with Movement partners:

- ▶ 2 National Society officials sent to the Movement legal advisers' annual meeting in Geneva, Switzerland
- ▶ 35 first-aid instructors trained and monitored, national and regional first-aid competitions held and volunteers briefed on the Safer Access approach
- ▶ regional meetings on tracing organized, follow-up missions conducted and RCMs collected and distributed
- ▶ fire victims assisted (see *Civilians*)
- ▶ a dissemination campaign conducted, reaching nearly 1,000 civil society members, promotional materials produced, and humanitarian principles promoted through the Red Cross school programme
- ▶ meetings organized for 38 branches on respect for the emblem, external communication and regional plans of action



# liberia

The ICRC has worked in Liberia since 1970 and opened its operational delegation in Monrovia in 1990. Following intense fighting early in 2003 and the subsequent signing of a peace agreement, the ICRC stepped up its operations in Liberia. Since 2005, assistance and protection activities have focused on returnees (former IDPs and refugees) and residents, the wounded and sick, detainees, and children separated from their families. These activities are now being gradually downsized. The ICRC supports the Liberian Red Cross Society and runs programmes to promote IHL among armed forces present in Liberia.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,379 |
| Assistance                          | 9,553 |
| Prevention                          | 1,392 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 2,124 |
| General                             | -     |

► **15,447**  
of which: Overheads **943**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>91%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>30</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>250</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- ▶ while continuing to back Liberia's health care reform, phased out assistance to 6 of the 14 ICRC-supported government health facilities, where staff were ready to cover essential services by themselves
- ▶ improved the sanitation conditions of the most vulnerable people in Lofa and Grand Kru counties and Monrovia and Harper town through well and latrine projects and the promotion of good hygiene practices
- ▶ helped shore up the economic security of 83,037 people (7,752 households) through agricultural initiatives, distributions of farming and building materials, training in marketing their produce and community projects
- ▶ alongside Movement partners, supported the new National Society leadership in implementing its five-year strategic plan and strengthening family-links services
- ▶ visited 1,199 detainees during 29 visits to 17 places of detention, supporting the authorities in their efforts to upgrade conditions, in coordination with other actors

## CONTEXT

The worldwide rise in prices for basic commodities threatened to offset the positive effects of debt relief that had enabled Liberia's government to pursue reforms. A three-year poverty reduction strategy, backed by Liberia's international partners, was launched in April, focusing on consolidation of peace and security, economic revitalization, improved rule of law and governance and improved infrastructure and access to basic services.

Liberia continued to rely on massive financial support from abroad, particularly the United States of America, which continued to assist the training and equipment of the country's armed forces. A newly formed Emergency Response Unit underwent training, aimed at dealing with crowd control and soaring, frequently drug-related crime. Violent land-ownership disputes were also on the rise. The potential for unrest persisted, given high unemployment and the slow pace of demobilization, disarmament and reintegration.

The humanitarian landscape changed as aid organizations left, NGOs cut back their activities and development agencies gradually moved in. The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) still had 12,000 personnel in the country, its mandate having been extended until September 2009.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |  | Total         | Women   | Children     |
|--|-------|--|---------------|---------|--------------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)   |       | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM     |               |         |              |
| Detainees visited  | 1,199 | Economic security, water and habitat               |               |         |              |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 2     | Food   | Beneficiaries | 2,138   | 30%50%       |
| Number of visits carried out   | 29    | Essential household items                          | Beneficiaries | 41,136  | 49%24%       |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 17    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries | 83,037  | 30%48%       |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |       | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | Beneficiaries | 183,493 | 32%46%       |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |       | Health   |               |         |              |
| RCMs collected   | 82    | Health centres supported                           | Structures    | 14      |              |
| RCMs distributed   | 65    | Consultations                                      | Patients      | 140,032 |              |
| People reunited with their families  | 3     | of which curative                                  | Patients      |         | 34,15646,629 |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |       | of which ante/post-natal                           | Patients      |         | 16,447       |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 1     | Immunizations                                      | Doses         | 37,993  |              |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 3     |  |               |         |              |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |       |  |               |         |              |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued  | 1     |  |               |         |              |

## ICRC ACTION

Over the course of 2008, the ICRC reduced its operation in Liberia. In April, the programme to restore family links ended, with the last few cases being either solved or handed over to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The most recent cases of children reunited with their families were being followed up to ensure that the youngsters readjusted well to life in their communities, and one family was still receiving assistance to facilitate its child's reintegration.

After completing the last of its visits to detainees in rural areas in May, the ICRC concentrated on visiting detainees and improving water and sanitation conditions in Monrovia's central prison, where about 60% of the country's detainee population were being held.

Under the primary health care programme, 14 health facilities in Lofa and Grand Kru counties continued to receive support. By year-end, six of them were able to function without ICRC assistance. Training courses allowed traditional midwives to improve their skills, helping them to make more informed decisions in the event of complications requiring hospital referral. An initiative to familiarize health workers and women with family planning was well received. Activities to combat malaria and train laboratory workers continued.

Women affected by conflict continued to benefit from training projects run by two ICRC-supported associations.

The ICRC helped more than 6,100 farming families increase their income by enhancing their agricultural production and marketing capacities. Through a system of cash- and food-for-work and donations of farming and building materials, families in Lofa County made coffee and cocoa plantations usable again. Through a voucher system, small producers were then able to market their yield through cooperatives. Thanks to micro-projects at community level, people raised their income by upgrading their cassava and chili pepper production.

The programme to improve access to water and promote good hygiene continued, using radio spots and theatre plays to spread health messages more effectively.

The ICRC continued to hold information sessions on IHL and the Movement for UN peacekeepers and police. Training provided the previous year enabled officers of the Liberian armed forces to take full charge of the process of integrating IHL and humanitarian principles into military training, doctrine and practice.

Cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Liberia focused on training to enable the National Society to carry out family links activities autonomously. The National Society's five-year strategic plan was launched in coordination with Movement partners.

## CIVILIANS

As a result of improved communications in the sub-region and the success of earlier joint family reunification efforts of the ICRC, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and child protection agencies, the number of children still separated from their families decreased significantly. One child was reunited with his family. The three remaining ones were referred to the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare so that lasting solutions could be found for them, for example placing them in foster homes. Children who had gone back to their families were checked on by the ICRC. Children in vulnerable families continued to benefit from individual or community support. In 2008, 39 such projects were carried out and evaluated. All the youngsters were found to be doing well and no longer required protection, assistance or further follow-up.

- 1 RCM collected from an unaccompanied/separated child and 7 RCMs distributed to civilians; 2 calls facilitated between family members
- 1 person located
- 1 unaccompanied/separated child registered; 3 unaccompanied/separated children, including 1 demobilized child, reunited with family

### Primary health care

After adopting the new national health policy at end-2007, the Health Ministry immediately started implementing reform measures to be rolled out over the next two years with external partners, closely following established guidelines.

The ICRC's primary health care programme continued as part of this framework, covering 14 health facilities in Grand Kru and Lofa counties. It concentrated on capacity building and decentralization so that the county health teams could gradually manage health services by themselves. Six of the facilities were operating without ICRC support by the end of the year. The 103-strong Grand Kru health team received salary incentives paid by the ICRC in line with the ministry's new human resources policy and hired new staff. In 2008, the team prepared its first county health budget and received the necessary funding.

The national malaria programme provided primary health care facilities with malaria drugs, delivered by the ICRC, and enhanced its logistics capacity at central and county levels, with ICRC technical advice. Children aged five or under and women of childbearing age reduced their risk of contracting infectious diseases through immunization provided by the health centres, with safe delivery of vaccines and supervision of the cold chain ensured by the ICRC.

In 2008, another 114 traditional midwives upgraded their skills through ICRC training and were certified by the Health Ministry. This enabled them to make childbirth safer and maternity care more accessible in rural communities served by ICRC-supported facilities. As more people learnt about the new family planning service offered by ICRC-trained advisers at the clinics, the number of users rose from an initial 350 to over 1,500 people.

The public health system received a boost in terms of qualified staff as 26 laboratory assistants successfully graduated from a course on laboratory techniques organized by the Health Ministry in cooperation with a private institution and the ICRC.

Seriously ill patients had access to life-saving treatment, as Handicap International, Mercy Ship and the ICRC worked together to arrange airlifts to tertiary health facilities in Monrovia.

Access to health care improved also thanks to the ICRC's water and habitat support. For example, the Sasstown clinic was renovated and resumed work, with ICRC financial and logistic back-up, as soon as the health team had negotiated the appointment of an official to oversee the launch of services. Another clinic in Gblebo was extended, resulting in improved conditions for patients and staff. In all, eight facilities were upgraded.

In the 14 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 124,000):

- 140,032 people given consultations, including 16,447 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 123,585 attending curative consultations
- 37,993 vaccine doses administered (including 24,855 to children aged five or under and 13,126 to women of childbearing age)
- 694 patients referred to a second level of care (29 to a tertiary level)
- 2,017 health education sessions held

### Improving access to water and sanitation

The most vulnerable people in Grand Kru and Lofa counties, Monrovia and Harper town lived in more sanitary conditions following the ICRC's construction or repair of 185 wells and 300 latrines in homes and institutions. Through the programme, they also learnt about good hygiene practices and ways to maintain and manage the facilities.

In addition, 197 pump mechanics and 94 community water committees received training and repair kits. Through radio and other outreach activities, thousands of people in four counties heard key messages on basic hygiene and sanitation. School clubs and villages participated in clean-up competitions.

- 183,493 people benefited from water/sanitation/construction projects, including:
  - 149,893 people from improved access to water and enhanced hygiene conditions
  - more than 43,600 people in Grand Kru County from the repair of 14 bridges

### Economic security

Several thousand households in Lofa and Grand Kru counties became increasingly self-reliant through a variety of ICRC agricultural and micro-economic projects to enhance agricultural production and marketing capacities.

In Lofa County, villagers were involved in a cash- and food-for-work scheme to clear coffee and cocoa plantations for renewed use, supervised by community representatives and Red Cross volunteers. Through a voucher system, small producers were then able to market their yield through cooperatives. With agricultural and construction materials, they built community grain banks for proper grain storage so as to cope with any future food shortages. In addition, they boosted their production through the building of drying areas, soil treatment and pest control. Thirty-five communities received seed rice.

At training sessions accompanying the projects, farmers learnt how to apply and promote agricultural techniques to revive cash-crop plantations and increase their productivity and how to address specific threats to food security.

In Grand Kru county, farming communities regained a measure of economic security through 27 micro-economic projects involving the use of agricultural inputs, post-harvest processing equipment, building materials and technical support. These enabled them to clear rice swamps, upgrade cassava and chili pepper farms, build harvest shelters and increase their production.

For women, regaining economic self-reliance helped to overcome social and psychological problems resulting from the conflict. With this in mind, two ICRC-supported associations provided vocational training to 150 women, who learnt the necessary skills to start tailoring businesses and rural income-generating activities.

In addition, scores of vulnerable residents and returnees affected by sporadic violence or natural disaster in Lofa County were able to get by with essential household items delivered by the ICRC. In Monrovia, conflict victims, single-parent households, women's associations and orphanages were given clothes.



- ▶ 2,138 people (140 households) received supplementary food rations
- ▶ 41,136 people (6,856 households), including 2,904 victims (484 households) of natural disaster (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), received essential household items and clothes
- ▶ 83,037 people (7,752 households) benefited from micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 7,047 people from agricultural inputs
  - 17,487 people from training in marketing their produce
  - 38,503 people from initiatives to shore up food security within their communities

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Monrovia central prison continued to receive visits from the ICRC, according to the organization's standard working procedures, to check that their treatment and living conditions were in line with internationally recognized standards. During visits, detainees had the opportunity to exchange news with their families via RCMs. ICRC visits to detainees held in prisons outside Monrovia ended in May, as planned. The last two security detainees monitored individually by the ICRC were released that month.

After the visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations with the detaining authorities. These confidential discussions ranged from ways to upgrade health care to the need to ensure detainees' judicial guarantees. Improvements were made, for example transferring juvenile detainees to a separate block and arranging for detainees to be transported to court by car.

Some 650 detainees in Monrovia central prison lived in more hygienic conditions after water and sanitation facilities were built or upgraded by the ICRC. As a result, there were fewer cases of diarrhoea.

The UNMIL Corrections Advisory Unit drew on ICRC expertise to address water and sanitation issues in prisons.

- ▶ 1,199 detainees visited, of whom 2 monitored individually, during 29 visits to 17 places of detention
- ▶ 81 RCMs collected from and 58 RCMs distributed to detainees

## AUTHORITIES

IHL implementation in Liberia received new impetus as two officials of the Defence and Justice ministries attended the annual seminar on IHL, held jointly by the Economic Community of Western States and the ICRC in Lagos, Nigeria (see *Abuja*).

Members of the Liberian government and legislature were ready to draw up a plan of action for national IHL implementation after specialized training by an ICRC legal adviser.

More than 250 local authorities in Lofa County were briefed on IHL and the ICRC.

During a mission to Liberia, representatives of the Red Cross Society of China, accompanied by members of the ICRC Beijing delegation, familiarized themselves with the work and respective mandates of the ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross, and facilitated a talk on IHL for Chinese UN peacekeepers. The visit was also an opportunity for the ICRC to forge links with China's diplomatic community in Liberia.

With technical advice contributed by the ICRC, Liberia:

- ▶ passed into domestic law:
  - a Red Cross Act and emblem legislation
  - Additional Protocol III
  - a Chemical Weapons Act prohibiting their development, production and stockpiling
  - a new National Defense Law prohibiting recruitment of children into the armed forces
- ▶ became party to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and a signatory party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

ICRC-trained Liberian army instructors worked on integrating IHL into theoretical training, with ICRC technical support. The military instructors of two private security companies also participated in IHL training.

Twenty future officers of the newly reactivated second battalion, to form part of the backbone of Liberia's new military, were coached in IHL training requirements.

All incoming peacekeepers and military observers were acquainted with IHL and the ICRC as part of their induction training, thanks to cooperation between UNMIL and the ICRC both in Monrovia and in the field.

Chinese peacekeepers were introduced to IHL by a Chinese-speaking delegate provided by the ICRC. The event facilitated ICRC contact with the Chinese UN battalion and China's diplomatic community (see *Authorities*).

- ▶ 580 peacekeepers trained in IHL

## CIVIL SOCIETY

ICRC and Red Cross activities featured regularly in local and international media as a result of frequent ICRC contact with journalists.

By participating in an ICRC songwriting contest, Liberians countrywide had the opportunity to learn about and express themselves on humanitarian issues. Law students and former weapon bearers were also briefed on IHL.

In a special information campaign, ICRC beneficiaries and community leaders learnt about the future course of assistance programmes after the handover of ICRC programmes to government entities, NGOs and communities.

- ▶ 686 community leaders and ICRC beneficiaries and 70 ex-combatants, members of the Liberia Music Union and visiting Ivorian law students informed about IHL and ICRC activities
- ▶ documentary produced on the ICRC's training of traditional midwives, to be shared with other organizations and health care providers

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Strengthened by Liberia's newly enacted Red Cross and emblem protection legislation, the National Society started implementing its five-year strategic plan, backed by the ICRC, the International Federation and eight partner National Societies. The focus of the plan was on developing policies, structures and systems to support programme development and enhance good governance and management practices, with ICRC financial, material, logistics and programme development support.

Alongside the ICRC, the International Federation and other Movement partners, the Liberian Red Cross participated in the West Africa Capacity Building Project in Disaster Management.

Some 600 chapter and branch members were briefed on the National Society constitution, the new leadership was elected at the general assembly, and units for evaluation and monitoring, resource mobilization and communication were established.

With ICRC support, the National Society:

- developed its family-links programme, adapting it to peacetime needs, and provided RCM and family reunification services
- delivered agricultural tools and clean rice to 2,000 farmers in exchange for seed rice and established 74 local committees to oversee community projects
- provided 2,904 people with essential household items and received 7.2 tonnes of clothes to distribute in the event of an emergency
- trained 20 new local water committees in pump repair and maintenance, provided repair kits and monitored an additional 56 committees
- built its commercial first-aid training programme, and trained over 300 staff members of national and international organizations
- gave first-aid training to chapter staff, Red Cross school club members and volunteers
- built its capacity to communicate and promote IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles widely, distributing calendars and newsletters, conducting information sessions, including a joint press conference with the ICRC and the International Federation, and organizing Red Cross school club activities
- trained 14 humanitarian values officers covering all counties



# rwanda

The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It focuses on visiting the tens of thousands of detainees held in central prisons. It also regularly visits people held in places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities. It helps to reunite children with the families from whom they became separated during the exodus of 1994 or during the mass repatriations in 1996–97. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation and into school and university curricula. It also supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 3,383 |
| Assistance                          | 2,443 |
| Prevention                          | 541   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 644   |
| General                             | -     |

► **7,011**

of which: Overheads **428**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>80%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>19</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>107</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- visited over 65,400 detainees in places of both permanent and temporary detention
- improved living conditions by rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities and distributing hygiene items to almost 60,000 detainees
- built the capacity of the national prison health and hygiene unit to implement procedures for monitoring epidemics and nutritional levels in prisons
- organized a three-day information session on internationally recognized prison standards for prison directors and senior staff of the National Prison Service
- supported the Rwandan Red Cross in taking up full responsibility for family-links activities
- submitted a report to the Rwandan authorities to support them in their efforts to address the problems faced by unaccompanied children

## CONTEXT

Progress was made in processing the cases of people accused of crimes related to the genocide. The majority of the more than 1 million cases brought before the 15,000 *gacaca* courts since July 2006 had been concluded, and a significant number of people who pleaded guilty were able to undertake community service as part of their sentences. As a result, the prison population in 2008 remained steady at around 60,000.

Legislative changes allowed for most Category I crimes to be tried by *gacaca* courts, apart from those that involved planning, organizing or leading the genocide at national or provincial level. In March, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, decided against transferring detainees held for crimes related to the genocide back to Rwanda for the time being. Extradition proceedings for four suspects in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland were under way, as were similar proceedings in Canada, France and Germany.

Rwanda continued to benefit from strong international support, manifested by visits in 2008 from the president of the United States of America, the secretary-general of the UN and the French foreign minister, among others. However, in November, Rwanda and Germany recalled their respective ambassadors following the arrest of Rwanda's chief of protocol in Germany on an international arrest warrant issued by a French judge. In December, the Netherlands and Sweden suspended financial contributions to Rwanda following a report submitted by a Group of Experts to the UN Security Council alleging Rwandan support for the armed wing of the Congrès national de la défense du peuple based in the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and involved in fighting against the DRC armed forces.

In addition to other international and regional efforts to resolve the conflict in the DRC's Kivu provinces, the governments of Rwanda and the DRC signed an agreement in December on joint action to address the presence of the Forces démocratiques de la libération du Rwanda in the DRC. During the year, former weapon bearers continued to be repatriated from the DRC to Rwanda though the demobilization, disarmament and reintegration process facilitated by the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC).

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |  | Total         | Women  | Children |
|--|--------|--|---------------|--------|----------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)   |        | PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM       |               |        |          |
| Detainees visited  | 65,415 | Economic security, water and habitat   |               |        |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 431    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects | Beneficiaries | 59,959 | 6%       |
| of whom females  | 16     |  |               |        |          |
| of whom minors   | 22     |  |               |        |          |
| Number of visits carried out   | 295    |  |               |        |          |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 287    |  |               |        |          |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |        |  |               |        |          |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |        |  |               |        |          |
| RCMs collected   | 5,336  |  |               |        |          |
| RCMs distributed   | 4,818  |  |               |        |          |
| People reunited with their families  | 38     |  |               |        |          |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |        |  |               |        |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 88     |  |               |        |          |
| of whom females  | 42     |  |               |        |          |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance  | 47     |  |               |        |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 27     |  |               |        |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 118    |  |               |        |          |
| of which for females   | 64     |  |               |        |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance   | 67     |  |               |        |          |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |        |  |               |        |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 77     |  |               |        |          |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 38     |  |               |        |          |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008   | 404    |  |               |        |          |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |        |  |               |        |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued  | 4      |  |               |        |          |

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, the ICRC delegation in Rwanda continued to focus on detention-related activities. During visits to detainees held in places of permanent and temporary detention, the ICRC monitored their conditions and treatment, paying particular attention to the situation of detained women and children. Where necessary and appropriate, confidential observations and recommendations for improvements were shared with the relevant authorities.

While the reduction and stabilization of the central prison population had some positive impact on detainees' living conditions, the problem of overcrowding continued to affect their health and well-being. Thus, in order to bolster efforts to bring detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards, the ICRC continued to provide technical support, such as training and expert advice, to those responsible for prison administration, health, hygiene, nutrition and infrastructure. Emphasis was put on building the capacities of the national prison health and hygiene unit and the National Prison Service (NPS), whose creation had yet to be formalized through the centralization of local authorities' prison budgets and other responsibilities. The ICRC complemented this technical input by supplying hygiene materials to central prisons and by improving prison infrastructure. The ICRC also worked with prison authorities to monitor detainees' nutrition levels, particularly following the authorities' decision to prohibit families from supplying food to detained relatives.

To help refugees, returnees and former weapon bearers in the region restore or maintain family links, the ICRC provided the Rwandan Red Cross with financial and technical support in collecting and distributing RCMs and in assuming full responsibility for the processing of all tracing requests. Where children had been separated from their families by conflict, the ICRC helped trace their relatives, reunite them if appropriate and support their reintegration into family life. It also submitted a report on unaccompanied children to contribute to the government's development of legislation and programmes for the protection of children.

The ICRC was engaged in initiatives to help build an environment conducive to the promotion and implementation of IHL. It gave technical advice to the authorities to encourage the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, provided training for officers, legal advisers and instructors in the Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF), and helped journalists and teachers bring IHL to the attention of the wider public, including young people.

The ICRC remained committed to supporting the National Society in promoting the Movement and its Fundamental Principles and in building its emergency response capacity. For example, it helped integrate the Safer Access approach into the National Society's rapid response set-up and assisted it in developing a contingency plan to assist refugees fleeing fighting in the DRC.

Movement partners working in Rwanda met regularly to share information and coordinate their activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

Through the tracing and RCM services provided by the Rwandan Red Cross with ICRC support (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), separated family members were able to restore and maintain contact. Weapon bearers demobilized and repatriated to Rwanda through MONUC were able to use these services at Mutobo demobilization camp.

Where possible and appropriate, unaccompanied children were repatriated to Rwanda, mostly from the DRC, to be reunited with their families. Some 66 children who had been reunited with their families received visits from ICRC staff to see how they were settling back into their families and communities, and some 35 families with social or economic difficulties received support from the ICRC in the form of mediation and counselling or referral to local authorities or associations. To ensure that unaccompanied children were included in and benefited from broader government initiatives to protect and assist vulnerable children, the prime minister's office in charge of family and gender promotion received an ICRC report highlighting the problems faced by unaccompanied children in Rwanda and recommending ways to address them.

The last of the group of children orphaned by the genocide and supported by the ICRC had their school fees paid to enable them to complete their education.

- ▶ 4,931 RCMs collected from and 4,582 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 64 from and 38 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 88 people (42 females; 47 minors at the time of disappearance); 27 people located; 118 people (64 females; 67 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 77 unaccompanied/separated children registered (including 35 demobilized children); 38 reunited with their families; 404 cases of unaccompanied/separated children (including 43 demobilized children) still being handled
- ▶ 614 names of people seeking or being sought by their relatives publicized in the media, including those of 343 children
- ▶ 15 vulnerable orphans' school fees paid

### Supplying clean water

Local communities benefited from water supply projects initiated in 2007 and handed over to the authorities in 2008 upon completion.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visiting detainees

Whether held in places of permanent or temporary detention, detainees received regular visits from ICRC delegates, conducted in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures. Detainees' treatment and living conditions, including access to health care, nutritional levels and respect for judicial guarantees, were monitored, and observations and recommendations were conveyed confidentially to the relevant authorities. Minors and women received particular attention, and the names of children and women detained for a prolonged period without trial were submitted to the judicial authorities to help expedite the handling of their cases. In addition, juvenile detainees were provided with school materials to support their education.

Newly imprisoned detainees and foreigners in detention were given the opportunity to make contact with their relatives through the RCM service and/or their respective embassies.

- ▶ 65,415 detainees visited, of whom 431 monitored individually (16 females; 22 minors) and 217 newly registered (9 females; 19 minors), during 295 visits to 287 places of detention
- ▶ 405 RCMs collected from and 236 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 4 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ 700 detained minors provided with school supplies

### Helping improve detention conditions

Although the population in Rwanda's 14 central prisons had stabilized, detainees continued to be affected by overcrowding. However, many benefited from incremental improvements in detention conditions as a result of government and prison authority efforts, complemented by cooperation with civil society organizations, including the ICRC. To help prison authorities identify further measures to bring detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards, a three-day information session with a particular focus on addressing overcrowding and on improving detainee health and nutrition was organized by the ICRC for some 24 prison directors and other senior staff of the nascent NPS.

#### *Improving health and nutrition*

The national prison health and hygiene unit continued to receive ICRC financial and technical support for its work. The coordination of health care provision in prisons was enhanced by two meetings facilitated by the ICRC for health staff working in different prisons. To help develop common health strategies, NPS working groups on tuberculosis control, nutrition for detainees living with HIV/AIDS, and the inclusion of detainees in the national health insurance plan received input from ICRC experts. In all central prisons, procedures for monitoring and dealing with epidemics were ensured and strengthened through ICRC coordination with the relevant staff at the national prison health and hygiene unit and the Ministry of Health's Centre for Infectious Disease Control. In July, the prison health coordinator participated in a month-long course on strategic planning for health services in Brussels, Belgium, thanks to ICRC funding.

Prison health staff also received on-the-job training from the ICRC to enhance their skills and knowledge. Some 41 prison nurses, two laboratory technicians and one hygienist received a briefing on the functioning of the NPS and the prison health system, as well as on nutritional issues in prisons.

As ministerial directives restricted family visits to prisons and reduced detainees' access to supplementary food provided by their families, the national prison health and hygiene unit and the Ministry of Health's nutrition unit worked with the ICRC to raise awareness of nutritional health issues in prisons. Equipment and reference materials were provided by the ICRC to help prison staff monitor nutritional levels. As a result, the NPS was able to survey the nutritional status of detainees in two prisons, with ICRC technical support, through a new system analysing the morbidity and mortality rates recorded in monthly prison health reports. The quality and variety of the diets of detainees identified as the most susceptible to malnutrition, such as the sick, improved following the provision of seed, fertilizer and tools by the ICRC to enable prisons to start up vegetable gardening.



### *Improving infrastructure and hygiene*

Detainees enjoyed more hygienic conditions and greater access to clean water following the installation of water catchment and rain-water harvesting systems. In addition, they were regularly supplied with hygiene materials, as were the prison authorities, both for distribution to detainees and for cleaning. The construction of biogas systems (wastewater management combined with energy production) also improved sanitation and reduced firewood consumption and costs. Pest-control measures were introduced to minimize detainees' exposure to infections.

Those responsible for prison infrastructure received support from ICRC experts in the management of prison facilities, and, where necessary, detainees' living conditions were improved through engineering projects carried out by the ICRC in conjunction with the authorities. The roofs and walls of detention blocks were fitted with translucent sheets to let in more daylight. Vulnerable detainees saw their sleeping space increased through the rehabilitation of dormitories, and children were better protected as a result of building work to separate their blocks from those of adults. In addition, the cooking capacities of several prisons were increased by the construction of new kitchen facilities and the provision of cooking materials.

- 59,959 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 59,959 detainees from distribution of hygiene items
  - 50,578 detainees from pest-control programmes
  - 12,560 detainees from repairs to prison kitchens
  - 8,414 detainees from the rehabilitation of prison living areas

### **AUTHORITIES**

Contacts with the authorities focused on providing technical support to facilitate the national implementation of IHL treaties and the ratification of those instruments to which Rwanda was not yet party.

Thus, Rwanda acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the Council of Ministers and parliament adopted laws paving the way for Rwanda's ratification of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. In addition, parliament received comments from the ICRC to contribute to its consideration of the revised penal code pending its adoption.

### **ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

The RDF had ICRC support in its efforts to integrate IHL into military procedures and training, with a particular focus on the military academies in Gako and Nyakinama.

- for the first time, 18 legal advisers to the RDF and the government trained in IHL
- 38 military IHL instructors, previously trained by the ICRC, participated in a refresher course
- 60 non-commissioned officers learnt about IHL from military instructors previously trained by the ICRC
- 100 officers received information on IHL during an RDF training course
- 1,500 RDF officers and other ranks trained and provided with IHL/ICRC publications ahead of peacekeeping missions in Sudan
- multimedia IHL resources provided to military academies

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

The public learnt about IHL and ICRC activities through the publication of articles in the media and the organization of events attended by journalists, such as the inauguration of water supply projects (see *Civilians*). Two journalists participated in a seminar on radio journalism organized by the ICRC in Nairobi, Kenya.

To support efforts to familiarize young people with humanitarian principles, education officials met ICRC delegates, who helped them integrate parts of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the revised civic education curriculum. In addition, the printing of 600 teachers' guides for this new curriculum was funded by the ICRC, and 15 trainers were trained to support the teaching of the new curriculum countrywide.

Universities in Rwanda continued to receive financial and technical support from the ICRC for the teaching of IHL.

- ▶ a national moot court competition co-organized with law faculties for the first time
- ▶ 2 lecturers participated in an IHL round-table organized by the ICRC in Kenya
- ▶ a team of 3 students reached the semi-finals of the regional moot court competition in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Rwandan Red Cross remained one of the principal humanitarian actors in the country, thanks to its countrywide network of trained volunteers and its partnership and coordination with other components of the Movement.

As well as responding swiftly to humanitarian needs arising from natural disasters, including an earthquake and storms, the National Society, with ICRC input, continued to develop its capacity to respond to emergencies caused by conflict or violence. For example, the Safer Access approach was further integrated into the National Society's rapid response set-up through ICRC training courses, and a contingency plan was established to assist up to 2,500 people in the event of refugee influxes from the DRC's Kivu provinces.

- ▶ 160 volunteers and 60 provincial committee members trained in the Safer Access approach
- ▶ 22 volunteers trained to provide clean water in emergencies
- ▶ 27 first-aid trainers from the National Societies of Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda developed their knowledge of first aid in conflict and the management of dead bodies in large-scale disasters at a regional workshop held in Rwanda in July

With ICRC technical and financial support, the National Society continued distributing and collecting RCMs and assumed full responsibility for all tracing requests (see *Civilians*). A manual for family-links trainers was also produced.

- ▶ 74 volunteers trained in RCM activities and 35 in the handling of tracing requests
- ▶ 30 focal points participated in a national family-links coordination meeting
- ▶ 12 general secretariat staff and 60 provincial committee members briefed on the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement

To reinforce the National Society's positive public image, ICRC technical and financial support increased media coverage of Rwandan Red Cross achievements and promoted the Fundamental Principles among volunteers and the wider public.

- ▶ regular radio broadcasts and press releases and 1 television documentary produced
- ▶ 800 volunteers attended dissemination sessions on the Movement's activities and Fundamental Principles



# sierra leone

The ICRC has maintained a presence in Sierra Leone since 1991. Since the end of the armed conflict in 2002, the organization has adapted its operations in the country. It monitors the conditions in which detainees are held and provides the authorities with substantial technical support in promoting respect for IHL and its integration into national legislation. It also focuses on ensuring the welfare of the children who remain separated from their families, and supports the development of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 998   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 600   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,402 |
| General                             | -     |

► **3,000**

of which: Overheads **183**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>76%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>5</b>  | expatriates                                 |
| <b>41</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- gradually scaled back its operation, ending 17 years of permanent presence in Sierra Leone with the closure of its Freetown delegation in mid-December
- alongside Movement partners, helped strengthen the capacity of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society to take the lead in Red Cross matters and fulfil its peacetime role
- opened an office in Freetown overseen by the ICRC delegation in Conakry, Guinea, to facilitate continuing cooperation with the National Society on family-links and communication/dissemination programmes
- ended its detention-related, tracing and communication activities, having referred residual issues to other stakeholders
- maintained dialogue with the Special Court for Sierra Leone regarding detention matters

## CONTEXT

More than a year after presidential elections in 2007, followed by by-elections and local elections in 2008, the Koroma government and the All People's Congress Party retained both their overall majority in parliament and public support beyond the traditional north-south ethnic divide. Despite a number of longstanding structural problems, Sierra Leoneans and international observers alike remained confident that the administration would pursue, as promised, public sector reform and the fight against corruption, and improve delivery of basic services.

With substantial international support, the government succeeded in mitigating the effects of the worldwide rise in commodity prices. However, despite economic growth, the population was still facing poverty and high unemployment, particularly among young people. International drug trafficking and related violence emerged as a serious threat.

With the end of Sierra Leone's drawn-out armed conflict nearly seven years past, the international community supported the government in tackling the underlying divisive issues and pursued efforts to consolidate peace. These included an international high-level stakeholders conference on broadening development support beyond the 2007 Sierra Leone Peacebuilding Cooperation Framework.

Trials for alleged crimes against humanity and IHL violations committed between 1996 and 2002 continued at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and, in the case of the former Liberian president Charles Taylor, in The Hague.

As Sierra Leone and Guinea had still not resolved their dispute over the border town of Yenga, the heads of State of the Mano River Union continued to seek a peaceful settlement.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |       |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 26    |
| Number of visits carried out  | 9     |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 5     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |       |
| RCMs collected  | 39    |
| RCMs distributed  | 63    |
| People reunited with their families                                   | 3     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                     | 10    |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC closed its Freetown delegation in mid-December, ending its 17-year presence in Sierra Leone. It set up an office, supervised by the ICRC delegation in Conakry, Guinea, to facilitate continued cooperation on selected programmes with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.

While gradually reducing its operation, the ICRC stepped up efforts to contribute, alongside Movement partners, to strengthening the National Society's capacity and image in the country. It supported the National Society in implementing internal reforms in line with strategic transformation plans adopted in late 2007 and provided technical and financial support to family-links and communication programmes. In case of tensions linked to July's local council elections, the ICRC helped train National Society staff and volunteers in the Safer Access approach and first aid. It supported the National Society in establishing a working relationship with the authorities, civil society organizations, media, universities and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. After receiving coaching, the National Society went on to organize, jointly with the Special Court, Sierra Leone's fourth IHL moot court competition.

The ICRC continued to promote the integration of IHL into national law and to that end maintained cooperation with the Foreign Affairs and Justice ministries. A revised version of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Act was being drafted. With technical and financial support from the ICRC, both ministries sent representatives to the 2008 IHL seminar jointly organized by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the ICRC in Abuja, Nigeria.

The ICRC promoted and facilitated the setting up of an IHL cell within the Ministry of Defence and the production and launching of a new IHL manual for military instructors. IHL teaching having been fully integrated into military training, the ICRC ended its longstanding proactive support in this field. Complementing other organizations' efforts, it provided the police force with technical support in incorporating human rights law and IHL principles into training.

While still visiting security detainees and monitoring conditions in selected prisons, the ICRC focused on providing expertise to support penal reforms backed by the UN and donor programmes, such as the Justice Sector Development Programme funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The Health and Interior ministries were encouraged to work towards enhancing health care in detention. In addition, the ICRC continued to visit eight detainees held at the detention facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and pursued dialogue with the Court, particularly regarding the future of convicted detainees.

The ICRC continued to deal with humanitarian issues related to the past conflict, for example by providing tracing services for separated relatives. With little chance of resolving the few remaining cases of unaccompanied children, the organization stepped up its dialogue with the authorities and child-protection agencies to find alternative lasting solutions for them.

## CIVILIANS

As before, civilians affected by the past conflict had access to in-country and cross-border tracing services offered by the ICRC, the only international organization to do so. However, activities to restore family links carried out by the ICRC and others over previous years, combined with the generally improved situation and greater mobility within the region, had led to a sharp decline in demand. Of the five remaining unaccompanied children followed individually by the ICRC, four had no further hope of locating their families and therefore required other appropriate solutions. These youngsters were able to improve their prospects by means of assistance, psychological support, schooling and vocational training made available through the cooperation efforts of national and international child-protection agencies, the Social Welfare Ministry's Gender and Children's Affairs Department and the ICRC.

The families of people still missing, particularly households headed by women, needed help. The idea that they should be entitled to reparation grants from a government fund for war victims was advocated by the ICRC.

- ▶ 35 RCMs collected from and 53 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 6 from and 2 to unaccompanied/separated children;
- 2 calls facilitated between family members
- ▶ 2 people located
- ▶ 3 people reunited with their families, including 2 unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ 4 cases of unaccompanied children referred to the authorities for lasting solutions other than family reunification; 1 case of a demobilized child still being handled

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The authorities, supported by DFID, the UN and the ICRC, made progress, albeit slowly, in overhauling the penal system to bring it in line with internationally recognized standards. DFID and the UN benefited from ICRC expertise and the findings of its prison visits, shared with the authorities' go-ahead, so that any issues raised by the organization could be addressed as part of reform efforts.

Detainees' access to health care needed to be further improved. Encouraged by the ICRC, the Health and Interior ministries and the prison administration strengthened their cooperation with a view to upgrading prison medical services. By year's end, they had drafted a memorandum of understanding recommending a standard list of medicines for use in prisons, together with other measures.

Security detainees in four places of detention benefited from ICRC visits, conducted according to the organization's standard procedures. A number of such detainees held in Pademba Central Prison were followed up individually, while the material conditions of detention of all inmates were monitored. Findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the detaining authorities.

As planned, the ICRC's activities for detainees held by the Sierra Leone prison department ended in September.

Eight detainees kept at the detention facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown also received ICRC visits. Dialogue with the Special Court for Sierra Leone was stepped up, notably regarding the future transfer of convicted detainees for sentence enforcement in third countries.

- 26 detainees visited and followed individually, including 8 detainees kept at the detention facility of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown, during 9 visits to 5 places of detention
- 4 RCMs collected from and 10 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 10 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## AUTHORITIES

Drawing on legal expertise and technical advice provided by the ICRC, the Foreign and Justice ministries kept abreast of IHL developments and worked towards incorporating relevant IHL treaties into national legislation. Thus, Sierra Leone became one of four States to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the Signing Conference in Dublin on 3 December. Earlier in the year, with financial support from the ICRC, ministry officials attended a joint ECOWAS-ICRC seminar on IHL, held in Abuja, Nigeria.

Authorities up to the level of the presidency were systematically reminded of the need to respect the National Society's auxiliary role in addressing humanitarian issues. Representatives of the Justice Ministry's Law Officers Department and National Society officials, backed by ICRC expertise, regularly met to work on updating the Sierra Leone Red Cross Act and map out joint promotion and dissemination strategies.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As a result of the ICRC's work to promote IHL and provide relevant training support to the military, the defence minister established an IHL office at assistant chief of defence staff level, tasked with coordinating IHL integration into military doctrine, education, training and equipment. The office received a set of IHL publications. In May, the defence minister formally adopted and launched the army's latest IHL teaching tool, the *Instructor's Manual for the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Force on the Law of Armed Conflict*, drafted with ICRC legal expertise. The Defence Ministry and the ICRC co-organized an IHL workshop for 28 ICRC-trained instructors. Another 125 army and police officers selected for peace-support deployment to Sudan attended an IHL refresher lecture.

As the armed forces had integrated IHL fully into training at all levels, the ICRC ended its programme for the military, as planned.

The police force progressively incorporated international human rights law and IHL principles into training, with technical support given by the ICRC in coordination with other organizations. The police training centre received a set of IHL publications.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In view of the International Federation's departure in March and the closure of the ICRC delegation in December, the Sierra Leone Red Cross worked to build its capacity to deliver effective tracing services, conduct peacetime activities and, through appropriate communication, gain broad support for its role. Using technical and financial support from the ICRC, it developed its communication and fundraising strategies. In cooperation with the Special Court for Sierra Leone, it organized the country's fourth IHL moot court competition. Staff and volunteers were trained in the restoration of family links, first aid and the Safer Access approach in case of election-related violence. In the remote Pujehun district, the National Society constructed wells and latrines.

All Movement partners worked together on defining coordination of their future action in Sierra Leone.





# somalia

The ICRC has maintained a presence in Somalia since 1982, basing its delegation in Nairobi since 1994. It focuses on providing emergency aid to people directly affected by armed conflict, often in combination with natural disasters, and runs extensive first-aid, medical and basic health care programmes to treat the wounded and sick. It endeavours to promote respect for IHL, focusing on the protection of civilians and medical staff and infrastructure. It also constructs and rehabilitates water facilities and carries out livelihood-support projects to assist communities weakened by crises. It works closely with and supports the development of the Somali Red Crescent Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Protection                          | 266     |
| Assistance                          | 100,144 |
| Prevention                          | 662     |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,198   |
| General                             | -       |

► **102,271**

of which: Overheads **6,242**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>120%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>16</b> | expatriates                                 |
| <b>34</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- ▶ despite deteriorating security conditions, remained operational in Somalia throughout the year
- ▶ assisted by the Somali Red Crescent Society, mounted a large-scale relief operation, providing hundreds of thousands of people with food, daily water rations and relief goods
- ▶ supported hospitals treating over 3,200 weapon-wounded
- ▶ ensured more than 400,000 IDPs and residents had access to free health care by supporting 34 Somali Red Crescent clinics
- ▶ repeatedly reminded parties to the conflict to respect IHL, including through programmes broadcast on 8 Somali radio stations
- ▶ enabled thousands of separated relatives to stay in contact through the tracing and RCM services

## CONTEXT

The year 2008 saw Somalia in the grip of one of its worst humanitarian crises in recent years.

Thousands more Somalis were killed, wounded or displaced as fighting escalated in the capital, Mogadishu, and spread to other regions of the country, pitting the forces of the transitional federal government, backed by Ethiopian troops, against various armed groups. The some 3,200 African Union peacekeepers stationed in Mogadishu also came under fire. Armed groups opposing the interim government extended their territorial control. As competition for land and resources intensified, armed groups splintered and sometimes fought each other. In the north, tensions over disputed territory persisted between the semi-autonomous region of Puntland and the self-declared republic of Somaliland.

The interim government was also beset by internal divisions, leading to the president's resignation at year-end. In a UN-backed reconciliation process, the interim government and some opposition groups agreed to a ceasefire and the formation of a unity government, but this failed to stem the conflict. Ethiopia announced that its troops would withdraw from Somalia at the start of 2009.

Amid deepening poverty, crime increased significantly, especially piracy at sea and attacks, some deadly, on prominent members of civil society and on aid workers.

Food and fuel costs also shot up, triggered by global commodity price rises and the devaluation of the Somali shilling. The situation was especially desperate in central Somalia and pockets of the south where, after several poor rainy seasons and meagre harvests, food was scarce, wells dry and live-stock dying.

Against this backdrop, hundreds of thousands of people who had managed to survive 17 years without a functioning government, amid recurring armed conflict, faced destitution.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |  | Total                                  | Women                    | Children |       |        |         |
|--|--|--|--|--------------------------|----------|-------|--------|---------|
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |  | CIVILIANS  |  |                          |          |       |        |         |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications                   |  | Economic security, water and habitat               |  |                          |          |       |        |         |
| RCMs collected   | 8,101  | Food   | Beneficiaries                          | 512,592                  | 17%      | 66%   |        |         |
| RCMs distributed   | 15,226   | Essential household items                          | Beneficiaries                          | 636,508                  | 17%      | 66%   |        |         |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons           |  | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives |  |                          |          |       |        |         |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 801  |  | Beneficiaries                          | 571,146                  | 17%      | 66%   |        |         |
|  | of whom females                                  | 428  | Water, sanitation and habitat projects |                          |          |       |        |         |
|  | of whom minors at the time of disappearance      | 442  |  | Beneficiaries            | 725,708  | 20%   | 60%    |         |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              |  | 342  | Health                                 |                          |          |       |        |         |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) |  | 1,337  | Health centres supported               | Structures               | 34       |       |        |         |
|  | of which for females                             | 725  | Consultations                          | Patients                 | 328,871  |       |        |         |
|  | of which for minors at the time of disappearance | 688  |  | of which curative        | Patients |       | 96,230 | 133,350 |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |  |  |  | of which ante/post-natal | Patients |       | 62,197 |         |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                    | 138  |  | Immunizations                          | Doses                    | 96,787   |       |        |         |
|  |  | WOUNDED AND SICK                                   |  |                          |          |       |        |         |
|  |  | Hospitals supported                                | Structures                             | 12                       |          |       |        |         |
|  |  | Admissions   | Patients                               | 5,896                    |          | 1,394 |        | 866     |
|  |  | Operations   | Operations performed                   | 8,559                    |          |       |        |         |

## ICRC ACTION

As the humanitarian crisis deepened, ICRC activities in Somalia concentrated increasingly on large-scale relief operations. Some international aid was reaching Mogadishu, so the ICRC, as one of the few organizations operational outside the capital, focused resources elsewhere, mainly in drought-stricken central and southern regions hosting IDPs. In May, the organization appealed for additional funding to cover relief activities until year-end. Operations were constantly adapted to meet needs, while being based on a realistic assessment of the delegation's capacities.

Together with the Somali Red Crescent Society, the ICRC distributed relief goods to some 630,000 IDPs (triple the number originally budgeted for) and up to five months' worth of food rations to more than 500,000 people (over seven times the number originally budgeted for). In addition, over half a million people received water rations trucked in daily for 130 days, and six temporary health clinics were opened to serve IDPs in and around Mogadishu.

With emergency aid the priority, the delegation scaled back its scheduled water and livelihood-support programmes. It focused on projects which had the quickest impact on boosting food production and income, for example the provision of seed and irrigation pumps to struggling farmers and the repair of irrigation systems and water points.

Some 3,200 weapon-wounded were treated in ICRC-supported medical facilities, the majority in Keysaney and Medina hospitals, the two main referral units for surgery in Mogadishu. The surgical team from the Qatar Red Crescent Society, which had been working in Keysaney Hospital since August 2007 in partnership with the ICRC, withdrew from the hospital in November because of security risks.

Free health care was available to some 400,000 IDPs and residents through 34 ICRC-supported Somali Red Crescent clinics (10 more than in 2007, including the 6 temporary clinics mentioned above).

The ICRC reinforced its dialogue with parties to the conflict, repeatedly stressing their obligations under IHL to protect and

respect civilians, wounded or captured fighters, medical staff and infrastructure, and aid workers. It publicly deplored the high number of casualties and, through Somali radio programmes, relayed key messages about IHL to weapon bearers. Plans to visit detainees in Somalia were suspended, mainly because of security constraints.

Thousands of uprooted Somalis exchanged news with relatives at home and abroad through the tracing and RCM network, run by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent.

Despite the increasingly volatile environment, the ICRC remained operational in Somalia throughout 2008. To do so, it benefited from its strict principles of neutrality and independence, its regular contact with most parties to the conflict, the in-depth local knowledge of its field officers and the Somali Red Crescent, and its long-standing presence in the country. The ICRC voiced concern, however, that, unless security improved, the gap between needs and the humanitarian response would widen.

With ICRC support, the Somali Red Crescent built up its relief and assistance capacities and instituted changes to improve its tracing and dissemination programmes.

To maximize the impact of aid efforts, the ICRC ensured the coordination of the activities of Movement partners, was in close contact with aid organizations in the field and attended the meetings of Nairobi-based Somalia coordination mechanisms, comprising donors, UN agencies and international NGOs.

## CIVILIANS

## Delivering emergency food aid and relief goods

As the conflict intensified and spread, thousands more families, especially in Mogadishu, were driven from their homes. Most fled with few or no belongings. Some camped outside the capital, while others trekked long distances to join their clan communities. Many of those communities were, however, already struggling to share their meagre resources with IDPs who had arrived earlier. Some IDPs had to move on up to four times, often living in the open,

without shelter. As the drought took hold, food shortages worsened, especially in central Somalia, forcing farmers and herders to sell off key assets, such as prime breeding stock, and live hand-to-mouth. Many tried to find casual labour, but jobs were scarce because of the widespread insecurity and economic downturn.

As part of a large-scale ICRC relief operation aided by the Somali Red Crescent, some 630,000 IDPs in central and southern Somalia were able to set up makeshift homes using ICRC shelter materials, kitchenware, blankets, mats, jerrycans and clothing.

Similarly, over half a million impoverished people received emergency food aid, distributed in close coordination with CARE and WFP. The majority, some 435,000, were living in drought-stricken central Somalia and were provided with five months' worth of rations (rice, pulses and oil) delivered between June and December. Another 50,000 were in the northern region of Sool where they had been displaced by clashes in late 2007.

- ▶ 512,592 people (85,432 households) received food rations for up to five months
- ▶ 636,508 IDPs (115,415 households) received shelter materials and essential household items

### Providing life-saving water and health care

The drought in central Somalia and pockets of the south, combined with the arrival of IDPs, meant that communities there also faced life-threatening water shortages. In addition, rising fuel prices hampered local borehole and tanker operators from delivering water, and villagers, hit by soaring food costs, could no longer pay the operators. In this environment, diseases could spread quickly, especially water-borne ones such as cholera. In the absence of a functioning government, most medical facilities relied on international aid to stay open.

To help save lives and livestock, over 500,000 people received survival rations of 3 to 5 litres of chlorinated water per person a day, trucked in by the ICRC to over 450 locations covering Bakool, Bay, Galgudud, Hiran, Mudug and Puntland. Because the April-May rainy season arrived late and was sparse, daily deliveries were made between mid-February and mid-May, and again from mid-September to mid-October.

Struggling communities also faced fewer health risks after the ICRC completed various scheduled projects to build or rehabilitate vital water sources along nomadic migration routes and in main towns.

- ▶ 725,708 people, including 600,000 IDPs, benefited from water projects, including:
  - 523,250 people from the trucking in of 2.4 million litres of water per day for 130 days

Over 400,000 IDPs and residents in conflict-affected areas of central and southern Somalia had access to free health care at 34 Somali Red Crescent clinics supported by the ICRC. These included five temporary clinics opened in early 2008 to serve IDP camps around Mogadishu, plus four permanent ones established to extend coverage in Bakool, Mudug and the city of Kismayo. A sixth temporary clinic was set up in late December in Mogadishu's Medina district, where over 25,000 people had taken refuge from fighting in the capital. All the clinics received ICRC drugs, dressing materials, funds and staff training for curative care, while UNICEF supported mother-and-child care.

Mogadishu experienced no cholera epidemic in 2008, but isolated outbreaks were reported elsewhere in central and southern regions. To prevent and contain the disease, medical facilities in high-risk areas received oral rehydration salts to treat mildly dehydrated patients, as well as medical supplies to respond to a cholera outbreak. In Hiran, for example, reported cases of acute watery diarrhoea fell significantly just two weeks after local Somali Red Crescent clinics began treating patients with the 8,000 sachets of salts provided by the ICRC. Local radio stations also broadcast ICRC-produced cholera-prevention messages in and around Mogadishu, Belet Weyne and the Bay and Lower Shabele regions, and communities received chlorine to purify their water sources.

In the 34 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population by year-end: 417,000):

- ▶ 328,871 people given consultations, including 62,197 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 266,674 attending curative consultations
- ▶ 96,787 vaccine doses administered (including 81,437 to children aged five or under and 15,350 to women of childbearing age)
- ▶ 1,985 patients referred to a second level of care
- ▶ 1,255 health education sessions held

### Improving economic security

Since the fall of the government in 1991, agricultural production in central and southern Somalia had steadily declined amid ongoing conflict, chronic insecurity, recurring drought and seasonal flash floods. Farmers received a variety of ICRC support to preserve their livelihoods, although projects had to be scaled back to focus resources on relief operations.

Families whose crops had failed because of the drought were given staple-crop and vegetable seeds for the next planting season. Many communities were able to boost crop yields and income after the ICRC repaired collapsed riverbanks, sluice gates and channels that controlled irrigation and provided fuel-driven irrigation pumps. Over 500 near-destitute households received cash in return for their labour in helping rehabilitate irrigation and water facilities. Riverside farmers were also provided with sandbags to protect their fields and homes from seasonal floods. In other initiatives, after receiving boats, gear and training, a small number of needy families could start fishing again to supplement their diet and income, and women heading the poorest IDP households camped around Mogadishu began generating income by renting out the services of a grain mill provided by the ICRC.

- ▶ 571,146 people (95,191 households) benefited from agricultural or other micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 341,400 people from the distribution of seed
  - 216,600 people from the distribution of 361,000 sandbags
  - 9,246 people from the repair of irrigation systems or the provision of irrigation pumps

### Restoring family links

Both traditional and modern means of communication within Somalia had been disrupted by the escalating conflict and economic downturn. As a result, thousands of uprooted Somalis continued to use the tracing and RCM network to locate and exchange news with their families at home and abroad. This included having the names of relatives read out, at the families' request, on the "Missing Persons" radio programme broadcast on the BBC's shortwave Somali Service. Somalis worldwide could

also click on [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org) and read the names of relatives sought through the programme or registered by the Red Cross and Red Crescent network.

- 8,101 RCMs collected from and 15,226 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 801 people (428 females; 442 minors at the time of disappearance); 342 people located; 1,337 people (725 females; 688 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 7,050 names of people sought broadcast by the BBC and 12,830 registered on the ICRC's website
- 138 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC made every effort to monitor and follow up with the relevant stakeholders all information related to the capture, detention and transfer of detainees held in connection with the conflict in Somalia. Plans to visit detainees held in Somalia were, however, suspended, mainly because of the volatile security situation. The splintering of armed groups and fluctuating chains of command also made it impossible to systematically collect and verify information on the identity and whereabouts of detainees.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC remained deeply concerned about the rising number of casualties and the difficulties patients and medical staff had reaching hospital amid almost daily armed conflict, especially in Mogadishu. In media statements and bilateral meetings, the organization repeatedly reminded parties to the conflict of their obligations under IHL to respect and protect the wounded and sick and medical staff and infrastructure.

### Treating the weapon-wounded

Over 2,700 weapon-wounded were treated at the hospitals of Keysaney (run by the Somali Red Crescent) and Medina (community-run), the two main referral facilities for surgery in Mogadishu. As in past years, both hospitals received ICRC funds, medical supplies, equipment, training, on-the-job supervision and help with general maintenance. Staff often worked round the clock performing life-saving operations. In partnership with the ICRC, a four-person surgical team from the Qatar Red Crescent Society provided invaluable support at Keysaney Hospital, operating alongside local staff and conducting training for personnel from other medical facilities. Because of the deteriorating security situation, the team, which had joined Keysaney in August 2007, withdrew in November, at the ICRC's request, and was still on standby at year-end.

Various hospitals, clinics and first-aid posts in and outside Mogadishu managed to cope with sudden influxes of weapon-wounded with the help of ad hoc deliveries of ICRC medical supplies. Emergency stocks were stored in key locations countrywide and constantly replenished. Five first-aid posts located in the Bay, Galgudud, Lower Juba and Middle Shabele regions received monthly supplies. Kismayo hospital also had the help of four members of the Keysaney and Medina surgical staff, who flew in on 28 August amid heavy fighting in the port city and performed 192 operations over 12 days.

In the 12 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- 5,896 patients (including 1,394 women and 866 children) admitted: of whom 3,206 weapon-wounded (including 578 women and 330 children), 1,860 other surgical cases, and 777 medical and 53 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- 8,599 surgical operations performed
- 13,570 outpatients given surgical or medical consultations

In the 5 ICRC-supported first-aid posts that provided data:

- 7,826 wounded people treated

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Conflict in Somalia exacted a heavy toll on civilians and, increasingly, on aid workers. Many Somali weapon bearers were young and had grown up in a lawless environment, so were unaware of their obligations under IHL. They also had little or no knowledge of the ICRC or the Movement, which could hamper aid delivery and put Movement staff at risk.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue on IHL with most parties to the conflict in Somalia. It repeatedly reminded them to take every feasible precaution to avoid causing injury or loss of life among civilians, to prevent damage to civilian property, and to respect the rights of medical staff and infrastructure, wounded or captured fighters, and aid workers. The ICRC also explained to all sides its mandate and strict principles of neutrality and independence to ensure safe access of its staff to people in need.

In parallel, eight radio stations covering the Mogadishu, Bay and Middle Shabele areas were assisted by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent in broadcasting talk shows, dramas and spots on IHL and the Movement. Members of regular armed forces and armed groups were the target audience.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Religious and traditional leaders, the media and the Somali community abroad played a crucial role in forming Somali opinion and policies, so could generate support for IHL.

The media reported fairly regularly on Somalia's deepening humanitarian crisis, often drawing on bulletins, press releases and audio-visual material provided directly by the ICRC or published on the ICRC website. For example, an ICRC documentary film on the life-saving work of surgeons amid conflict in Mogadishu was distributed by numerous news agencies, including the first pan-African online agency, A24 Media, launched in September, and won a CNN World News Report award. In its public communications, the ICRC frequently deplored the high number of civilian casualties and stressed the need for all sides to respect IHL.

The programmes on IHL aired on Somali radio (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*) reached a wide audience, including traditional leaders and other opinion-makers, triggering interest in the links between IHL and Somali customary law. To produce the shows, radio personnel were briefed extensively on IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities.



## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Somali Red Crescent remained the ICRC's main partner in the field. Despite the difficult challenges on the ground, it maintained its unity and continued to function countrywide. With the help of ICRC funds, materials and technical back-up, the National Society expanded its health programme, gained more experience in relief operations and instituted changes to improve its tracing and dissemination programmes.

At two high-level meetings held in Djibouti in January and July, the National Society decided against replacing the secretary-general, who resigned in 2007 to become Somalia's interim prime minister, and instead handed over more decision-making powers to its two coordination offices (Hargeisa and Mogadishu), which oversaw the activities of the 19 branches.

### Providing emergency aid

The Somali Red Crescent further boosted its emergency response capacities by fielding hundreds of personnel, who played a key role in ICRC-led operations, providing food, relief goods, water, and health and medical services (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*).

### Adapting family-links and IHL-promotion programmes

To improve the tracing and RCM network, the Somali Red Crescent and the ICRC instituted quarterly management meetings, stepped up the supervision of staff in the field and updated the technical manual and promotional materials. These were the key recommendations made in the 2007 evaluation of the network carried out by the National Society and the ICRC.

The National Society, with ICRC support, also revived regional tracing and dissemination seminars. At four such events, management staff covered the Safer Access approach, the changes to the tracing and RCM network, and new initiatives to promote IHL, the Movement and the Fundamental Principles.

### Coordinating Movement activities

To maximize the impact of humanitarian efforts, Movement partners based in Nairobi met regularly to coordinate their activities to aid the Somali population and to support the Somali Red Crescent. The ICRC, as the Movement's lead agency in Somalia, also assisted partner National Societies active in the country with security and logistics. A Qatari Red Crescent surgical team worked in Mogadishu's Keysaney hospital, in partnership with the ICRC, until November when it withdrew, at the ICRC's request, because of deteriorating security conditions (see *Wounded and sick*).



# sudan



The ICRC opened an office in Khartoum in 1978. In 1984, it initiated operations in the context of the armed conflict between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and is now adapting its programmes to the transition to peace. Since early 2004, it has been responding to needs arising from the hostilities in Darfur. The ICRC's priority is to ensure that people directly affected by armed conflict are protected in accordance with IHL, receive emergency aid, medical care and basic assistance to preserve their livelihoods, and can re-establish family links. It supports the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and provides leadership for other Movement partners working in Sudan.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 13,280 |
| Assistance                          | 82,892 |
| Prevention                          | 7,502  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 6,236  |
| General                             | -      |

► **109,911**

of which: Overheads **6,708**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>87%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

**151** expatriates  
**1,561** national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- helped hundreds of thousands of people in Darfur improve their economic situation through an integrated programme of agricultural, veterinary, water and health projects
- provided food, shelter and all essential services to some 135,000 IDPs in Gereida camp (South Darfur)
- delivered emergency shelter materials, household items and, if needed, food rations, to some 104,000 people affected by military or ethnic clashes
- built and equipped Southern Sudan's first physical rehabilitation referral centre
- was instrumental in reuniting with their families 99 minors detained, then released, by the government in connection with the May attack on Omdurman
- initiated three-year IHL training programmes with the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army

## CONTEXT

Darfur remained volatile, while the eruption of fighting in central Sudan in 2008 underlined north-south tensions over the implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

In Darfur, thousands more people were killed, wounded or displaced as a result of persistent tribal clashes over territory and resources, widespread lawlessness and sporadic military confrontations. Armed groups continued to splinter, shift alliances and sometimes fight each other. The resulting lack of security plunged communities into deeper poverty and hampered aid delivery. An attack on 10 May on Omdurman, Khartoum's twin city across the River Nile, was the closest a Darfur armed group had come to the capital during the five-year conflict.

Peace initiatives failed to stem the violence. By year-end, the International Criminal Court had not yet decided whether it would move ahead with plans, announced in July, to indict Sudanese president Omar el-Bashir for alleged genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In the field, the new UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was operating at about half its mandated strength.

Elsewhere, tensions erupted into fighting in mid-May between the south's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the north's national army in the disputed oil-rich border region of Abyei, displacing around 50,000 people. Khartoum and Southern Sudan subsequently agreed to form a unified interim administration there and again seek international arbitration to resolve the underlying boundary issue. After the 21-year conflict, Southern Sudan remained poverty-stricken. Ethnic clashes and banditry persisted, and the sporadic presence of Uganda's Lord's Resistance Army in the far south further destabilized the region. The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) maintained some 10,000 peacekeepers in Southern Sudan.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |  | Total         | Women   | Children      |
|---|--------|--|---------------|---------|---------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |        | <b>CIVILIANS</b>                                   |               |         |               |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 137    | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>        |               |         |               |
| of whom minors  | 99     | Food   | Beneficiaries | 387,872 | 19% 61%       |
| Number of visits carried out  | 18     | Essential household items                          | Beneficiaries | 246,051 | 21% 60%       |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 12     | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries | 292,232 | 45%           |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | Beneficiaries | 665,861 | 66% 18%       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |        | <b>Health</b>                                      |               |         |               |
| RCMs collected  | 13,166 | Health centres supported                           | Structures    | 11      |               |
| RCMs distributed  | 11,719 | Consultations                                      | Patients      | 170,083 |               |
| People reunited with their families   | 52     | of which curative                                  | Patients      |         | 43,150 69,343 |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |        | of which ante/post-natal                           | Patients      |         | 16,838 1      |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 361    | Immunizations                                      | Doses         | 212,551 |               |
| of whom females   | 141    | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                            |               |         |               |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance   | 93     | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                     |               |         |               |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 153    | Patients receiving services                        | Patients      | 3,158   | 754 752       |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 582    | Prostheses delivered                               | Units         | 1,172   | 270 80        |
| of which for females  | 175    | Orthoses delivered                                 | Units         | 1,227   | 263 740       |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance  | 171    |  |               |         |               |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |        |  |               |         |               |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 89     |  |               |         |               |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 50     |  |               |         |               |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 53     |  |               |         |               |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |  |               |         |               |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 26     |  |               |         |               |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 28     |  |               |         |               |

## ICRC ACTION

Sudan remained the ICRC's largest operation for the fifth consecutive year, with activities firmly focused on protecting and assisting victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. Operations were constantly adapted to the scale and urgency of needs.

The ICRC delivered relief goods and, where needed, food aid to some 104,000 victims of military and ethnic clashes in Darfur and in central and southern Sudan. Sudanese Red Crescent personnel participated in some of the relief operations, providing invaluable assistance.

In Darfur, the ICRC continued to work mainly in rural and remote regions to complement the large international aid efforts in urban areas. Alongside relief operations, the delegation carried out quick-impact livelihood-support projects, rehabilitated water facilities and supported 11 health clinics and Darfur's only physical rehabilitation centre. The aim was to help farmers and nomads alike remain self-sufficient, thus stemming the exodus to urban centres, where they risked becoming aid dependent.

The ICRC's mobile surgical team treated wounded fighters and civilians throughout Darfur and, for the first time since its deployment in 2005, in central and southern Sudan. Medical facilities also received emergency supplies and other assistance to cope with influxes of wounded people.

In addition, the ICRC provided some 135,000 IDPs in Gereida camp (South Darfur) with food, shelter and all essential services. It sought to hand over those responsibilities to suitable partners, but in May had to appeal for an additional CHF 19.9 million to maintain camp services and its surgical team until year-end. WFP later agreed to provide food in 2009. The ICRC had been obliged to

resume assistance in Gereida camp in January 2007 after a security incident and the suspension of activities by most aid agencies. The ICRC expanded its programme to ensure services for physically disabled people, including building and equipping Southern Sudan's first physical rehabilitation referral centre.

ICRC delegates visited a small number of people held by armed groups in Darfur, while negotiations continued with the government to obtain authorization to visit all detainees according to the organization's standard procedures. Exceptionally, the ICRC visited, at the government's request, 99 minors detained in Khartoum in connection with the attack on Omdurman and, after their release, was instrumental in reuniting them with their parents. Thousands of other family members dispersed by conflict also got back in touch through the tracing and RCM services.

As a neutral and independent organization, the ICRC had access to most conflict-affected areas of Sudan. It fostered relations with all parties to conflict, stressing their obligations under IHL to ensure the safety of civilians and aid workers. This was complemented by long-standing programmes to develop national and grassroots support for IHL among the authorities, weapon bearers and civil society. With ICRC support, for example, the armed forces in the north and south initiated three-year IHL training programmes. Despite those efforts, the ICRC suffered security incidents in Darfur, including the killing of an employee on 8 February during an attack on Seleia.

With ICRC support, the Sudanese Red Crescent reinforced its emergency response, tracing and communication programmes and opened two new branches in Southern Sudan. The ICRC also facilitated coordination within the Movement and stayed in contact with UN and other agencies in the field to further maximize the impact of humanitarian activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

Armed conflict and ethnic clashes continued to claim civilian casualties and drive people from their homes in Darfur and, increasingly over 2008, in central and southern Sudan.

The ICRC made 43 representations, in confidence, to the relevant authorities and parties to conflict concerning allegations of IHL violations collected from the people affected and eye witnesses. Delegates reminded all sides of their obligations under IHL, urged them to take measures to halt the violations and monitored their response. However, difficulties accessing some areas of Darfur, often because of security constraints, hampered the documentation of alleged violations and dialogue with potential perpetrators.

### Delivering relief goods

Conflict-affected families in Darfur, Southern Sudan and the north-south border region were able to set up makeshift homes using ICRC shelter and household items. The worst-off families also received food rations to survive the difficult first few weeks after being attacked.

- 104,611 people (20,473 households), including 67,386 IDPs, received essential household items
- 10,320 people (1,720 households), including 7,820 IDPs, received emergency food rations

### Preserving livelihoods

The conflict in Darfur deepened economic hardship in an already poverty-stricken region. The lack of security restricted people's movements, disrupting agriculture, herd migration and trade, prompted more villagers to move to urban centres seeking aid, and prevented IDPs from returning home. In addition, the 2007 harvest had suffered because of a dry spell, so communities had little food to share with IDPs.

To help communities preserve their economic security, some 44,000 families received seed and tools, as well as a one-off food ration to maintain their strength during the planting season. Most were living in the remote Jebel Marra massif straddling West and North Darfur. Preliminary assessments showed that, in general, the resulting crop yield of ICRC beneficiaries was higher than in 2007. Some imported seed varieties did not, however, adapt to Darfur conditions, so measures to increase the availability of local seed were to be implemented in 2009.

Some villages also received items such as irrigation pumps, donkey ploughs and vegetable seed to help them boost their food production or income.

To improve livestock health, 145 herders were trained and equipped to provide basic veterinary services in rural areas and 464,011 animals were vaccinated against common diseases.

- 220,477 people, (43,759 households) received food
- 292,232 people (56,357 households) benefited from agricultural/veterinary/micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 221,001 people from distributions of seed and tools
  - 45,629 people from veterinary projects

### Providing clean water and health care

Water and health services were breaking down in Darfur, largely because security constraints prevented State services from reaching rural or opposition-controlled regions. In many urban areas, water points needed upgrading to serve increasing numbers of IDPs.

People across Darfur faced fewer health risks thanks to the ICRC's rehabilitation and maintenance of 409 water points or systems in 201 locations. Wherever possible, the local authorities or water committees worked with the ICRC. After receiving ICRC training and spare parts, many villages could maintain their hand pumps and wells themselves.

- 534,758 people benefited from water projects, 470,458 of them in rural areas

A total catchment population of nearly 300,000 IDPs and residents in remote conflict-affected areas across Darfur had access to primary health care at the ICRC's clinic in Gereida camp (see below) and at 10 other centres, which received ICRC medical supplies and staff incentives. The clinics provided curative and mother and child care, vaccinations and, in Gereida, treatment for victims of sexual violence and people with tuberculosis. Mobile ICRC teams also carried out vaccination campaigns in areas inaccessible to the Health Ministry and, in West Darfur, provided curative and ante-natal services to communities that could not reach a clinic.

In the 11 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 236,500)

- 170,083 people given consultations, including 16,839 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 153,244 attending curative consultations
- 212,551 vaccine doses administered (including 204,231 to children aged five or under and 6,311 to women of childbearing age)
- 733 patients referred to a second level of care
- 577 health education sessions held

### Providing services in Gereida IDP camp

For the second consecutive year (see *ICRC action*), IDPs in Gereida camp were provided with monthly food rations, shelter, essential household items, and health, water and sanitation services by the ICRC.

The rate of malnutrition in the camp remained below WHO alert levels. Food rations were adjusted to include more vitamins and minerals, and hygiene and nutrition education sessions and regular screening of young children were increased. Malnourished children benefited from a therapeutic feeding programme run in partnership with the British and Australian Red Cross Societies. With ICRC support, Sudanese Red Crescent volunteers also maintained the camp's latrines and showers and regularly disposed of rubbish and solid waste.

- 134,875 IDPs (27,012 households) received monthly food rations
- 22,200 children benefited from supplementary/therapeutic feeding programmes
- 141,440 IDPs received essential household items
- 131,000 IDPs benefited from water and sanitation services

## Restoring family links

Thousands of conflict-affected people in Sudan contacted relatives through the tracing and RCM services, run by the ICRC and the Sudanese Red Crescent. These included, for example, Sudanese families with relatives detained abroad in centres under the authority of the United States of America, recently arrived Congolese refugees and the minors held in Khartoum in connection with the attack on Omdurman (see *People deprived of their freedom*). When the minors were released by a presidential amnesty, they were reunited with their families in Sudan or Chad (44 of them by the ICRC and the rest through the combined efforts of the authorities, the ICRC and other agencies). In addition, six children whom the French charity Zoe's Ark had attempted to fly out of Chad in October 2007 were reunited with their families in Sudan in April by the ICRC, with the agreement of the Chadian and Sudanese authorities.

- ▶ 13,155 RCMs collected from and 11,687 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 84 from and 101 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 361 people (141 females; 93 minors at the time of disappearance); 153 people located; 582 people (175 females; 171 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 52 people, including 50 unaccompanied/separated children, reunited with their families
- ▶ 89 unaccompanied/separated children registered (including 1 demobilized child); 53 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- ▶ 26 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Negotiations with the Sudanese authorities were still under way at year-end on a draft agreement authorizing ICRC visits to all detainees according to the organization's standard procedures.

Exceptionally, at the government's request, 99 minors detained in Khartoum in connection with the attack on Omdurman were visited by ICRC delegates, who monitored their treatment and living conditions and informed the authorities confidentially of their findings and recommendations (see *Civilians*).

The ICRC also visited a small number of people held by armed groups in Darfur, but security constraints and the movement of groups hampered access to detainees.

At the request of all parties, five members of the Sudanese armed or security forces and four civilians held by armed groups in Darfur were released and handed over to the government, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary.

- ▶ 137 detainees visited and monitored individually (99 minors), of whom 132 newly registered (99 minors), during 18 visits to 12 places of detention
- ▶ 11 RCMs collected from and 32 RCMs distributed to detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating the wounded

Fear of crossing front lines and transport problems prevented many wounded people from reaching hospital, while many hospitals lacked the surgical resources to treat people with serious weapon wounds.

A total of 128 wounded fighters and civilians were treated by the ICRC's four-person mobile surgical team during flying missions to Darfur and central and southern Sudan. The team worked in the field and in overwhelmed medical facilities, as needed. Hospitals and clinics in conflict-affected areas also received ad hoc medical supplies to care for the wounded and assistance in rehabilitating infrastructure. To further reduce fatalities, a total of 70 Sudanese medical personnel working in Darfur or Southern Sudan participated in three war-surgery seminars, while some 600 people in Darfur, mainly fighters, were trained in first aid.

### Supporting physical rehabilitation services

Southern Sudan's first physical rehabilitation referral centre, built and equipped by the ICRC, was set to open in Juba in January 2009. The 100-bed facility took two years to build and, as agreed with the authorities, would be co-managed with the ICRC until mid-2012. In parallel, Juba's prosthetic/orthotic workshop continued to treat patients with the help of ICRC materials and staff. These initiatives aimed to help Southern Sudan meet the increased demand for physical rehabilitation services following the ICRC's closure in 2006 of its Kenya-based centre, which had treated Sudanese patients during the north-south conflict.

In the north, the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO) continued to run its Khartoum centre and Nyala workshop, with the ICRC providing materials, technical expertise and assistance in upgrading infrastructure. The Nyala workshop, the only such facility in Darfur, also received ICRC funds to treat all patients free of charge. Another three NAPO workshops (Addamazeen, Kadugli and Kasala) were being rehabilitated by the ICRC.

To ensure a base of skilled staff, directors of physical rehabilitation centres across Sudan participated in an ICRC-organized management course, while 15 students began a three-year prosthetics/orthotic diploma course taught by the ICRC. Another 12 students were enrolled in courses abroad, under ICRC sponsorship.

- ▶ 3,158 patients (including 754 women and 752 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 504 new patients (including 149 women and 24 children) fitted with prostheses and 590 (including 113 women and 327 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 1,172 prostheses (including 270 for women, 80 for children and 171 for mine victims), 1,227 orthoses (including 263 for women, 740 for children and 112 for mine victims), 5,622 crutches and 27 wheelchairs delivered



## AUTHORITIES

National and local authorities' commitment to IHL was vital to ensure the protection of the civilian population amid armed conflict and the safe delivery of aid.

In line with the CPA, Sudan was revising national legislation, including incorporating IHL treaty provisions. With ICRC input, the government adopted a new law protecting the emblem, was revising its criminal code to be compatible with the Rome Statute and was drafting a law implementing the Ottawa Convention and an act regulating the status of the Sudanese Red Crescent. To further support the implementation process, four government representatives participated in IHL courses in Morocco and Tunisia (see *Tunis*).

Southern Sudan also requested and received ICRC legal assistance in integrating IHL into drafts of an armed forces act, a bill on children's rights and penal and criminal procedures codes.

Local authorities across Darfur participated in IHL briefings and were updated on ICRC activities. International and regional authorities and diplomats involved in Sudan's peace processes were also regularly informed about humanitarian issues and ICRC operations through bilateral discussions, newsletters and the ICRC's participation as an observer in aid coordination meetings.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL presentations in the field for armed forces and armed groups in Darfur remained a priority, the aim being to improve respect for the civilian population and ensure ICRC personnel's safe access to people in need. In a breakthrough, Border Intelligence Guards, comprising militia members integrated into the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), began participating in ICRC courses and briefings on IHL. Similarly, IHL sessions reached more units of two other key forces active in Darfur and central Sudan – the National Intelligence and Security Service and the Central Reserve Police. In addition, some 600 UNAMIS military observers and 1,000 members of Joint Integrated Units, comprising SAF and SPLA personnel, were briefed on IHL, and contacts were initiated with UNAMID.

In parallel, the SAF and the ICRC agreed on a three-year training programme to help integrate IHL into SAF training, doctrine and operations and subsequently held several courses for high-ranking officers. Implementation of a similar programme agreed with the SPLA in 2007 was delayed, with officers attending one course.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Opinion-makers within civil society could generate support for IHL and the ICRC at national and local levels.

Through grassroots dissemination in Darfur and central and southern Sudan, more than 3,000 people, from religious and tribal leaders to members of women's and youth groups and NGOs, learned more about IHL. The campaign was backed by the distribution of promotional materials geared to all literacy levels. Under ICRC sponsorship, representatives of two Sudanese NGOs also participated in an IHL course abroad.

Sustained contact with journalists resulted in regular Sudanese media coverage of ICRC activities, which increased public awareness of the plight of conflict victims. Radio journalists from Darfur were also better able to report on humanitarian issues after participating in an ICRC workshop on IHL held in Nairobi, Kenya.

Law faculties of Sudanese universities continued to receive ICRC support to teach IHL. For example, a total of 18 lecturers in Darfur took part in ICRC-organized IHL courses, while two lecturers from Juba University's Centre for Peace and Development Studies began drafting an IHL master's syllabus after attending the all-Africa course on IHL (see *Pretoria*).

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Sudanese Red Crescent, supported by ICRC funds, materials and technical back-up, contributed to ICRC relief operations around Abyei and in Omdurman, helped to run the tracing and RCM services and to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles, and made progress in developing its capacities in Southern Sudan. ICRC funding for the salaries of some 60 headquarters and branch posts was partially suspended between February and August while the National Society restructured.

With ICRC support, the Sudanese Red Crescent:

- provided emergency aid to IDPs fleeing Abyei and first aid to casualties in Omdurman, and collected and buried the bodies of victims of the conflicts
- provided some 6,000 flood victims in Southern Sudan with relief goods and hygiene training, in coordination with the International Federation
- trained 24 leaders and instructors of emergency action teams in Darfur and provided 28 teams in Darfur, Southern Sudan and the greater Khartoum area with first-aid materials
- opened two new branches and trained 75 volunteers in emergency preparedness in Southern Sudan
- trained some 1,200 personnel as first-aiders and stocked branches with first-aid supplies
- trained 96 volunteers in tracing in Darfur
- held dissemination events across Sudan

### Movement coordination

To maximize the impact of aid efforts, Movement partners met weekly to coordinate their activities in Darfur and monthly to discuss support for the Sudanese Red Crescent. Partner National Societies active in Darfur also received ICRC assistance with logistics, security and public communication.





# uganda

The ICRC has been continuously present in Uganda since 1979, with limited action in the field between April 2001 and late 2003 following the killing of six ICRC staff members in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. While protection activities for civilians continue, given the progress towards peace in the north of the country, ICRC assistance activities have shifted from emergency response to livelihood support. The ICRC also visits detainees falling within its mandate and strives to raise awareness of IHL and humanitarian principles among the armed and police forces.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 1,412  |
| Assistance                          | 15,780 |
| Prevention                          | 1,286  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,832  |
| General                             | -      |

► **20,310**

of which: Overheads 1,240

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 88% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 34  | expatriates                                 |
| 225 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- provided assistance to boost the economic security of more than 423,000 returnees and IDPs in the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader
- improved IDPs' access to water and sanitation through the drilling/rehabilitation of 128 boreholes and the construction of 1,200 latrines
- supported health centres and hospitals in the north of the country and, from November, a physical rehabilitation centre in the west
- began implementing a pilot project to support prison authorities in responding to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in 3 prisons
- reviewed the implementation of agreements on IHL/human rights law integration reached previously with the military and the police
- expanded the National Society's humanitarian response capacity and activities at both national and branch level, particularly in Karamoja

## CONTEXT

Peace talks early in 2008 to resolve the non-international armed conflict between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) led to agreements on sensitive issues, including accountability, reconciliation, demobilization and a future permanent ceasefire. However, the signing of the Final Peace Agreement did not go ahead. As a result, on 14 December, the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) launched a military campaign against LRA bases in the north-eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), supported by military forces from the DRC and Southern Sudan. Subsequent attacks reportedly committed by the LRA on villages in the DRC and Southern Sudan left a number of civilians dead or injured and many others displaced or abducted.

Across northern Uganda, the security situation remained stable in 2008. The IDP population in the north continued to return home or leave the main camps for new sites nearer to their homes, where they enjoyed greater access to cultivable land.

Erratic rain patterns aggravated the effects of underdevelopment in the Karamoja region. Military operations by the UPDF to disarm traditional warriors and curb intertribal cattle raiding were ongoing, accompanied by increased dialogue between the UPDF and Karamojong tribes.

Uganda continued to receive cross-border refugees, mainly in the east, following post-election violence in Kenya, and in the south-west, particularly later in the year, following the renewal of hostilities in the DRC's North Kivu province.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |  | Total                    | Women    | Children |        |        |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|--------|--------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)   |  | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM     |                          |          |          |        |        |
| Detainees visited  | 3,930  | Economic security, water and habitat               |                          |          |          |        |        |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 177  | Food   | Beneficiaries            | 23       | 21%      | 62%    |        |
|  | of whom females                                  | 8  |                          |          |          |        |        |
|  | of whom minors                                   | 4  |                          |          |          |        |        |
| Number of visits carried out   | 100  | Essential household items                          | Beneficiaries            | 398,626  | 21%      | 62%    |        |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 53   | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries            | 423,323  | 21%      | 62%    |        |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |  | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | Beneficiaries            | 331,702  | 25%      | 47%    |        |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |  | Health   |                          |          |          |        |        |
| RCMs collected   | 1,379  | Health centres supported                           | Structures               | 14       |          |        |        |
| RCMs distributed   | 952  | Consultations                                      | Patients                 | 122,788  |          |        |        |
| People reunited with their families  | 16   |  | of which curative        | Patients |          | 46,207 | 38,976 |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |  |  | of which ante/post-natal | Patients |          | 8,253  |        |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 75   | Immunizations                                      | Doses                    | 48,432   |          |        |        |
|  | of whom females                                  | WOUNDED AND SICK                                   |                          |          |          |        |        |
|  | of whom minors at the time of disappearance      | Hospitals supported                                | Structures               | 1        |          |        |        |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 4  | Admissions   | Patients                 | 14,513   | 6,120    |        | 6,459  |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 76   | Operations   | Operations performed     | 191      |          |        |        |
|  | of which for females                             | Physical rehabilitation                            |                          |          |          |        |        |
|  | of which for minors at the time of disappearance | Patients receiving services                        | Patients                 | 26       | 6        |        | 17     |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |  | Orthoses delivered                                 | Units                    | 23       | 5        |        | 17     |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 114  |  |                          |          |          |        |        |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 13   |  |                          |          |          |        |        |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 88   |  |                          |          |          |        |        |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |  |  |                          |          |          |        |        |
| People to whom travel documents were issued  | 87   |  |                          |          |          |        |        |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued  | 10   |  |                          |          |          |        |        |

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, the ICRC delegation in Uganda responded to people's changing needs in light of the improving humanitarian situation in the north of the country.

To facilitate the sustainable return of IDPs to their homes and areas of origin in the north, the ICRC focused its assistance activities on four districts, namely Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader, and on working in closer partnership with the authorities and communities concerned, including IDPs, returnees and residents.

In close cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross Society, the ICRC provided IDPs/returnees with essential household items to address their immediate needs and with seed and tools to support agricultural production and thereby improve their diet, income and self-sufficiency. As the year progressed, micro-economic and cash-for-work initiatives were introduced to help the most vulnerable earn an income. Access of IDPs and returning families to clean water and sanitation was improved through the drilling and rehabilitation of boreholes and through a hygiene promotion programme run in partnership with the Swedish and Ugandan Red Cross Societies, which resulted in the building of latrines and increased public awareness of health issues.

Support to the health system in northern Uganda was ongoing and included the training of traditional birth attendants and medical staff, the provision of medical supplies and the rehabilitation of health centres and hospitals, including Kitgum Government Hospital. ICRC assistance to the physically disabled in Uganda

resumed in November in the form of technical and financial support to the Fort Portal physical rehabilitation centre.

Countrywide, detainees in civil and military places of detention received visits from ICRC delegates, who checked on their treatment and conditions of detention. Findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the relevant authorities and, where appropriate, material assistance was provided to detainees and facilities were rehabilitated. A joint ICRC/Uganda Prison Service (UPS) pilot project to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria in three prisons entered its implementation stage in January. To further support the authorities' efforts to meet internationally recognized detention standards, the ICRC provided technical input in the drafting of relevant legislation and the training of police personnel.

The ICRC reviewed progress towards the integration of IHL and human rights law and standards into military and police training, doctrine and operations in accordance with agreements concluded previously with the UPDF and the Ugandan Police Force (UPF). It also facilitated courses on IHL/human rights law for military and police personnel. Government officials received ICRC advice on IHL ratification and implementation. Through contacts with the media and key community leaders, information on IHL and the ICRC's activities was relayed to the wider public.

The ICRC and the Ugandan Red Cross worked closely together and conducted joint activities in northern, eastern and western Uganda, including providing tracing and RCM services to Ugandan IDPs and Kenyan and Congolese refugees. The ICRC

supported the National Society's structures and programmes both financially and technically, with a focus on boosting its activities in the Karamoja region and increasing the number of National Society staff and volunteers working on ICRC core activities, such as restoring family links.

The ICRC coordinated its activities with other humanitarian agencies, including those participating in the UN cluster system, to avoid duplication or gaps in the protection of and assistance to people most in need.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

Although security conditions, and thus respect for the civilian population, had improved in the north, the ICRC pursued its confidential dialogue with the UPDF. Following some allegations of offences committed against civilians, the organization made oral representations to the authorities concerned, all of which expressed a willingness to ensure professional standards of conduct were upheld.

Contact was also maintained with the UPDF in Karamoja to raise awareness of the impact of the disarmament process on the local population.

An ICRC assessment revealed a lack of protection and basic services available to Congolese women and their children living without legal status in Acholiland. These concerns were subsequently raised with the relevant authorities, and women wishing to return to the DRC were repatriated in cooperation with IOM.

### Boosting economic security

Although improvements in security increased access to arable land, displaced, returnee and resident populations in Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts faced challenges in re-establishing their livelihoods and consequently in meeting their basic needs. IDPs and returnees, including those whose homes had been destroyed in fires, were provided with seed, tools, essential household and hygiene items and school kits by the ICRC in cooperation with the National Society.

During the year, cash-for-work projects, such as the clearing of agricultural land and the rehabilitation of access roads and dams, were initiated to provide vulnerable households in returnee catchment areas with immediate income and improve agricultural production and infrastructure. Other vulnerable households generated income by producing oil or off-season vegetables after receiving oil presses or treadle pumps and seed, along with training.

- ▶ 398,545 people (72,462 households) received essential household items
- ▶ 423,323 people (76,967 households) benefited from agricultural and other micro-economic initiatives, including:
  - 397,888 people from distributions of seed, tools and fertilizer
  - 25,435 people from micro-economic and cash-for-work initiatives

### Providing health care, water and sanitation

With access to health services still a problem for IDPs, health facilities at district and community level in the four priority districts received essential medicines and basic medical equipment. On-the-job training was provided to 340 traditional birth attendants,

as well as to medical staff, and the ICRC supported antenatal care and family planning consultations. Community health also benefited from the provision of mosquito nets, vaccinations and deworming treatment for children and a cholera-prevention programme conducted with the district health authorities in five IDP camps.

In the 14 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 120,400):

- ▶ 122,788 people given consultations, including 8,253 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 114,535 attending curative consultations
- ▶ 48,432 vaccine doses administered (including 36,266 to children aged five or under and 12,165 to women of childbearing age)
- ▶ 952 patients referred to a second level of care
- ▶ 529 health education sessions held

To increase access to safe water and improve sanitation facilities for IDPs in camps and villages, especially those who had moved from the main camps to new sites in the four target districts, 62 new boreholes were drilled and 66 existing boreholes were rehabilitated by the ICRC. Through a programme run by the ICRC jointly with the Swedish and Ugandan Red Cross Societies, IDPs learnt about hygiene and public health issues and identified their hygiene and sanitation needs. As a result, 1,200 new latrines were constructed in 30 locations. To save IDPs' resources and time and reduce exposure to violence when collecting wood, 700 energy-saving stoves were constructed with ICRC technical and material support. The rehabilitation of 14 health centres was also undertaken, including the construction of 4 maternity wards and 5 staff quarters.

- ▶ 296,000 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including 100,000 from hygiene promotion sessions

### Restoring family links

Refugees, IDPs, unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable people were able to restore and/or maintain contact with their relatives through tracing and RCM services provided by the Ugandan Red Cross with ICRC technical and financial support. This support, which aimed to increase the future autonomy of the National Society's tracing and RCM services, enabled the Ugandan Red Cross to increase the number of headquarters personnel involved in this work and to reduce the backlog of RCMs awaiting distribution. Support also took the form of joint technical missions to camps hosting new Kenyan and Congolese refugees to assess their tracing needs, including those of unaccompanied children. As a result, tracing and RCM services were offered to these refugees in cooperation with the Movement's family-links networks in Kenya and the DRC.

- ▶ 1,338 RCMs collected from and 767 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 45 from and 12 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 75 people (13 females; 9 minors at the time of disappearance); 4 people located; 76 people (13 females; 6 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 16 people reunited with their families, including 13 unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ 114 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 88 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- ▶ 87 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates in places of temporary and permanent detention run by the Justice Ministry or the military in the north and west, in the Karamoja region and in Kampala. Detainees' treatment and living conditions, as well as respect for their judicial guarantees, were monitored during these visits, carried out according to the ICRC's standard working procedures. Where necessary, confidential representations were made to the relevant authorities to urge that internationally recognized standards be met. The authorities were also reminded of their responsibility to ensure that detainees were able to maintain contact with their families. Some detainees used the RCM service, provided by the ICRC in conjunction with the Ugandan Red Cross.

Attention was paid to allegations received from people arrested and/or detained by the military in relation to the non-international armed conflict in the north and to other situations of violence, such as the arrest of members of armed groups along the border with the DRC and Southern Sudan and those detained in relation to UPDF operations in Karamoja. A report summarizing recommendations from 24 months of ICRC visits to detainees held by the military was compiled and submitted to the UPDF.

- 3,930 detainees visited, of whom 177 monitored individually (8 females; 4 minors) and 126 newly registered (2 females; 4 minors), during 100 visits to 53 places of detention
- 41 RCMs collected from and 185 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 10 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- after release, 6 detainees transferred and 3 minors repatriated by/through the ICRC
- 32 released detainees had their transport/accommodation costs paid to enable them to travel home

Overcrowding, compounded by an increased crime rate and delays in the judicial process, continued to overburden the UPS and affect detainees' well-being, although recent UPS interventions had contributed to some improvements. The UPS and the ICRC maintained their dialogue, which resulted in cooperation to improve detainees' access to safe water in Arua, Ibuga, Luzira and Rwimi prisons. An energy-saving stove was also provided to Kitgum prison to improve cooking capacity.

The implementation stage of a pilot project to support the Uganda Prison Medical Services in preventing and responding to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria began in Fort Portal, Gulu and Luzira prisons and resulted in regular screening of new inmates, better access to laboratory services and the follow-up of HIV cases by partner NGOs. In the last respect, agreements between the UPS and two implementing NGOs – the AIDS Information Centre and the Joint Clinical Research Centre – were mediated by the ICRC. The three prisons also received laboratory equipment and had their health facilities rehabilitated with ICRC support.

Based on needs, detainees benefited from distributions of essential household and hygiene items. Staff and detainees also attended ICRC hygiene promotion sessions complementing UPS efforts in this regard. Specifically tailored sessions were held in Kitgum prison following reports of hepatitis E cases.

- 35,500 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects
- 81 detainees received essential household items and hygiene/recreational materials

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Kitgum Government Hospital treated patients from among the returnee catchment population, thanks to ICRC medical supplies and training, including governance training for management staff. To ensure that patients and staff had access to safe water and electricity, the ICRC undertook rehabilitation and maintenance work.

In the 202-bed Kitgum Government Hospital:

- 14,513 patients (including 6,120 women and 6,459 children) admitted: of whom 19 weapon-wounded (including 3 children), 543 other surgical cases, and 10,276 medical and 3,675 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- 191 surgical operations performed
- 59,547 outpatients given consultations, including 57,303 attending surgical or medical consultations and 2,244 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations

On an ad hoc basis, Matany Hospital received medical supplies to treat those injured in the Karamoja region. Local doctors and nurses were trained in surgical procedures, and 103 patients, of whom 35 were weapon-wounded, were operated on by a visiting ICRC surgeon. In addition, 37 emergency cases referred to Kalongo Hospital by ICRC-supported health centres in Pader district (see *Civilians*) were successfully treated, with ICRC support.

From November 2008, Fort Portal physical rehabilitation centre, supported by the ICRC until 2001, began to receive financial and technical support again to increase the sustainability and reach of its services for disabled people, including the weapon-wounded.

- 26 patients (including 6 women and 17 children) received services at 1 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 21 new patients (including 4 women and 16 children) fitted with orthoses
- 23 orthoses (including 5 for women, 17 for children), 2 crutches and 2 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

Government officials received ICRC technical support regarding the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. Political decision-makers learnt about the ICRC through meetings and printed updates.

In May, Uganda deposited the instrument of ratification of Additional Protocol III in Bern, Switzerland. In December, it signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The preparatory African Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions held in Kampala in September received input from an ICRC legal expert.

Additionally in 2008, a bill implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and incorporating ICRC recommendations was presented to the Ugandan cabinet for adoption. The authorities also received ICRC input aiming to integrate internationally recognized detention standards into the draft Prison Rules pending parliamentary adoption, and the registrar of the new War Crimes Division of the High Court attended an IHL course run by the ICRC in Pretoria, South Africa.



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Progress on the implementation of agreements signed in 2005 between the UPDF/UPF and the ICRC to integrate IHL and human rights law and standards into military and police training was reviewed by ICRC experts. The reviews welcomed the incorporation of IHL into the curricula of most UPDF training schools and of human rights law and standards into the draft police training curriculum produced during an ICRC workshop in 2007. As the reviews identified the full integration of humanitarian and human rights law and standards into military and police doctrine and operations as an important next step, the UPF received recommendations from the ICRC to this end, including those relating to arrest and detention procedures.

To deepen understanding of IHL, human rights law and the ICRC's mandate and activities, military and police training schools received relevant teaching and reference materials. Military and police personnel also attended IHL/human rights law training (including in detention standards) facilitated either by the ICRC or by instructors previously trained by the ICRC.

- ▶ 72 UPDF instructors participated in train-the-trainer courses
- ▶ 3,015 military personnel trained in IHL, including 87 officers attending introductory courses
- ▶ 6 military officers attended IHL courses abroad run by the ICRC
- ▶ 708 police personnel trained in human rights law and standards, including 39 officers attending workshops to review police training materials from a human rights perspective

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The public heard about IHL and the ICRC's work from media reports based on press releases, activity updates, field visits and IHL workshops arranged for journalists. Two radio journalists attended an IHL seminar run by the ICRC in Nairobi, Kenya.

Young people learnt about IHL and the ICRC at events and seminars organized by the ICRC and from their teachers, who received training from the ICRC. As a result of ICRC technical support, one university confirmed the introduction of IHL in to its 2009 law curriculum, and 20 lecturers from 5 universities took part in a national IHL curriculum review.

- ▶ students attended IHL courses and presentations at 3 universities
- ▶ 7 lecturers attended IHL meetings run by the ICRC abroad
- ▶ 6 students from 2 universities participated in a regional moot court competition in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania
- ▶ 2 of the 8 Ugandan students who entered a regional IHL essay competition came top

In northern Uganda, 1,189 community leaders attended 26 information sessions so that they could enhance cooperation with and understanding of the ICRC's activities in their local areas. Throughout the year, representatives of NGOs and other organizations active in Uganda coordinated with the ICRC to avoid duplication of activities.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Ugandan Red Cross worked closely with the ICRC, especially in northern Uganda. Its activities to restore family links received ICRC support (see *Civilians*), including a three-day training session for National Society tracing personnel.

The National Society continued to implement its 2007–10 strategic plan, focusing on restructuring and building capacities to enhance its humanitarian response at branch and national level. To this end, the salaries of 15 branch and 3 headquarters staff were paid by the ICRC, 2 new branches were opened in Karamoja, and disaster management training for 24 instructors in Hoima and Mbale districts was financially and technically supported by the ICRC.

The National Society, with ICRC financial and material support, responded effectively to outbreaks of Ebola fever, cholera and hepatitis E, continued its flood-recovery activities, provided camp management and distributed relief supplies to Kenyan and Congolese refugees in eastern and western Uganda respectively.

To promote understanding of the Movement and its Fundamental Principles, particularly in Karamoja, the National Society, with ICRC support, held events, including three fundraising drives, produced press releases, newsletters and brochures on Red Cross activities, trained 20 branch coordinators and 45 volunteers in dissemination, and helped 16 branches hold regular dissemination sessions targeting learning institutions and the public.

The National Society and the ICRC coordinated their activities with other Movement partners present in Uganda.





# abidjan (regional)

In the countries covered by the regional delegation, established in 1992, the ICRC supports the authorities in implementing IHL, encourages armed and security forces to respect IHL, and develops protection activities particularly in the fields of detention and restoring family links. It also supports the institutional development of the region's National Societies. In Côte d'Ivoire, the delegation focuses on responding to the protection and assistance needs of people affected by the lasting consequences of the crisis that began in 2002, and on visiting detainees and monitoring the situation countrywide. It coordinates its activities with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire.

## COVERING

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

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 2,951  |
| Assistance                          | 10,130 |
| Prevention                          | 2,713  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 2,814  |
| General                             | 2      |

► **18,610**

of which: Overheads 1,136

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 90% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 43  | expatriates                                 |
| 241 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- contributed to the food security of 55,753 people (9,195 households) in northern and western Côte d'Ivoire by providing seed and fertilizer for cereal production, enabling them to meet most of their food needs
- helped ensure a supply of clean drinking water for over 1.3 million people in northern and central Côte d'Ivoire
- delivered 72,922 vaccine doses enabling children under five and women of childbearing age to be immunized
- monitored the detention conditions of 16,715 detainees in Côte d'Ivoire, contributing to their improvement through dialogue with the authorities, the training of prison staff, a supplementary feeding programme, and water and habitat projects
- briefed 4,100 police officers and trainees, *gendarmes*, members of the armed forces, Forces Nouvelles troops, traditional hunters and militia members on IHL and the Movement
- together with the Red Cross Societies of Ghana and Togo, assisted 5,000 families in northern Ghana following ethnic clashes and 2,000 families in Togo in the wake of floods

## CONTEXT

In Côte d'Ivoire, the overall situation had improved since the signing of the Ouagadougou peace agreement in March 2007, ending the five-year conflict opposing government forces and the Forces Nouvelles. The process of disarming and reintegrating former fighters into civilian life or absorbing them into the new national army was nonetheless slow, causing frustration and occasional confrontations.

At year's end, after signing a fourth additional agreement with the government, the Forces Nouvelles agreed to relinquish the northern zone still under their control.

Despite some progress towards establishing a new voter register, general elections were once again cancelled in June, rescheduled for November, then postponed indefinitely.

International observers and UN peacekeepers continued to keep a close eye on the situation.

Difficult living conditions, exacerbated by the effects of conflict, occasionally sparked social unrest. Violent protests flared in April as the economic situation further deteriorated as a result of the world food crisis.

In the west, IDPs started returning home as intercommunal violence subsided, although the underlying land issues remained unresolved. In the north, the worsening food situation led to widespread malnutrition.

In Benin, political disagreement paralysed the work of the national assembly, prompting the government to rule by decree in the second half of the year.

With international support, Togo worked towards initiating a process of national reconciliation, as set out in the global political accord of August 2006.

Burkina Faso saw violent protests early in the year, sparked by the soaring cost of food, and received an influx of thousands of Touareg refugees from Mali. Localized clashes between crop and cattle farmers occurred in the southern Poni region.

In Ghana, despite sporadic outbursts of intertribal strife in the north, parliamentary and presidential elections proceeded peacefully, with a narrow opposition victory in the run-off.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |   | Total                | Women     | Children |
|---|--------|---|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b>                                   |        | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>           |                      |           |          |
| Detainees visited   | 16,715 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                     |                      |           |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 262    | Food <sup>2</sup>   | Beneficiaries        | 7,005     | 37%      |
| of whom minors  | 2      | Essential household items <sup>1</sup>                          | Beneficiaries        | 25,391    | 20%      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 446    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives <sup>3</sup> | Beneficiaries        | 55,753    | 57%      |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 193    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects <sup>1</sup>             | Beneficiaries        | 1,317,834 | 33%      |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        | <i>Health<sup>3</sup></i>                                       |                      |           |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |        | Health centres supported  | Structures           | 30        |          |
| RCMs collected  | 761    | Consultations   | Patients             | 6,823     |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 814    | of which curative   | Patients             |           | 1,151    |
| People reunited with their families   | 2      | Immunizations   | Doses                | 72,922    |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |        | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK<sup>3</sup></b>                             |                      |           |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 9      | Hospitals supported   | Structures           | 4         |          |
| of whom females   | 3      | Admissions  | Patients             | 5,640     | 2,480    |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance   | 3      | Operations  | Operations performed | 273       |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 8      |   |                      |           |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 42     |   |                      |           |          |
| of which for females  | 7      |   |                      |           |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance  | 4      |   |                      |           |          |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |        |   |                      |           |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 4      |   |                      |           |          |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 2      |   |                      |           |          |
| UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 2      |   |                      |           |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |   |                      |           |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 1      |   |                      |           |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 6      |   |                      |           |          |

1. Côte d'Ivoire and Togo

2. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

3. Côte d'Ivoire

## ICRC ACTION

As political reconciliation in Côte d'Ivoire was only progressing slowly, the ICRC kept its field structures in place and continued to monitor the situation countrywide. It also pursued coordination with other humanitarian organizations.

With the emphasis of aid shifting from emergency response to development, the ICRC gradually scaled back its set-up and concentrated on responding to needs in sensitive areas in the west, as well as in areas in the north where few other humanitarian organizations were operating.

At the end of 2008, the ICRC prepared distributions of seed and fertilizer to support agricultural production and curb malnutrition in the north.

Vulnerable civilians struggled daily for access to health care, clean water and food and were driven further into poverty by sharply rising food prices. The ICRC continued to address some of these needs by providing structural support to basic services and, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, directing assistance to the worst-off families. These activities enabled it to maintain a wide monitoring network.

Visits to places of detention in Côte d'Ivoire remained a crucial aspect of the regional delegation's work. By sharing its findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities and, in the south, carrying out joint prison visits with the penal

administration, the ICRC drew the attention of the Ministry of Justice and the Forces Nouvelles to detention issues that needed to be addressed. To ensure that the nutritional needs of the detainee population were covered, it advocated an increase in the authorities' food budget for prisons in 2009, while maintaining its supplementary feeding programme in 10 prisons countrywide.

In promoting IHL among authorities, regional organizations, weapon bearers (including former militia members and traditional hunters involved in maintaining security), civil society and the media, the ICRC reaffirmed its role as a neutral, impartial and independent organization.

With the elections coming up in Ghana, the ICRC impressed upon the authorities, armed forces, police, community leaders and political parties the need to respect and ensure respect for the Movement.

ICRC financial, material and logistic support enabled the Ghana Red Cross Society to help vulnerable people following ethnic clashes in the north and to prepare for potential election-related violence. Similar support enabled the Togolese Red Cross to assist flood victims. Through ICRC training, the National Societies of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo enhanced their tracing and first-aid capacities.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians and restoring family links

As IDPs started returning to violence-prone areas in the west, authorities, community leaders and others concerned joined their efforts to reduce intercommunal tensions so that returnees could resume their lives in safety. However, given the proliferation of weapons countrywide, the ICRC persisted in promoting respect for civilians in its discussions with the military and civilian authorities and influential community members so as to prevent IHL violations.

As most Liberian refugees had returned home from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana or been resettled, and freedom of movement in Côte d'Ivoire had improved, the need for the RCM network in the region had dwindled. The Red Cross Societies of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire therefore concentrated on dealing with residual messages, with the help of the ICRC.

The remaining cases of combatants missing in action were resubmitted to the Ivorian military authorities, who were able to clarify the fate of 12 soldiers unaccounted for since 2002.

In the region, but mainly in Côte d'Ivoire:

- 607 RCMs collected from and 683 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 5 from and 1 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 9 people (3 females; 3 minors at the time of disappearance); 8 people located; 42 people (7 females; 4 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 4 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 2 reunited with their families; 2 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

### Assisting civilians in Côte d'Ivoire

#### *Improving access to clean water*

In northern, western and central Côte d'Ivoire, some 1.3 million people had access to better-quality water from over 100 production stations as the ICRC continued to facilitate the delivery of chemicals and provided expertise. Throughout the year, this contributed to averting epidemics or shortages of chemicals in these areas. The water board, SODECI, still had difficulty in redeploying technical staff and resources. The ICRC therefore kept up its support until year-end, while setting out a timetable for SODECI's gradual resumption of all services.

Some 1,200 people living precariously in Man without connection to the main water supply benefited from the construction of two public fountains. A household study identified the need for the installation of similar public fountains in four other towns in the west.

In an ICRC-supported project, the inhabitants of 22 villages and encampments in the west (Guiglo) and 12 villages in the centre (Bouaké) participated in establishing priorities and ways to improve their hygiene practices and access to water. More villages and encampments in the west were selected for participation in similar initiatives in 2009.

A health centre near Guiglo, an area with limited health services, was able to give more medical, particularly prenatal, consultations after being refurbished by the ICRC.

- 1,314,008 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

#### *Consolidating economic security*

Some 6,500 vulnerable households in 123 remote villages mainly in the north received subsistence-crop seeds and fertilizer to make up for the breakdown of cotton and cashew nut production and to cope with additional needs arising from the return of IDPs. In the west, 1,962 households regained food security until the next harvest thanks to rain-fed rice and maize seed, which the ICRC supplied instead of the food rations originally envisaged. This enabled them to produce more than 10,800 tonnes of cereal, covering most of their annual needs.

After losing their belongings as a result of a land dispute and ethnic violence, nearly 1,000 individuals (170 households) in two western villages and one eastern locality were able to get by with essential household items supplied by the ICRC.

In the north and west, 34 associations comprising over 1,000 members, mainly women heading households, revived market gardening with vegetable seed, fertilizer and tools provided by the ICRC. Five other women's associations initiated income-generating activities (cereal milling, cash crop production) with ICRC support.

Malnourished children (on average 30 new cases per month) were treated at the ICRC-supported Red Cross feeding centre in Korhogo.

- 55,753 people (9,195 households) received seed, tools and fertilizer or benefited from market gardening projects

#### *Health care*

In the western region of Danané, where government services were only slowly resuming, three health centres and 27 health posts run by the Ivorian Red Cross continued to receive drugs, medical supplies and training provided by the ICRC. This meant that an average of 600 people per month had access to basic care at minimal cost. By upgrading their skills through training and using delivery kits provided by the ICRC, 170 traditional birth attendants contributed to safer childbirth in 25 villages.

In central and western Côte d'Ivoire, more than 70,000 children under five and women of childbearing age were immunized against polio, diphtheria and other common diseases, helping to prevent epidemics.

In the 30 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population 128,000):

- 6,823 people given consultations, including 3,283 women attending curative consultations
- 72,922 vaccine doses administered in 2 campaigns (including 58,659 to children aged five or under and 14,263 to women of childbearing age)
- 754 patients referred to a second level of care
- 257 health education sessions held

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visits to detainees

In Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, detainees held on security or criminal charges were visited by the ICRC, according to the organization's customary working procedures, to check that their treatment and living conditions were in line with internationally recognized standards. Findings and recommendations were shared with the authorities in a confidential dialogue revolving around treatment, living conditions, the food situation, health care and respect for judicial guarantees. During visits, detainees had the opportunity to communicate with their families by means of RCMs and, where necessary, were provided with basic hygiene items.

In December 2008, the Centre de commandement intégré authorized the ICRC to visit detainees in all places of detention under its jurisdiction in the former buffer zone.

### Detention conditions and health

#### *Côte d'Ivoire*

In all the country's prisons, the health situation was monitored year-round. At ICRC workshops in Abidjan, 22 prison directors and 22 nurses gained a better understanding of detention issues, including nutrition and medical care. Following ICRC recommendations, in nearly all prisons a nurse was put in charge of detainee health, and referral to hospitals improved.

Abidjan's *police criminelle* and senior police officers were informed of the rights of people in temporary detention and, at a workshop organized by the Interior Ministry with ICRC input, familiarized with human rights principles applicable to situations of election-related violence.

In eight prisons in government-controlled areas and two in the Forces Nouvelles-controlled area, some 1,000 malnourished detainees still required monthly supplementary feeding. The programme, under way since 2005, thus helped stabilize prison mortality rates.

Inmates in seven prisons faced fewer health risks after the ICRC upgraded sanitation and accommodation. Similar projects started in two additional prisons. In all, 17 prisons were fumigated.

During a beriberi outbreak in Côte d'Ivoire's main prison, the authorities managed the situation with ICRC support in the form of medicines and nutrients, as well as advice and logistic support.

#### *Togo*

The inmates of three prisons enjoyed improved hygiene conditions after the ICRC repaired sewage systems, constructed water reservoirs and carried out hygiene promotion.

#### *Burkina Faso*

At the request of the Defence Ministry, a newly opened prison in Ouagadougou received IHL documentation, and 106 military justice officials were trained in first aid and briefed on the ICRC.

### Summary

#### *Côte d'Ivoire*

- ▶ In government-controlled regions: 12,837 detainees visited, of whom 108 monitored individually (1 minor) and 62 newly registered (1 minor), during 193 visits to 90 places of detention
- ▶ In Forces Nouvelles-controlled regions: 1,422 detainees visited, of whom 148 monitored individually (1 minor) and 141 newly registered (1 minor), during 245 visits to 96 places of detention
- ▶ 1,005 detainees benefited from supplementary feeding
- ▶ 8,790 detainees benefited from hygiene items
- ▶ 1,416 detainees benefited from water/sanitation projects

#### *Togo*

- ▶ 2,456 detainees visited, of whom 6 monitored individually, during 8 visits to 7 places of detention
- ▶ 3,660 detainees received hygiene and other essential items
- ▶ 1,952 detainees benefited from water/sanitation projects

#### *In the region*

- ▶ 154 RCMs collected from and 131 RCMs distributed to detainees and 529 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- ▶ 6 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## WOUNDED AND SICK

In Côte d'Ivoire, the staff of Korhogo and Katiola hospitals upgraded their professional skills thanks to training in equipment sterilization and post-surgery and maternity nursing organized by the ICRC. To raise treatment standards further, both hospitals received extra equipment. Along with the Odienné hospital, they also enjoyed a better water supply and hygiene standards after their water storage, water distribution and sanitation systems had been repaired by the ICRC. In Korhogo hospital, the sterilization room was renovated, lowering risks of complications for surgical patients.

In the north, where civilians' access to adequate health care was still sketchy, the ICRC decided on an additional longer-term commitment by supplying four hospitals with essential drugs to ease the situation.

The ICRC kept a contingency stock to treat up to 300 casualties in violence-prone regions.

In the only ICRC-supported hospital that provided data (Korhogo):

- ▶ 5,640 patients (including 2,480 women and 2,102 children) admitted: of whom 536 surgical cases, and 3,638 medical and 1,466 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- ▶ 273 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 9,506 outpatients given consultations, including 7,735 attending surgical or medical consultations and 1,772 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations
- ▶ 458 patients in hospitals benefited from water/sanitation projects

## AUTHORITIES

Regular contact was maintained with international and national authorities. This facilitated ICRC activities and gave the organization the opportunity to encourage governments in the region to ratify and implement IHL treaties.

At a conference on migration held in Rabat, Morocco, by the Abidjan-based African Parliamentary Union, representatives of 27 African parliaments and international organizations advocated a coordinated multilateral approach to the issue respecting human rights and dignity. The final declaration included recommendations regarding humanitarian aspects put forward jointly by the International Federation, UNHCR and the ICRC.

### Côte d'Ivoire

- a bill on emblem protection submitted to the Ministry of Defence for approval
- 23 members of the Forces Nouvelles briefed on ICRC activities and basic IHL rules
- an ICRC study on the compatibility of the Ivorian constitution with the Rome Statute presented at a conference organized by the National Coalition for the International Criminal Court
- 2 officials of the Justice and Foreign ministries attended the annual ICRC/ECOWAS seminar on IHL implementation in Abuja, Nigeria (see *Abuja*)

### In the region

- in Burkina Faso, authorities briefed on IHL and the Movement
- in Benin, military and civilian authorities attended a workshop on IHL integration and the ICRC's study on customary IHL
- in violence-prone areas of northern Ghana and Togo, authorities, members of the armed forces, and political, religious and traditional leaders briefed on the need to respect the work of the Movement and IHL rules

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Ivorian armed forces were undergoing major restructuring, including the integration of up to 5,000 former Forces Nouvelles members.

The armed and security forces, including peacekeeping contingents, continued to be familiarized with basic IHL rules, human rights law and the ICRC's mandate through talks and briefings. Contact was maintained with training centres.

### Côte d'Ivoire

- some 4,100 police officers and trainees, *gendarmes*, members of the armed forces, Forces Nouvelles troops, traditional hunters and militia members familiarized with IHL, human rights and the Movement
- 5,000 copies of the *Soldier's Handbook* distributed to the Ivorian armed forces

### In the region

- 31 peacekeepers briefed on the ICRC and civil-military cooperation at Ghana's International Peacekeeping Training Centre
- in Togo, members of the armed forces and *gendarmes* from some 10 garrisons briefed on ICRC action, and 30 *gendarmes* and police officers took part in a workshop on policing in situations of violence
- the *Soldier's Handbook* for the armed forces of Togo and Benin published
- Burkinabé armed forces training centres received 5 sets of IHL documentation



## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media and civil society remained essential relays for ICRC efforts to foster public interest in humanitarian issues and generate support for the Movement's activities. Academic circles were particularly receptive, with IHL being taught at five of the six major universities in the region. Journalists were kept regularly abreast of IHL issues and the activities of the ICRC and the Movement, resulting in better coverage of these topics.

### Côte d'Ivoire

- ▶ 89 trainee civil servants and academics attended IHL courses and/or received IHL reference materials and advice
- ▶ dialogue on humanitarian principles established with the Student Federation
- ▶ 2,193 schoolchildren learnt about humanitarian principles and the Movement
- ▶ 15,200 influential members of civil society briefed on ICRC concerns in some 130 presentations
- ▶ 1,500 radio spots in French and local languages broadcast by 15 local radio stations

### Togo

- ▶ 23 political parties took part in an information day organized by the Togolese Red Cross, in cooperation with 5 partner National Societies and the ICRC

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies received ICRC funds, materials, training, logistic back-up and technical advice to strengthen their emergency response, tracing skills and programmes to promote the Movement and its Fundamental Principles. Senior officials of all four National Societies deepened their knowledge of the Movement and enhanced their communication skills through training.

The ICRC and its Movement partners coordinated their activities and shared information.

With ICRC support, the Ivorian Red Cross:

- ▶ provided first-aid training to more than 100 volunteers, 11 first-aid instructors and 13 radio operators, in case of election-related violence
- ▶ equipped 33 local branches with first-aid kits and kept 90 other kits on hand for emergency response
- ▶ developed an income-generating project involving 8 local branches
- ▶ trained 38 instructors and volunteers in dissemination/communication and tracing techniques and assessed the tracing network
- ▶ via school clubs, introduced 1,000 adolescents to IHL and held 5 workshops on the emblem, prompting 18 private health institutions to change their logos

With ICRC support, the Ghana Red Cross:

- ▶ provided 5,000 vulnerable families with food relief after tribal clashes in northern Ghana
- ▶ received a medical team, first-aid materials, medicines and transport enabling it to respond in the event of violence in 5 high-risk northern localities and in connection with presidential elections

With ICRC support, the Togolese Red Cross:

- ▶ was trained in first aid and emergency response and received bicycles to facilitate tracing activities
- ▶ provided essential household items to 2,000 families after July's floods

With ICRC support, the Burkinabé Red Cross:

- ▶ stood ready to assist 1,000 families with essential supplies in case of violence or natural disaster
- ▶ launched a campaign to promote respect for the emblem
- ▶ provided the local branch in Gaoua near the Ivorian border with a head office



# abuja (regional)

Active in Nigeria during the Biafran war (1966–70), the ICRC established a regional delegation in Lagos in 1988 and relocated to Abuja in 2003. The ICRC works to enhance the Nigerian Red Cross Society's capacity to respond to emergencies countrywide. It supports the National Society's tracing and dissemination activities and a programme to improve hygiene and sanitation in prisons. Working with the authorities, the armed forces, the police, civil society and the Economic Community of West African States, the organization promotes awareness of IHL and its national implementation. The ICRC and the National Society work to promote the Red Cross.

**COVERING**  
Nigeria

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 124   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 2,284 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,350 |
| General                             | -     |

► **3,758**

of which: Overheads 229

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 98% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 5  | expatriates                                 |
| 29 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

**In 2008, the ICRC:**

- approached all parties concerned on behalf of people affected by intercommunal violence in the north and armed clashes in the Niger Delta
- supported the Nigerian Red Cross Society in assisting over 10,000 civilians and detainees affected by violence and in improving detention conditions for more than 3,000 detainees through its prison sanitation programme
- promoted the Small Arms and Light Weapons Convention of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, later signed by 14 ECOWAS members
- strengthened dialogue with the military leadership, including by giving a talk on integrating IHL into the operations of the Nigerian army at the army chief of staff annual conference
- started IHL workshops for active duty units of the joint taskforce involved in security operations in the Niger Delta

## CONTEXT

President Umaru Yar'Adua faced many challenges, ranging from security concerns in the Niger Delta to Nigeria's huge energy needs, food security and the fight against corruption.

The country's political and economic stability was threatened by the situation in the Niger Delta, where armed groups frequently attacked oil companies, causing mounting tension and production losses. The president's proposal to hold a summit with the Delta communities was turned down, and there were more deadly clashes between armed groups and the Nigerian army. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, the major armed group, made dialogue with the authorities conditional on the release of its spokesperson, Henry Okah, on trial for treason and gunrunning.

In Jos, the capital of Plateau state in central Nigeria, longstanding land issues and economic rivalry between communities sparked violence during local elections in November. In two days of rioting, 400 people were reportedly killed and 14,000 displaced.

Settling a protracted border dispute in accordance with the 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice, Nigeria formally handed over the Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon in August. Although many Nigerian nationals had already left Bakassi to resettle in neighbouring regions of Nigeria, the situation remained fragile. Before and after the handover, there were deadly clashes between Cameroonian soldiers and gunmen allegedly from the neighbouring Niger Delta.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |
|--|-------|
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS<sup>1</sup></b>                      |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected   | 24    |
| RCMs distributed   | 6     |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>    |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 1     |
| <i>of whom females</i>   | 1     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 4     |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 20    |
| <i>of which for females</i>                                    | 6     |

1. Nigeria

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, the ICRC continued to focus on preventive activities, humanitarian diplomacy and strengthening the capacity of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

Priority was given to helping the National Society assert its role as a major provider of emergency assistance and as an independent auxiliary to the authorities. The newly elected National Society leadership began its work, supported by state branches and headquarters, which the ICRC had made every effort to mobilize. With technical and financial backing from the ICRC, the Nigerian Red Cross responded in a timely and effective manner to the needs of victims affected by situations of violence, for example during the Jos crisis and in the context of the Bakassi peninsula handover.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) emerged as a key player among African regional economic groupings, with Nigeria wielding a strong influence. The ICRC therefore gave priority to developing a stronger and more proactive relationship with ECOWAS by meeting with the Commission President's Office and key commissioners. In line with its humanitarian diplomacy objectives, the ICRC initiated several joint events to promote the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, which came significantly closer to achieving the necessary quorum. The annual seminar co-organized with ECOWAS established the ICRC as a key intermediary in promoting programmes linked to IHL and in addressing mutual concerns of the international donor community and ECOWAS, for example small arms proliferation in the Niger Delta.

As Nigeria was a major contributor of troops to peacekeeping operations in Darfur (Sudan) and Sierra Leone and to the ECOWAS Standby Force, the sub-regional African Union peace-keeping force, peacekeeping became a major military activity.

Insecurity and violence prevailed in the Niger Delta, where armed groups frequently clashed with government forces. The ICRC promoted IHL among all arms carriers involved in internal security operations, civil-military cooperation and peace-support operations.

## CIVILIANS

Populations in violence-prone areas reportedly suffered abuses at the hands of weapon bearers. The ICRC extended its network of contacts among all parties present in the Niger Delta or likely to have an influence on the situation, familiarizing them with humanitarian principles and the Red Cross to facilitate its access to victims of violence.

People who were separated from their families or had lost touch with them as a result of situations of violence, detention, human trafficking or other problems contacted their relatives via the tracing and RCM network run by the ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross.

When violence flared in Jos, scores of civilians who had fled their homes were located and reunited with their relatives (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

- ▶ 24 RCMs collected from and 6 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 1 person (female); 4 people located; 20 people (6 females) still being sought

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

During the Jos crisis, people held in the central prison and police cells were assisted by the Nigerian Red Cross. The ICRC talked to the local and federal authorities to check that the detainees' treatment and detention conditions were in line with internationally recognized standards. This contributed to the early release of a number of detainees to prevent overcrowding.

The Nigerian Prison Service and the ICRC maintained regular contact. The Nigerian Red Cross continued to receive support from the ICRC for its prison sanitation activities, which were reviewed with the aim of enhancing National Society ownership of the programme. Officials of the prison service and National Society representatives familiarized themselves with the ICRC and its mandate at two workshops held in Abuja (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

## AUTHORITIES

Key contacts in the Foreign Ministry, Nigeria's new Commission on Small Arms, and the House of Representatives' Committee on Justice engaged in dialogue with the ICRC, particularly regarding the Conventions on Certain Conventional Weapons and on Cluster Munitions.

Closer links were forged with ECOWAS, especially the President's Office and the Committee for Political Affairs, Peace and Security and its Peacekeeping Department and Small Arms Unit. On request, the ICRC provided IHL expertise and contributed guidelines to the civil-military cooperation and Emergency Response Team frameworks.

Through joint events, ECOWAS, the ICRC and other partners promoted the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, particularly those governing weapon control and means of warfare. The annual ECOWAS-ICRC seminar brought together government experts and ambassadors from ECOWAS and representatives of donor countries. The seminar called on States to ratify the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons and mobilized overwhelming support for the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which 14 out of 15 ECOWAS member States went on to sign in December.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Dialogue continued with the army top echelons to ensure that IHL had its proper place in the manuals and operations of the armed forces. The annual conference held by the chief of staff served as a key forum to address Nigeria's military leadership.

Some 120 members of the joint taskforce assigned to internal security operations in the Niger Delta were briefed on IHL during a first three-day workshop in Port Harcourt.

Key military training facilities were a major audience for IHL presentations.

The chief of staff and senior officers of the ECOWAS Standby Force were briefed on IHL, which started to be integrated into standard operating procedures. One officer attended the annual Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, hosted by the ICRC and the Swiss army in Switzerland. The ICRC participated in an ECOWAS field exercise, contributing IHL elements to the planning and practical stages.

Police authorities were presented with 150,000 copies of the new *Guide for Police Conduct and Behaviour* containing IHL and human rights principles adapted to the Nigerian context, produced with the ICRC's help. As agreed in the 2005 memorandum of understanding, the police teaching manual was revised regarding arrest, the use of force and firearms, and detention. Cooperation was renewed for another year to prepare the ICRC's handover of the programme to the police.

Armed forces and police instructors built their IHL training skills at train-the-trainer courses. Police and the military, including officers from operational units, attended presentations on IHL/human rights law.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Relations with the media were further strengthened, resulting in better coverage of ICRC activities. A workshop on IHL and the role of the media in conflict zones gave 23 journalists the opportunity to enhance their understanding of IHL and the role of the ICRC and the media in situations of violence, illustrated with local examples. Two journalists were sponsored to attend a radio workshop in Nairobi, Kenya.

- 5,000 copies of the Red Cross magazine published and distributed to key contacts

Academic circles continued to receive ICRC material and technical support. Libraries were stocked with IHL publications and provided with links to IHL virtual fora and other academic networks.

At an ICRC workshop, 24 law lecturers from 15 universities across Nigeria shared information and views on IHL teaching and research. The workshop helped to evaluate the ICRC's contribution to IHL teaching. As a result, the National Universities Commission received a recommendation that IHL be taught as a separate course.

- 19 universities received materials, course sponsorships and resources
- 6 law lecturers attended the 7th all-Africa course on IHL in Pretoria, South Africa
- 3 students participated in an IHL moot court competition in Arusha, Tanzania

African NGOs concerned with IHL issues invited the ICRC to share its views on cluster munitions and other topics.

Nigeria's Muslim community and the ICRC strengthened cooperation by organizing first-aid training for Muslim groups. Both agreed to continue the initiative.

- 91 volunteers from 9 Muslim groups trained in first-aid during 4 courses

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With technical and financial support from the ICRC, the Nigerian Red Cross enhanced its capacity to respond to emergencies, as shown during the Jos crisis and other instances of intercommunal and election-related violence, and to carry out its sanitation programme in 12 prisons in 4 states. The National Society strengthened its family-links and IHL promotion programmes, progressed in revising its statutes and managed to enlist presidential support.

The National Society had 10 coordination meetings with the ICRC and the International Federation, which helped it restore contact with other Movement partners.

With ICRC support, the Nigerian Red Cross:

*Emergency preparedness and response*

- ▶ during the Jos crisis, provided 9,443 IDPs with first aid, medical evacuations, food and other supplies
- ▶ similarly assisted 653 detainees in police cells and Jos central prison
- ▶ aided 554 Chadian refugees stranded at the border
- ▶ administered first aid and evacuated 335 victims of violence in 5 states
- ▶ jointly with the ICRC, assessed resettlement conditions of Nigerian nationals leaving the Bakassi peninsula and assisted 280 families
- ▶ trained 105 Red Cross workers in the Safer Access approach, disaster management and first aid, and 14 others in warehouse management

*Prison sanitation programme*

- ▶ provided 3,078 detainees with hygiene articles and other supplies
- ▶ ran 4 water and habitat micro-projects for 1,468 detainees

*Restoration of family links*

- ▶ provided RCM and tracing services to civilians, including people affected by the Jos crisis and Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in the Oru camp until its closure in July

*Promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles*

- ▶ trained 138 national officers in Red Cross governance and 37 information coordinators, and produced 200 copies of a communication handbook
- ▶ organized the 10th international youth camp for 280 participants from Liberia, Namibia and Nigeria, and held dissemination sessions for over 1,000 young volunteers





# dakar (regional)

The Dakar regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1994. It focuses on promoting IHL among the armed forces and other bearers of weapons and on encouraging its implementation by the authorities throughout the region. It also supports the activities of the National Societies, assists people affected by violence in Casamance and Mali, and by non-international armed conflict in Niger, such as displaced persons in need and returnees, and visits detainees of ICRC concern, providing them with material aid where necessary.

## COVERING

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

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,188 |
| Assistance                          | 5,669 |
| Prevention                          | 2,118 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 2,158 |
| General                             | -     |

► **11,134**

of which: Overheads 680

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 88% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 21 | expatriates                                 |
| 91 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- expanded its operational capacity and contacts with authorities and armed groups in Mali, Niger, Casamance (Senegal) and Guinea-Bissau
- during 64 visits, monitored the treatment and living conditions of some 3,700 people detained by the authorities and by armed groups in Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal
- delivered seed, food and household items to thousands of families affected by violence in Casamance and Guinea-Bissau
- provided training in war surgery to health professionals and medical assistance to health facilities in Niger, and financial support for the treatment of weapon-wounded in Casamance
- boosted the rapid response capacities of National Society branches in violence-prone areas by training and equipping 700 volunteers
- provided governments with IHL expertise, specifically with respect to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which all six States signed in December

## CONTEXT

The year was marked by increased fighting between government forces and armed groups in the northern reaches of Mali and Niger. In Mali, the army strengthened its positions following heightened activity of armed groups, while Niger's armed forces launched operations against the Mouvement des Nigériens pour la Justice (MNJ) in the Aïr region.

Up to 10,000 people were reportedly displaced by the fighting in the Aïr region, where mines and banditry posed additional security risks for civilians and humanitarian workers.

In Casamance, Senegal, the longstanding confrontation between government forces and the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC) remained unresolved. There were few clashes, but tension persisted, preventing mine-infested swathes of Casamance from being cleared and displaced families and refugees from returning home.

In Guinea-Bissau, legislative elections proceeded smoothly, but political stability was threatened by an alleged coup attempt in November.

All the countries in the region suffered the effects of the worldwide economic crisis, which made already deprived populations in violence-prone areas even more vulnerable. The soaring cost of living sparked sometimes violent street protests, such as in south-eastern Senegal, and the social climate remained tense.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total         | Women  | Children    |
|---|-------|---|---------------|--------|-------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>           |               |        |             |
| Detainees visited   | 3,703 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                     |               |        |             |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 329   | Food <sup>2</sup>   | Beneficiaries | 49,688 | 25% 50%     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 66    | Essential household items <sup>3</sup>                          | Beneficiaries | 13,852 | 21% 40%     |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 31    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives <sup>4</sup> | Beneficiaries | 42,929 | 33% 41%     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       | Water, sanitation and habitat projects <sup>5</sup>             | Beneficiaries | 16,135 | 24% 46%     |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       | <i>Health<sup>6</sup></i>                                       |               |        |             |
| RCMs collected  | 28    | Health centres supported  | Structures    | 3      |             |
| RCMs distributed  | 9     | Consultations   | Patients      | 5,635  |             |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |       | of which curative   | Patients      |        | 1,501 2,036 |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 6     | of which ante/post-natal  | Patients      |        | 855         |
| of whom females   | 4     | Immunizations   | Doses         | 2,674  |             |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                                       | 2     |   |               |        |             |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                                 | 1     |   |               |        |             |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 11    |   |               |        |             |
| of whom females   | 5     |   |               |        |             |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                                       | 3     |   |               |        |             |

1. Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal

2. Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal

3. Mali, Niger

4. Guinea-Bissau, Senegal

5. Guinea-Bissau, Niger, Senegal

6. Senegal

## ICRC ACTION

To assist civilians affected by the violence in north-eastern Mali and northern Niger more effectively and have greater access to detainees in these areas, the ICRC strengthened its presence in Niamey, Agadez, Gao and Bamako. Its scope of action in Niger's Air mountains was seriously limited by insecurity.

The fighting in northern Niger caused many people to flee their villages, leaving them economically vulnerable. This prompted the ICRC to launch an emergency assistance programme for over 5,800 IDPs near Agadez in December. Health services were also disrupted, although access problems made it difficult to gain a clear picture of the extent of needs. In addition to assisting the Agadez hospital, the ICRC nonetheless managed to deliver some supplies to health facilities in the north.

In north-eastern Mali, the ICRC provided IDPs and returnees in the Kidal area with emergency relief. Concerned by the problems facing undocumented migrants stranded in Tenzawaten on Mali's border with Algeria, the ICRC started a project to assist them, with the Mali Red Cross.

In both contexts, the ICRC continued its protection work for people detained by various armed groups and facilitated the release of some who had been wounded. It visited detainees in Malian and Nigerien prisons, checking on their treatment and enhancing their access to medical care. As a neutral, independent and impartial intermediary, the ICRC was able to help with the release of civilians held by armed groups in the Sahel region.

In Gambia, negotiations regarding renewed access to security detainees made no progress.

In early 2008, the ICRC was able to return to Casamance's Fogny region, after an 18-month hiatus following the death of a delegate in a mine incident. In Fogny and Guinea-Bissau's impoverished north, it identified isolated population groups living in precarious conditions resulting from the prevailing tension and insufficient rainfall. The delegation decided on distributions of emergency food rations and seed to tide the most vulnerable over to the next harvest. It resumed assistance programmes in Fogny, expanding some of them. They included market garden projects, water, habitat and primary health care activities, and a new school hygiene initiative. Thousands of people thus had access to a broad range of services not otherwise available to them.

In Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC stepped up activities to shore up economic security, water supply and public health services for residents and refugees from Casamance. It joined forces with other organizations to tackle a cholera epidemic.

To better respond to the increased needs of vulnerable groups in the contexts of Casamance/northern Guinea-Bissau and in northern Mali and Niger, in May the ICRC extended its initial plan of action and annual budget for the region (outlined in its 2008 Emergency Appeal issued in December 2007) to CHF 12.6 million.

As part of its efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, the ICRC encouraged the States of the region to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which all six did at the conference in Oslo, Norway, in December.

The ICRC concluded cooperation agreements with the region's six National Societies, aiming to bolster their operational capacities, particularly in violence-prone regions. It worked to enhance coordination with Movement partners and other organizations working in similar fields.

## CIVILIANS

In northern Niger, to a lesser extent in Mali and, despite relative military calm, in Casamance, civilians continued to be at serious risk from mines and weapon bearers. This was borne out by reports of abuses, mine incidents and, in the Aïr region, population displacements.

While insecurity prevented ICRC access to the Aïr mountain region, the organization nonetheless drew the attention of the authorities and the MNJ to IHL rules protecting civilians. As populations in eastern Niger were at risk of intercommunal violence, the ICRC assessed the situation in Diffa with an eye to future assistance projects.

In Mali, the ICRC fostered dialogue with the authorities and the armed forces.

Concerned by the plight of undocumented migrants stranded at the border with Algeria, the ICRC started a project with the Mali Red Cross covering Gao, Kidal and Tenzawaten, whereby vulnerable migrants were given the chance to contact their families and received other assistance. More generally, the ICRC kept a close watch on the situation of migrants passing through Niger.

In Casamance, after several incidents involving civilian casualties, the ICRC made representations to the parties concerned, reminding them of the need to respect civilians.

- 14 RCMs collected from and 7 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 6 people (4 females; 2 minors at the time of disappearance); 1 person located; 11 people (5 females; 3 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

### Boosting economic security

In Casamance's Fogny region and northern Guinea-Bissau, where many people from Casamance had fled, isolated population groups were living precariously as a result of the prevailing tension, insufficient rainfall and rising food prices.

Women's market gardening associations (27 in Casamance and 6 in Guinea-Bissau) were the prime targets of ICRC efforts to contribute to economic security. With the help of agricultural inputs and training, the women increased production, generated additional income and created new gardens. Two villages received husking mills.

More than 1,900 vulnerable families affected by sporadic violence along Casamance's border with Gambia and nearly twice as many living along the São Domingos-Suzana-Varela trajectory in northern Guinea-Bissau survived the annual "hungry season" thanks to ICRC emergency food rations and distributions of rice and peanut seed.

In Guinea-Bissau, destitute households and poverty-stricken villages received fishing equipment, cereal mills, boats and bicycles to help them generate income. During a cholera outbreak, hospitals were overstretched and unable to provide for their patients' food needs. Over 1,400 patients and medical staff benefited from ICRC food assistance in the form of oil and rice.

In north-eastern Mali, displaced families, returnees, destitute people and people whose homes had been destroyed by torrential rain were able to get by with food rations and essential household items supplied by the ICRC.

In Iferouan, in Niger's Agadez region, 1,173 families displaced by the conflict were provided with basic necessities by the ICRC.

- 49,688 people (7,463 households) received food, including:
  - 21,837 (3,781 households) in Guinea-Bissau and 18,264 (1,952 households) in Casamance
  - 18,960 (3,460 households) in Mali
- 13,852 people (2,283 households) received essential household items, including:
  - 10,690 (2,220 households) in Mali
  - 5,866 (1,173 households) in Niger
- 42,929 people (5,737 households) benefited from agricultural initiatives, including:
  - 21,409 (3,785 households) in Guinea-Bissau
  - 21,520 (1,952 households) in Casamance

### Support to primary health care

After assessing northern Guinea-Bissau's health system, the ICRC appealed to national and international institutions to implement urgent development measures. Meanwhile, it maintained its health programmes in Casamance. In Fogny, 20 community health facilities were able to cater to the basic health needs of over 35,600 people using medicines and materials supplied by the ICRC, as needed. Six health and maternity centres and health posts were built or upgraded. Nearly 70 traditional birth attendants and community health workers enhanced their skills through ICRC training, including in eye care and malaria prevention. They were given bicycles to facilitate their travel from village to village.

When cholera struck north-western Guinea-Bissau, overburdened hospitals coped better after receiving intravenous drips and hygiene products from the ICRC. In 21 villages, the epidemic was contained after hundreds of wells, latrines and homes had been disinfected by the ICRC and people had learnt about basic hygiene. In São Domingos, cholera patients were accommodated in a makeshift hospital with four latrines installed by the ICRC. A water point was installed in the city's mother and child health centre.

In the 3 entirely ICRC-supported health centres in Casamance (average monthly catchment population: 9,500):

- 5,635 people given consultations, including 855 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 4,780 attending curative consultations
- 2,674 vaccine doses administered (including 2,095 to children aged five or under and 579 to women of childbearing age)
- 10 patients referred to a second level of care
- 70 health education sessions held

### Improving access to clean water

Better access to water remained crucial to health and food security.

In Casamance, communities benefited from ICRC projects to dig/install or repair 42 wells and a number of hand pumps. Technicians were trained in maintenance.

In Guinea-Bissau, 3,000 inhabitants of São Domingos once again had a functioning water supply system after the ICRC completed its repair project, which included the training of water board staff. Rural dwellers had better access to water at 29 refurbished or newly built wells and water points. The installation of 12 rainwater reservoirs meant increased access to fresh water for the inhabitants of Jobel island.

Over 1,200 pupils in Casamance and Guinea-Bissau enjoyed a healthier learning environment thanks to a school hygiene programme. Sixty-nine teachers were trained in hygiene promotion. A new school was built, latrines were installed in four schools, and more latrines were under construction.

- ▶ 8,790 people benefited from water/sanitation projects in Guinea-Bissau and 6,104 in Senegal

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Mali and Niger, more people were arrested as fighting intensified in the north. The ICRC stepped up its visits to detainees in Niger, extending them to detainees held in three temporary facilities near Agadez, and resumed visits in Mali.

In Niger, detainees held by the Justice Ministry received regular visits from ICRC delegates, carried out according to the organization's standard working procedures. Their treatment and living conditions were checked and they were given the opportunity to exchange news with their families via RCMs. Findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the authorities. In a comprehensive report, the authorities were informed of the findings of ICRC visits conducted in 2007.

With the ICRC's increased support to water, habitat, and hygiene promotion initiatives, the penitentiary administration began to tackle infrastructure problems in 13 prisons, starting in Agadez and Niamey. Detainees in 15 prisons benefited from the distribution of hygiene products, farming tools and other materials. Nine prisons received medical kits, vitamins and medicines. In Agadez, several detainees were hospitalized at the ICRC's request.

In Mali, people arrested in connection with the situation in the north were registered in temporary places of detention in Bamako, Gao and Kidal. The ICRC made representations to the armed forces, reminding them of detainees' basic rights, obtained the hospitalization of three detainees and delivered medical and other assistance.

In both contexts, using its standard working procedures, the ICRC visited members of the military and security forces detained by various armed groups in difficult and isolated conditions. The detainees were able to contact relatives via ICRC satellite phone and received medicines, clothes, blankets and jerrycans. About a dozen wounded or sick detainees were evacuated for hospitalization. The ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary in the release of nine civilians held by the MNJ and four held by a Malian armed group.

In Guinea-Bissau, the number of detainees individually monitored by the ICRC increased after an attack on the residence of the head of State. They were visited according to ICRC standard procedures and, along with ordinary detainees, given personal hygiene articles. To prevent cholera, the ICRC emptied one prison's septic tank.

The detainee population of Casamance's Ziguinchor prison benefited from an ICRC visit.

In Gambia, no progress was made in discussions with the authorities on the resumption of ICRC visits to detainees.

### Guinea-Bissau

- ▶ 146 detainees visited, of whom 8 monitored individually and 7 newly registered, during 10 visits to 4 places of detention

### Mali

- ▶ government: 192 detainees visited, of whom 43 monitored individually and newly registered, during 6 visits to 4 places of detention
- ▶ armed group: 93 detainees visited, registered and monitored individually during 8 visits to 4 places of detention and given the opportunity to inform their relatives of their whereabouts by satellite phone
- ▶ 107 detainees received food and hygiene items and other essential items

### Niger

- ▶ government: 3,000 detainees visited, of whom 148 monitored individually and 94 newly registered, during 39 visits to 16 places of detention; 1,241 detainees in government prisons benefited from water and sanitation projects
- ▶ MNJ: 33 detainees visited, registered and monitored individually during 1 visit to 1 place of detention and given the opportunity to inform their relatives of their whereabouts by satellite phone
- ▶ 2,534 detainees received hygiene and other essential items

### Senegal

- ▶ government: 239 detainees visited, of whom 4 monitored individually (2 females; 1 minor) and 2 newly registered (2 females), during 1 visit to 1 place of detention

### Region

- ▶ 14 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 99 satellite phone calls facilitated between detainees and family members

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Health services in Niger had to contend with an increase in weapon-wounded, both civilian and military. In the north, some facilities were supplied with medicines and medical materials by the ICRC. The Agadez hospital received similar supplies to treat about 500 casualties.

In Agadez, Arlit and Niamey, 62 health professionals attended three ICRC war-surgery workshops. Medical staff in two other localities received ad hoc training and medical materials.

In northern Niger and Mali, during visits to soldiers and police captured by armed groups, the ICRC delivered medical supplies and evacuated medical cases (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

In Casamance, 34 weapon-wounded civilians were hospitalized, with the ICRC's financial support.

In Bissau, 46 people were fitted with artificial limbs by Casa Amiga dos Deficientes, which received prosthetic/orthotic materials, funds and training from the ICRC.



## AUTHORITIES

In addition to promoting IHL regionwide, the ICRC maintained regular contact with the local and central authorities in Mali, Niger and Senegal regarding its field operations. With Niger's highest authorities, it discussed extensively the security situation of residents and IDPs in Agadez and detention-related matters.

International organizations based in the region, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had regular contact with the ICRC. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference invited the ICRC president to attend its 11th Summit in Dakar, giving the ICRC the opportunity to share its humanitarian concerns during mainstream sessions and high-level meetings on the sidelines.

- all 6 States signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and Guinea-Bissau acceded to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its five protocols
- all 6 States took part in the annual ICRC-ECOWAS seminar on IHL in Lagos, Nigeria (see *Abuja*), and Guinea-Bissau participated in the IHL meeting for Portuguese-speaking countries in Cape Verde
- the ICRC study on customary IHL presented to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Dialogue was pursued with armed forces regarding respect for ICRC field activities in the region.

Cooperation continued with the military in Mali, Niger and Senegal on the integration of IHL into training, doctrine and operations. Some 30 officers of the Malian and Nigerien armed forces took part in two IHL train-the-trainer courses, and 20 officers at the Bamako Peacekeeping School, which had concluded a cooperation agreement with the ICRC, attended an IHL training session.

As a result of a technical meeting, high-ranking Senegalese officers working with the ICRC created a framework for the integration of IHL into training, regulations and tactical procedures.

In Casamance, 15 MFDC members were briefed on humanitarian principles and the effects of indiscriminate use of mines.

- 1 Senegalese officer attended the annual Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, held in Switzerland
- Over 2,500 army and peacekeeping troops from 4 countries briefed on IHL

## CIVIL SOCIETY

In each country, the media, community leaders and the general public were kept informed of ICRC activities, security concerns and the role of the National Societies through press releases, radio broadcasts and reports produced by the regional delegation. As a result of the regular updates, the media reported more accurately on humanitarian issues and ICRC concerns and activities.

With ICRC support, the Senegalese education authorities pilot-tested the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools for a third year. A further 11 teachers were trained in the programme and a Dakar school contributed to the making of a film for teacher-training purposes.

Universities continued to enhance IHL teaching and attend and organize IHL events, with ICRC advice and technical support. Niger and Senegal both held national IHL moot court competitions.

Contacts were expanded with Islamic NGOs, for example at the OIC Summit in Dakar (see *Authorities*). At an IHL workshop in Bamako, some 30 religious leaders and academics from Mali, Niger and Senegal discussed principles common to Islamic law and IHL.

- 5 lecturers and experts from Mali, Niger and Senegal took part in the 4th pan-African course on IHL for French-speaking countries held in Brazzaville, Congo

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Bolstered by ICRC training, material and financial support, the region's National Societies responded to the needs of vulnerable populations.

In 5 countries, some 700 volunteers in sensitive areas upgraded their first-aid skills through training and were equipped with materials to respond in the event of violence.

In Dakar, 300 volunteers learnt to use a participatory approach in conducting hygiene promotion campaigns and received materials so that they could contribute to lowering health risks in neighbourhoods affected by floods.

In Guinea-Bissau, medical and sanitation training enabled more than 100 volunteers to carry out cholera control measures.

Volunteers in Casamance, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Mali took part in ICRC assistance operations for civilians and detainees.

The focal points for tracing activities in all six National Societies enhanced their capacities at a workshop in Dakar. Over 40 volunteers in Gambia and Mali received training in restoring family links.

The Mali Red Cross started a project with the ICRC to assist IDPs and migrants in the north, for example through the provision of food (see *Civilians*). The Kidal branch office was refurbished and equipped by the ICRC.

Three other National Society committees in Mali, Casamance and Guinea-Bissau also received office equipment.

The National Societies of Mali, Niger and Senegal carried out dissemination activities in schools and universities and set up Red Cross cells there. The Gambia Red Cross Society conducted an emblem campaign.

As lead agency in the Sahel region, the ICRC worked in close coordination with Movement partners, holding meetings and conducting training and information sessions in Agadez, Dakar and Niamey.





# harare (regional)

The Harare regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1981, although the ICRC has been present in some of the countries covered for much longer. It focuses on protecting and assisting civilians and visiting people deprived of their freedom in connection with political tensions. The delegation helps family members separated by armed conflict restore contact. It informs the authorities, the armed and security forces and the general public about IHL, human rights law and the ICRC's mandate, and helps the region's National Societies develop their operational capacities.

## COVERING

Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,012 |
| Assistance                          | 4,413 |
| Prevention                          | 1,026 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,102 |
| General                             | -     |

► **7,554**

of which: Overheads 461

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 91% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 13 | expatriates                                 |
| 45 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- addressed the protection and assistance needs of over 4,500 people affected by violence following the elections in Zimbabwe
- began providing material, technical and financial support to 8 polyclinics in Harare
- regularly provided supplies and training to 16 rural health centres in Zimbabwe and extended such support to 3 referral hospitals
- responded to the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe by supporting treatment units, community prevention campaigns and 2 prisons in Harare
- with the Namibia and Botswana Red Cross Societies, organized family visits for people detained or formerly detained in connection with the 1999 uprising in the Caprivi Strip
- ran an IHL module during the Southern African Development Community's first training course in Harare for officers responsible for the national contingents of the African Standby Force

## CONTEXT

In Zimbabwe, joint parliamentary and presidential elections took place in March 2008. However, leading up to the second round presidential run-off on 27 June, political tensions mounted, sparking incidents of violence, harassment, arrest and displacement. Incumbent Robert Mugabe won unopposed after the opposition leader for the Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangirai, withdrew. Subsequent negotiations facilitated by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) resulted in a power-sharing agreement in September, with Robert Mugabe as president and Morgan Tsvangirai as prime minister. However, by year-end, a lack of consensus over the allocation of ministerial responsibilities continued to delay the implementation of the agreement, and politically motivated arrests were reported.

Zimbabwe also faced chronic economic and social challenges. Hyperinflation thwarted the delivery of public services and left many people unable to afford basic goods. Poor harvests and shortages of fertilizer and fuel also contributed to food insecurity. By the end of December, cholera had reportedly killed some 1,000 people and had infected a further 18,500.

Rupiah Banda was sworn in as Zambia's president in October following elections called after President Levy Mwanawasa's death. Political campaigning in the run-up to the elections was characterized by violent language.

Malawi's former president, Bakili Muluzi, was placed under house arrest in May, accused of plotting a coup against President Bingu wa Mutharika. Opposition supporters contesting the arrest reported an increase in incidents of intimidation, a few of them violent.

In Namibia, rivalry between the ruling and opposition parties polarized the political climate and led to sporadic incidents of violence between supporters.

Ian Khama succeeded Festus Mogae as Botswana's president and head of the ruling party in a smooth transition of power.

In Mozambique, the ruling party won a large majority in November's local elections.

Most countries of the region continued to host refugees, despite few new influxes. Malawi and Mozambique saw the return of their nationals following the violence against foreigners in South Africa (see Pretoria).

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |  | Total                    | Women     | Children |         |         |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|-----------|----------|---------|---------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) <sup>1</sup>                                  |  | CIVILIANS <sup>3</sup>                 |                          |           |          |         |         |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 127  | Economic security, water and habitat   |                          |           |          |         |         |
| Number of visits carried out   | 6  | Food                                   | Beneficiaries            | 4,563     | 61%      | 2%      |         |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 4  | Essential household items              | Beneficiaries            | 3,236     | 60%      | 0%      |         |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS <sup>2</sup>  |  | Water, sanitation and habitat projects | Beneficiaries            | 3,460,000 | 30%      | 40%     |         |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |  | Health                                 |                          |           |          |         |         |
| RCMs collected   | 4,879  | Health centres supported               | Structures               | 24        |          |         |         |
| RCMs distributed   | 3,566  | Consultations                          | Patients                 | 360,098   |          |         |         |
| People reunited with their families  | 3  |  | of which curative        | Patients  |          | 122,735 | 106,238 |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |  |  | of which ante/post-natal | Patients  |          | 40,477  | 1,165   |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 7  | Immunizations                          | Doses                    | 152,294   |          |         |         |
|  | of whom females                                  | WOUNDED AND SICK                       |                          |           |          |         |         |
|  | of whom minors at the time of disappearance      | Hospitals supported                    | Structures               | 3         |          |         |         |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 6  | Admissions                             | Patients                 | 5,600     | 2,684    | 2,166   |         |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 147  | Operations                             | Operations performed     | 245       |          |         |         |
|  | of which for females                             |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
|  | of which for minors at the time of disappearance |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |  |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC  | 1  |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 1  |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008   | 27   |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |  |  |                          |           |          |         |         |
| People to whom travel documents were issued  | 7  |  |                          |           |          |         |         |

1. Namibia

2. Botswana, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe

3. Zimbabwe

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC regional delegation consolidated and strengthened its operations to monitor and respond to people's needs in Zimbabwe, focusing on the districts of Chivi, Makoni and Tsholotsho (in the provinces of Masvingo, Manicaland and Matabeleland North respectively) and on Harare. In August, it increased its budget accordingly.

Throughout 2008, the ICRC nurtured contacts with political, military and security personnel at national, provincial and local level, emphasizing the ICRC's independent, neutral and humanitarian character. After the elections, the ICRC visited the victims of alleged political violence, providing them with food and essential household items, in conjunction with the National Society, and, if displaced, covered the costs of their return home.

The ICRC supplied health centres and referral hospitals in the three priority districts with medicines, equipment, training and the funds for staff commutes and rehabilitated their water and sanitation facilities. In June, the ICRC began supporting eight polyclinics in Harare in a similar manner. To respond to the cholera outbreak, the ICRC helped supervise cholera treatment units and facilitated community prevention campaigns. Two Harare prisons also received supplies for cholera prevention and treatment.

As part of ongoing work with the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA), the ICRC provided materials and equipment to improve Harare's water supply. The District Development Fund (DDF) responsible for water in rural areas received spare parts to rehabilitate hand pumps.

Across the region, the ICRC encouraged governments to ratify and implement IHL. It also promoted the integration of IHL into the training and operations of the region's armed forces and, to this end, prioritized cooperation with SADC. In addition, it conducted a dissemination session for police officers in Zimbabwe. To deepen the public's understanding of humanitarian principles, the ICRC carried out dissemination activities through universities, NGOs and national youth camps.

ICRC delegates visited detainees held in Namibia in relation to the 1999 uprising in the Caprivi Strip. To improve their detention conditions and encourage respect for judicial guarantees, the ICRC made confidential representations to the authorities and provided detainees with essential household items. Visits from families in the Caprivi Strip to relatives detained in Namibia and formerly detained in Botswana were organized by the respective National Societies, in cooperation with the ICRC. Dialogue with the Zimbabwean authorities continued with a view to gaining ICRC access to people held in police stations and prisons.

The ICRC and the region's National Societies provided family-links services to refugees and unaccompanied children. National Societies received technical and financial support for these services, as well as for emergency preparedness and the promotion of the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC coordinated its activities with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest, in order to maximize impact, fill gaps and avoid duplication.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

Where necessary, the relevant national, provincial and local authorities, including security forces, in Zimbabwe and elsewhere, were made aware of humanitarian concerns and reminded of their responsibility to protect and assist people affected by violence.

In the aftermath of the March elections in Zimbabwe, the humanitarian situation was monitored, cases of alleged political violence and forced displacement were reported and oral representations were made to the authorities. People affected by alleged political violence, mainly in the districts of Chimanimani, Gokwe, Harare, Hurungwe, Makoni and Marondera, received one-month food rations and essential household items from the ICRC, in partnership with the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society, and those displaced and without the means to return home had their travel costs covered.

- ▶ 4,563 individuals received food
- ▶ 3,236 individuals received essential household items

### Supporting health care in Zimbabwe

To improve the rural population's access to health care, 16 health centres in the districts of Chivi, Makoni and Tsholotsho regularly received medicines and medical supplies. Medical and management staff underwent training in subjects relevant to their roles. From August, the three main hospitals in these districts began receiving similar regular support to enable them to provide patients referred by the rural health facilities with the necessary follow-up treatment. In addition, people living in these areas were vaccinated against life-threatening diseases as part of the biannual national immunization campaign, thanks to ICRC logistical support.

On an ad hoc basis and particularly following the elections, rural health centres and hospitals in the provinces of Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East and Midlands provinces received dressing sets and drugs to treat victims of alleged political violence.

To combat the cholera epidemic, several hundred patients received medical care at two cholera treatment units in Mashonaland West that the ICRC helped to set up, supply, fund and operate. People living in south-west Harare and Chegutu town (Mashonaland West) also benefited from ICRC support for cholera prevention campaigns, which consisted of home visits to identify cholera cases, disinfect houses with chlorine, promote good hygiene practices and distribute water purification tablets.

On the basis of assessments carried out following talks with the City of Harare Health Department, as of June eight polyclinics in Harare started to receive drugs, medical supplies, and medical and technical advice from the ICRC to support health care provision in urban and densely populated suburban areas. In December, 350 polyclinic staff members had the costs of their commute to work covered by the ICRC.

In the 16 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 158,473) and the 8 ICRC-supported polyclinics (average monthly catchment population: 847,738):

- ▶ 360,098 people given consultations, including 41,642 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 318,456 attending curative consultations

- ▶ 152,294 vaccine doses administered (including 121,210 to children aged five or under and 17,193 to women of childbearing age)
- ▶ 6,006 patients referred to a second level of care
- ▶ 6,804 health education sessions held, including for 2,230 households as part of cholera prevention efforts

In the 3 ICRC-supported hospitals:

- ▶ 5,600 patients (including 2,684 women and 2,166 children) admitted: of whom 287 surgical cases, and 3,665 medical and 1,648 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- ▶ 245 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 14,317 outpatients given consultations, including 14,065 attending surgical or medical consultations and 252 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations

### Providing safe water to communities in Zimbabwe

People living in Harare, its surrounding towns and densely populated suburbs stood to benefit from improvements in the quality and quantity of the water supply as a result of ongoing ICRC support for a ZINWA water treatment plant in Morton Jaffray. Although logistical constraints faced by ZINWA delayed the realization of this project, ICRC assistance in 2008 included the provision of pumps and other materials, equipment and tools.

Rural communities in the three priority districts were able to repair and maintain their water supply systems with spare parts for hand pumps provided to the DDF. New boreholes drilled with ICRC support also increased access to clean water.

Patients and staff at the 16 health centres, 3 hospitals and 4 of the 8 polyclinics supported by the ICRC benefited from the improvements to water and sanitation infrastructure.

- ▶ in Zimbabwe, 460,000 people in rural areas and 3 million people in Harare benefited from water supply projects

### Restoring family links in the region

Repatriation and relocation programmes and improved communications and cross-border travel reduced the demand for family-links services in the region. However, refugees living in camps and elsewhere in Botswana, Malawi and Namibia with no other means of communication were able to restore and maintain family links through the tracing and RCM services provided by their respective National Societies, with ICRC technical and financial support. In Zimbabwe, separated relatives, including refugees living in Tongogara camp, had access to family-links services provided directly by the ICRC. In Zambia, given the reduction in needs, the ICRC focused on resolving pending cases in preparation for the cessation of its tracing services there in 2009.

Unaccompanied children in the region located and re-established contact with their relatives and, where desired and feasible, were reunited with them through the respective National Societies, with ICRC input as needed.

Family reunification across borders was facilitated by the regional delegation through the issue of travel documents, where needed, and coordinated with other National Societies and ICRC delegations outside the region.

- 4,879 RCMs collected from and 3,566 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 13 from unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 7 people (3 females; 1 minor at the time of disappearance); 6 people located; 147 people (17 females; 10 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 3 people reunited with their families, including 1 unaccompanied/separated child
- 1 unaccompanied/separated child registered; 27 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 7 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Namibia

The cases of 127 security detainees arrested in connection with the 1999 uprising in the Caprivi Strip continued to be monitored by the ICRC. Visits to these detainees, conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedures, formed the basis for confidential representations to the relevant authorities, including government ministries, concerning the detainees' living conditions and treatment and the legal situation of those still facing trial. In agreement with the authorities, these matters were also broached with the international community to build support for the government's efforts to improve detention conditions. To address immediate needs, detainees visited received essential household, hygiene and recreational items. In April and May, family visits to detainees were organized by the National Society, with ICRC financial and technical oversight.

- 127 detainees visited and monitored individually during 6 visits to 4 places of detention
- 127 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support

### Botswana

A group of Namibians formerly detained in relation to the uprising in the Caprivi Strip and transferred to Dukwi refugee camp were visited by their families with the help of the Botswanan and Namibian Red Cross Societies, in cooperation with the ICRC.

People held in the Francistown Centre for Illegal Immigrants received ICRC visits, carried out with a view to monitoring the movement and treatment of asylum seekers in the region and to maintaining a dialogue with the authorities in this regard.

### Zambia

A visit to Mukobeko Maximum Security Prison to follow up on the findings and recommendations of a confidential report submitted to the authorities to help bring detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards was rescheduled for 2009 owing to administrative constraints faced by the prison authorities.

### Zimbabwe

Detainees in two prisons in Harare benefited from emergency donations of medical and hygiene supplies in December to support the prison administration's response to cholera. Ongoing

dialogue with the relevant authorities was unsuccessful in gaining full access by the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to people held in police stations and prisons.

## AUTHORITIES

Zambia ratified the Biological Weapons Convention and, region-wide, governments worked on national legislation to implement IHL, with the ICRC offering technical support. For example, 10 government representatives, from Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, participated in the ICRC's regional seminar on IHL implementation (see *Pretoria*). Zimbabwean representatives were able to prepare for this seminar through an ICRC-supported workshop organized by the Ministry of Defence's Judge Advocate General in his capacity as chair of the interministerial sub-committee on human rights and IHL. Workshop participants drafted legislation implementing the Biological Weapons Convention, which was presented to the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for finalization.

To deepen understanding in Zimbabwe of humanitarian principles and the ICRC's neutral, independent and humanitarian character, members of the aforementioned interministerial sub-committee, along with politicians and civil servants, attended an ICRC-facilitated IHL workshop, IHL reference materials were donated to the parliamentary library, and regular contact was maintained with parliamentarians.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

To support the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operating procedures across the region, including into those of the African Standby Force, maintaining contacts with SADC and its Regional Peacekeeping Training Centre (RPTC) in Harare was a priority for the ICRC. As a result, 45 SADC Brigade officers responsible for the African Standby Force's national contingents participated in an ICRC-run IHL module during their first training course in 2008. In addition, 15 senior military officers from 13 SADC countries discussed IHL integration at a workshop co-organized by the ICRC and SADC, and 34 Zimbabwean military officers attended an ICRC IHL seminar during an RPTC peace-support operations training course.

In the course of the year, ICRC-facilitated IHL sessions were also held for:

- 19 Zimbabwean military instructors at an IHL train-the-trainer course
- 359 military officers, mostly from the Zimbabwe National Army but also from other SADC countries, attending courses at the Zimbabwe Staff College, the Zimbabwe Military Academy and other training institutions
- 27 new military legal officers

In addition, some 30 police officers from Zimbabwe's Masvingo province were briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities, and 39 prison officers from Botswana and Zimbabwe, including some departing on peacekeeping missions, attended ICRC-run sessions on human rights and humanitarian principles.



## CIVIL SOCIETY

To support the teaching of IHL at universities, cooperation with the law faculties of the University of Zimbabwe and Midlands State University was maintained, and contact was initiated with relevant departments at Solusi University and Africa University.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ 91 law students registered for the new IHL elective introduced by Midlands State University
- ▶ over 550 students from 3 universities attended introductory sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ a national IHL essay competition for students launched
- ▶ 3 students from 2 universities participated in the regional moot court competition in the United Republic of Tanzania

To familiarize young people with humanitarian principles and Red Cross activities, contact was maintained with Zimbabwe's Ministry of Youth Development and Employment Creation. In August and December, over 300 young people were addressed by the ICRC at National Youth Service camps and vocational training centres across Zimbabwe.

The libraries of two institutions offering training and *pro bono* and other legal services to the general public through Zimbabwe's Legal Resources Foundation were provided with IHL publications to help judges, magistrates, lawyers and students include IHL in such work.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

### Enhancing disaster preparedness and response

As part of ICRC support for the development of National Societies' emergency preparedness, 46 Botswana Red Cross volunteers were trained in first aid, the Safer Access approach and disaster management, and 420 Zambia Red Cross volunteers from areas prone to electoral violence were trained in first aid. In Botswana and Zimbabwe, the National Societies' radio communication networks were repaired and maintained, and personnel were trained to do the same in the future.

National Societies also received ICRC operational support when responding to specific emergencies. For example:

- ▶ volunteers from the Malawi and Mozambique Red Cross Societies provided humanitarian assistance to over 32,480 people fleeing the attacks against foreigners in South Africa
- ▶ a National Society Action Team comprising 1,540 members provided first aid through a system of 121 first-aid posts during and following the elections in Zimbabwe
- ▶ the National Societies of Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe provided first aid, food and non-food items to over 2,000 people affected by flooding

### Supporting family-links services

The National Societies in Botswana, Malawi and Namibia received ICRC financial and technical support for their tracing and RCM services for relatives separated by conflict and other situations of violence (see *Civilians*). The Malawi Red Cross was better placed to develop the autonomy of its tracing programme following a visit by an ICRC expert, during which key branches were identified for future training.

### Promoting humanitarian principles

With ICRC support, National Societies in the region organized events to promote the Movement's activities and Fundamental Principles among the public, including the media. For example:

- ▶ the Botswanan, Malawian and Zimbabwean National Societies held events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May)
- ▶ the Namibia Red Cross launched a "Be Red" campaign to build public support for its activities
- ▶ branch volunteers, teachers and head teachers attended dissemination sessions in Botswana
- ▶ branch leaders and volunteers learnt about the Fundamental Principles from Malawi Red Cross board and secretariat members on a countrywide tour

### Coordinating Movement activities

ICRC activities were coordinated with those of the region's National Societies, partner National Societies and the International Federation, particularly through the Federation's new office in Zimbabwe. For example, regular meetings were organized to coordinate the Movement's response following the elections and the cholera outbreak in Zimbabwe.

National Societies in the region learnt about the Movement and its international cooperation policies through International Federation/ICRC input to statutory meetings and other events, including management workshops run for new National Society board members in Botswana, Mozambique and Namibia.





# nairobi (regional)

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi was set up in 1974 and has a dual purpose: first, to promote IHL and carry out operations in the countries covered, namely restoring family links for refugees, protecting and assisting people injured, displaced or otherwise affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence, visiting detainees falling within its mandate, and supporting the development of the National Societies; and second, to provide relief supplies and other support services for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries of the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions, as well as further afield.

## COVERING

Djibouti, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 3,079  |
| Assistance                          | 14,328 |
| Prevention                          | 2,558  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 4,869  |
| General                             | -      |

► **24,833**

of which: Overheads 1,512

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 103% |
|---------------------------|------|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 41  | expatriates                                 |
| 340 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- rapidly expanded its set-up and activities to support the Kenya Red Cross Society in assisting tens of thousands of victims of the post-election violence
- together with the Kenyan Red Cross, provided violence-affected populations in Mount Elgon with food, seed, tools and household items
- visited POWs of Eritrean origin held in Djibouti
- enabled thousands of refugees, victims of violence in Kenya and detainees to communicate with relatives through the tracing and RCM services
- in connection with the post-election violence, reunited, together with the Kenyan Red Cross, 246 children with their parents
- conducted war-surgery seminars for medical personnel working in violence-prone regions in Kenya

## CONTEXT

Stability in the region was marred in 2008 by post-election violence in Kenya and a military confrontation between Djibouti and Eritrea.

In Kenya, disputed presidential elections in December 2007 triggered two months of violence, during which some 1,500 people were killed and over 300,000 displaced. The worst-hit areas were Mombasa, Nairobi, Rift Valley province and western Kenya. A power-sharing deal between the government and the opposition ended the political crisis, and the new coalition government initiated programmes to return or resettle the IDPs and tackle the long-standing land disputes, tribal grievances and socio-economic disparities that had fuelled the unrest.

In Kenya's Mount Elgon district bordering Uganda, the ethnic violence that broke out in late 2006 over land ownership subsided following a police and military intervention in March, and many of the IDPs returned home. The armed and security forces refuted allegations made by human rights groups of abuses committed during the operation.

Elsewhere in the region, the armed forces of Djibouti and Eritrea clashed during two days in June along their mutual border. Both sides retained troops in the area, while the international community called for restraint and dialogue.

The Zanzibar archipelago was generally calm, although talks between the Tanzanian government and the island's opposition party, which wanted greater autonomy for Zanzibar, stalled.

Djibouti, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania continued to host a sizeable number of refugees from less stable neighbouring States, with more Somalis arriving in Djibouti and Kenya. The Tanzanian government accelerated efforts to repatriate, resettle or naturalize the some 300,000 refugees, mainly Burundians and Congolese, remaining in the country.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |  | Total                | Women   | Children |
|---|--------|--|----------------------|---------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b>                                   |        | <b>CIVILIANS<sup>2</sup></b>                       |                      |         |          |
| Detainees visited   | 533    | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>        |                      |         |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 127    | Food   | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 101,696 | 20% 70%  |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 1      | Essential household items                          | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 232,200 | 20% 70%  |
| Number of visits carried out  | 8      | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 60,000  | 16% 68%  |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 4      | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 138,800 | 24% 53%  |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |        |  |                      |         |          |
| RCMs collected  | 22,495 |  |                      |         |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 17,776 |  |                      |         |          |
| People reunited with their families   | 15     |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |        |  |                      |         |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 2,099  |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 900    |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>  | 740    |  |                      |         |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 1,186  |  |                      |         |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 678    |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 284    |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>   | 238    |  |                      |         |          |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |        |  |                      |         |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 685    |  |                      |         |          |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 261    |  |                      |         |          |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 266    |  |                      |         |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |  |                      |         |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 65     |  |                      |         |          |

1. Djibouti and the United Republic of Tanzania

2. All figures include Kenya; the United Republic of Tanzania is included in the water/sanitation/habitat figures

## ICRC ACTION

The Nairobi-based regional delegation maintained its focus on promoting IHL and on protecting and assisting people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence.

The ICRC appealed in February for an additional CHF 14.98 million to support the post-election violence relief operation led by the Kenya Red Cross Society. As the National Society's primary partner in the field, the ICRC flew in additional expatriate staff, opened three offices covering the worst-affected areas of Rift Valley and western Kenya and provided relief goods and logistic and administrative back-up. This enabled the Kenyan Red Cross to expand its infrastructure, recruit and train new personnel and deliver food, shelter, water and health services to tens of thousands of people. ICRC surgical and forensic teams helped to treat the wounded and to manage and identify human remains. Tracing and RCM services were extended, allowing separated relatives to restore contact and children and parents to be reunited. The ICRC also assisted in coordinating the relief action, participating as a standing invitee in Inter-Agency Standing Committee meetings, and as an observer in sector and cluster meetings convened by the government, the National Society or the UN. When the violence subsided, the ICRC wound down its emergency support, closing its new offices by June, and began, with the Kenyan Red Cross, improving water facilities for returning and resettled IDPs.

In Mount Elgon, the ICRC and the Kenyan Red Cross together provided violence-affected populations with, as needed, food, shelter, household items, seed and tools. Delegates initiated a dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers on their responsibilities

under national and international legal frameworks, collected allegations of abuses and, where necessary, made confidential representations to those concerned.

With resources diverted to relief operations, livelihood-support projects planned for communities in clash-prone northern Kenya were scaled back. The water and sanitation programme in the Zanzibar islands progressed as scheduled, with the Tanzania Red Cross Society assuming a managerial role.

Following their border conflict, Djibouti and Eritrea were officially reminded by the ICRC of their responsibilities under IHL. The ICRC visited POWs and other detainees of Eritrean origin held in Djibouti, monitoring their treatment and living conditions and informing the authorities of its findings (see also *Eritrea*). Delegates also made visits to detainees held in the United Republic of Tanzania in connection with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

Refugees throughout the region continued to communicate with relatives through the tracing and RCM network.

Longstanding programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, armed forces, police and higher-education institutions in the region remained a cornerstone of the delegation's activities. Efforts were stepped up in Kenya to raise awareness of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities in order to ensure the smooth running of relief operations.

The Red Crescent Society of Djibouti and the Tanzanian Red Cross received ongoing support to develop their relief, assistance and dissemination activities.

The ICRC's Nairobi-based logistics centre continued to procure and deliver relief and other supplies to ICRC delegations in and beyond the region, using the most efficient and cost-effective means. Similarly, the regional training and assistance units provided delegations with courses, advice and field support covering the full range of ICRC activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

During Kenya's post-election violence, the ICRC publicly expressed its deep concern about the humanitarian consequences of the unrest, calling on political and community leaders to do their utmost to ensure respect for human life and dignity and safe access for aid workers to people in need.

In the Mount Elgon region, the ICRC initiated a dialogue with national and local authorities, armed and security forces and other weapon bearers on their obligations under relevant law towards civilians and captured or wounded fighters. Delegates documented allegations of abuses and, where necessary, made confidential representations to those concerned. When details of an ICRC report were published on the Kenyan police website in August, the organization officially reminded the authorities of the need to respect confidentiality.

### Delivering emergency aid in Kenya

The Kenyan Red Cross-led relief operation delivered emergency aid to several hundred thousand IDPs fleeing post-election violence, thus averting a humanitarian crisis. To do so, it benefited from the ICRC's rapid deployment of additional staff, relief goods and logistic back-up and the opening of three offices (Eldoret, Kisumu and Nakuru) in violence-affected areas.

Over 200,000 IDPs were able to set up makeshift homes using ICRC tents or tarpaulins and essential household items distributed by Kenyan Red Cross personnel. The worst-off IDPs, mainly women and children, also received high-energy biscuits.

Despite the large-scale displacement, no outbreaks of water-borne diseases were reported in IDP camps. Contributing to this, IDPs in makeshift collective centres had some 100,000 litres of water trucked in by Kenyan Red Cross-ICRC teams. Once camp locations were established, IDPs benefited from water and sanitation facilities installed by the teams, as well as from the ICRC's provision of medical supplies and input on camp layout.

Following the violence, some 41,200 IDPs who returned home or were resettled faced fewer health risks after ICRC and National Society personnel together built or rehabilitated 69 vital water facilities in Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces.

- 13,700 IDPs received nutritional supplements
- 202,200 IDPs (33,700 households) received essential household items, including tents for 102,000 of them
- 110,500 IDPs benefited from water and sanitation projects

As part of the ICRC-supported Kenyan Red Cross relief action in Mount Elgon, an average of 10,000 near-destitute IDP families received monthly food rations between February and October; those with access to land were given seed, tools and fertilizer to start producing their own food again. Similarly, after receiving seed and fertilizer, 3,000 families who returned home could grow

vegetables to vary their diet or generate income. IDPs and returnees were also provided with basic shelter and household items to set up home.

- 87,996 IDPs (14,666 households) received food rations for up to nine months
- 30,000 IDPs (5,000 households) received essential household items
- 60,000 IDPs (10,000 households) benefited from distributions of seed, tools and fertilizers

### Improving livelihoods and public health

#### Kenya

Communities that competed and sometimes fought for scarce resources, mainly water and pasture, worked with the ICRC on small-scale projects to improve their economic security and thus ease ethnic tensions. Kenyan Red Cross personnel assisted the ICRC, thereby building up the technical expertise to carry out such projects themselves. With resources diverted to the post-election violence operation, projects had to be scaled back.

Villagers in the northern Marsabit and Moyale districts had improved access to water after the ICRC constructed or rehabilitated wells, hand pumps and school rainwater catchments. In another initiative, 100 families received cash in return for their labour clearing bush to plant crops. Thirty Kenyan Red Cross personnel were also trained by the ICRC in implementing projects to improve the health of local livestock.

In the north-west, rival Turkana and West Pokot communities benefited from the ICRC's construction of two additional classrooms, the rehabilitation of a well, and a refresher course for 12 community animal health workers who provided basic veterinary services in the region. This wound up the ICRC's four-year assistance programme in the Turkwel region.

In the south-east, some 3,600 people on Pate Island (Lamu district) had year-round access to clean water delivered by desalination units, which the ICRC had installed in 2007 as a pilot project and continued to maintain.

- 25,700 people benefited from water/habitat projects

#### United Republic of Tanzania

People in eight villages on Pemba island in the Zanzibar archipelago faced fewer health risks after wells were dug and hand pumps installed. Four people in each village were also trained to maintain the new facilities. This was part of an ongoing water and sanitation programme initiated in 1999 in response to a cholera outbreak and carried out jointly by the Zanzibar water board, the Tanzanian Red Cross and the ICRC. Aided by ICRC technical courses and on-the-job supervision, National Society staff took on more managerial tasks in 2008.

- 2,600 people benefited from water projects

### Restoring family links

Thousands of refugees in the region, as well as relatives dispersed by the violence in Kenya, located and exchanged news with their families through the tracing and RCM services. The networks in Djibouti and the United Republic of Tanzania were run by the ICRC and in Kenya by the National Society, with ICRC support. The priority was to restore contact between children and their parents and, if appropriate, reunite them. This process was coordinated closely with the relevant government departments, UNHCR and NGOs.

In Kenya, the tracing and RCM services were rapidly expanded to help people displaced by the post-election violence get back in touch with their families. At the Health Ministry's request, 12 mortuaries were also assisted by three ICRC forensic experts in managing and identifying human remains so that families could be informed of the death of a relative. The ministry later received an ICRC report with guidelines on how to respond in a similar crisis.

With ICRC financial support, needy widows were able to bury, in a dignified manner, partners killed in the post-election or Mount Elgon violence.

- ▶ 691 RCMs collected from and 1,196 RCMs distributed to civilians in Djibouti
- ▶ 14,006 RCMs collected from and 6,869 RCMs distributed to civilians in Kenya, including 43 collected from unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ 6,874 RCMs collected from and 9,166 distributed to civilians in the United Republic of Tanzania, including 73 from and 145 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 19 people in Djibouti and 2,080 people in Kenya (900 females; 740 minors at the time of disappearance); 1,184 people located in Kenya and 2 in the United Republic of Tanzania; 678 people (284 females; 238 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 684 unaccompanied/separated children registered in Kenya and 1 in the United Republic of Tanzania; 246 in Kenya and 15 in the United Republic of Tanzania reunited with their families; 266 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- ▶ 65 refugees in Kenya issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC, according to its standard procedures, monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees held under the authority of the ICTR in the UN facility in the Tanzanian town of Arusha.

Djibouti and Eritrea were officially informed by the ICRC of the IHL provisions applicable to their June border conflict. Delegates subsequently made three visits to 19 POWs, as well as other detainees of Eritrean origin, held in two detention centres in Djibouti. Djibouti also notified the ICRC of 19 of its soldiers missing in action. The ICRC asked the Eritrean authorities to provide any information they had on those soldiers, but by year-end had not received a formal response. At the same time, delegates continued to visit Gabode prison, Djibouti's only civilian detention facility, in order to register any security detainees and to check on general conditions.

After detention visits, the authorities were informed confidentially of the ICRC's findings and recommendations. All detainees visited, as well as foreigners held in Tanzanian detention centres in the west of the country, were offered the tracing and RCM services to contact relatives. In addition, Gabode prison was provided monthly with soap and other hygiene products to contribute to inmates' general health and welfare. At its request, Djibouti's Justice Ministry also received ICRC reports giving recommendations governing staff training and responsibilities for its new prison administration.

### *Djibouti*

- ▶ 474 detainees visited, of whom 76 monitored individually and 72 newly registered, during 6 visits to 3 places of detention
- ▶ 45 RCMs collected from and 23 RCMs distributed to detainees, and 51 phone calls facilitated between detainees/POWs and family members

### *United Republic of Tanzania*

- ▶ 59 detainees visited, of whom 51 monitored individually (1 female) and 4 newly registered, during 2 visits to 1 place of detention
- ▶ 906 RCMs collected from and 522 RCMs distributed to detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

In Kenya, several hospitals and Red Cross clinics coped with influxes of people wounded in the post-election or Mount Elgon violence with the aid of ICRC medical and surgical supplies. During three weeks in January, the 550-bed referral hospital in Eldoret also had the services of four ICRC surgical staff, who treated 360 wounded patients and performed 65 operations, including complicated skin grafts on burn victims. The same team helped with triage at Naivasha hospital (120 beds), also in Rift Valley.

When the violence subsided, a total of 72 surgeons, nurses and medical officers working in Central, Eastern, Nyanza and Rift Valley provinces learnt more about treating weapon wounds and drew up mass-casualty contingency plans during four two-day seminars co-organized by the Health Ministry and the ICRC.

## AUTHORITIES

Government support in the region for IHL and humanitarian principles was essential to ensure respect for civilians during armed conflict or other situations of violence and the smooth running of Movement operations.

In Kenya, the national authorities were kept informed of the ICRC's humanitarian concerns and Movement activities, while local authorities in violence-affected areas were briefed by ICRC and Kenyan Red Cross personnel on humanitarian principles and the Movement. Plans by Kenya's national IHL committee to put before parliament six bills implementing IHL provisions (drafted in 2007 with ICRC input) were delayed by the post-election violence and the committee's subsequent reconstitution.

To support Tanzanian efforts to establish a national IHL committee, key government representatives participated in an all-Africa course on IHL (see *Pretoria*). The 1977 Additional Protocols were also being translated into Kiswahili.

The Djiboutian authorities and the ICRC regularly discussed humanitarian issues related to the border conflict with Eritrea, with the government complying fully with the ICRC's request to visit POWs.

At the regional level, the Djibouti-based Intergovernmental Authority on Development signed a cooperation agreement with the ICRC in August on promoting IHL among its member States.



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

With ICRC support, most military and police training centres in the region taught IHL and international human rights standards, but the subjects were not systematically integrated into doctrine, operations and training for the rank and file.

In Kenya, the armed, security and police forces gave the ICRC the green light to give presentations on IHL and international human rights standards to hundreds of their troops deployed in violence-affected areas. In parallel, the armed forces regularly invited the ICRC to give lectures on IHL at its training institutions and the international Peace Support Training Centre, which trained peacekeepers from around the world.

Djibouti's armed forces and the ICRC forged closer contacts following the Djibouti-Eritrea conflict, with the ICRC providing the military academy, opened in early 2008, with IHL teaching materials and briefing new national service recruits on IHL.

In cooperation with the Tanzanian armed forces, 28 high-ranking officers and some 6,000 troops, half of them heading for peace-keeping missions in the Comoros or Darfur, Sudan, participated in presentations on IHL and the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Highlighting humanitarian issues among opinion-makers

The international and national media regularly drew on ICRC press releases, interviews and audio-visual material to highlight humanitarian issues arising from the post-election and Mount Elgon violence in Kenya.

Kenyan community support for humanitarian principles and Movement activities grew through grassroots initiatives carried out by the ICRC and the Kenyan Red Cross. These included the distribution of some 100,000 promotional brochures, television spots stressing the Movement's principle of impartiality and meetings with community leaders in IDP camps and violence-affected regions.

### Promoting IHL in schools

Lecturers and students enrolled in law and, for the first time, communication/journalism faculties of higher-education institutes participated in a variety of ICRC initiatives to increase support for IHL.

Lecturers from 12 universities in the region learnt more about teaching and the practical application of IHL during a three-day round-table in Nairobi, organized by the ICRC. To help them establish IHL courses, Hekima College in Kenya and the Open University, Tumaini University and Ruaha University College in the United Republic of Tanzania received teaching and reference materials, and 300 of their students attended introductory lectures given by the ICRC. In addition, 85 communication/journalism undergraduates at two Kenyan institutes participated in seminars, during which they explored ways of reporting on situations of violence from a humanitarian perspective.

Student competitions were also an effective promotional vehicle. Under ICRC sponsorship, for example, a Nairobi University team finished second at the international Jean Pictet IHL competition held in Switzerland. The annual week-long IHL moot court competition in the Tanzanian town of Arusha was equally successful, drawing teams from nine African countries, with Kenya's Catholic University of East Africa the winner.

In Djibouti, the Education Ministry, the ICRC and the Djibouti Red Crescent together trained 21 more specialists in teaching the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, then began introducing the programme in schools outside Djibouti town, where it had been taught since 2006.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In coordination with Movement partners, the National Societies in the region received ICRC funds, materials, logistic back-up and technical expertise to strengthen their relief, assistance and IHL-promotion activities and, in the case of the Kenyan Red Cross, its tracing and RCM network.

The Kenyan Red Cross mounted effective large-scale relief operations during 2008, assisting several hundred thousand people affected by the post-election and Mount Elgon violence. To do so, it had the ICRC as its primary partner in the field (see *Civilians, Wounded and sick, Authorities and Civil society*) and also received additional ICRC funds and logistic and technical back-up. This enabled the National Society to recruit and train more personnel, to strengthen its infrastructure, including opening a new regional office in Eldoret to cover northern Rift Valley, and to coordinate the activities of Movement partners and other organizations during the post-election violence.

The Tanzanian Red Cross, with ICRC support, worked to broaden support for the Movement and its Fundamental Principles by giving talks to journalists and students, staging public events and distributing a newsletter and brochures. In the islands, Zanzibar Red Cross action teams honed their skills through further training in first aid, the Safer Access approach and dissemination. The Zanzibar branch also gained expertise by assuming more responsibilities in the water and sanitation programme on Pemba island (see *Civilians*).

The Djibouti Red Crescent made progress in developing its dissemination and emergency response programmes. It distributed ICRC relief goods to 150 families displaced by the June border conflict with Eritrea, then set up, trained and equipped a national emergency response team. It also gained wider recognition by distributing newsletters, holding public events and giving talks at schools, which led to the establishment of a Red Crescent club in a college.





# pretoria (regional)

The Pretoria regional delegation has existed in its present form since 1995. It keeps a close eye on the domestic situation in the countries covered and helps refugees and asylum seekers restore family links severed by armed conflict and other situations of violence. It promotes ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation and encourages the incorporation of IHL into military and police training and into secondary school and university curricula. The ICRC supports the region's National Societies, in cooperation with the International Federation. The ICRC visits detainees in Madagascar and Lesotho.

## COVERING

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

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,032 |
| Assistance                          | 121   |
| Prevention                          | 1,425 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,484 |
| General                             | -     |

► **4,061**

of which: Overheads 248

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 90% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 10 | expatriates                                 |
| 34 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- provided blankets and tarpaulins to the South African Red Cross Society for distribution to victims of violence, as well as technical and material support to boost the National Society's family-links services
- provided logistical support to Comoros Red Crescent first-aid posts and medical equipment to health facilities treating people affected by the Anjouan military operation
- visited security detainees newly arrested in the Comoros in relation to the Anjouan military operation
- submitted a report to the Malagasy authorities, which was shared with selected international actors, to underline efforts required to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions
- helped identify a team to work towards incorporating IHL into the operations and training of the South African National Defence Force
- welcomed the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the school curriculum in the Seychelles

## CONTEXT

South Africa retained its political and economic pre-eminence within the region, engaging in diplomacy and providing troops for peace-support operations abroad. Internally, frustration with poor service delivery and unemployment led to a wave of violence against foreigners in May. According to corroborated reports, 62 people died, hundreds were injured and more than 50,000 were displaced, with some seeking refuge within South Africa and many returning to their countries of origin, predominantly Mozambique. Tension within the African National Congress (ANC) led to President Thabo Mbeki's resignation in September and the emergence of a splinter group called the Congress of the People. Legal charges against ANC leader Jacob Zuma were dropped in August and he continued his bid for the presidency. Kgalema Motlanthe was chosen to serve as interim president until the elections in 2009.

In the Comoros, the army, backed by an African Union force, regained control of the island of Anjouan in March after a year-long rebellion. Presidential elections held on the island in June were declared free and fair by monitors. The violence exacerbated the economic situation in the Comoros, prompting many people to continue to leave the country.

In Swaziland, Africa's last absolute monarchy, the situation remained tense. Before and after the parliamentary elections in September, deemed free and fair by the Southern African Development Community, the ban on trade unions and opposition parties caused blockades and protests, some of them violent.

In Madagascar, electoral wins in 2007/8 consolidated the president's power base and deepened divisions within the opposition. International donors continued to provide development funding, focusing increasingly on good governance and human rights.

Lesotho stayed peaceful, apart from some isolated incidents of violence in May. In July, the High Court dismissed the opposition's case disputing 2007's election results.

Mauritius and the Seychelles remained economically and politically stable.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total                |
|---|-------|---|----------------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       | <b>CIVILIANS<sup>3</sup></b>                |                      |
| Detainees visited   | 664   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i> |                      |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 642   | Essential household items                   | Beneficiaries 13,000 |
| <i>of whom minors</i>   | 1     |   |                      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 31    |   |                      |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 22    |   |                      |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS<sup>2</sup></b>   |       |   |                      |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |   |                      |
| RCMs collected  | 364   |   |                      |
| RCMs distributed  | 251   |   |                      |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |       |   |                      |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 27    |   |                      |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 8     |   |                      |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                                | 11    |   |                      |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                                 | 8     |   |                      |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 89    |   |                      |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 47    |   |                      |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>                           | 36    |   |                      |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |   |                      |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 169   |   |                      |

1. Comoros, Lesotho and Madagascar

2. South Africa (apart from 1 RCM distributed to a detainee in Madagascar)

3. South Africa

In many countries in the region, poverty was compounded by rising food and commodity prices, which affected social cohesion, and by high levels of HIV/AIDS, which weakened productive capacity and institutions. Climate change and natural disasters disrupted agricultural output. Many people remained reliant on international aid, particularly in the Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and Swaziland.

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, the ICRC regional delegation in Pretoria focused on promoting humanitarian principles and strengthening the Movement's capacity to respond to armed conflict or other situations of violence in the region.

Thus, the ICRC worked closely with the region's National Societies and provided technical, material and financial support to enhance their capacities, structures and programmes, including humanitarian assistance, family-links services and IHL promotion. In addition, the ICRC stepped up its operational support, as needed, to National Societies dealing with emergencies.

Following the attacks on foreigners in South Africa, the ICRC worked with the South African Red Cross Society to provide blankets and tarpaulins to 13,000 people affected by the violence and increased its technical and material support to the National Society's family-links services.

In the Comoros, the ICRC strengthened the National Society's system of first-aid posts dispensing immediate care to people wounded in the military operation in Anjouan. It also provided equipment, technical advice and surgical staff to medical facilities treating the wounded and shipped essential household items for distribution to vulnerable civilians.

ICRC delegates visited security detainees in Lesotho and Madagascar and people newly arrested in the Comoros and made confidential representations, as necessary, to the authorities regarding their treatment and living conditions. As part of ongoing work with the Malagasy authorities to bring general detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards, the ICRC produced a report for the authorities and some selected international actors to enhance support for further penal reform and to encourage increased funding and other measures to improve prison conditions.

To promote IHL ratification and implementation, the ICRC gave technical advice to national IHL committees and hosted a regional IHL seminar for government representatives. It also helped the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) identify a team responsible for the creation of a standing body to oversee IHL integration into military doctrine, training and operations, and contributed to the creation of a new IHL commission for the armed forces in Lesotho. In addition, it continued to support the teaching of IHL to military personnel and developed its contacts with SANDF training institutions.

The wider public learnt about IHL and the ICRC's activities through media reports based on information provided to journalists. The ICRC also strengthened its contacts with religious leaders and think-tanks in South Africa to inform influential members of civil society about its work and mandate. Young people gained knowledge of IHL through ICRC support to universities and through the consolidation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Mauritius and the Seychelles.

All ICRC activities in the region were coordinated with those of Movement partners and other humanitarian actors, and ties were strengthened with the diplomatic community, including regional bodies, based in Pretoria.

## CIVILIANS

Refugees and asylum seekers were able to restore and/or maintain contact with their relatives in other countries through the tracing and RCM services offered by the regional delegation in partnership with the region's National Societies. They were also able to resettle abroad after being issued with travel documents at the request of various embassies and UNHCR. In addition, families in South Africa continued to communicate via RCMs with relatives detained in other countries.

Although the attacks on foreigners in South Africa in May hampered tracing activities and RCM distribution owing to the displacement of beneficiaries, ICRC material and technical support provided to the South African Red Cross enabled these services to continue. Agencies serving the needs of refugees/IDPs, particularly those responding to the violence in South Africa, were briefed on the Movement's family-links activities so as to increase awareness and use of such services. In addition, returnees fleeing the attacks in South Africa were assisted by the National Societies in Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland, which were alerted to existing and potential tracing cases by the Pretoria regional delegation.

- ▶ 318 RCMs collected from and 248 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 27 people (8 females; 11 minors at the time of disappearance); 8 people located; 89 people (47 females; 36 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 169 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visiting security detainees

Security detainees in Lesotho and Madagascar, as well as security detainees newly registered following the violence in the Comoros, were visited by the ICRC, in accordance with its standard working procedures, to monitor their treatment and general living conditions. ICRC delegates discussed their observations confidentially with the relevant authorities and, where necessary, made recommendations for measures to bring detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards.

- ▶ in the Comoros, 630 detainees visited, of whom 608 monitored individually (1 minor), during 12 visits to 6 places of detention
- ▶ in Lesotho, 4 detainees visited and monitored individually during 1 visit to 1 place of detention
- ▶ in Madagascar, 30 detainees visited and monitored individually and 7 newly registered during 18 visits to 15 places of detention
- ▶ 46 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to detainees

### Improving prison conditions in Madagascar

As part of the ICRC's ongoing work to help the Malagasy government mobilize international support for its efforts to meet internationally recognized prison standards, a number of international diplomatic representatives received a report summarizing the findings and recommendations of ICRC visits to detainees in Madagascar in 2007 and 2008. The report noted improvements in the national budgetary allocation for prisons, in nutrition levels, and in the judicial process for detainees awaiting trial for extended periods. However, with a prison population of 18,000, overcrowding in Madagascar remained a problem. To ensure better respect for judicial guarantees, address overcrowding, improve

food and health care provision and rehabilitate prison facilities, the ICRC called for national and international efforts to increase budgetary allocations and advance penal reform.

In September, the Ministry of Justice was also presented with a confidential report, produced by an ICRC-funded expert, on the functioning of the penitentiary system.

### Monitoring HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment in prisons in Lesotho

The status of HIV/AIDS-related services provided to detainees in Lesotho's prisons, actively supported by the ICRC from 2004–07, were monitored throughout 2008. Efforts to find an international donor or agency interested in taking over the financing and follow-up of these activities proved fruitless. In the continued absence of such a donor, plans were made for the ICRC to resume its support in 2009 to ensure that services for detainees would not deteriorate.

## AUTHORITIES

The region's governments worked towards the ratification of IHL treaties and national IHL committees prepared implementing legislation, both with technical support from the ICRC.

- ▶ Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar and South Africa signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, and Madagascar ratified the Rome Statute, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols
- ▶ the South African president approved parliamentary acts implementing the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Additional Protocol III
- ▶ the Lesotho IHL committee drafted legislation implementing the Biological Weapons Convention and the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and received a model law on implementing the Ottawa Convention
- ▶ the Malagasy IHL committee received IHL materials for an event commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

Representatives from the region shared experiences at the eighth annual regional seminar on IHL implementation in Pretoria, co-hosted by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and the ICRC. A publication was produced to record the discussions, including those on cluster munitions, for future reference.

In coordination with ICRC efforts to promote IHL across Africa (see *African Union*), contacts with the African Peer Review Mechanism and the Pan-African Parliament were strengthened, as a result of which ICRC-proposed recommendations on IHL were included in parliamentary committee reports.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces of the region continued to integrate IHL into military operations and training.

SANDEF, with ICRC technical support, created a team to set up a Law of Armed Conflict Section to oversee the integration of IHL into all relevant SANDEF activities. In Lesotho, an IHL commission for the armed forces was established following a week-long

ICRC train-the-trainer course on IHL integration. Terms of reference for the commission's work were proposed by the ICRC. Members of the Malagasy IHL commission participated in an ICRC course to reinforce IHL dissemination activities.

In the framework of a new agreement with SANDF training institutions, as well as on a more ad hoc basis regionwide, briefings on IHL/the ICRC were conducted for:

- legal officers from armed forces worldwide, including South Africa
- medical, legal and other military personnel, including senior officers, participating in various SANDF courses
- senior officers and defence personnel attending the South African Military Academy and the South African National War College
- SANDF troops departing on peacekeeping missions
- participants in conferences held respectively on peacekeeping and "terrorism" in Africa

In addition, 22 Swazi police officers received ICRC training to deepen their understanding of human rights law and standards.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media, informed by adverts, press releases, newsletters, interviews and a workshop for journalists, reported on IHL and ICRC activities, particularly following the attacks on foreigners in South Africa. Contacts were strengthened with South African religious leaders and members of think-tanks who were able to promote IHL and Red Cross activities to the wider public. Some of these contacts led to requests for future meetings with ICRC delegates.

To familiarize young people with humanitarian principles, the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the school curriculum in the Seychelles was completed. In Mauritius, an ICRC-supported workshop helped the authorities extend the programme to private schools. Workshops in South Africa were scheduled for 2009 as a result of heightened political interest in the programme, particularly following May's violence.

Lecturers at the 17 universities in the 6 countries that routinely taught IHL at undergraduate level, received support through newsletters, ICRC visits and publications on IHL/the ICRC. In addition, with ICRC support:

- student teams from 3 universities participated in international and regional IHL competitions
- law and journalism students from 3 universities briefed on the ICRC/IHL
- 24 participants from 12 African countries took part in the 7th all-Africa course on IHL in Pretoria
- 20 participants from 17 countries learnt about the relevance of IHL during large-scale emergency situations at the 11th Health Emergencies in Large Populations course
- the African Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law published

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC material, financial and technical support, provided in coordination with the International Federation, National Societies in the region continued to develop and utilize their skills, capacities, statutes and structures to respond to emergencies, restore family links and promote the Fundamental Principles.

The Comoros Red Crescent provided first aid during the Anjouan military operation through a system of first-aid posts strengthened by ICRC logistical input, and distributed an ICRC shipment of relief items to vulnerable people. To treat the weapon-wounded, including those referred by National Society first-aid posts, health facilities received medical equipment and were supported by an ICRC mobile surgical team.

In South Africa, the National Society responded to the violence against foreigners by providing victims with first aid, counselling, food and essential household items, including blankets and tarpaulins supplied by the ICRC for 13,000 people. During the crisis, the National Society, with ICRC support, advertised and provided family-links services to separated relatives (see *Civilians*). Its logistic procedures and media relations were strengthened by ICRC training and the development of working tools.

To improve emergency preparedness, 40 National Society personnel attended an ICRC regional disaster-response training session and Swazi Red Cross volunteers visited Red Cross tracing and relief activities in IDP/refugee camps in Botswana. In addition, with ICRC support, the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society established tracing personnel in every region of the country and the South African Red Cross conducted a tracing workshop for volunteers.

National Societies, with ICRC input, held dissemination sessions for journalists and Red Cross staff and volunteers, produced newsletters on their activities and conducted campaigns to prevent emblem misuse. In particular, the Malagasy Red Cross Society finalized a draft law on the emblem for submission to the government.

The ICRC, the International Federation, National Societies working in the region, and the French Red Cross-led Plateforme d'Intervention Régionale pour l'Océan Indien continued to coordinate their activities. An ICRC/International Federation-run seminar in South Africa facilitated the participation of the region's National Societies in the Movement's international decision-making processes.





# yaoundé (regional)

The ICRC set up its Yaoundé regional delegation in 1992 but has been working in the region since 1972. It monitors the domestic situation in the countries covered, visits security detainees and restores family links for refugees. It pursues long-standing programmes to spread knowledge of IHL among the authorities, armed forces and civil society, and supports the development of the National Societies.

## COVERING

Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 480   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,139 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 924   |
| General                             | -     |

► **2,543**

of which: Overheads 155

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 91% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 6  | expatriates                                 |
| 25 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- strengthened the operational capacity of the Cameroon Red Cross Society by supplying it with first-aid materials during riots in February and backing it in assisting 30,000 Chadian refugees
- after checking on the treatment and detention conditions of people arrested in connection with the riots, informed the Cameroonian authorities, in confidence, of its findings and recommendations
- made representations to Equatorial Guinea's authorities with a view to resuming visits to detainees, suspended in February
- organized a regional conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions and, jointly with the Cameroonian authorities, a workshop to follow up the implementation of IHL treaties
- refocused its IHL programmes for the military and schools in Cameroon to ensure greater involvement of the military leadership and education authorities as the programmes' future owners

## CONTEXT

Parts of the region remained prone to tensions and violence, frequently resulting in insecurity, population displacements and worsening poverty.

Cameroon did not escape the effects of the worldwide rise in food prices, which in February triggered hunger riots, followed by many arrests. Security forces remained deployed along roads and in cities for the rest of the year.

Cameroon's protracted border dispute with Nigeria was settled in accordance with the 2002 ruling of the International Court of Justice, with Nigeria formally handing over the Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon in August. Although many Nigerian nationals had already left Bakassi to resettle in neighbouring regions of Nigeria, the situation remained fragile. This was made evident by two deadly attacks on Cameroonian soldiers for which a group calling itself the Bakassi Freedom Fighters claimed responsibility. Banditry and piracy contributed to insecurity.

Tension continued to reign in camps housing several thousand Chadians who had fled an armed assault on N'Djamena early in the year. Nearly 1,500 people were displaced in connection with violent land disputes in south-western and north-western Cameroon.

In Equatorial Guinea, alleged preparations for a coup d'état were revealed in March, leading to the arrest of an exiled opposition leader in Spain. Equatorial Guinea obtained the extradition from Zimbabwe of one of the authors of a coup attempt in 2004, who was then imprisoned in Malabo.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 164   |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 52    |
| Number of visits carried out  | 18    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 15    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected  | 51    |
| RCMs distributed  | 29    |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 31    |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 14    |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                                | 9     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                                 | 14    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 13    |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 5     |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>                           | 3     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 2     |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 1     |

1. Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea

## ICRC ACTION

During prison visits in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea (the latter suspended in February), the ICRC followed the cases of security detainees individually and checked that the living conditions of the general prison population conformed to internationally recognized standards. It shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities and informed the appropriate consulates of the presence of their nationals in places of detention visited.

In Equatorial Guinea, visits were suspended owing to the repeated failure of prison authorities to respect ICRC standard working procedures. Other programmes, such as communication and IHL activities for the armed forces, were put on standby, while cooperation with the National Society continued.

In Cameroon, to ensure the sustainability of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme despite the authorities' limited funding, the programme was reduced in scope, involving fewer schools and subjects.

Cameroon held its first national IHL moot court competition, in which students and lecturers from five universities and two graduate schools learned through case studies and simulations how IHL applied in armed conflict.

The ICRC continued to provide national authorities with legal expertise in ratifying and implementing IHL treaties and organized workshops on the topic for government experts.

The delegation focused on promoting IHL among regional and international authorities, particularly at a ministerial conference held in Libreville, Gabon, in March ahead of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development.

ICRC tracing and RCM services enabled refugees, detainees and family members separated by internal violence to communicate with relatives.

The ICRC and the Cameroon Red Cross Society saw the relevance of their cooperation confirmed when the National Society was called upon in January to provide emergency assistance to 30,000 refugees from Chad, and again the following month to assist people wounded in food riots.

With ICRC support, the Red Cross Societies of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon undertook, as a matter of priority, to maintain sufficient stocks of first-aid materials and to enhance their mobility and communication in case of emergencies.

## CIVILIANS

People separated from their families as a result of situations of violence in the region were able to restore and maintain contact with their relatives through the tracing and RCM services provided by the National Societies, with ICRC support. The main users were Central Africans, who made up the majority of Cameroon's sizeable refugee population, and Chadian refugees in northern Cameroon, including children who had been separated from their families in the rush to safety.

- 48 RCMs collected from and 27 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 31 people (14 females; 9 minors at the time of disappearance); 14 people located; 13 people (5 females; 3 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 2 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, security detainees were followed up individually during ICRC visits, and the treatment, conditions of detention and judicial guarantees of the general prison population were monitored to make sure they were in line with internationally recognized standards. Detainees were offered the RCM service to contact their families.

At the request of the Cameroonian authorities, people arrested in connection with February's food riots were visited by the ICRC. The authorities were informed of the findings and recommendations in three confidential reports. In agreement with the detaining authorities, the ICRC shared some of its general observations with international donors involved in the prison reform programme and other detention-related activities.

In Equatorial Guinea, ICRC visits to detainees were suspended in February as delegates had repeatedly been prevented from conducting them according to the organization's standard procedures and were denied access to Black Beach prison. High-level representations were made with a view to resolving the issue and resuming activities.

### Cameroon

- ▶ 44 detainees visited and monitored individually, of whom 37 newly registered, during 9 visits to 6 places of detention
- ▶ 3 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 1 detention certificate issued to a former detainee or his/her family

### Equatorial Guinea (until the suspension of visits in February)

- ▶ 120 detainees visited, of whom 8 monitored individually, during 9 visits to 9 places of detention

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon met frequently with the ICRC, thereby familiarizing themselves with its mandate and activities.

Regional bodies of the Economic Community of Central African States, particularly those responsible for maintaining peace and security, strengthened dialogue with the ICRC. At a conference held in Libreville, Gabon, in March ahead of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, government ministers from the region were acquainted with IHL issues.

Some 100 representatives of Cameroon's and Gabon's political and military authorities gained a better understanding of weapon-control issues at a conference organized by the ICRC in Yaoundé on the forthcoming Convention on Cluster Munitions.

The governments of Cameroon and Gabon examined the requirements for ratification of Additional Protocol III. The authorities of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon worked on drafting emblem legislation, drawing on expertise provided by the ICRC in cooperation with the two countries' National Societies.

- ▶ 33 legal advisers to the Cameroonian and Gabonese authorities attended 2 workshops on IHL implementation
- ▶ some 60 Cameroonian parliamentarians briefed on IHL

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Along with a new armed forces IHL manual produced with ICRC support, Cameroon's defence minister was presented with a proposal to refocus IHL training on the military upper echelons to ensure its integration into military doctrine. The ICRC proposal was based on a review of IHL training carried out in October 2007.

Dialogue with Cameroon's armed forces was extended to the commanders of military training establishments, who expressed strong interest in including IHL in future courses. At the ICRC's invitation, a senior officer in charge of training participated in the annual Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations hosted by the Swiss army and the ICRC in Switzerland.

Relations were built with instructors working under the Africa Contingency Operations Training Assistance programme, paving the way for IHL presentations to be given to the standby peace-keeping battalion.

Contact with Gabonese defence officials was strengthened. As recommended by the ICRC, the Gabonese Ministry of Defence formally appointed a liaison officer responsible for IHL matters and for contact between the armed forces and the ICRC. A military training facility benefited from an IHL seminar given by the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Relations with the media were strengthened, resulting in more accurate reporting on the distinct mandates and activities of the various Movement partners.

At a workshop co-organized with the Gabonese Red Cross Society in Libreville, 16 journalists had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of humanitarian issues and the work of the National Society and the ICRC in situations of violence.

Students at Gabon's two *grandes écoles* were introduced to IHL through two lectures given by the ICRC. With ICRC sponsorship, a law lecturer from the Omar Bongo University, the country's only establishment where IHL was taught, participated in the pan-African IHL course held in Brazzaville, Congo.

Cameroon's first national IHL competition contributed to raising students' interest in the subject and helped assess the general level of IHL knowledge. Seven teams from five universities and two *grandes écoles* participated.

At a workshop on peace and security in Central Africa, co-organized by Cameroon's International Relations Institute and the Swiss embassy in Yaoundé, academics gained insight into IHL issues through a presentation given by the ICRC.

To make the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary schools in Cameroon sustainable despite the education authorities' meagre resources, its scope was reduced to fewer pilot schools and IHL teaching was limited to two subjects. Meanwhile, 60 teachers and school inspectors familiarized themselves with the programme through train-the-trainer courses. The ICRC contributed technical support.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies worked to enhance their central role as providers of emergency response in their countries.

Supported by the ICRC and the International Federation, the Cameroon Red Cross elected a new president at its general assembly, while the National Societies of Equatorial Guinea and Gabon continued restructuring. All three National Societies enhanced their emergency response capacities with ICRC assistance, which took the form of training workshops, the donation of equipment and materials, and logistic support. The emblem protection campaign continued in all three countries.

With ICRC support, the Cameroon Red Cross:

- assisted 30,000 Chadian refugees, riot victims, and 288 families affected by floods in Yaoundé
- trained 35 volunteers in restoring family links among Chadian refugees and provided RCM services
- trained 50 first-aid instructors and 280 volunteers in violence-prone areas, including the Bakassi peninsula
- distributed first-aid materials to local branches countrywide
- distributed hygiene items to detainees and cleaned up 2 prisons housing 6,000 inmates
- trained 20 branch communicators and journalists and evaluated partnerships with communities and rural radio stations
- produced publications and carried out an emblem campaign via the media

With ICRC support, the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society:

- built/rehabilitated latrines and water points in rural areas
- conducted a hygiene promotion campaign in 2 regions
- trained 50 first-aid instructors and received first-aid materials
- assisted 64 families affected by fire and helped recover the victims of an air crash
- organized 2 workshops on emblem promotion and protection

With ICRC support, the Gabonese Red Cross:

- trained 140 volunteers in first aid and hygiene promotion and conducted a hygiene promotion campaign in towns and schools
- assisted 150 vulnerable families and seconded first-aiders to public events
- trained 60 Red Cross branch workers and volunteers in emblem promotion and protection
- provided RCM services
- assisted in recovering 24 bodies after a shipwreck









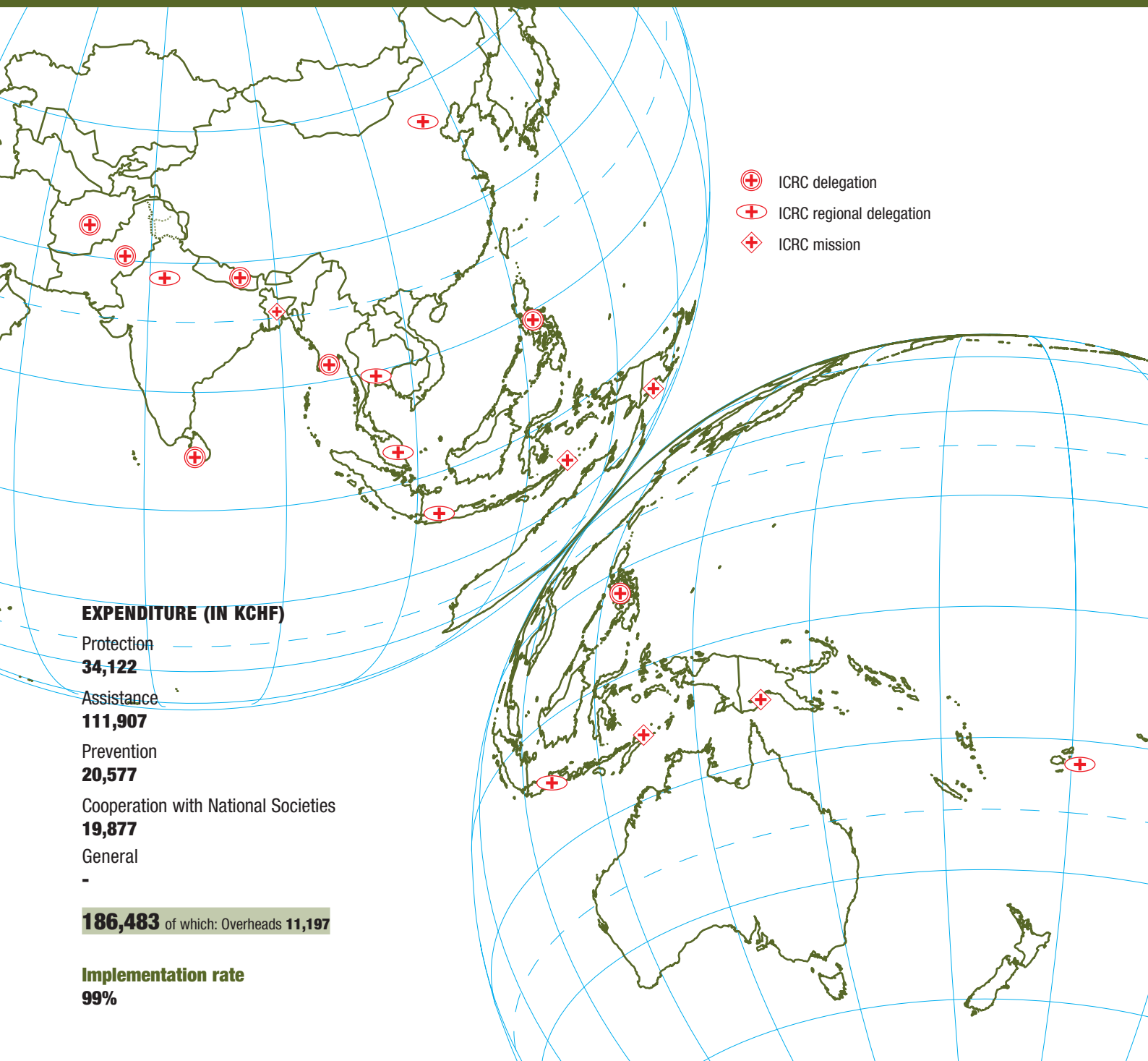
## DELEGATIONS

Afghanistan  
Myanmar  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Sri Lanka

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Bangkok  
Beijing  
Jakarta  
Kuala Lumpur  
New Delhi  
Suva

# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection

**34,122**

Assistance

**111,907**

Prevention

**20,577**

Cooperation with National Societies

**19,877**

General

-

**186,483** of which: Overheads **11,197**

**Implementation rate**

**99%**

## ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

In 2008, the ICRC continued to respond to the needs of people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in the Asia and Pacific region, working with the National Society – its key operational partner – in each of the countries covered, particularly in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. At the same time, it provided the region's National Societies with technical, financial and material support to build or strengthen their capacities to respond to armed conflict, other situations of violence, or natural disasters. As in the past, ICRC activities were also coordinated with other Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest, in order to maximize impact and avoid gaps or duplication.

In all contexts where IHL applied, the ICRC, often on the basis of independent assessments and allegations of violations of IHL, reminded the parties to the hostilities of their obligation to protect those not or no longer taking part in the fighting, and to this end pursued a confidential field-based dialogue with all those concerned. Securing safe access for its staff to populations in need was a recurring theme in dialogues at all levels.

Despite security constraints, the ICRC ran major assistance operations in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, where the armed conflicts all worsened or escalated during the year. The fighting in these and other contexts, such as the Philippines, where the conflict between the armed forces and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front on Mindanao Island intensified in 2008, caused the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, sometimes multiple times. In all such situations, the ICRC endeavoured to meet the immediate needs not only of those displaced, but also of host resident communities struggling to cope with the burden on resources caused by an influx of IDPs.

To this end, the organization repaired or constructed water points directly or contributed to improvements by backing the efforts of national or local water boards in order to ensure access to safe drinking water and a supply of water for household purposes. It also helped improve public health conditions by rehabilitating sanitation facilities and running awareness-raising sessions to teach people better hygiene practices. In Sri Lanka, for example, the large-scale water and sanitation programme involved disinfecting wells and repairing existing and building new water systems and latrines. In Afghanistan, in addition to a major programme to improve water supply in urban and rural areas, the ICRC trucked in water for 26,000 drought-affected rural people in the north of the country during a critical three-month period.

Conflict-affected households were given the means to boost their economic security, particularly in Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Essential household items, sometimes accompanied by emergency food rations, were distributed to IDPs and to their resident hosts. In Sri Lanka, for example, over 400,000 people received essential household items and more than 300,000 were given food. Around 368,000 people in Afghanistan also received food rations, including families in the north whose already precarious situation had been exacerbated by drought and rising global food prices. Victims of the earthquake in Baluchistan, Pakistan, also benefited from relief goods.

The provision of and access to primary health care continued to suffer as a result of conflict. In Afghanistan, the ICRC focused on

improving general health conditions and care of weapon-wounded people in conflict-prone areas where very few organizations were present owing to security concerns or the remoteness of the location. Primary health care clinics run by the Afghan Red Crescent received medical supplies, equipment, training and maintenance support from the ICRC, enabling them to treat more than 97,000 people and immunize more than 85,000 children under five and women of childbearing age. In parallel, the ICRC continued to support the efforts of the Ministry of Public Health to carry out hospital reform and implement the Essential Package of Hospital Services. Medical assistance was also high on the agenda in Pakistan, where the ICRC covered the treatment costs of weapon-wounded patients, provided supplies and equipment to medical and health care facilities, and trained surgeons, doctors and nurses.

In Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary, facilitating the population's access to immunization and prenatal services by accompanying WHO or government health workers on their rounds in conflict-affected areas and enabling the parties to hand over the remains of fallen fighters. It also facilitated the safe passage of people and goods between areas controlled by the government and those controlled by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, and helped evacuate 900 civilians from a conflict-affected area of central Mindanao in the Philippines.

Livelihood-support projects were implemented in several contexts to help families restore their traditional sources of income. For example, vulnerable returnees in the Philippines and returnees and residents hosting IDPs in Sri Lanka benefited from seed and tool distributions, agricultural training, and veterinary and micro-economic initiatives.

Similar projects helped victims of past conflicts and natural disasters get back on their feet. In Indonesia's Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province, the ICRC ran a voucher scheme to enable returnees who had left their villages during the former conflict to purchase farming implements and seed. Given the improvement of the situation in the province, however, all ICRC assistance programmes there were discontinued at the end of the year. In Nepal, micro-economic initiatives aimed to revive the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households affected by the former conflict, and in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, people continued to benefit from livelihood-support programmes launched after the 2005 earthquake.

In many of the countries covered by the ICRC in the Asia and Pacific region, delegates continued to visit detainees, particularly those held in connection with an armed conflict or for reasons of State security, as in Cambodia, Indonesia, Jammu and Kashmir (India), Pakistan, the Philippines and southern Thailand. After conducting private interviews with the detainees, the ICRC submitted confidential reports to the authorities containing, where necessary, recommendations for improving the detainees' treatment or living conditions. In Afghanistan, the ICRC visited detainees/internees held in Afghan or US custody in connection with the conflict. Together with the ICRC delegation in Washington, the delegation in Afghanistan continued to urge the United States of America to establish an adequate legal framework for people held in connection with the "global war on terror". The ICRC also maintained contact with the NATO/International Security Assistance Force authorities and supported the Afghan authorities in their efforts to respect judicial guarantees. ICRC delegates also visited detainees transferred back to Pakistan from

Afghanistan or from the US detention facility at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba. A total of 173,510 detainees in the region benefited from ICRC visits, including 9,460 who were monitored individually. The ICRC continued to seek access to others not yet visited.

In many places of detention, the ICRC provided occasional material assistance and carried out ad hoc repair and construction work on prison infrastructure to improve the detainees' living environment, water supply and access to medical care. Wherever possible, however, it endeavoured to boost the capacities of prison administrations to perform these tasks themselves, as in Indonesia. In the Philippines, the ICRC continued to assist the prison administration in its efforts to mobilize the support of the government and local experts in alleviating the severe overcrowding in prisons. In China and Mongolia, seminars on tuberculosis and HIV in prisons enabled participants to exchange their experiences in the field of prison health.

All delegations in the Asia and Pacific region pursued the ICRC's core activity of restoring and maintaining contact between separated family members. In line with the goals of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement, two regional meetings took place in May in Beijing and New Delhi, enhancing the skills of nine of the region's National Societies. Furthermore, representatives from the region's governments learned more about Movement family-links activities during a regional seminar on restoring family links in complex emergencies and peace-support operations held in Singapore. On the operational level, following Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh, and during and following the earthquake in China, the respective National Society benefited from ICRC support to help it respond to the demand for family-links activities. As in past years, the ICRC worked through the National Societies to impress upon the governments of the Korean peninsula the importance of finding a solution to the prolonged anguish endured by families separated as a result of the Korean war.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to improve the capacities of governments and local players to deal with the issue of persons missing in relation to conflict. It focused particularly on those missing in connection with the conflicts in Nepal, Sri Lanka and the former East Timor. The Jakarta regional delegation undertook an internal review of files pertaining to persons reported missing during the latter conflict with a view to transmitting the updated files and a position paper to the governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste early in 2009.

The ICRC remained a leading player in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in Asia, running or supporting centres in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Over 92,000 people received services at ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres throughout the region. In some of these countries, the ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, ran outreach programmes to identify, transport and accommodate vulnerable amputees, particularly those living in remote areas, to enable them to obtain prosthetic/orthotic services.

In 2008, the government of Myanmar maintained the restrictions imposed on the ICRC, preventing the organization from discharging its internationally recognized mandate according to its customary working procedures. The ICRC's repeated attempts to re-establish a substantive dialogue with the authorities produced no tangible results. Its activities were therefore limited to providing

financial and technical support to the Hpa-an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre and to funding the family-visit programme for detainees previously registered by the organization. Following Cyclone Nargis, however, the ICRC backed the Movement's response in the areas of water and sanitation, family links, assistance to detainees and the management of human remains.

A large part of ICRC activities consisted of promoting IHL, and the challenge in much of the region was to make humanitarian principles relevant in local contexts. The ICRC maintained contact with governmental authorities with a view to encouraging accession to and national implementation of IHL instruments. For example, representatives of 11 Pacific States attended a two-day workshop on accession to the Rome Statute and incorporation of its provisions into domestic law.

The ICRC also worked with armed and security forces to advance the integration of IHL and humanitarian principles into their doctrine, training and operations. As several countries in the region were contributing to international peacekeeping missions, the ICRC gave pre-deployment briefings on IHL for many of their troops. It also held dissemination sessions for several armed groups in the field in order to heighten their awareness of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and ensure the security of its staff.

The ICRC promoted IHL among influential members of civil society, notably the media, NGOs and religious leaders, to enhance their understanding of and respect for IHL and to gain their support for ICRC activities. Young people, as future leaders, were another key target audience, and the ICRC worked with the authorities to incorporate IHL and humanitarian principles into academic curricula and contacted not only university law schools but also international relations and journalism faculties. Implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme continued to pick up pace in schools in China, India, Malaysia and Mongolia and was being pilot-tested in Japan and Thailand.

The regional resource centre attached to the Kuala Lumpur regional delegation again offered expertise and other support to individual delegations in East and South-East Asia and in the Pacific in promoting IHL implementation and raising awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities. This included intensive networking with Track II diplomacy stakeholders, and participation in meetings of Asian regional organizations, particularly bodies related to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.



# afghanistan

Having assisted victims of the Afghan armed conflict for six years in Pakistan, the ICRC opened a delegation in Kabul in 1987. Its current operations focus on: protecting detainees and helping them keep in contact with their families; assisting the wounded and disabled; supporting hospital care; improving water and sanitation services; promoting accession to and implementation of IHL treaties and compliance with IHL by military forces; and strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 6,836  |
| Assistance                          | 53,156 |
| Prevention                          | 2,704  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 7,116  |
| General                             | -      |

► **69,812**

of which: Overheads **4,250**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>106%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

**87** expatriates  
**1,186** national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- made confidential representations to the parties concerned regarding alleged IHL violations, including in relation to the conduct of hostilities
- with the Afghan Red Crescent Society, distributed emergency food and non-food assistance to people affected by conflict and/or drought
- with the US authorities, set up a video teleconferencing system and a face-to-face family-visit programme for internees in the Bagram Theater Internment Facility
- completed and handed over to the relevant authorities five urban water supply projects
- met representatives of local *shuras* to discuss humanitarian concerns and areas of future cooperation
- worked in close partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent to deliver strengthened first-aid and primary health care services to the weapon-wounded

## CONTEXT

The armed conflict in Afghanistan remained at high intensity in 2008, spreading and escalating in the second half of the year. Fighting between national and international forces and armed groups occurred throughout the country, with armed groups establishing some form of control in remote areas. Provinces not directly affected by fighting endured roadside bombs, targeted killings, suicide bombings and deliberate intimidation of civilians. Military operations by international forces included aerial bombardments in the south and east. Rising numbers of civilian casualties and weapon-wounded were admitted to hospital, adding to the death and injury toll from mines and explosive remnants of war. The northern provinces, while less directly affected by the conflict, suffered severe drought conditions, worsening the effects of decades of conflict and the global food crisis.

Talks between representatives of the parties to the conflict took place on the Arabian Peninsula. Some influential political actors declared their support for a reconciliation process between the parties to the conflict. However, there was controversy over who would lead the process and who would be allowed to participate.

Preparations for the 2009 presidential and parliamentary elections were ongoing, with voter registration beginning in the summer, but no election date had been set by the end of the year.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan improved against a backdrop of political upheaval in Pakistan and other violent events elsewhere in the region.

The United States of America continued to transfer to Afghan authority internees previously held in the Bagram Theater Internment Facility and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, as did several countries in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) holding internees in field detention sites.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |
|---|--------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |        |
| Detainees visited <sup>1</sup>  | 13,727 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 3,525  |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 23     |
| <i>of whom minors</i>   | 92     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 393    |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 109    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |        |
| RCMs collected  | 16,932 |
| RCMs distributed  | 15,875 |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |        |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 451    |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 123    |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                    | 110    |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 166    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 230    |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 48     |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>               | 56     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 1      |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                     | 45     |

|   |                             | Total   | Women  | Children |
|---|-----------------------------|---------|--------|----------|
| <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                             |         |        |          |
| <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                             |         |        |          |
| Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 368,246 | 20%    | 65%      |
| Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 89,238  | 20%    | 65%      |
| Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 214,986 | 24%    | 50%      |
| <i>Health</i>   |                             |         |        |          |
| Health centres supported                              | <i>Structures</i>           | 9       |        |          |
| Consultations   | <i>Patients</i>             | 97,160  |        |          |
| <i>of which curative</i>                              | <i>Patients</i>             |         | 26,992 | 47,130   |
| <i>of which ante/post-natal</i>                       | <i>Patients</i>             |         | 6,322  |          |
| Immunizations   | <i>Doses</i>                | 85,002  |        |          |
| <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                             |         |        |          |
| Hospitals supported                                   | <i>Structures</i>           | 12      |        |          |
| Admissions  | <i>Patients</i>             | 48,436  | 17,134 | 16,393   |
| Operations  | <i>Operations performed</i> | 19,964  |        |          |
| <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                             |         |        |          |
| Patients receiving services                           | <i>Patients</i>             | 66,595  | 9,930  | 16,410   |
| Prostheses delivered                                  | <i>Units</i>                | 3,967   | 267    | 147      |
| Orthoses delivered                                    | <i>Units</i>                | 9,910   | 1,181  | 5,356    |

1. For persons in US custody: all detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

## ICRC ACTION

Persistent insecurity and the intensifying conflict seriously impeded humanitarian action in Afghanistan. Humanitarian workers faced threats to their security, which hindered their work. Much of southern and eastern Afghanistan remained off-limits to ICRC staff, with the exception of provincial capitals, although there was greater accessibility elsewhere. The ICRC relied on an extensive network of Afghan Red Crescent volunteers to assist people affected by the conflict. The planned office in Ghazni did not open owing to security constraints.

The ICRC therefore emphasized its role and mandate as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization in its dealings with the parties to the conflict. This included contacts with authorities, armed groups and members of civil society with a view to increasing knowledge of IHL and support for the ICRC's activities. It was complemented by ICRC support for the integration of IHL into the Afghan National Army's (ANA) doctrine, education and training programmes. In general, parties to the conflict understood the ICRC's role thanks to the organization's long presence in Afghanistan. They turned to the ICRC for support and assistance as a neutral intermediary in situations such as the release and transfer of prisoners and the collection, burial and/or repatriation of human remains after fighting. The ICRC also reminded the parties to the conflict of their obligations under IHL, particularly the need to respect medical staff and infrastructure, and made confidential representations to the parties based on allegations of IHL violations in order to end abuses.

ICRC delegates visited people held by Afghan and US authorities and by the NATO-led ISAF. Ongoing US and ISAF detention in Afghanistan and the transfer of internees from US and ISAF authority to Afghan custody were the subjects of dialogue with the detaining authorities, specifically with regard to detention conditions, the

treatment of detainees and respect for relevant legal provisions. The ICRC offered its expertise on prison infrastructure to help the Afghan authorities use their limited resources to rehabilitate prisons.

The ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent Society helped civilians, detainees and internees stay in touch via RCMs, video tele-conference calls and face-to-face visits.

In response to the growing numbers of conflict casualties, the ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, developed a comprehensive approach to medical assistance, ranging from community-based first aid to surgical care. Enhanced patient referral systems, often involving the National Society, improved access to health care structures. The ICRC supported hospitals in Jalalabad and Shiberghan and consolidated its support to Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar. Five ICRC-run first-aid posts in areas near where the fighting took place provided medical assistance to weapon-wounded people and referred them to surgical hospitals. Afghan Red Crescent primary health care centres in conflict-affected provinces received ICRC support. Six ICRC physical rehabilitation centres provided services to the disabled. Medical and physical rehabilitation programmes for conflict victims in the south and east were closely coordinated with similar ICRC programmes in Pakistan's border areas (see *Pakistan*).

The ICRC improved water quality and sanitation where systems had been destroyed by the conflict. With the National Society, it also distributed food and essential household items to families displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict or by drought and food insecurity. A budget extension appeal was launched in August to cover these additional needs.

Movement partners present in Afghanistan coordinated their activities. The International Federation and the ICRC helped build up the Afghan Red Crescent's capacity in the areas of assistance and health.



## CIVILIANS

Throughout 2008, violence took a heavy toll on civilians. The ICRC collected allegations of IHL violations, including in relation to the conduct of hostilities, and, when appropriate, transmitted them to the parties concerned to encourage them to take corrective action and prevent any recurrence.

Family members separated by armed conflict stayed in touch or traced relatives with whom they had lost contact with the help of the ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent. The parties to the conflict received guidelines on the proper handling of human remains. Several ISAF contingents revised their standard operating procedures accordingly. The families of those killed in battle and the parties to the conflict requested the ICRC's help in the collection, burial and transfer of human remains after fighting.

- 6,410 RCMs collected from and 9,544 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 451 people (123 females; 110 minors at the time of disappearance); 166 people located; 230 people (48 females; 56 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 177 human remains transferred
- 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

Conflict-affected IDPs and residents, drought-affected people in the northern provinces and refugees fleeing the conflict in Pakistan were better able to cope after receiving food and essential household items from the ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent.

- 368,246 people (52,658 households) received food
- 89,238 people (12,913 households) received essential household items

Poor neighbourhoods on the edges of cities not served by other organizations and people in rural areas had improved access to safe water or sanitation conditions thanks to projects coordinated and implemented with the Central Authority for Water Supply and Sewerage and ICRC technical and material assistance. To increase the benefits of these projects, 43,233 people participated in hygiene promotion sessions.

Drought-affected rural communities (26,000 people) in northern Afghanistan had access to drinking water during a critical three-month period thanks to water trucking.

- 205,466 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 95,623 people in urban areas, including Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif, from the installation of pumps, and Kandahar, from the construction of latrines
  - 22,870 people in rural areas, including Bamiyan, Jalalabad and Mazar-i-Sharif provinces, from the installation of new supply schemes and hand pumps

Nine ICRC-supported Afghan Red Crescent primary health care centres provided care to conflict-affected people (see *Wounded and sick*). The medical supplies given to these structures and the standards of care complied with the Ministry of Public Health's policy. The collection of health information was strengthened through ICRC training, and services were monitored to identify areas for improvement.

People in remote areas without access to primary health care benefited from WHO polio vaccination campaigns facilitated by the ICRC in its role as a neutral intermediary.

In the 9 ICRC-supported health centres:

- 97,160 people given consultations, including 6,322 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 90,838 attending curative consultations
- 85,002 vaccine doses administered (including 66,403 to children aged five or under and 18,599 to women of childbearing age)
- 872 patients referred to a second level of care
- 3,853 health education sessions held

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Persons in US custody

Internees in the Bagram Theater Internment Facility received regular ICRC visits. In accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedures, delegates assessed their treatment and living conditions both in the facility and, through private interviews, in the places where they had previously been held. Confidential findings and recommendations were submitted to the US authorities. People held in field detention sites before being released, handed over to Afghan custody or transferred to the Bagram facility also received ICRC visits.

In January, the US authorities and the ICRC set up a video teleconferencing system between the delegation and Bagram to help internees and their families keep in touch. Additionally, in September, the US authorities and the ICRC launched a family-visit programme, allowing families to visit their relatives in Bagram.

- 981 internees visited, of whom 942 monitored individually (16 minors) and 385 newly registered (13 minors), during 14 visits to 6 places of detention
- 8,363 RCMs collected from and 3,983 RCMs distributed to internees; 2,145 calls, including video teleconference calls, facilitated between internees and family members and 2,764 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of an interned relative
- 89 internees visited by their relatives, including those living in Pakistan, with ICRC support
- 4 detention certificates issued to former internees or their families

Nearly 100 released internees received clothing, accommodation and financial support for their journey home and one foreign internee was repatriated after being released.

### Persons in NATO/ISAF custody

The ICRC conducted visits to people in eight detention facilities run by ISAF contingents in the south and south-east of the country to monitor their conditions of detention before their transfer to Afghan authority, in accordance with ISAF's standard operating procedures. The ICRC worked with ISAF on humanitarian matters, such as the transfer of detainees to other security forces.

## Persons in Afghan custody

Security detainees were monitored individually through ICRC visits, corresponded with their families via RCMs and, upon release, received clothing and their fares home. Because of their vulnerability, detained foreigners, regardless of the charges against them, were also followed individually. The ICRC also monitored the transfer of 299 Afghan nationals previously held in Bagram and Guantanamo Bay to an Afghan Defence Ministry detention facility and facilitated family visits, which the detainees received for the first time since their arrest.

Based on its findings, the ICRC made recommendations to the detaining authorities on how to improve material conditions of detention. Projects to improve water supply, sanitation, kitchens and medical facilities in prisons were carried out, with ICRC technical support. The Central Prison Department and the ICRC implemented a project to improve detainee health care through the provision of medical supplies and equipment, the rehabilitation of prison clinics, hygiene education for detainees, the training of health personnel and the promotion of more efficient management. Based in part on the ICRC's recommendation, responsibility for medical follow-up of detainees was transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Public Health as part of a proposal to reform health care in detention.

- ▶ 12,746 detainees visited, of whom 2,583 monitored individually (23 females; 76 minors) and 1,265 newly registered (12 females; 59 minors), during 379 visits to 103 places of detention
- ▶ 2,159 RCMs collected from and 2,348 RCMs distributed to detainees and 242 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- ▶ 221 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- ▶ 14 released foreign detainees repatriated with ICRC support
- ▶ 41 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ 8,608 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC and the National Society's comprehensive approach to medical assistance, ranging from community-based first aid to surgical care, aimed to respond to the growing numbers of conflict casualties. Enhanced patient referral systems, often involving the National Society, improved access of people in conflict-affected areas to health care structures.

The Afghan authorities provided health care services in 12 urban and provincial health facilities with ICRC material, financial and technical support. Jalalabad Public Health Hospital 1 and Shiberghan provincial hospital dispensed inpatient care thanks to ICRC-provided medical supplies, surgical and management training, and infrastructure repairs. Mirwais Hospital in Kandahar, the main surgical facility in the south, received support from an ICRC medical team in implementing the government's Essential Package of Health Services. The upgrade by the ICRC of the operating theatres' electrical system meant that surgical teams could perform more operations. Urgent repairs to the hospital's gynaecology, obstetric and paediatric wards and morgue were carried out, expanding the wards' capacity and enabling better management of human remains. To improve security, the hospital's walls and gates were

reinforced. The blood transfusion services in Jalalabad, Mirwais and Shiberghan hospitals and the Herat blood bank received ICRC support.

- ▶ 2 hospitals (860 beds) benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

In the 3 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 48,436 patients (including 17,134 women and 16,393 children) admitted: of whom 2,388 weapon-wounded (including 211 women, 464 children, and 434 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war), 24,189 other surgical cases, and 12,914 medical and 8,945 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- ▶ 19,964 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 226,176 outpatients given consultations, including 212,182 attending surgical or medical consultations and 13,994 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations

In addition to the services provided by the National Society's primary health care centres (see *Civilians*), first-aid activities in conflict-affected areas expanded. The quality of care improved and more patients were evacuated to hospital following training of health workers in the south, including in pre-hospital care for the weapon-wounded. Five ICRC-supported first-aid posts provided medical assistance to weapon-wounded people. Weapon-wounded were able to reach health care facilities via means of transport supported financially by the ICRC and organized in conjunction with local health providers and the parties to the conflict.

Disabled people received physiotherapy and mobility aids at the ICRC's six physical rehabilitation centres. Four rehabilitation centres run by other organizations received mobility devices, components and training. The ICRC-run facilities employed 600 disabled people and organized schooling, vocational training, micro-credit schemes or job placements for some 3,300 people. The centres' staff undertook training to upgrade their skills. In the centres in Herat, Kabul and Mazar-i-Sharif, the rehabilitation of kitchens and heating systems was ongoing.

People with spinal cord injuries and children affected by cerebral palsy and their carers received medical assistance, equipment/appliances, physiotherapy and counselling at the ICRC-run centres and during home visits by ICRC teams. Particularly vulnerable families received economic support.

- ▶ 66,595 patients (including 9,930 women and 16,410 children) received services at 6 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 888 new patients (including 80 women and 41 children) fitted with prostheses and 4,069 (including 668 women and 1,877 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 3,967 prostheses (including 267 for women, 147 for children and 2,598 for mine victims), 9,910 orthoses (including 1,181 for women, 5,356 for children and 55 for mine victims), 9,161 crutches and 818 wheelchairs delivered
- ▶ 6,983 home treatments administered to patients with spinal cord injuries

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities at central and local level and the ICRC maintained a dialogue on relevant issues, such as acceptance of and support for the ICRC's mandate and activities on behalf of conflict victims and IHL implementation. The dialogue included contacts with regional branches of major political parties, local *shuras* and provincial councils through meetings, information sessions and written materials (see *Civil society*).

Efforts to encourage Afghanistan's accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols continued. The Council of Ministers approved the draft legislation and submitted it to parliament for consideration.

- 225 members of provincial authorities participated in 14 dissemination sessions

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Regular meetings with the Afghan armed and security forces, US and ISAF forces and armed groups aimed to gain acceptance of the ICRC and the National Society's work. Discussions focused on the ICRC's mandate, respect for medical staff and infrastructure, access to conflict-affected people and the conduct of hostilities and related allegations of IHL violations collected by the ICRC.

In complement, the integration of IHL into the ANA's doctrine, education and training programmes progressed, with assistance from the ICRC, including through IHL dissemination sessions, in close cooperation with ISAF's special training units.

Good relations were fostered with the Afghan National Police and the Afghan National Auxiliary Police during ICRC visits to people held in police stations.

- 167 ANA instructors participated in 6 IHL train-the-trainer courses
- 126 ANA senior officers participated in IHL dissemination and education sessions at the ANA Command and General Staff College

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Contacts with beneficiaries and influential community leaders through its assistance programmes helped the ICRC explain its neutral and independent approach. Meetings about IHL and the ICRC were conducted with influential members of civil society such as elders, tribal leaders, religious leaders teaching at religious schools and local *shuras* with the additional aim of reaching actors with whom the ICRC had no direct contact. For example, representatives of eight provincial *shuras* in conflict-affected areas of central Afghanistan met the ICRC for the first time to exchange views on the current humanitarian situation in their areas, the security constraints and possible areas of cooperation. Contacts with law faculties in three provinces helped to foster IHL teaching by interested lecturers.

In addition, members of civil society as well as representatives of the major international and local media and NGOs attended information sessions on the ICRC and basic IHL rules and received, newsletters, fact sheets, press releases and other publications in Dari, Pashto and English.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Afghan Red Crescent was the ICRC's main operational partner in Afghanistan, distributing ICRC assistance to conflict-affected IDPs and drought victims (see *Civilians*). It continued to expand its community-based first-aid programme, enabling it to reach weapon-wounded people in remote areas.

The National Society benefited from ICRC support for a range of activities, including: the monitoring of and collection of data relating to mine incidents; mine-risk education; community-based first aid; food-for-work schemes; vocational training; dissemination; and tracing. Cooperation between the National Society and the ICRC enhanced access to conflict victims beyond the reach of other humanitarian actors.

The National Society continued to reform its transportation and financial management structure with support from the ICRC and the International Federation.

With funding and/or technical/material assistance from the ICRC, the Afghan Red Crescent:

- trained and equipped 2,887 new community-based first aid volunteers, bringing the total number of volunteers to more than 17,000, who provided first-aid to over 100,000 people
- organized food-for-work projects, benefiting over 150,000 destitute people
- conducted mine-risk education sessions for some 350,000 people and collected data on mine incidents
- promoted IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles by distributing publications to and conducting dissemination sessions for religious leaders, teachers, students, community elders and its own staff

Movement actors present in Afghanistan and the ICRC met regularly to coordinate their activities.



# myanmar

The ICRC began working in Myanmar in 1986, providing physical rehabilitation for mine victims and other disabled people. Between 1999 and 2005, delegates visited detainees, assisted and protected civilians in conflict areas, and provided supplies to hospitals treating the wounded. By the end of 2005, restrictions imposed by the authorities on the ICRC's ability to work according to its standard procedures had led to a progressive downsizing of activities. The ICRC actively seeks dialogue with government authorities with a view to resuming its priority activities. It also works with the International Federation to enhance the effectiveness of the National Society with which it continues to run a prosthetic/orthotic facility.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,178 |
| Assistance                          | 3,439 |
| Prevention                          | 601   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 416   |
| General                             | -     |

► **6,634**

of which: Overheads 400

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 99% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 8   | expatriates                                 |
| 118 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- facilitated family visits for 698 detainees
- provided basic food items, blankets, medicines and soap to detainees in cyclone-affected prisons and labour camps
- carried out family-links activities with the Myanmar Red Cross Society after the cyclone, building the National Society's capacity in this field by providing expertise and training nearly 400 volunteers in the proper management of human remains
- assisted the National Society in covering the water, sanitation and shelter needs of 122,500 cyclone-affected people
- in cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross, supported the Hpa-an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre

## CONTEXT

Cyclone Nargis struck the Irrawaddy delta region of Myanmar on 2 May, affecting some 2.4 million people, killing an estimated 84,000 and leaving some 54,000 unaccounted for. The government launched a relief operation, accepting and monitoring international material and financial support. Relief efforts were initially spearheaded by the UN and the Movement, including the ICRC. Subsequently, a Tripartite Core Group (TCG) was created, made up of representatives of the Myanmar government, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the international humanitarian community, to oversee the coordination of international assistance. A donor pledging conference was held at the end of May, chaired jointly by the ASEAN and UN secretaries-general. At the end of 2008, the emergency phase of relief operations was winding down and the UN and the TCG re-focused their efforts on reconstruction and rehabilitation.

The constitutional drafting committee prepared a new constitution, which was adopted by referendum in May.

The leader of the opposition National League for Democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi, met a specially appointed government representative twice in 2008. In May, her house arrest was extended for another year.

Low-intensity armed conflict between government forces and various armed groups continued to affect the population in various areas of Shan and Kayin states and eastern Bago division.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |  | Total                | Women   | Children |     |
|--|-------|--|----------------------|---------|----------|-----|
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |       | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM |                      |         |          |     |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>    |       | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>    |                      |         |          |     |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 163   | Essential household items                      | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 9,000   | 30%      | 40% |
| <i>of whom females</i>   | 16    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects         | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 131,500 | 30%      | 40% |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>             |       | WOUNDED AND SICK                               |                      |         |          |     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 173   | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                 |                      |         |          |     |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 54    | Patients receiving services                    | <i>Patients</i>      | 5,419   | 694      | 371 |
| <i>of which for females</i>                                    | 10    | Prostheses delivered                           | <i>Units</i>         | 1,867   | 129      | 52  |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |       | Orthoses delivered                             | <i>Units</i>         | 1,204   | 338      | 478 |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued              | 19    |  |                      |         |          |     |

## ICRC ACTION

The government did not lift the restrictions imposed on the ICRC, preventing the organization from discharging its internationally recognized mandate according to its customary working procedures, which the Myanmar authorities had accepted in previous years. Meanwhile, the ICRC's repeated attempts to re-establish a substantive dialogue with the authorities produced no tangible results. At the operational level, the continued deadlock meant that the ICRC was unable to resume its monitoring of detention conditions or the provision of assistance to vulnerable civilians living in border areas affected by armed conflict.

The ICRC focused on providing financial and technical support to the Hpa-an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre and continued to fund the family visit programme for detainees previously registered by the ICRC.

After Cyclone Nargis made landfall, the ICRC responded immediately, in close cooperation with the Myanmar Red Cross Society and the International Federation, defining new objectives in addition to those in its 2008 appeal issued in December 2007. The ICRC supported the Myanmar Red Cross and the International Federation in the Movement response to the cyclone. Vehicles and human resources were made available to the National Society to conduct initial assessments. The ICRC lent its expertise in the fields of restoring family links and management of human remains and contributed to Movement water, sanitation and shelter activities. It also undertook assistance and rehabilitation projects in places of detention damaged by the cyclone. The ICRC and its Movement partners participated in regular coordination meetings with other organizations providing cyclone relief. ICRC representatives attended the ASEAN-UN pledging conference and emphasized the importance of restoring family links disrupted by the cyclone.

## CIVILIANS

Owing to restrictions imposed on the ICRC by the government of Myanmar, assistance activities for civilians in sensitive areas along the Thai-Myanmar border were put on hold in October 2006. Since then, the ICRC had attempted, without success, to engage the Myanmar authorities in a dialogue on the protection of civilians in conflict-affected areas.

## Restoring family links

People affected by armed conflict approached the ICRC for help with locating their missing relatives and children formerly associated with fighting forces were reunited with their families.

- new tracing requests registered for 163 people (16 females); 173 people located; 54 people (10 females) still being sought
- 12 demobilized children registered; 10 reunited with their families; 5 cases of demobilized children still being handled

## Cyclone Nargis

The cyclone split up many people and by the end of 2008, thousands of families were still waiting for news of missing relatives. A joint ICRC-Myanmar Red Cross family-links plan of action was endorsed by the National Society's leadership and approved by the authorities. With ICRC support, the Myanmar Red Cross set up a family-links unit, including at township level, and carried out needs assessments.

The Myanmar Red Cross was instrumental in carrying out family-links activities with the ICRC's support. In accessible areas, family members separated by the cyclone were able to locate and re-establish contact with each other by means of tracing requests, Safe and Well messages and phone calls.

The National Society and the ICRC worked in cooperation with child protection agencies to register children separated from their parents and, where possible, to reunite them with their families.

A total of 387 volunteers from the National Society and 40 NGO staff members received ICRC training in the management of human remains, including proper burial and the collection of post-mortem data. More than 2,000 body bag kits were distributed to Myanmar Red Cross volunteers and local and international NGOs. A total of 455 National Society volunteers participated in family-links training sessions given by the ICRC and members of the National Society's tracing department.

With ICRC support, the Myanmar Red Cross:

- collected and posted publicly some 4,000 Safe and Well messages
- registered new tracing requests for 25 people
- helped some 300 people restore contact with their relatives



### Providing cyclone survivors with clean water, shelter and emergency health care

Cyclone Nargis contaminated ponds and wells with salt water or decomposing organic matter, while many houses were either partially or totally destroyed. Although people could gather rainwater during the rainy season, it was not sufficient to meet their daily needs. Cyclone survivors also lacked shelter, leaving them exposed to the elements. The ICRC, in support of the Movement's response and in coordination with the National Society and the International Federation, provided assistance to respond to the emergency needs of cyclone-affected people not yet covered by national and international relief operations.

Villages in remote areas of Dedaye township regained access to clean water after the ICRC, in coordination with the Myanmar Red Cross and the International Federation, deployed two water treatment units. The units were operated by ICRC-trained National Society volunteers and produced clean water during the initial emergency period of six weeks. Water harvesting and storage capacity was increased through the cleaning of seven ponds and the supply of fuel and pumps to villages to clean another 17 ponds. Some 13,000 households received basic assistance, including blankets, mosquito nets, tarpaulins and construction tools, to help them cope with the effects of the cyclone.

After the emergency phase had ended, villages in East Dedaye and South Pyapong districts benefited from joint ICRC-Myanmar Red Cross activities. Twenty-four saline and contaminated ponds were cleaned and restored to their pre-cyclone salinity levels. In institutional and communal buildings, 42 rainwater harvesting tanks were installed, along with new roofing where necessary. A total of 1,500 households received water storage containers and 35 shallow wells were drilled. Twelve schools were equipped with ceramic water filters. During 70 hygiene promotion sessions facilitated by ICRC-trained Myanmar Red Cross volunteers, cyclone-affected people received hygiene kits and materials to build sanitary latrines.

The ICRC, the National Society and the International Federation carried out a joint assessment to identify cyclone-affected health facilities in need of medicines and other supplies. Based on the findings of this assessment, 16 hospitals and 208 primary health care posts in six severely affected townships in the delta region received ICRC medical assistance to aid their recovery. Yangon's Infectious Disease Hospital, the referral hospital for patients with infectious diseases from other areas of Myanmar, was given an ICRC cholera kit to alleviate a shortage of supplies.

- ▶ 122,500 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC had not visited detainees or monitored their treatment and living conditions in Myanmar since December 2005, as the authorities would no longer allow the organization to carry out visits in accordance with its standard procedures. Detainees registered during previous visits and individual cases continued to receive ICRC-supported family visits once a month and, upon their release, had their travel costs home covered by the ICRC. However, detainees and their relatives were unable to correspond with each other through RCMs owing to the suspension of ICRC visits to places of detention.

- ▶ 698 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support

- ▶ 19 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ 68 released detainees returned home with ICRC financial support

### Detainees in places of detention affected by the cyclone

Twenty prisons and labour camps housing some 17,000 inmates and 2,000 staff were thought to have been affected by Cyclone Nargis. To help them cope with the effects of the cyclone, detainees in places of detention identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs received basic food items, blankets, clothing, essential medicines and soap provided by the ICRC.

Following a constructive dialogue with the Prisons Department, the ICRC was permitted to assess damage to infrastructure in the worst-affected prisons. Rehabilitation projects focusing on kitchens and water systems were then initiated.

- ▶ 9,000 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects and received essential household items

### WOUNDED AND SICK

In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC continued to support the Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre. The centre received technical and financial support and management training. Two prosthetic/orthotic technicians were sponsored to attend a one-month course on fitting lower-limb prostheses at the Special Fund for the Disabled's regional training centre in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. An ICRC assessment of the Hpa-an centre's efficiency found that the majority of patients were satisfied with the services they had received.

The ICRC-Myanmar Red Cross outreach prosthetic programme continued in the south-east, the area worst affected by landmines, helping 223 amputees to reach the Hpa-an centre and receive appropriate care. A feasibility assessment was carried out with a view to increasing the number of areas benefiting from the programme.

- ▶ 5,419 patients (including 694 women and 371 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- ▶ 1,031 new patients (including 69 women and 30 children) fitted with prostheses and 672 (including 225 women and 166 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 1,867 prostheses (including 129 for women, 52 for children and 1,291 for mine victims), 1,204 orthoses (including 338 for women, 478 for children and 8 for mine victims), 2,310 crutches and 26 wheelchairs delivered

In 2007, the ICRC ended its assistance to three physical rehabilitation centres run by the Ministry of Health and three centres run by the Ministry of Defence. However, all six centres received enough materials from the ICRC in 2008 to continue operating.

### Cyclone Nargis-related activities

A number of specialized hospitals were damaged by the cyclone. As an emergency response, the Defence Services Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon was provided with a generator, a set of orthopaedic surgical instruments and 80 hygiene kits. The Yangon Orthopaedic General Hospital, the only specialist orthopaedic hospital in Myanmar, also received a set of orthopaedic surgical instruments. Raw materials for spinal orthoses and 30 wheelchairs for patients with spinal cord injuries were given to the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC sought every opportunity to engage in a substantive dialogue with the Myanmar government in order to overcome differences and clarify possible misunderstandings. Despite these efforts, the restrictions on the ICRC remained in place, preventing the organization from discharging its internationally recognized mandate. The restrictions also hampered ICRC activities carried out in cooperation with or in support of government officials.

The ICRC met twice with the UN secretary-general's special envoy during his visits to Yangon in March and August to discuss humanitarian concerns.

The assistance provided to cyclone-affected places of detention enabled the ICRC to renew contacts with the Ministry of Home Affairs and related departments. The ICRC and its Movement partners participated in regular coordination meetings with other organizations providing cyclone relief, in particular those of the UN. ICRC representatives attended the ASEAN-UN donor conference and emphasized the importance of restoring family links after the cyclone (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media in Myanmar continued to pick up press releases about ICRC activities locally and elsewhere in the world, especially after the cyclone. The ICRC fostered contacts with representatives of local and foreign media to promote coverage of its activities.

During the year, 77 university students majoring in law and international relations consulted ICRC and IHL literature available at the delegation's resource centre.

Members of the armed forces and the civilian authorities, including the Ministry of Education, participated in a five-day train-the-trainer course jointly organized by the Department of Social Welfare and UNICEF on preventing the recruitment of child soldiers. During the course, the ICRC gave a presentation on IHL.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Owing to the involvement of the National Society's leadership in Myanmar's democratic transition process, little progress was made in adapting the National Society's legal base to comply with Movement norms.

The ICRC supported the Movement's response to the needs created by Cyclone Nargis in the areas of family links, assistance to detainees and the management of human remains. It also contributed to the International Federation's efforts to support Myanmar Red Cross volunteers, training some of them in the operation of two water treatment units deployed in Dedaye township. The Myanmar Red Cross also distributed ICRC medical materials in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone.

With technical and financial support from the International Federation and the ICRC, the Myanmar Red Cross conducted 15 dissemination sessions on IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles in cyclone-affected townships and elsewhere in the country. The sessions were attended by military and police officers, members of local authorities, members of social organizations and National Society volunteers.

With ICRC technical and financial support, the Myanmar Red Cross established a family-links unit and appointed dedicated staff at its headquarters and in four locations in cyclone-affected areas.

A National Society legal adviser was sponsored to participate in the second South East Asia Forum on IHL in Manila, Philippines.



# nepal

The ICRC initially worked in Nepal out of its regional delegation in New Delhi, opening a delegation in Kathmandu in 2001. Until the May 2006 ceasefire agreement, its primary aim was to protect and assist people directly affected by the armed conflict between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist. Since the agreement, the ICRC has focused on clarifying the fate of missing persons and adapted its assistance activities to the new situation, namely by serving as a neutral intermediary between relevant actors, taking action on behalf of people deprived of their freedom, promoting full compliance with IHL and improving medical care for the wounded. It works closely with the Nepal Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,922 |
| Assistance                          | 3,236 |
| Prevention                          | 1,068 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,125 |
| General                             | -     |

► **7,352**

of which: Overheads 449

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>79%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>19</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>100</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- supported families of missing persons by publishing information on their relatives who were unaccounted for
- with the Nepal Red Cross Society, helped families of the missing and people affected by violence restore their livelihoods
- assisted the National Society in giving first aid to victims of pre-electoral violence and internal disturbances in the Terai region
- discussed with senior army officials the implementation of the directive of the army chief of staff on the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and sanctions

## CONTEXT

Leading up to the postponed constituent assembly elections in April, violent incidents occurred around the country, resulting in a number of deaths. Nepal's monarchy was abolished at the end of May and the new government took office in August. The leader of the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, Prachanda, was elected prime minister. The process of writing the constitution was delayed. Major initiatives envisaged in the peace agreement and interim constitution, including the establishment of a truth and reconciliation commission and a commission on missing persons, had yet to take shape. Nepal's new political system faced major challenges, including security sector and land reform. The debate over federalism led to more claims for autonomy from various ethnic groups.

Post-conflict Nepal remained fragile. Sporadic intercommunal and inter-religious violence and nationwide strikes continued, while natural disasters compounded the plight of some of the country's poorest. Fuel shortages and rapidly escalating commodity prices posed significant threats to food security and peace in Nepal.

The future of the more than 20,000 members of the Maoist People's Liberation Army (PLA) still in quartering areas remained unresolved.

In the eastern and central Terai region, a number of political and sometimes armed groups demanded more rights for the Madhesi population living in the area, and violent clashes erupted periodically. Madhesi political parties successfully took part in the constituent assembly elections, but criminality and lawlessness continued to flourish in the Terai region.

The authorities revised their conflict victim compensation policy to include those killed, injured, displaced or maimed during the past conflict. Families of missing persons were not included in the policy.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |       |
| Detainees visited   | 4,867 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 20    |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 3     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 30    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 22    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |       |
| RCMs collected  | 97    |
| RCMs distributed  | 8     |
| People reunited with their families   | 3     |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 174   |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 19    |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>  | 32    |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 66    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 1,289 |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 125   |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>   | 159   |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |       |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC   | 3     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 8     |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 10    |

|   |                      | Total  | Women | Children |
|---|----------------------|--------|-------|----------|
| <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                      |        |       |          |
| <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                      |        |       |          |
| Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 258    | 29%   | 51%      |
| Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 18,213 | 32%   | 45%      |
| Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 11,736 | 30%   | 45%      |
| Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 7,902  | 19%   | 24%      |
| <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                      |        |       |          |
| Hospitals supported                                   | <i>Structures</i>    | 19     |       |          |
| Admissions  | <i>Patients</i>      | 103    | 13    | 3        |
| <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                      |        |       |          |
| Patients receiving services                           | <i>Patients</i>      | 1,098  | 293   | 152      |
| Prostheses delivered                                  | <i>Units</i>         | 97     | 22    | 10       |
| Orthoses delivered                                    | <i>Units</i>         | 174    | 44    | 67       |

## ICRC ACTION

Given the political uncertainty and new internal disturbances, the ICRC maintained a flexible approach in carrying out its activities in Nepal. The organization dealt with the residual effects of the past armed conflict, including issues related to missing persons and the provision of assistance to the most vulnerable families affected by the past conflict. It also responded to the needs of people affected by the current unrest. Other ICRC activities included IHL promotion, contingency planning, and building the capacity of the Nepal Red Cross Society. During the sporadic violence that affected mainly the southern Terai region, the ICRC was able to travel freely and its staff worked safely throughout the country.

In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC kept up efforts to help families clarify the whereabouts of relatives still unaccounted for in connection with the past conflict. It made representations to the relevant authorities on behalf of families seeking information on the fate of missing relatives. It also advised the authorities on measures to address the needs of the families, and assisted families in improving their livelihoods. Planned family-links activities for children affected by armed conflict could not be implemented owing to the lack of political progress on the issue.

In the pre-election period, the ICRC provided hospitals with emergency medical kits, helped the Nepalese Red Cross carry out first-aid activities, assisted families affected by the disturbances and made representations to the relevant authorities to remind them of their obligations under international human rights law. During the internal disturbances in the Terai, the ICRC reacted quickly to help the victims and support the National Society's response. It also acted as a neutral intermediary to facilitate the Nepalese Red Cross's access to the affected population.

The ICRC visited detainees and carried out projects to upgrade or rehabilitate prison infrastructure. With the Nepalese Red Cross, the ICRC supported basic first-aid training for detainees and guards.

People in isolated villages in conflict-affected areas benefited from the rehabilitation of water supply systems. The ICRC continued its support to the Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre through the training of prosthetic/orthotic technicians.

The Nepalese Red Cross remained a key partner for the ICRC, which aimed to help the National Society strengthen its emergency response capacity, family-links activities and IHL promotion. The two organizations carried out many activities together, including livelihood support, emergency relief, rural water and sanitation projects, and mine-risk education.

With ICRC support, members of the authorities, armed forces and civil society attended IHL events abroad, including the South Asian Teaching Session on IHL (see *New Delhi*) to improve their knowledge of the subject. Work on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties slowed owing to the political instability. The armed and police forces pursued their efforts, supported by the ICRC, to integrate IHL into military and police doctrine, training and sanctions.

The ICRC ensured its activities were coordinated with those of other humanitarian agencies operating in the country in order to strengthen complementarity and avoid duplication or gaps in protection and assistance programmes for those most in need.

## CIVILIANS

In response to the pre-election violence and disturbances in the Terai, the ICRC maintained contacts with relevant actors, collected information on alleged abuses against civilians and, where necessary, made representations to the parties responsible.

The process of identifying children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups thought to be present in the quartering areas for former members of the PLA stalled. As a result, many of the children made contact with their families and returned home on their own.

Families were informed of the fate of 47 missing relatives following bilateral representations made by the ICRC to the relevant authorities. In August, the names of 1,227 people unaccounted for in connection with the past armed conflict were published in a booklet by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Nepalese Red Cross and on the website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org) (see *Civil society*). For many families, the publication of the list was the first public recognition of their suffering.

Officials from the National Human Rights Commission, police personnel and staff of the Institute of Forensic Medicine participated in an ICRC training workshop on the recovery and analysis of human remains. Several forensic specialists attended courses abroad in order to build up local forensic capacity.

- ▶ 81 RCMs collected from and 3 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 174 people (19 females; 32 minors at the time of disappearance); 66 people located; 1,289 people (125 females; 159 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 3 demobilized children reunited with their families
- ▶ 8 people issued with an ICRC travel document

People affected or displaced by the ongoing disturbances received essential household items to help them cope, including blankets, tarpaulins and kitchen sets. After devastating landslides struck the western Terai region, people received emergency food assistance from the Nepalese Red Cross and the ICRC. Economic security assessments in the Terai did not find any increased needs owing to the violence, but there were concerns about rising commodity prices and their impact on food security for the population there.

- ▶ 18,213 people (3,110 households) received essential household items
- ▶ 258 people (43 households) received food

The most vulnerable families affected by the past conflict, in particular the families of missing persons or households headed by women, or by the ongoing disturbances in 35 districts received cash grants from the National Society and the ICRC to help them restore their livelihoods through agricultural, livestock and trade activities. Monitoring of these projects showed that the majority of the families were able to generate additional income within two months of receiving a grant.

- ▶ 11,736 people (2,159 households) benefited from micro-economic initiatives

The repair and maintenance needs of rural water supply systems, especially in isolated villages and conflict-affected areas, remained high. In Dailekh district, the National Society, local communities

and the ICRC worked together to improve water supply schemes. Over 2,000 people benefited from these projects, including students and teachers in two schools. Having access to safe drinking water reduced the amount of time spent collecting water, especially for women and girls, thus leaving more time for income-generating activities. The provision of enough safe water, coupled with a hygiene promotion campaign and maintenance training, contributed to improving the overall health of the communities and made the schemes more sustainable.

People whose homes were burned down during the violence in the Terai region started to rebuild them using materials provided by the Nepalese Red Cross and the ICRC. People displaced by floods in the eastern Terai region received materials and technical input from the National Society and the ICRC for the construction of community kitchens and latrines in temporary IDP camps.

In two quartering areas for members of the PLA, some 1,700 people benefited from improved cooking stoves that reduced the consumption of firewood and indoor pollution. A total of 40 people, including 20 women, received training in the production of biomass briquettes to help them generate income.

- ▶ 4,819 people benefited from sanitation/habitat projects, including the patients of Mahottari Hospital (see *Wounded and sick*)

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees continued to receive ICRC visits carried out in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures, including a small number of people held in connection with the past conflict. At the end of the year, individual monitoring of these detainees ended as they faced the same conditions and problems as ordinary detainees. Former detainees were issued with detention certificates, on their request, so that they might qualify as conflict victims and receive assistance from the authorities.

The authorities and the ICRC maintained a confidential dialogue on the conditions of detention and treatment of detainees. However, progress was hampered by the high turnover of prison department staff and the political environment surrounding the elections.

The Nepalese Red Cross, with ICRC support, conducted first-aid training sessions for 233 detainees and 20 prison staff involved in health activities in 6 prisons to increase their knowledge and skills. After the training, the participants monitored the health conditions of the whole prison population, leading to earlier detection of sick detainees.

To ensure the sustainability of its water and habitat projects in prisons, the ICRC pursued efforts to find long-term solutions using local resources, technologies and experts. Projects aimed to integrate renewable and environmentally friendly energy sources such as biogas and solar power. In four district jails, the installation of biogas plants was completed, improving sanitation conditions for over 700 detainees. The gas produced was used for cooking purposes, which reduced firewood and kerosene consumption. The upgrading of water supply systems (including boreholes), toilet and drainage facilities, kitchens and dining sheds in five jails was completed. Monitoring confirmed that living conditions had improved and that all the new facilities were functional.



- 4,867 detainees visited, of whom 20 monitored individually (3 females) and 2 newly registered, during 30 visits to 22 places of detention
- 16 RCMs collected from and 5 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 1 detainee visited by relatives with ICRC support
- 10 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- 3,083 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 721 detainees from the construction of biogas plants

## WOUNDED AND SICK

ICRC medical activities focused on supporting the treatment of victims of violence and unrest. Hospitals dealt with an influx of weapon-wounded people during the unrest in the Terai and the pre-electoral period. A total of 19 hospitals providing first aid and surgical care received medical and surgical supplies from the ICRC. A total of 75 district doctors, 40 military medical professionals and 4 National Society staff members upgraded their knowledge and skills in 4 ICRC surgical workshops focusing on trauma management. Some weapon-wounded patients from the past conflict and victims of explosive remnants of war continued to need surgical treatment in hospitals, the costs incurred by their treatment and transportation being covered by the ICRC.

Urgent infrastructure repairs were carried out at Mahottari Hospital (378 beds) and hospital staff were trained in preventing infections.

In the 8 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- 103 weapon-wounded patients (including 13 women, 3 children, and 9 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war) admitted
- 586 outpatients given surgical or medical consultations

The training programme at the prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Green Pastures Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre in Pokhara continued after the hospital and the ICRC signed a four-year memorandum of understanding. Staff benefited from the technical expertise and training provided by an ICRC prosthetic/orthotic technician. Six prosthetic/orthotic technicians from the centre attended training in Cambodia, with ICRC support, to improve their skills and the quality of services provided at the centre.

- 1,098 patients (including 293 women and 152 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 91 new patients (including 22 women and 9 children) fitted with prostheses and 144 (including 34 women and 52 children) fitted with orthoses
- 97 prostheses (including 22 for women, 10 for children and 4 for mine victims), 174 orthoses (including 44 for women, 67 for children and 1 for a mine victim), 264 crutches and 1 wheelchair delivered

## AUTHORITIES

The April elections and ongoing political uncertainty made it difficult to discuss IHL-related issues with the authorities. However, the ICRC continued its efforts to prepare the ground for Nepal's eventual adherence to IHL treaties.

The national IHL committee convened and organized two seminars for senior representatives of government ministries, the armed and security forces, and judicial bodies to promote knowledge of IHL. The ICRC translated the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols into Nepali.

To learn more about the ICRC and IHL, government officials, parliamentarians and political party representatives participated in the South Asian Teaching Session on IHL and a seminar on the missing. A total of 120 leaders of political youth groups participated in ICRC dissemination sessions.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Nepal Army (NA) and the PLA remained in their quartering areas and no progress was made on merging them, but the ICRC maintained a dialogue with both forces.

With the ICRC's encouragement, the NA chief of staff issued an order requiring that IHL and international human rights law be integrated into the army's doctrine, training, operations and sanctions. To increase the NA's capacity to carry out its own training, the ICRC provided support to four five-day basic IHL train-the-trainer courses and two advanced train-the-trainer courses. These trainers went on to conduct IHL training sessions throughout the country, allowing the ICRC to focus on sessions on its mandate and activities.

- 924 officers and other members of the NA attended IHL training sessions around the country
- 27 PLA senior officers participated in a three-day high-level IHL course and 138 PLA soldiers attended basic IHL briefings

The Armed Police Force (APF) played a major role in keeping order during the internal disturbances and pre-election violence. The ICRC pursued discussion with the force on future training in human rights standards and humanitarian principles. Army and police officers attended the South Asian Teaching Session on IHL to improve their knowledge of the subject.

- 200 APF officers attended training sessions around the country

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Members of civil society and human rights organizations participated in events on IHL and the issue of missing persons. The ICRC produced public communication tools, including press releases and web-based information on missing persons in order to raise awareness of the issue. In May, the ICRC organized a screening of its film on missing persons for the families that appeared in the film. The film won an award at the South Asia Documentary Film Festival and generated media interest. Awareness-raising efforts increased to coincide with the International Day of the Disappeared, including a press conference, reception, photo exhibition and launch of the list of missing persons in booklet form.

A university professor attended the South Asian Teaching Session on IHL and discussed the topic with other professors from the region. To develop their teaching capacities, 38 law lecturers participated in ICRC-led IHL briefing sessions. Students from the Kathmandu School of Law attended the regional moot court competition in New Delhi (see *New Delhi*).

- 95 human rights lawyers and activists participated in IHL briefings
- 2 candidates sat the exam for the ICRC-sponsored IHL diploma run by NALSAR University, India
- 20 journalists participated in a seminar on conflict reporting to increase their awareness of ICRC activities and humanitarian issues

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Nepal Red Cross Society remained a major humanitarian actor with a countrywide network, strengthening its assistance, dissemination, family-links and mine-risk education activities in partnership with the ICRC.

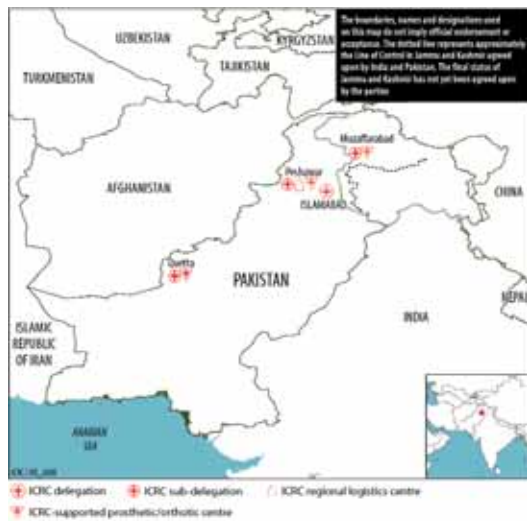
In addition to its assistance to hospitals (see *Wounded and sick*), the ICRC supported the National Society's response to the violence and disturbances in the Terai. The Nepalese Red Cross provided first-aid and ambulance services and increased its emergency response capacity through the establishment of mobile first-aid posts. Some 1,800 people wounded in the violence received first aid and some 1,400 were transported to hospital by trained National Society volunteers. To broaden the network of first-aiders, the National Society trained 276 police officers and 102 journalists in first-aid techniques. Meetings with local community leaders facilitated safer access for National Society emergency workers and ambulances.

To allow the National Society to implement micro-economic programmes independently, 324 volunteers participated in training sessions on implementing and monitoring such programmes (see *Civilians*). The ICRC and the National Society undertook joint natural disaster contingency planning.

With ICRC support:

- 39 district chapters conducted IHL dissemination sessions for some 20,000 students, teachers and members of the general public
- in an effort to reduce mine incidents, 49 National Society volunteers trained in mine-risk education and 27,100 students and members of rural communities participated in mine-risk education sessions
- newsletters in Nepali and English published, a weekly radio programme broadcast, and events to celebrate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) organized
- to build family-links capacity, 106 volunteers from 22 district chapters trained

Regular coordination meetings took place between Movement partners present in Nepal.



# pakistan

The ICRC began working in Pakistan in 1981 to assist victims of the armed conflict in Afghanistan. Its current operations now focus on: visiting security detainees; assisting victims of conflict and natural disaster; ensuring care of the weapon-wounded and the disabled; promoting compliance with IHL among officials and military forces; fostering dialogue with religious leaders, academic institutions and the media on IHL-related issues, the conduct of hostilities and neutral and independent humanitarian action; and supporting the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in enhancing its response capacity.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 4,319  |
| Assistance                          | 17,280 |
| Prevention                          | 1,828  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,442  |
| General                             | -      |

► **24,868**

of which: Overheads **1,518**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>97%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>49</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>388</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- with the National Society, provided some 76,000 conflict-affected people with food and some 61,000 with essential household items
- supported the medical care of people wounded in armed conflict or other situations of violence and rehabilitation services for the disabled
- visited and monitored individually 161 detainees held for security reasons during 32 visits to 23 places of detention, including in Pakistan-administered Kashmir
- set up a livelihood-support project to help disabled people in Pakistan-administered Kashmir reintegrate into society
- signed a memorandum of understanding with the Interior Ministry covering training for the police in international human rights standards
- strengthened cooperation with the Pakistan Red Crescent Society in carrying out activities for conflict-affected civilians and for earthquake victims in Baluchistan

## CONTEXT

For Pakistan, 2008 was characterized by political upheaval. The assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto in December 2007 led to violent protests. The postponed elections took place in February and paved the way for the transition to a civilian government. Violence subsided after the elections, but increased again, showing no sign of abating by the end of the year. President Pervez Musharraf stepped down in August and was replaced by Asif Ali Zardari following presidential elections. The future roles of the judiciary and of parliament were discussed during the formation of a new government. Rising food and energy prices and power shortages posed serious social and economic challenges.

In September, a suicide bomb attack on the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad caused hundreds of casualties.

In Kashmir, the number of reported incidents at the Line of Control began to increase in May. The foreign ministers of Pakistan and India met and agreed to strengthen their respective confidence-building mechanisms. In spite of increased tensions between the two countries after the violent attacks in Mumbai, India, in November, they continued their cooperation and dialogue on the issue of Kashmir.

During the second half of the year, the situation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) deteriorated, marked by the intensification of the armed conflict between the military and armed groups, sectarian violence and banditry. In Bajaur agency and Swat district, some 300,000 people were reportedly displaced by fighting. The provincial governments of the NWFP and the FATA embarked on peace negotiations with armed groups, but there was no let-up in the fighting. In Khyber agency, the road to the Afghan border was a target for kidnappers and militants. Attacks against army and police personnel in Peshawar occurred, causing civilian casualties.

In Baluchistan, the general election resulted in the formation of a provincial coalition government, which vowed to halt military operations in the province, release political detainees and seek clarification of the fate of missing persons. However, there was a steady increase in attacks by armed groups, including in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan, and a rise in criminality, including widespread robberies and kidnappings. Areas bordering Afghanistan were affected by the armed conflict in that country, with large

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total                             | Women   | Children     |
|---|-------|---|-----------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                                   |         |              |
| Detainees visited   | 161   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                                   |         |              |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 161   | Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i>              | 76,167  | 28% 44%      |
|   | 10    | Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i>              | 117,064 | 28% 44%      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 32    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | <i>Beneficiaries</i>              | 59,164  | 28% 43%      |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 23    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i>              | 230,443 | 28% 44%      |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       | <i>Health</i>   |                                   |         |              |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |       | Health centres supported                              | <i>Structures</i>                 | 5       |              |
| RCMs collected  | 1,300 | Consultations   | <i>Patients</i>                   | 21,662  |              |
| RCMs distributed  | 1,920 |   | <i>of which curative Patients</i> |         | 4,257 13,182 |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |       | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                                   |         |              |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 124   | Hospitals supported                                   | <i>Structures</i>                 | 8       |              |
|   | 31    | Admissions  | <i>Patients</i>                   | 2,310   | 81 101       |
|   | 33    | Operations  | <i>Operations performed</i>       | 2,815   |              |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 57    | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                                   |         |              |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 121   | Patients receiving services                           | <i>Patients</i>                   | 5,277   | 764 996      |
|   | 23    | Prostheses delivered                                  | <i>Units</i>                      | 758     | 78 62        |
|   | 18    | Orthoses delivered                                    | <i>Units</i>                      | 1,078   | 99 568       |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |       |   |                                   |         |              |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 8     |   |                                   |         |              |
| UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 8     |   |                                   |         |              |

numbers of wounded people crossing the border to seek medical care. Baluchistan was also hit by a series of strong earthquakes in October, which reportedly killed nearly 200 people and completely or partially destroyed more than 7,000 homes.

## ICRC ACTION

In response to the escalation of the armed conflict in the NWFP and the FATA and the earthquake in Baluchistan, the ICRC increased its activities and extended its annual budget twice.

In the NWFP and the FATA, insecurity made access to some areas difficult for humanitarian workers, many of whom faced serious threats. The ICRC extended its network of contacts with political and military authorities at central and local levels, armed groups and members of civil society to promote its role and mandate as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization. The ICRC also garnered support for the role of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society and for its activities with the ICRC and endeavoured to gain access to conflict-affected people.

The National Society and the ICRC responded to the needs of the population in the NWFP and the FATA, delivering relief, providing emergency health care, installing water and sanitation facilities and helping IDPs re-establish contact with their families. In response to the increased number of weapon-wounded people, the ICRC increased its support for their medical and surgical treatment. Hospitals in remote areas in Quetta and Peshawar received medical material to help them deal with the casualties and an ICRC surgical team supported Pakistani staff in a hospital in Peshawar.

ICRC delegates continued to visit people held under the authority of the Ministry of Interior in 23 prisons, including in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, and shared confidential reports on their findings and recommendations with the relevant authorities. The

delegation maintained close contact with the authorities to facilitate its detention-related work, in particular with regard to regaining access to prisons it had previously visited. The ICRC also followed the cases of detainees repatriated from Afghanistan and the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and helped families in Pakistan keep in contact with relatives detained in Pakistan or abroad.

Working in close cooperation with the Pakistani Red Crescent, the ICRC supported the Movement's emergency earthquake response in Baluchistan, supplying shelter materials and essential household items and assisting mobile health teams financially.

In areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir affected by the 2005 earthquake, the ICRC entered the final phase of its reconstruction programme, focusing on the completion of water projects and their handover to the communities. The new Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Centre for earthquake and mine victims and other patients was fully functional. The ICRC set up a livelihood-support programme to help disabled people reintegrate socially and economically.

The ICRC coordinated its activities with those of Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in fields of common interest, in order to maximize impact, fill gaps and avoid duplication.

## CIVILIANS

### Assisting and protecting conflict-affected residents and IDPs

In the second half of 2008, fighting in Bajaur agency of the FATA and in the Swat district of the NWFP forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes and seek refuge in IDP camps or elsewhere. Insecurity hampered access to some areas, but where



it could the ICRC collected allegations of IHL violations, particularly those relating to the conduct of hostilities, and made confidential representations to the parties to the conflict and insisted that they meet their obligations to respect civilians.

People in camps and with host families received food and essential household items, including winter kits to protect them from the cold and firewood to help them cope with harsh winter conditions, distributed by the Pakistani Red Crescent and the ICRC. IDPs in three camps benefited from the installation of a clean water supply, latrines, bathing facilities and kitchens. People displaced by fighting in Bajaur agency had access to emergency health care provided by ICRC-Pakistani Red Crescent mobile health teams.

- 76,167 IDPs (10,881 households), mainly in camps and some staying with host families, received food
- 61,740 IDPs (8,820 households) received essential household items, of whom 13,804 (1,972 households) received winter kits and 5,796 (828 households) received firewood
- 52,000 IDPs benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

The 3 ICRC-supported mobile health teams (average monthly catchment population: 9,300):

- gave 17,196 people curative consultations
- held 12 health education sessions

### Emergency relief for Baluchistan earthquake victims

A series of strong earthquakes shook Baluchistan in October. Many houses in Harnai, Pishin, Quetta and Ziarat districts were either partially damaged or totally destroyed, and with the onset of winter, an immediate response was necessary to help people survive while their houses were repaired or rebuilt. In coordination with the International Federation, assistance was distributed jointly by the Pakistani Red Crescent and the ICRC. Earthquake victims received kitchen sets, hygiene items, blankets, jerrycans and tarpaulins. Families whose houses were destroyed or damaged beyond repair received shelter kits and technical support in constructing temporary shelters. Families whose houses were still intact but preferred to sleep outside for fear of aftershocks received tents for the winter.

- 40,288 people (5,790 households) received essential household items
- 90,000 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

People in remote earthquake-affected areas had their emergency health needs met by Pakistani Red Crescent mobile health teams, with the ICRC's financial support.

The 2 ICRC-supported mobile health teams (average monthly catchment population: 13,300):

- gave 4,466 people curative consultations
- held 2 health education sessions

### Ending projects for victims of the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan-administered Kashmir

Monitoring of the livestock project run jointly with the German Red Cross found that the calves' survival rate and the cows' level of milk production met expectations. The 37 ICRC-trained community animal health workers covered 84% of the targeted area, improving the animal health care system and increasing the cows' productivity. Local people trained in artificial insemination provided low-cost services and ensured the sustainability of the

livestock project. Seven ICRC-trained artificial insemination technicians worked in government veterinary hospitals to gain skills that could be used on their return to the earthquake-affected areas.

People using the local mills repaired by the ICRC saved money and time by not having to travel to water mills far away. Seven out of nine were functioning, while the remaining two were not operational owing to the low water table. Earthquake-affected people also received walnut saplings.

To improve their social and economic status, vulnerable patients from the Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Centre undertook business management training and received cash or in-kind grants from the ICRC to help them start small businesses, with initial advice from the ICRC to ensure the sustainability of the businesses.

- 59,164 people (8,452 households) benefited from micro-economic initiatives

In Muzaffarabad district, the completion of water projects, carried out with the communities' input, reduced the amount of time people spent collecting water, giving them extra time for economically productive activities, and contributed to reducing the risk of water-borne diseases. They included the reconstruction of gravity-fed water schemes for home consumption and irrigation and the rehabilitation of two water treatment plants serving two towns with a combined population of approximately 60,000.

- 88,443 people benefited from water/sanitation projects

### Tracing missing persons and helping maintain family links

Following the closure of all tracing cases relating to the 2005 earthquake, family-links activities focused on family members dispersed as a result of armed conflict or other situations of violence or separated by detention, who used RCMs and other means to keep in contact with each other. People who suspected that their relatives had been detained in Pakistan or in neighbouring countries approached the ICRC, which sought verification from the authorities concerned and informed the families of the results.

- 1,202 RCMs collected from and 1,870 RCMs distributed to civilians; 921 calls facilitated between family members
- new tracing requests registered for 124 people (31 females; 33 minors at the time of disappearance); 57 people located; 121 people (23 females; 18 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 8 unaccompanied/separated children registered and their cases still being handled
- family visits to places of detention in Afghanistan and to the Kabul delegation for the video teleconference programme supported (see *Afghanistan*)

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held for security reasons received ICRC visits. After an ICRC-organized introductory seminar with prison directors from the area, detention visits also began in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Based on its observations, the ICRC pursued a confidential dialogue with the relevant authorities to share its recommendations and explore ways to implement them.

Detainees used the RCM network to maintain contact with their families and received recreational, educational and hygiene items.



In March, detention visits in Punjab province were put on hold after the ICRC was prevented from carrying out visits according to its standard procedures. Similarly, the ICRC was unable to revisit detainees held in Baluchistan province from March. Discussions with the relevant authorities continued, with the aim of resuming visits in both provinces.

Prison staff in Punjab province participated in a seminar on health in detention to enhance their skills in and knowledge of the subject. Detainees in Karachi Central Jail began to benefit from improved hygiene conditions following the construction of adequate sanitary installations near the kitchen, which also helped prevent the contamination of food.

Since 2002, detainees/internees repatriated from Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay had been receiving ICRC visits while in Pakistani detention facilities pending their release. After their release, they received follow-up visits at home and assistance when they needed medical care or to return to work. Follow-up home visits included people released from detention facilities in India.

- ▶ 161 detainees visited and monitored individually, of whom 136 newly registered (10 minors), during 32 visits to 23 places of detention
- ▶ 98 RCMs collected from and 50 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 1 detention certificate issued to a former detainee or their family

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Caring for the wounded

The escalating conflict meant that the number of patients transferred from conflict-affected areas in the NWFP, the FATA and other areas bordering Afghanistan for treatment in hospitals in Peshawar and Quetta in 2008 increased. Hospitals treating weapon-wounded patients in both towns received support from the ICRC, which also covered the costs of surgical and medical treatment incurred by patients. To boost health care for the wounded, a four-person surgical team (a surgeon, an anaesthetist and two nurses) was deployed in the hospital in Peshawar. Hospitals in remote areas received medicines and supplies from the ICRC. Local surgeons and health workers received training in war-surgery techniques and first aid, and were provided with first-aid kits.

In the 8 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 2,310 weapon-wounded patients (including 81 women, 101 children, and 28 people injured by mines or explosive remnants of war) admitted
- ▶ 2,815 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 962 outpatients given surgical and 17 given medical consultations

### Physical rehabilitation

Amputees and other disabled people were fitted with artificial limbs or other mobility devices through the ICRC's comprehensive referral system for patients from earthquake-affected and isolated conflict-affected areas.

The new Muzaffarabad Physical Rehabilitation Centre provided high-quality prosthetic/orthotic services to people in the area. The Pakistan Institute for Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences in Peshawar and the Christian Hospital in Quetta fitted weapon-wounded

patients from the conflicts in Afghanistan and Pakistan referred to them by the ICRC, which reimbursed the costs. To improve the quality and sustainability of services, the centres introduced polypropylene technology and provided staff with further training, with ICRC support.

- ▶ 5,277 patients (including 764 women and 996 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 732 new patients (including 90 women and 58 children) fitted with prostheses and 692 (including 78 women and 309 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 758 prostheses (including 78 for women, 62 for children and 293 for mine victims), 1,078 orthoses (including 99 for women, 568 for children and 84 for mine victims), 618 crutches and 118 wheelchairs delivered

People with spinal cord injuries faced difficulties in receiving home care upon their discharge from medical facilities. To respond to these needs, the ICRC-run home care programme in Peshawar set up mobile outreach services for ongoing training and support for local carers. More than 200 people with spinal cord injuries thus benefited.

## AUTHORITIES

In spite of the unstable political environment during most of 2008, the ICRC strengthened its contacts with relevant government officials at central and local level and with representatives of the different political parties to gain support for Pakistani Red Crescent and ICRC activities.

Members of the government participated in ICRC-organized IHL seminars.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Contacts with the military, police, security and armed groups were strengthened in order to enlist their support for ICRC operations for conflict victims. Discussions focused on the ICRC's role and mandate as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization, the need to respect medical staff and infrastructure and aid workers, and access to conflict-affected people.

The process of integrating IHL into the doctrine, education and training of the Pakistan armed forces slowed, owing in part to operational deployments in conflict areas throughout 2008. As in previous years, army officers participated in IHL train-the-trainer courses organized by the ICRC at eight training centres around the country.

- ▶ some 450 army, air force and navy personnel attended IHL dissemination sessions

The Interior Ministry and the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding on the integration of international human rights law and humanitarian principles into the doctrine and training of the police. Initial contacts were made with several police training colleges, and a bilateral agreement was reached with the police in Punjab to develop greater awareness of international human rights standards applicable to police work.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Contacts with national, regional and international media increased, with the aim of gaining more visibility and support for the ICRC's humanitarian activities in Pakistan. Journalists from both religious and secular print and electronic media in Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar and Rawalpindi participated in workshops and dissemination sessions on the ICRC and humanitarian issues.

The ICRC and relevant university faculties discussed opportunities and ways to introduce IHL as a credit course in their curricula. Professors at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir asked for the ICRC's input to a draft outline for integrating IHL into the university's law curricula.

- some 1,000 students participated in IHL dissemination sessions
- some 500 law students participated in IHL certificate courses
- the winning teams from the national round sponsored to represent Pakistan in the regional and international moot court competitions held in India and Switzerland respectively
- members of religious circles participated in workshops on IHL and Islamic law

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Pakistani Red Crescent and the ICRC signed a three-year cooperation agreement defining their partnership in various fields, focusing on joint activities to assist people in the conflict-affected areas of Baluchistan, the FATA and the NWFP. With the ICRC's financial and material support, the National Society improved its capacity to work in tandem with the ICRC (see *Civilians*) and run its own activities.

The newly established FATA Red Crescent branch assisted some 200 displaced families in Kurram agency who had fled sectarian violence between Shias and Sunnis at the end of 2007. The FATA branch also recruited 60 volunteers from Khyber and Kurram agencies and trained them in their role of assisting their communities, particularly victims of sectarian violence.

The National Society responded to the needs of flood victims in northern Pakistan in August, including with supplies provided by the ICRC.

- 15,036 people (2,148 households) received essential household items

The Pakistani Red Crescent reinforced its first-aid programme by recruiting an additional first-aid trainer in each of its branches and sending a team of National Society officials on a learning mission to Indonesia to gain from the experiences of the Indonesian Red Cross Society.

To further strengthen its family-links capacity, the National Society organized a regional tracing meeting, launched an online tracing database and drafted national tracing procedures.

The Pakistani Red Crescent established an emergency response team of staff and volunteers. In Islamabad, 60 volunteers from colleges and universities were recruited to be part of the team and trained in first aid, relief management and restoring family links. A team of 30 National Society staff and volunteers responded after the suicide bomb attack on the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad.

The National Society volunteers in Pakistan-administered Kashmir who received training from the ICRC in proper hygiene and sanitation practices in 2007 carried out information sessions in 2008. Some 50,000 people in 66 villages of Muzaffarabad district benefited from these sessions, which aimed to increase the health benefits of the ICRC's rehabilitation of water and sanitation systems in the area.

Coordination with all Movement partners working in Pakistan took place on a regular basis and was strengthened with the International Federation following the October earthquake in Baluchistan (see *Civilians*).



# philippines

In the Philippines, where the ICRC has been working since 1982, the delegation assists and protects civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It acts as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in humanitarian matters, visits security detainees and works with the Philippine National Red Cross, through its network of regional chapters and local branches, to assist displaced people and promote compliance with IHL.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,371 |
| Assistance                          | 7,246 |
| Prevention                          | 1,427 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,086 |
| General                             | -     |

► **12,131**

of which: Overheads 740

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 100% |
|---------------------------|------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>21</b> | expatriates                                 |
| <b>94</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- endeavoured to increase knowledge of and respect for IHL and the ICRC among weapon bearers, promoting in particular respect for the civilian population
- with the National Society, provided emergency assistance to some 200,000 conflict-affected IDPs for several months
- carried out livelihood-support projects for over 700 conflict-affected people
- supported hospitals and health centres treating weapon-wounded patients
- worked with the authorities to mobilize support for and implement prison reform measures
- enabled civilian and military prosecutors to attend an international workshop on mechanisms to prevent forced disappearances

## CONTEXT

Political instability stemming from allegations of corruption against the president continued, with the opposition filing a new impeachment complaint in October. Rising food and energy prices and the global financial crisis affected the economy of the Philippines.

The Philippine government agreed to allow the European Commission to send an 18-month Justice Assistance Mission that would build on the findings of a government-initiated report on extrajudicial killings and that of the UN special rapporteur on the same subject. The mission would include support to the judiciary, prosecution and police, technical assistance in forensics, and the training of relevant staff. Targeted killings of members of political parties, trade union leaders, journalists and human rights activists persisted, although reportedly at a lower rate than in previous years.

Peace talks between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the government reached a stalemate in August, when the government announced its decision not to sign a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain. The Supreme Court suspended any progress on the memorandum until its constitutionality could be determined. The move triggered heavy fighting between government forces and the MILF in central Mindanao, resulting in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people and the destruction of some 2,000 houses. Clashes also occurred on the island of Basilan, with MILF commanders attacking military bases. At the end of the year, an estimated 300,000 people were still displaced and the conflict showed no signs of abating. In December, Malaysia decided to withdraw most of its peacekeepers from the International Monitoring Team overseeing the ceasefire in Mindanao, while it continued to discuss the renewal of its mandate with the authorities.

In the Sulu archipelago, clashes between government forces and factions of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) caused the displacement of civilians, while implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the parties was still contested by the MNLF. The activities of the Abu Sayyaf Group and other armed groups presented a challenge to security.

Confrontations between the military and the New People's Army (NPA) increased in 2008, leading to a further deterioration of living conditions in remote areas inhabited by chronically vulnerable groups who had access to few public services. An attempt was made to revive the peace talks between the government and the NPA in November, but to no avail.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |   | Total                | Women   | Children |
|---|--------|---|----------------------|---------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |        | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                      |         |          |
| Detainees visited   | 75,877 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                      |         |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 468    | Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 197,380 | 15% 70%  |
|   |        | Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 117,572 | 16% 60%  |
|   |        | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 752     | 50%      |
|   |        | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 79,439  | 26% 30%  |
|   |        | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                      |         |          |
|   |        | Hospitals supported                                   | <i>Structures</i>    | 7       |          |
|   |        | Admissions  | <i>Patients</i>      | 433     | 104 84   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                      |         |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 110    | Patients receiving services                           | <i>Patients</i>      | 45      | 8        |
|   |        | Prostheses delivered                                  | <i>Units</i>         | 43      | 6        |

## ICRC ACTION

In response to the upsurge in fighting in the Philippines, particularly in Mindanao, the ICRC, with the Philippine National Red Cross, addressed the needs of the civilian population by improving access to the victims and reinforcing understanding of IHL among civilians and respect for IHL among weapon bearers. The ICRC appealed for additional funds to respond to the crisis, while coordinating its activities with those of the authorities and other international and national organizations.

The ICRC concentrated its presence in conflict-affected areas, opening offices in Cotabato and Tacloban in order to monitor the situation, assist victims and make direct representations to weapon bearers regarding alleged violations of IHL. The ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross provided conflict-affected people with food and essential household items, worked to ensure access to safe water and proper sanitation facilities for IDPs and carried out livelihood-support projects in remote communities in Mindanao. The ICRC covered the medical costs of weapon-wounded patients, supplied hospitals with medical materials to treat such cases and provided first-aid and surgical training to civilian and military medical professionals.

Visits to people detained in connection with armed conflict and to military officials held in connection with attempted insurrection continued. Delegates assessed detainees' treatment and living conditions, paying special attention to the needs of women and minors. Urgent improvements were made to prison infrastructure, in particular to alleviate the effects of severe overcrowding. Recommendations made to the prison authorities included the rehabilitation of water supply systems and the provision of improved energy-saving stoves. Progress was made in implementing these measures. The ICRC assisted the prison administration in mobilizing government support for further improvements and supported the government in mobilizing resources through the international community.

The ICRC pursued efforts to promote knowledge of and respect for IHL and support for the ICRC's activities among the armed forces, police and armed groups, local authorities and students, concentrating on field dissemination. The ICRC also provided its expertise to the national authorities for various legal initiatives

related to IHL. Contacts with other humanitarian organizations were expanded to enhance coordination in responding to the needs of conflict victims, particularly in central Mindanao.

The Philippine Red Cross was an essential partner for the ICRC, particularly in assistance activities for conflict victims. Distributions and assessments were carried out with the assistance of National Society volunteers. In addition, the ICRC continued to assist the National Society's capacity-building efforts, particularly in areas affected by the conflict. Cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross was consolidated through a sustained dialogue and operational meetings.

## CIVILIANS

The civilian population suffered the consequences of the intensification of the armed conflict in Mindanao. The military, armed groups, local government authorities, residents, religious representatives and other influential members of civil society were all important contacts for the ICRC in gaining a better understanding of the humanitarian situation as it evolved in violence-affected areas. Whenever possible, and on a case-by-case basis, the ICRC communicated its concerns regarding the increased regularity of alleged IHL violations to weapon bearers and civilian authorities and reminded them of their obligations under IHL.

In cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary to help evacuate 900 civilians from a conflict-affected area in central Mindanao in August.

In order to build their capacities to deal appropriately with human remains, given the frequency of large-scale natural disasters, and to help families ascertain the fate of their relatives, key forensic practitioners, including the Philippine Red Cross focal point for this activity, were sponsored to attend international forensic training courses or seminars.

People, mainly Vietnamese refugees, resettling abroad received ICRC travel documents.

► 110 people issued with an ICRC travel document



Ongoing armed conflict affected the lives and livelihoods of civilians, who sought refuge from the fighting in places where they could stay for days or months. Frequent, repeated and long-term displacement in Mindanao meant that families had little or no access to their farms, and the most vulnerable faced food insecurity. During armed clashes, homes were sometimes looted or burned and farm animals killed, leading to further deterioration of the economic security of these vulnerable communities. With the upsurge of the conflict between government forces and the MILF in Mindanao in August, more people were displaced for longer periods.

Combined protection and economic security missions enabled the ICRC and the National Society to monitor closely and assess the needs of IDPs and residents affected by violence throughout the country. They coordinated with local authorities the delivery of assistance to conflict-affected people. Where the authorities could not provide for the population, IDPs received assistance, delivered in cooperation with the respective local Red Cross chapters. Displaced civilians in Mindanao, Luzon and Visayas with no or limited access to their means of livelihood received food and essential household items, including kitchen sets, hygiene kits and blankets.

- ▶ 197,380 IDPs (39,112 households) received one- or two-week food rations, often for several months
- ▶ 100,123 IDPs (20,125 households) received essential household items

In eastern Mindanao, fighting between government forces and the NPA caused short-term population displacement. To help people in these areas, the ICRC and the National Society implemented livelihood-support projects with the assistance and participation of the communities and their leaders. Beneficiaries received basic farming tools, rice and corn seed, working animals and training.

- ▶ 752 people (173 households) benefited from agricultural and veterinary initiatives

People forced to leave their homes because of conflict or natural disaster were often housed in evacuation sites with inadequate water and sanitation facilities. IDPs gained access to safe drinking water and hygienic toilet facilities through the rehabilitation and construction of new wells and latrines. Residents in areas affected by the conflict and lacking access to services benefited from the construction of two new gravity-fed water supply systems. All water and sanitation projects were implemented in coordination with the local authorities. To enhance the National Society's capacities to respond to humanitarian needs arising from natural disasters or armed conflict, local branches received emergency water supply kits and staff were trained in basic emergency water and sanitation.

- ▶ 66,852 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 65,000 IDPs from the rehabilitation and construction of wells and latrines
  - 1,852 residents from gravity-fed water supply systems

Large-scale and prolonged population displacement placed considerable strain on local health resources, increasing the risk of health problems. A total of 21 overburdened health centres received essential medicines and medical supplies and particularly ill IDPs had their treatment costs covered by the ICRC.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held in facilities under the responsibility of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), the provincial authorities, the Bureau of Corrections, the armed forces and the police received ICRC visits. The visits were carried out in accordance with the ICRC's standard working procedures, and confidential reports on the findings were subsequently submitted to the authorities. Particularly vulnerable detainees, such as minors, women, the elderly, the sick and the mentally ill, were closely monitored. The prison authorities used ICRC recommendations to implement improvements. Detainees who were monitored individually received visits from their relatives thanks to a programme run jointly by the ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross.

The ICRC continued to mobilize the authorities at central and local level to support the allocation of more resources to improve prison facilities. Legislators introduced bills to address shortcomings in the criminal justice system and called for the criminal justice budget to be increased. To maintain this momentum, the relevant government agencies organized a conference in June, bringing together the authorities and members of the diplomatic community to discuss pragmatic and specific solutions and seek support in meeting the budgetary and technical requirements for their implementation in 2009. Following the conference, the government created three working groups tasked with discussing the issues of tuberculosis (TB) in detention, prison infrastructure and judicial follow-up. The ICRC participated in each group. With ICRC support, the relevant government agencies signed a memorandum of understanding on support to the national TB programme's efforts to cover detainees effectively.

### Improving living conditions

Detainees benefited from ICRC-supported water and infrastructure projects carried out in cooperation with the BJMP and provincial authorities to improve living conditions in prisons. Access to safe water was ensured through the drilling of wells, the construction of reservoirs and the installation of connections to water networks. Sanitation facilities were built or repaired and new septic tanks and biogas digesters were constructed. New kitchens with energy-efficient stoves were installed and a new infirmary built. Engineers involved in prison maintenance and construction from BJMP and the provincial authorities received technical training.

The health of detainees in 45 jails in Luzon, Mindanao and Visayas was monitored by the ICRC, and the authorities were alerted to any problems, with special emphasis on TB, nutritional diseases and mental illness. In some cases, jail infirmaries received medicines, medical equipment and cleaning materials, and detainees received hygiene items. The ICRC repeatedly stressed the importance of a balanced diet and preventive health care for detainees, as well as the need to check for possible cases of TB. To help improve awareness and management of TB, Department of Health epidemiologists conducting a TB prevalence study in five Mindanao jails received logistical support from the ICRC. Prison staff received training in food safety, food economics and monitoring detainee health and were given guidelines for identifying and treating nutritional illnesses.

Detainees benefited from the distribution of games, books, other recreational items, medical supplies and/or kitchen utensils.

- ▶ 75,877 detainees visited, of whom 468 monitored individually (35 females; 9 minors) and 158 newly registered (16 females; 5 minors), during 209 visits to 121 places of detention



- 288 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- 12,587 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 850 detainees from a new kitchen and infirmary and improvements to the ventilation system in Antipolo City Jail
  - 600 detainees from the construction of septic tanks and a biogas plant in Manila City Jail
  - 1,053 detainees from the construction of a drainage canal and a new kitchen in Cagayan de Oro City Jail
- 17,449 detainees received hygiene items

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Armed clashes and other violent incidents often occurred in remote areas where the population had very limited access to health care. Surgeons specializing in treating weapon wounds or burn injuries were mainly only found in urban areas and victims rarely had the financial means to make the journey. In Mindanao, the ICRC assessed the medical needs of victims of conflict-related violence, mobilized and coordinated activities with the health authorities and relevant organizations, and provided direct financial assistance to conflict victims, including the weapon-wounded and amputees, where necessary. The ICRC also organized technical seminars for health providers.

Following the upsurge in hostilities in August, surgical hospitals treating the influx of weapon-wounded patients received ICRC support. To improve the immediate care of weapon-wounded, some 60 weapon bearers received first-aid training provided by the ICRC and the National Society.

- 433 patients (including 104 women, 84 children and 405 weapon-wounded) received medical and surgical care thanks to ICRC individual support for their transport and treatment costs
- 7 hospitals received surgical materials and medicines donated by the ICRC
- 45 amputees received physical rehabilitation and prosthetic support (including the provision of 43 prostheses and 68 crutches) at the ICRC-supported Davao Jubilee Centre
- a staff member of the Davao Jubilee Centre sponsored to attend a three-year training course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics
- 30 health professionals (civilian and military) attended a burn-management seminar
- 30 surgeons working in conflict-prone areas attended a war-surgery seminar

## AUTHORITIES

With ICRC support, civilian and military prosecutors attended an international workshop held in the Philippines on mechanisms to prevent forced disappearances. The ICRC undertook a study on the compatibility between IHL and national legislation with regard to missing persons and their families and offered the Senate its expertise in respect of the pending bill on missing persons.

Congressional staff attended ICRC briefings addressing gaps in IHL knowledge, resulting in more officials taking an interest in IHL and consulting the ICRC on legislative issues involving IHL. For example, bills on IHL and the red cross emblem were drafted with ICRC

technical assistance. The Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights received ICRC assistance in drafting a bill on IDPs, which was approved in August.

The Supreme Court and the Philippine Judicial Academy invited justices, judges, court attorneys, government officials and members of the diplomatic corps to an ICRC lecture on customary IHL.

Government officials participated in the ICRC-hosted cluster munitions conference in Thailand (see *Bangkok*), paving the way for the Philippines to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December. They were also sponsored to attend the regional seminar on restoring family links in complex emergencies and peace-support operations, held in Singapore (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

The Commission on Human Rights reviewed the IHL curricula for prosecutors and military, police and corrections personnel with the ICRC's input.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Dialogue with the armed forces and armed groups regarding their obligations under IHL continued. Field dissemination sessions aimed to remind members of the armed forces, the police and armed groups of the need to respect civilians and to ensure the security of Red Cross humanitarian workers, in their capacity as neutral and independent actors.

With ICRC support, the armed forces developed IHL training syllabuses and introduced them into course modules. The ICRC also maintained contact with key training institutions such as the National Defence College and the Philippine Military Academy.

Officers were sponsored to attend IHL courses abroad.

The following groups participated in IHL dissemination sessions in the field and at their headquarters:

- 2,746 members of the armed forces
- 105 officers deploying with UN peacekeeping forces
- 569 police officers in Mindanao
- 80 officers from the US and Philippine armed forces participating in the multinational Balikatan exercise
- 628 members of armed groups

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Extensive communication in the field continued, aimed at raising awareness of and enlisting support for the ICRC's mandate and activities, including dissemination to influential religious leaders and contacts with the media. For example, Philippine journalists participated in a regional conference on conflict reporting at which the ICRC gave a presentation.

For the first time, the Committee on Higher Education was briefed by the ICRC on its activities and discussed possible areas of cooperation.

Students were sponsored to follow the one-year postgraduate distance-learning IHL diploma course administered by the National Academy of Legal Studies and Research. Law students increased their knowledge of IHL by participating in the ICRC-organized national moot court competition.

- ▶ 102 university students and lecturers participated in an information session conducted by the Philippine Red Cross and the ICRC
- ▶ 23 seminary students participated in an ICRC-led information session
- ▶ 55 leaders from the Association of Law Students of the Philippines attended an ICRC briefing session on IHL and national implementation

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Philippine Red Cross was a key operational partner for the ICRC, and cooperation between the two organizations enhanced the ICRC's proximity to conflict-affected people (see *Civilians*). The National Society and the ICRC signed cooperation agreements on assistance, IHL promotion and family-links activities to strengthen their partnership.

The Philippine Red Cross and the ICRC responded to the crisis in Mindanao in cooperation with the International Federation and other Movement partners. National Society staff and volunteers received training in carrying out emergency assessments, helping them to deliver assistance, including food and essential household items, to IDPs in Mindanao (see *Civilians*). The three four-wheel-drive vehicles, two second-hand and one new, given to chapters in conflict-affected areas facilitated a quick emergency response and helped National Society personnel to reach remote areas.

In the context of the joint relief operations, the Sulu chapter's premises were rehabilitated and its volunteers received Safer Access training, as did those from the Cotabato City chapter.

The Philippine Red Cross facilitated family visits for detainees. The National Society's dissemination efforts among local government officials, weapon bearers and health workers paved the way for the operation to evacuate civilians caught in the fighting (see *Civilians*).

The National Society and the ICRC participated in meetings of the country's National Disaster Coordinating Council in order to coordinate the Movement's response with that of government agencies and other humanitarian organizations. Coordination meetings with Movement partners present in the Philippines took place on a regular basis.



# sri lanka

The ICRC has worked in Sri Lanka since 1989. Operations focus on: protecting civilians from violations of IHL; ensuring the safe passage of civilians and essential goods across ceasefire lines; visiting detainees and facilitating family links; ensuring adequate water supply and economic security for IDPs and communities affected by the armed conflict; improving access to physical rehabilitation facilities; supporting military training in IHL; and helping the parties resolve the issue of missing persons. In the north and east, the ICRC also coordinates the Movement response for victims of the conflict and victims of the 2004 tsunami.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 6,865  |
| Assistance                          | 19,729 |
| Prevention                          | 2,007  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,513  |
| General                             | -      |

► **30,114**

of which: Overheads **1,670**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>113%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>70</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>536</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- urged the parties to the conflict to respect IHL and made representations to them regarding documented allegations of IHL violations and cases of disappearances
- in cooperation with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, increased its emergency assistance to IDPs in the Vanni in response to the escalation of the armed conflict
- provided comprehensive support to hospitals and primary health care services in conflict-affected areas
- in its role as neutral intermediary, facilitated the safe passage of some 280,000 people and 1,600 ambulances between government- and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam-controlled areas
- began joint IHL training activities with the Special Task Force of the Sri Lankan police
- boosted the emergency response capacities of National Society branches located in conflict-affected areas

## CONTEXT

In January, the government officially called off the February 2002 ceasefire agreement with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The move ended the presence of the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission in the country and marked a resurgence in the armed conflict, which continued to escalate as the year progressed.

Intense fighting and shelling took place on fronts around the Vanni throughout the year, including in the districts of Kilinochchi, Mannar and Mullaitivu, while fighting in the eastern part of Sri Lanka subsided. Shelling between the Jaffna peninsula and the Vanni continued, isolating the peninsula from the rest of the island and hampering the flow of supplies and the population's freedom of movement.

From the end of June, the Sri Lankan armed forces made gains in areas formerly controlled by the LTTE in the Vanni. The fighting resulted in mass displacement, with people leaving the south of the Vanni and moving north-east towards Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu during the months of August and September. Many civilians fled the fighting several times within a short period. Severe restrictions on movement, including the establishment of check-points and security regulations, made daily life for civilians more difficult. At the end of the year, government forces had gained control of the strategic town of Kilinochchi and moved their offensive towards the eastern coast.

During the year, bomb attacks affected the rest of the country, killing an estimated 200 civilians. In the Vanni, three similar bomb attacks were carried out against two buses and an ambulance, killing some 40 civilians. In local elections in Batticaloa district in March, the Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) party won control of nine out of ten municipalities. Elections for the Eastern Provincial Council held in May were won by the government coalition. The leader of the TMVP was nominated as chief minister of the Eastern Provincial Council.

With fighting continuing, allegations of attacks against civilians, targeted killings, disappearances and child recruitment persisted throughout the country. The presence of IDPs in some areas placed a heavy burden on already overstretched infrastructure, which in some cases had been damaged by years of armed conflict and natural disaster. The insecurity in the east was an additional destabilizing factor in the country.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |  | Total                | Women   | Children |     |
|---|--------|--|----------------------|---------|----------|-----|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)              |        | CIVILIANS  |                      |         |          |     |
| Detainees visited   | 24,513 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>        |                      |         |          |     |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                | 3,352  | Food   | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 302,156 | 40%      | 20% |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 337    | Essential household items                          | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 401,364 | 40%      | 20% |
| <i>of whom minors</i>   | 132    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 19,862  | 40%      | 20% |
| Number of visits carried out  | 1,015  | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 117,217 | 36%      | 31% |
| Number of places of detention visited                                       | 177    | <i>Health</i>                                      |                      |         |          |     |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                         |        | Health centres supported                           | <i>Structures</i>    | 3       |          |     |
| RCMs collected  | 4,566  | Consultations                                      | <i>Patients</i>      | 118     |          |     |
| RCMs distributed  | 3,314  | <i>of which ante/post-natal</i>                    | <i>Patients</i>      |         | 118      |     |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                 |        | Immunizations                                      | <i>Doses</i>         | 545     |          |     |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                      | 1,875  | WOUNDED AND SICK                                   |                      |         |          |     |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 84     | Hospitals supported                                | <i>Structures</i>    | 18      |          |     |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                          | 197    | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                     |                      |         |          |     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                           | 595    | Patients receiving services                        | <i>Patients</i>      | 842     | 214      | 35  |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) <sup>1</sup> | 12,424 | Prostheses delivered                               | <i>Units</i>         | 265     | 53       | 3   |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 380    | Orthoses delivered                                 | <i>Units</i>         | 126     | 49       | 12  |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>                     | 977    |  |                      |         |          |     |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED  |        |  |                      |         |          |     |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                 | 9      |  |                      |         |          |     |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                           | 928    |  |                      |         |          |     |

1. This figure includes all cases reported to the ICRC for whom the whereabouts of the people concerned are still unknown; it includes previously registered cases, which had been closed and which were reassessed and reopened

## ICRC ACTION

In response to the escalation of the armed conflict in Sri Lanka, the ICRC increased its protection and assistance activities to meet humanitarian needs, in spite of difficulties in gaining access to conflict victims owing to the volatile security situation. The procurement and transfer of essential supplies were occasionally blocked, hampering the effective implementation of certain projects. With the unstable security environment, the government asked most international humanitarian organizations to leave the Vanni in September, but the ICRC was allowed to stay.

The ICRC collected and documented allegations of IHL violations and reminded all parties of their obligations under IHL, making confidential representations to the parties regarding specific cases brought to its attention. Forced disappearances and the conduct of hostilities remained particular concerns for the ICRC. Detention visits continued, with a focus on security detainees held under the Emergency Regulations and on former LTTE fighters held in custody after surrendering to government forces. Visits also took place to people detained by the LTTE.

The ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary became increasingly important as the conflict worsened. The organization facilitated the passage of civilians, ambulances, human remains and humanitarian goods between government- and LTTE-controlled areas, initially through its presence at the Omanthai crossing point and then through a vehicle escort system. The ICRC also helped government health workers reach conflict areas, thereby increasing civilians' access to primary health care.

In cooperation with local branches of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and partner National Societies, the ICRC provided food and essential household items to conflict-affected people in the north and east. It also provided IDPs, returnees and residents with water, sanitation and shelter assistance and returnees in the east with livelihood support.

The ICRC assisted 18 hospitals and clinics throughout the island. Medical evacuations of patients from Jaffna to Colombo continued. The Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation received technical and material support from the ICRC.

IHL promotion continued among the armed forces and armed groups, the public, the media, academic institutions and other audiences.

ICRC cooperation with and capacity-building of the Sri Lanka Red Cross continued, and the two organizations coordinated and jointly implemented conflict-related relief activities. The ICRC remained lead agency for the Movement on security-related issues. It also coordinated its activities with those of the UN and other humanitarian actors working in Sri Lanka in order to avoid duplication or gaps in relief.

## CIVILIANS

Civilians suffered the consequences of the conflict between government forces and the LTTE, particularly as fighting intensified. The ICRC collected allegations of IHL violations, particularly with regard to the conduct of hostilities and forced disappearances, and made representations to both parties in an effort to end such abuses.

As front lines were constantly changing, the ICRC opted for a convoy system, operated with security guarantees from both parties, to ensure safe passage of people and goods between government- and LTTE-controlled areas, rather than maintaining a static presence at the Omanthai crossing point. Some 280,000 people and 36,000 vehicles, including 1,600 ambulances (see *Wounded and sick*) as well as WFP trucks carrying food, thus passed safely across lines either through monitored crossing points or with an ICRC escort.

Separated family members kept in touch through RCMs, which were collected and distributed with the National Society's help. People sought the ICRC's assistance in finding family members who had disappeared or allegedly been arrested. The ICRC discussed such cases with the parties to the armed conflict, requesting information to pass on to the families or proposing measures to prevent their recurrence.

Government forces and the LTTE approached the ICRC for help with the transfer of human remains across lines. This activity mainly took place between the Vanni and the northern districts of Mannar and Vavuniya. To facilitate the management of human remains, the local hospital was equipped with a cold storage room.

- 1,745 RCMs collected from and 1,757 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 1,875 people (84 females; 197 minors at the time of disappearance); 595 people located; 12,424 people (380 females; 977 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 1 unaccompanied/separated child registered
- 872 sets of human remains transferred across lines
- 82 official documents relayed between family members across lines
- 9 people issued with an ICRC travel document

Civilians were displaced, often repeatedly, as the armed conflict intensified in the north-east. After the withdrawal of the UN and NGOs from the Vanni in September, pressure increased on the ICRC to meet the population's growing needs. In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC therefore expanded its emergency response to make up for shortfalls, while continuing its assistance programmes in the rest of the country.

IDPs in camps, welfare centres and host communities, conflict-affected residents and returnees received essential household items, such as kitchen sets and hygiene kits, and some also received emergency food rations. IDPs housed in overcrowded public buildings without facilities and services were given shelter materials enabling them to move out of their cramped quarters. IDPs also had improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities after the ICRC disinfected wells and repaired existing and built new water systems and latrines, including in health facilities and school buildings used to accommodate IDPs. Newly arrived IDPs in Vavuniya received emergency water, sanitation and shelter assistance.

On the Jaffna peninsula, long-term IDPs in welfare centres benefited from rehabilitation work to water and sanitation systems. In November, Cyclone Nisha affected an estimated quarter of Jaffna's population. The Jaffna Teaching Hospital received emergency support from the ICRC in the form of water pumps and water storage tanks, and contaminated wells were cleaned. Links were forged with the National Water Supply and Drainage Board and local authorities with a view to implementing projects such as the upgrading of water infrastructure and the long-term maintenance and repair of hand pumps, especially in areas where the conflict had receded. Improvements to mortuaries in hospitals and infrastructure repairs in other health facilities in conflict-affected areas helped them cope with the increased needs. Residents and returnees in these areas received shelter materials and benefited from the rehabilitation of wells and the construction of latrines.

The rise in prices of staple goods particularly affected vulnerable groups, such as residents of host communities and families

returning home after displacement. Returnees in the districts of Trincomalee and Batticaloa received food parcels to supplement their diet and complement government and WFP food rations. Livelihood projects aimed to strengthen the income-generating capacities of conflict-affected families returning to their homes in the east. The most vulnerable residents and returnees received help in resuming their livelihoods in the form of agricultural supplies, fishing materials or other assistance from the Sri Lankan Red Cross, the ICRC and the British Red Cross. Owing to the worsening of the armed conflict and the resulting unstable security situation, planned livelihood projects for conflict-affected people in the Vanni were put on hold.

- 302,156 people (74,933 households), including 263,629 IDPs (64,134 households) and 38,527 returnees (10,799 households) received food
- 401,364 people (99,385 households), including 368,950 IDPs (91,114 households) and 15,635 returnees (4,007 households) received essential household items
- 117,217 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 59,055 IDPs from repairs to wells and hand pumps in camps and community centres
  - 48,422 IDPs from the construction of shelters and latrines in camps and community centres
  - 2,216 IDPs from repairs to water and sanitation systems in welfare centres
- 19,862 people (5,096 households), including 10,496 residents (2,624 households) and 9,366 returnees (2,472 households), benefited from agricultural and micro-economic initiatives

While access to primary health care improved in the east, it continued to be a problem in the north owing to the fighting. Until the services stopped owing to the displacement of the population, people in these areas had access to midwifery and immunization services provided by government health workers whose passage was facilitated by the ICRC. Others attended ICRC-supplied health centres. Such support formed part of the ICRC's wider health response for conflict-affected people (see *Wounded and sick*).

In the 3 ICRC-supported health centres (catchment population: 15,000):

- 118 people attended ante/post-natal consultations
- 545 vaccine doses administered to children aged five or under
- 3 patients referred to a second level of care

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Government-held detainees

Tightened security measures relating to the armed conflict resulted in an increase in the number of people arrested under the Emergency Regulations, which allowed for extended custody in places of temporary detention without a court appearance. People arrested in connection with the armed conflict, including those held in police stations, security detainees in Boosa detention camp and former LTTE fighters who had surrendered to the security forces, received ICRC visits, carried out in accordance with its standard working procedures. Findings and recommendations on their treatment and living conditions were reported confidentially to the authorities. The detainees received recreational items, clothing and hygiene articles.



- ▶ 24,433 detainees visited, of whom 3,340 monitored individually (335 females; 131 minors) and 2,480 newly registered (292 females; 99 minors), during 992 visits to 165 places of detention

### LTTE-held detainees

In spite of the intensification of the armed conflict, the ICRC had access to detainees in LTTE custody, most of whom were being held on criminal charges. No progress was made regarding access to security detainees held by the LTTE, with the exception of members of government forces, who received regular ICRC visits.

- ▶ 80 detainees visited, of whom 12 monitored individually (2 females; 1 minor) and 2 newly registered (1 female; 1 minor), during 23 visits to 12 places of detention

### Family links for all detainees

Detainees in government and LTTE custody and their families were able to keep in touch via RCMs and family visits.

- ▶ 2,821 RCMs collected from and 1,557 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 1,284 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- ▶ 928 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## WOUNDED AND SICK

As fighting intensified, the population in the Vanni faced difficulties in accessing hospital care. There were shortages of qualified health staff, medical equipment, drugs, and fuel for ambulances and generators.

In addition to the primary health care services supported (see *Civilians*), a total of 18 hospitals or clinics received medicines and equipment to help them deal with the increasing numbers of wounded and to improve their emergency preparedness. Patients needing specialist care travelled to the nearest referral hospital in government-controlled areas, with their passage facilitated by the ICRC, including in Ministry of Health ambulances.

Health workers in or near conflict areas participated in war-surgery seminars in Jaffna and Anuradhapura, where they shared knowledge and gained new skills with the input of two ICRC surgeons.

The transfer of patients from Jaffna Teaching Hospital by ICRC-chartered aircraft to Colombo continued. The aircraft also carried medical cargo from the Ministry of Health, such as sensitive medical equipment and vaccines requiring a cold chain.

- ▶ 866 patients in need of specialized treatment transported to Colombo

The Jaffna Jaipur Centre for Disability Rehabilitation, which provided the only physical rehabilitation services on the Jaffna peninsula, received technical and material support from the ICRC. Many of the patients at the centre were landmine victims.

A total of 23 amputees in IDP camps in Batticaloa and Trincomalee were transported from the camps to a prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Batticaloa, provided with food and fitted with mobility devices.

- ▶ 842 patients (including 214 women and 35 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- ▶ 35 new patients (including 6 women and 1 child) fitted with prostheses and 103 (including 38 women and 9 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 265 prostheses (including 53 for women, 3 for children and 147 for mine victims), 126 orthoses (including 49 for women, 12 for children and 2 for mine victims), 70 crutches and 67 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities remained key contacts for the ICRC in its efforts to ensure respect for IHL and to promote and obtain support for the organization's activities. Along with members of the international community, they received regular updates on the ICRC's activities in Sri Lanka.

The chairperson of the national IHL committee met the ICRC with a view to enhancing the committee's effectiveness in supporting the government's accession to new treaties and their integration into national legislation. Members of government bodies, including staff of the attorney general's office, participated in workshops and seminars to increase their knowledge of IHL.

Government officials attended international IHL events with the ICRC's support, including the regional seminar on restoring family links in peace-support operations and complex emergencies held in Singapore (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Sri Lankan army ran its own IHL teaching and training programme, developed with ICRC assistance. Members of the army at the Staff College, the Peace Support Training Centre and the Cadet Academy participated in ICRC-organized IHL dissemination sessions, as did army and navy personnel involved in active operations in the field. Army officers also attended advanced IHL courses abroad.

Following the signing in March by the Special Task Force (STF) and the ICRC of a memorandum of understanding on joint IHL training activities, 40 STF personnel participated in an IHL train-the-trainer course.

To elicit support for ICRC activities on behalf of conflict victims and promote respect for basic humanitarian principles, the ICRC made ad hoc arrangements with local commanders for members of the police and Home Guard to participate in ICRC-organized IHL dissemination sessions.

Although ongoing hostilities made interaction with the LTTE difficult and IHL dissemination impossible, contact was maintained with other armed groups present in the east, whose members participated in ICRC-led IHL dissemination sessions.

- ▶ 3,976 members of the Sri Lankan armed forces attended IHL dissemination sessions
- ▶ 379 STF members, 1,199 police personnel and 1,898 members of the Home Guard attended IHL dissemination sessions
- ▶ 203 members of armed groups attended IHL dissemination sessions

## CIVIL SOCIETY

National media reported more often on the ICRC's activities, particularly its role as a neutral intermediary, as the armed conflict escalated. Networking with selected journalists, regular updates and news releases prompted journalists to seek interviews with the members of the ICRC delegation.

Community and religious leaders, staff of local NGOs and community-based organizations, journalists and students attending information sessions learned about the ICRC's activities and the basic principles of IHL.

Universities teaching IHL, in particular the Centre for the Study of Human Rights attached to the Faculty of Law of the University of Colombo, and other educational institutions received IHL reference materials. Lecturers were sponsored to attend international IHL courses and a team of students competed in the Henry Dunant Memorial IHL Moot Court Competition held in India (see *New Delhi*).

- some 8,000 members of the civilian population attended ICRC information sessions

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society remained a key humanitarian organization active in the country. Island-wide capacity-building efforts carried out by the ICRC in cooperation with the International Federation focused on boosting National Society capacities in the areas of assistance to conflict victims, restoring family links and IHL dissemination.

The National Society strengthened its tracing programme at head-quarters and branch level with ICRC financial and technical support. National Society tracing staff were sponsored to attend regional meetings in India and Qatar on restoring family links, at which National Society representatives forged closer ties and shared their experiences (see *New Delhi* and *Kuwait* respectively).

At district level, the National Society implemented projects covering community health, emergency relief, first aid, and the transfer of human remains, with ICRC funding, training and technical support. In particular, branches in conflict-affected areas benefited from this support, boosting their capacities to work in partnership with the ICRC in responding to the needs of IDPs. To cope with the upsurge in activities, the Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu branches expanded and upgraded their vehicle fleets with ICRC support. Volunteers in the Mannar and Vavuniya branches received training to help them deal with possible influxes of IDPs from the Vanni. Branches in Batticaloa, Jaffna and Vavuniya ran day- and night-time ambulance services to ensure safe access of the population to emergency medical treatment, benefiting around 150 people each month in each district. Following floods in Jaffna and Mannar, the National Society cleaned wells with ICRC support in order to prevent the spread of disease.

The National Society's emblem campaign continued throughout 2008.

Movement partners implementing projects in the north and east enhanced their security, communications, and contacts with the authorities with help from ICRC sub-delegations. The ICRC remained the lead agency for matters pertaining to Movement security.



# bangkok (regional)

Since first establishing a presence in Bangkok in 1979 to support its operation in Cambodia, the ICRC has worked to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military training in all the countries covered. It strives to raise awareness of issues of humanitarian concern among all sectors of society and supports the National Societies of the region in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. The ICRC continues to visit detainees of concern in Cambodia and Thailand and to work towards protecting and assisting vulnerable population groups. The ICRC prosthetic/orthotic project in Cambodia contributes to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

## COVERING

Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), Thailand, Viet Nam

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,575 |
| Assistance                          | 2,472 |
| Prevention                          | 1,529 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,132 |
| General                             | -     |

► **7,708**

of which: Overheads 470

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 85% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 23 | expatriates                                 |
| 63 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- through numerous field trips and contacts with relevant stakeholders, monitored the humanitarian situation of the civilian population affected by violence in southern Thailand
- covered the treatment costs of 111 weapon-wounded patients along the Thai-Myanmar border
- monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Cambodia and of security detainees held in relation to the violence in southern Thailand
- in cooperation with the Thai Red Cross Society, organized two seminars on the treatment of weapon wounds for civilian and military health professionals
- hosted a regional conference in Bangkok on cluster munitions attended by representatives of regional governments, the UN and NGOs

## CONTEXT

Political instability continued to plague Thailand, in spite of the election of a civilian government, which took office in February. Calls for amendments to the 2007 constitution led to street demonstrations, which began in May and lasted until the end of the year. In September, violent clashes between supporters of different political parties led to the declaration of a state of emergency in the capital Bangkok, which lasted for two weeks. In December, Abhisit Vejjajiva was appointed prime minister. Violent incidents persisted in southern Thailand, with civilians suffering the effects, although according to corroborated reports, there was a decrease in the frequency of attacks and the resulting casualties. The Emergency Decree was still in place in the southern provinces, strengthened by the Internal Security Act passed by the military regime.

The conflict in Myanmar continued to have a spillover effect in border areas of Thailand.

After Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in May, Bangkok served as a hub for the international relief response.

In Cambodia, national election results confirmed the dominance of the Cambodian People's Party. After delays, the Khmer Rouge trial made significant progress but still faced budgetary problems.

Following the conclusion of a bilateral agreement between the Lao and Thai authorities, several groups of Hmong people were repatriated from Thailand to the Lao PDR.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 9,861 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 656   |
| of whom females   | 2     |
| of whom minors  | 1     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 42    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 27    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected  | 40    |
| RCMs distributed  | 42    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 4     |

1. Cambodia and Thailand

2. Cambodia

|   |               | Total  | Women | Children |
|---|---------------|--------|-------|----------|
| <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM<sup>1</sup></b> |               |        |       |          |
| <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                       |               |        |       |          |
| Essential household items   | Beneficiaries | 6,159  | 8%    | 7%       |
| Water, sanitation and habitat projects                            | Beneficiaries | 5,315  | 16%   | 13%      |
| <b>WOUNDED AND SICK<sup>2</sup></b>                               |               |        |       |          |
| <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                                    |               |        |       |          |
| Patients receiving services                                       | Patients      | 10,201 | 1,313 | 799      |
| Prostheses delivered  | Units         | 1,675  | 134   | 49       |
| Orthoses delivered  | Units         | 1,394  | 294   | 396      |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC monitored the violence in southern Thailand and intensified its contacts with government representatives, education authorities, and religious and community leaders in order to familiarize them with the ICRC's neutral and independent mandate and activities and to enhance the protection of the civilian population. Delegates carried out numerous field trips to the southern provinces and collected first-hand information on the humanitarian situation, which they brought to the attention of the relevant authorities whenever necessary. Visits to people held in prisons under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice in relation to the violence in southern Thailand were carried out to check on their treatment and living conditions. The ICRC submitted confidential reports on its findings and recommendations to the authorities and discussed authorization to visit places of temporary detention under the responsibility of the security forces.

On the Thai-Myanmar border, the ICRC monitored the situation of civilians and the spillover effects of the armed conflict in Myanmar and pursued contacts with armed groups present in the area in order to promote respect for IHL. It assisted weapon-wounded patients from Myanmar and participated in coordination meetings with other humanitarian organizations working in the area.

In Cambodia, the ICRC visited detainees held in prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, following up security detainees individually, assessing their treatment and living conditions and reporting confidentially to the authorities on its findings and recommendations. For persistent structural problems that required an urgent response, the ICRC, in cooperation with the prison authorities, drilled new wells and carried out ad hoc repairs to improve ventilation and access to drinking water.

The ICRC continued to play a major role in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in Cambodia through close cooperation with the relevant authorities and support to two regional centres and the factory producing prosthetic/orthotic components for the entire country. The Cambodian Red Cross Society, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, and the ICRC worked together to identify disabled patients in remote areas and helped them to obtain treatment.

In cooperation with the Lao Red Cross, the ICRC pursued its discussions with the authorities of the Lao PDR with a view to gaining access to recently resettled ethnic minorities, including Hmong people.

ICRC support was maintained to the various training programmes run by the region's armed forces, and training began for police officers in Thailand. Promotion of IHL and the ICRC as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization among the authorities, the media, NGOs and academic circles also continued.

The ICRC pursued programmes to strengthen the capacities of the region's National Societies, particularly in the areas of IHL promotion and restoring family links. Regular coordination with other humanitarian actors took place, notably in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

## CIVILIANS

## Protecting and assisting vulnerable civilians

In southern Thailand, the ICRC further developed its network of contacts with local communities and authorities, religious leaders and education authorities and familiarized them with its protection mandate and activities. Numerous field trips to the area enabled the delegation to gain a better understanding of the behaviour of weapon bearers and the situation of those affected by the ongoing violence, and contacts with other humanitarian organizations provided a clearer picture of the assistance given to the victims.

Contacts with armed groups from Myanmar present on the Thai-Myanmar border, in particular regarding concerns reported to the ICRC by refugees from Myanmar, aimed to promote respect for civilians in accordance with IHL.

Civilians were able to restore and maintain contact with relatives through the tracing and RCM services. Individuals of various nationalities were issued with travel documents at the request of the embassies concerned and in coordination with UNHCR, allowing them to leave their host countries legally.

- 14 RCMs collected from and 32 RCMs distributed to civilians
- 4 people issued with an ICRC travel document

In the Lao PDR, the Lao Red Cross began to carry out water and sanitation projects for vulnerable groups in five villages.

### **Khmer archives**

Between 1975 and 2004, the ICRC had compiled records of family members separated as a result of past conflict in Cambodia. With the ICRC receiving tracing requests from Cambodians abroad and having gained access to other organizations' records, these archives proved invaluable in helping families shed light on the fate of missing relatives.

The first stage in the process of preserving these archives digitally was completed in November 2007. The quality of the first group of records was in the process of being checked, while digitization of the second group of records got under way.

## **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

### **Thailand**

Detainees arrested in relation to the violence in the south received ICRC visits, which were carried out in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures. The findings of these visits and recommendations on detainees' treatment and living conditions were shared with the detaining authorities.

Detainees stayed in touch with their relatives via RCMs and the family-visits programme.

- ▶ 547 detainees visited and monitored individually (1 minor) and 348 newly registered, during 19 visits to 10 places of detention
- ▶ 26 RCMs collected from and 10 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 19 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support

### **Cambodia**

Detainees held in places under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior received ICRC visits, carried out in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures. A confidential summary report containing findings and recommendations on detainees' treatment and living conditions was handed to the ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs with a view to discussing potential improvements.

In various places of detention, inmates' general health and access to water improved after the construction of rainwater collection systems, the repair and replacement of water filters and taps, the installation of energy-saving stoves, the cleaning and repair of sewage and drainage systems, the construction of latrines, and other ad hoc repairs to improve ventilation, kitchen equipment and infrastructure. All detainees visited received hygiene products, including specific items for female detainees.

- ▶ 9,314 detainees visited, of whom 109 monitored individually (2 females) and 5 newly registered (1 female), during 23 visits to 17 places of detention
- ▶ 5,170 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including:
  - 250 detainees from anti-scabies measures
- ▶ 6,159 detainees received hygiene items

## **WOUNDED AND SICK**

A total of 111 weapon-wounded patients from Myanmar seeking treatment in Thai hospitals had their medical costs covered by the ICRC.

Nearly 300 civilian and military medical staff participated in two seminars organized by the Thai Red Cross and the ICRC on treating weapon wounds, one in Bangkok and one in southern Thailand. The seminars aimed to enhance the capacities of health professionals to respond effectively to specific needs created by violence-related injuries.

In Thailand, repairs were made to the surgical ward of the Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot, which treated refugees from Myanmar.

- ▶ 1 hospital (75 beds) benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

In Cambodia, people in need of artificial limbs and physiotherapy had access to these services in two regional physical rehabilitation centres in Battambang and Kompong Speu, which received financial and technical support from the ICRC. In cooperation with the ICRC and the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation, the Cambodian Red Cross identified disabled people in remote villages and assisted them in obtaining transport to and treatment in the centres. Prosthetic/orthotic components for the whole country were manufactured at the national component factory in Phnom Penh, managed by the ministry and financially supported by the ICRC. The centre in Battambang benefited from infrastructure repairs.

- ▶ 10,201 patients (including 1,313 women and 799 children) received services at 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 348 new patients (including 38 women and 19 children) fitted with prostheses and 425 (including 108 women and 126 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 1,675 prostheses (including 134 for women, 49 for children and 1,438 for mine victims), 1,394 orthoses (including 294 for women, 396 for children and 33 for mine victims), 2,883 crutches and 491 wheelchairs delivered
- ▶ 1 physical rehabilitation centre (capacity: 70 patients) benefited from habitat projects

The centres' outreach teams carried out more than 400 field trips from Battambang and Kompong Speu to assess the needs of amputees who found it difficult to travel. During the trips, the teams:

- ▶ assessed the condition and needs of 8,892 patients
- ▶ repaired 3,537 prostheses and 789 wheelchairs
- ▶ delivered 655 pairs of crutches and 281 wheelchairs
- ▶ arranged appointments at the Battambang or Kompong Speu centres for 368 patients



## AUTHORITIES

Senior civil servants in Thailand met the ICRC regularly to enhance their understanding of the organization's mandate and activities. With ICRC support, an academic from Thammasat University initiated a study on the status of IHL implementation in Thailand, with the aim of using the study as a guide for future national implementation efforts. In Bangkok, government officials from the region's countries, independent experts and representatives of the UN, the Cluster Munition Coalition and NGOs participated in an ICRC-hosted conference on cluster munitions. South-east Asian States were encouraged to play an active role in international efforts to alleviate and prevent the effects of cluster munitions on civilians.

An ICRC-organized IHL seminar in Cambodia focused on issues related to the Khmer Rouge trials. Representatives of the Ministry of Justice learned about IHL, paving the way for future cooperation between the ministry and the ICRC on IHL implementation.

At a workshop in Lao PDR, representatives of the Ministry of Justice discussed the importance of national implementation of IHL and future cooperation with the ICRC. Representatives of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Public Security and the Lao Red Cross improved their understanding of IHL through participation in another ICRC-organized IHL workshop.

Government representatives from all of the countries covered by the regional delegation participated in a seminar on restoring family links in complex emergencies and peace-support operations, held in Singapore (see *Kuala Lumpur*).

Humanitarian actors present in the region and the ICRC coordinated their activities, particularly in response to Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces in the region continued to integrate IHL into their training programmes with ICRC support.

Officers participating in UN military observer courses at the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTAF) Peace Operations Centre received training in IHL and the ICRC. The RTAF Legal Directorate, with ICRC support and input, conducted a review of IHL teaching modules in use by the key educational institutions of the armed forces. During the Thai-US regional training exercise, Cobra Gold, participants learned about the ICRC's role and activities through peacekeeping and peace-support simulations.

Members of the Viet Nam People's Army, including high-ranking officers from the Civil Affairs Department, participated in an ICRC-organized seminar on Additional Protocol II in order to understand its repercussions on their activities, as the government was in the process of acceding to the protocol. Officers who had successfully completed the 2007 IHL train-the-trainer course participated in a revision course.

Leaders of armed groups present along the Thai-Myanmar border were periodically briefed on ICRC activities and the need to respect and promote respect for IHL (see *Civilians*).

A total of 30 senior Royal Thai Police officers participated in a three-day workshop on international human rights standards and humanitarian principles conducted by the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Journalists throughout the region reported on ICRC activities after participating in events and receiving press releases and leaflets. Other communication materials aimed at the general public were translated into local languages and distributed. To shine the spotlight on the issue of cluster munitions, the ICRC organized a visit to contaminated areas of Lao PDR for 10 foreign and local journalists, which resulted in the publication of several news articles and features.

To celebrate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) and raise the ICRC's profile as a neutral and independent humanitarian actor, a short documentary on the ICRC was broadcast in Thai on television and radio. In southern Thailand, contacts with influential community members helped to improve understanding of the ICRC's neutral and independent mandate and activities.

Representatives of donor countries, NGOs, National Societies and the International Federation attended an ICRC presentation at the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center on the relevance and importance of IHL in complex emergencies.

A total of 16 graduate and postgraduate students at Mahidol University in Thailand attended an ICRC lecture on IHL and international human rights standards.

A total of 30 judges and lawyers undergoing training at the Royal School for Judges and Magistrates in Cambodia attended an IHL orientation programme organized in cooperation with the ICRC. The ongoing Khmer Rouge trials provided a useful opportunity to increase awareness and knowledge of IHL among relevant legal professionals.

Experts from the Viet Nam Institute of Human Rights of the Ho Chi Minh Political Academy and academics participated in an ICRC-organized consultative meeting on IHL teaching in the academy's programmes for party officials and civil servants.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC technical and financial support and training, the region's National Societies enhanced their capacities to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles. They produced dissemination materials in their respective languages, with the ICRC lending its support for translation, editing and printing.

The Thai Red Cross and the ICRC organized two war-surgery seminars for health professionals (see *Wounded and sick*).

Operational cooperation between the Lao Red Cross and the ICRC benefited vulnerable communities (see *Civilians*).

With ICRC guidance and support, staff and volunteers of the Cambodian Red Cross implemented outreach programmes to assist disabled people from remote villages in obtaining treatment (see *Wounded and sick*).

The Cambodian Red Cross's mine-risk education programme continued, with technical support from the ICRC and partner National Societies. The Cambodian National Society also began to implement the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement. The Vietnamese Red Cross, with ICRC technical support, carried out an assessment mission to the mine-affected province of Quang Tri with a view to starting mine-risk education activities there.

The Cambodian and Vietnamese National Societies worked closely with the ICRC to foster contacts with and promote IHL within their respective armed forces. The Vietnamese Red Cross prepared a draft red cross law, assisted by the ICRC and the International Federation. The law was adopted by parliament in June.

After Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar, coordination meetings with other Movement components, in particular the International Federation, took place in Bangkok.

With ICRC support:

- the Lao, Thai and Vietnamese Red Cross Societies organized IHL train-the-trainer courses for senior staff with a view to increasing their dissemination capacities
- more than 1,200 students attended dissemination sessions on IHL and the Fundamental Principles organized by the Cambodian and Lao Red Cross Societies



# beijing (regional)

The ICRC opened its Beijing regional delegation in July 2005. As of 1987, it covered the region from Hong Kong and, as of 1996, from Bangkok. The delegation fosters support among governments, experts and National Societies for ICRC activities in the region and worldwide. It continues to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military training. It promotes IHL among civil society, in particular academic institutions. It supports the region's National Societies in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. ICRC/National Society prosthetic/orthotic projects in China and the DPRK contribute to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

## COVERING

China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Mongolia, Republic of Korea (ROK)

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 140   |
| Assistance                          | 2,367 |
| Prevention                          | 2,842 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,002 |
| General                             | -     |

► **6,351**

of which: Overheads 388

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 86% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 13 | expatriates                                 |
| 30 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- organized workshops on prison health with the Ministries of Public Security and Justice in China and the General Executive Agency for Court Decisions in Mongolia
- signed the first cooperation agreements on IHL promotion within Chinese academic circles
- handed over responsibility for running the Kunming physical rehabilitation centre to the Yunnan branch of the Red Cross Society of China
- strengthened its support to the region's National Societies in the field of restoring family links, particularly in China
- welcomed China's accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- welcomed the ROK's accession to Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war

## CONTEXT

After years of economic growth, East Asia began to suffer the impact of the global financial crisis. As the region's economy was based mainly on exports, falling demand led to the closure of thousands of factories and the loss of millions of jobs.

In 2008, China hosted the Olympic Games. It also experienced a number of devastating natural disasters, including an earthquake in Sichuan province in May. According to the government, which launched a massive rescue and relief operation, some 70,000 people died in the earthquake; another 350,000 were reportedly injured and 15 million displaced.

In March, riots erupted in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and adjacent regions. Between 15 and 100 people allegedly died in the violence, with hundreds more reportedly wounded and more than 1,000 detained during and after the events.

Cross-strait relations with China improved after the election of a new government in Taipei, with agreements reached on economic and transport issues.

Relations between the DPRK and the ROK deteriorated after the election of a new government in Seoul: the DPRK shut down almost all channels of inter-Korean dialogue in reaction to the tougher stance taken by the ROK. The progress in the Korean denuclearization process that had been expected following the DPRK's declaration of its nuclear assets stalled again at the end of the year.

In Mongolia, allegations of election rigging led to violent protests in Ulan Bator in July. Five protesters were reportedly killed, with some 360 wounded and 730 arrested. A four-day state of emergency was declared. Although calm returned to the capital, the political crisis continued until a government was formed in September.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  |                 | Total | Women | Children |
|--|-----------------|-------|-------|----------|
| <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                    |                 |       |       |          |
| <i>Physical rehabilitation<sup>1</sup></i> |                 |       |       |          |
| Patients receiving services                | <i>Patients</i> | 2,011 | 261   | 34       |
| Prostheses delivered                       | <i>Units</i>    | 1,380 | 208   | 27       |
| Orthoses delivered                         | <i>Units</i>    | 13    | 2     | 4        |

1. China and the DPRK

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to encourage and provide technical support to the governments of the region in implementing IHL, particularly through national IHL committees set up for that purpose. China's newly established committee was officially inaugurated in May and held another meeting in November.

As a follow-up to a 2007 seminar, the ICRC helped the Chinese Ministries of Public Security and Justice each organize a seminar on health in prisons. The two-day events brought together prison managers and medical staff, who shared their thoughts and experiences on the topic, particularly with regard to tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS management. The Ministry of Public Security and the ICRC discussed the inclusion of specialized training for prison medical and laboratory staff in future seminars. A seminar on prison health was also organized in Mongolia with the General Executive Agency for Court Decisions.

Efforts to raise awareness of IHL and ICRC activities among the region's armed forces continued through contacts with command and training structures and ICRC participation in training events. Particular attention was paid to military and police personnel departing on UN peacekeeping missions.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the respective National Society, continued to play a key role in the provision of physical rehabilitation services in China and the DPRK. At the start of the year, it was running one centre and two repair workshops in China and two centres and a mobile repair unit in the DPRK. As well as supplying raw materials, the ICRC provided on-the-job training and supervision. Mid-year, the ICRC ended its direct supervision of services at the Kunming centre in China and handed over full managerial responsibility for the centre to the Yunnan branch of the National Society. It nevertheless continued to monitor service quality and gave some supplies.

Contacts with Chinese universities were expanded and cooperation agreements signed with two leading law schools to enhance teaching and research in the field of IHL. Over the years, the ICRC-supported regional IHL moot court competition organized by the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China had grown into a prestigious event: in 2008, teams from 16 universities put their IHL knowledge and skills to the test. Integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the official school curriculum in Mongolia was in its final phase. In China, the pilot project, run by the National Society, was extended to Tianjin.

The ICRC worked with the Chinese and ROK print and electronic media to generate a continuous flow of news items to raise awareness of IHL and issues of humanitarian concern among opinion-leaders and the general public.

Support for the dissemination activities and emergency response capacities of the region's National Societies continued. As part of a new focus on boosting the family-links capacity of the Red Cross Society of China, the ICRC provided technical expertise and materials to enable it to help families separated as a result of the Sichuan earthquake get in touch. During the response to the earthquake and during the Olympic Games, the ICRC stepped up coordination with all Movement partners to maximize the efficiency and impact of Movement activities.

Owing to the deterioration of relations between the DPRK and the ROK, no progress was made in finding lasting solutions to the plight of separated families on the Korean peninsula. The ICRC continued to advocate a clear distinction between political considerations and humanitarian obligations regarding communication and meetings between those affected. It maintained dialogue with the National Societies concerned and reiterated its readiness to play a role in facilitating such contacts.

## CIVILIANS

Hundreds of thousands of Korean families were split up by the 1950–1953 Korean war. Since 2000, some 5,000 families, around 17,000 people, had been able to meet face to face during 16 family meetings at Mount Kumgang, to speak via television screens or to receive news through video letters but were not allowed any further contact thereafter. Implementation of the measures to improve links between separated families, agreed upon during the leaders' summit in October 2007, was delayed as a result of the deterioration of relations between the two countries.

The ICRC kept in close touch with both National Red Cross Societies and with the authorities on the Korean peninsula to share its humanitarian concerns about the process. It expressed its continued willingness to assist in finding a long-term solution to the plight of separated family members.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Physical rehabilitation in China

Physically disabled people living in southern and western parts of Yunnan province continued to have access to the rehabilitation services provided in Kunming by the National Society's Yunnan branch. The majority of beneficiaries had their worn-out prostheses replaced at the physical rehabilitation centre, while others had their appliances repaired or adjusted in the two satellite workshops in Kaiyuan and Malipo, near the Vietnamese border.

Until the end of June when the initial five-year agreement between the ICRC and the National Society expired, the centre and workshops

continued to receive raw materials and components as needed, and staff at the centre benefited from daily on-the-job supervision and training. ICRC involvement in the physical rehabilitation programme then moved into the phase-out stage. A new cooperation agreement was signed and the Red Cross Society of China's Yunnan branch took over full managerial responsibility for delivering physical rehabilitation services. The ICRC continued to monitor the quality of the services provided and supply some raw materials.

Four national prosthetic/orthotic technicians and three physiotherapy assistants improved their skills during a refresher course on prosthetic alignments.

- 503 patients (including 80 women and 15 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre and 2 repair workshops
- 44 new patients (including 6 women and 1 child) fitted with prostheses
- 176 prostheses (including 33 for women, 12 for children; 44 for mine victims) and 7 crutches delivered

The Yunnan branch helped the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China set up a prosthetic/orthotic facility to fit victims of the earthquake in Sichuan province, north of Yunnan.

### Physical rehabilitation services in the DPRK

Physically disabled people in Pyongyang and selected other parts of the country continued to receive services at the Songrim and Rakrang physical rehabilitation centres, with support from the ICRC and the National Society.

Staff at both centres continued to benefit from on-the-job training given by ICRC prosthetists/orthotists and physiotherapists. Five prosthetic/orthotic technicians graduated at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics and returned to the DPRK in November to put their new skills into practice. Five more technicians continued their advanced training course at the school. A national workshop brought together for the first time 36 representatives of the Ministries of Public Health, Labour, and the Armed Forces, the Medical Military Bureau, the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, Handicap International-Belgium, the National Society and the ICRC to discuss the provision of physical rehabilitation services in the DPRK.

The mobile repair unit conducted four outreach field trips with the support of the Ministry of Public Health and the National Society. Some 300 people benefited from these decentralized services, 103 of whom were referred to the Songrim or Rakrang centres for further treatment.

- 1,508 beneficiaries (181 women and 19 children) received services at the 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres or from the mobile repair unit
- 640 new patients (84 women and 5 children) fitted with prostheses and 4 (including 1 woman and 1 child) fitted with orthoses
- 1,204 prostheses (including 175 for women, 15 for children; 2 for mine victims), 13 orthoses (including 2 for women and 4 for children), 1,859 crutches and 49 wheelchairs delivered

In addition to fitting amputees with high-quality prostheses, the Rakrang centre carried out stump revision for both military and civilian amputees to make it easier to fit them with artificial limbs. In total, 136 patients were treated.

## AUTHORITIES

With ICRC support, the region's governments pursued IHL implementation efforts. China acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The ROK became party to Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war.

China, the DPRK and the ROK had already established national IHL committees to work on incorporating IHL provisions into domestic legislation. The Mongolian government, Human Rights Commission and the National Society met to discuss doing the same.

The Chinese IHL committee held its inaugural meeting in May and adopted an action plan. In November, it held a second meeting, which included a round-table on the ICRC and current IHL challenges. In the ROK, an ICRC-sponsored study on the compatibility of IHL and national legislation was completed to help the national IHL committee prioritize its work. In the DPRK, members of the national IHL committee and representatives of the National Society attended a workshop on the committee's role and the implementation process.

Following on from the 2007 provincial seminar on TB and HIV in prisons, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security organized a national seminar on the same topic in June 2008 with ICRC support. A third seminar for Justice Ministry staff took place in November. A similar seminar was held for Mongolian prison staff in the country's capital. All these events were an opportunity for participants to exchange their experiences in the field of prison health. The Chinese Ministry of Public Security and the ICRC discussed the inclusion of specialized training for prison medical and laboratory staff in future seminars.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces in the region pursued efforts to disseminate IHL among their ranks. Military personnel from China, the DPRK, Mongolia and the ROK attended ICRC-organized IHL seminars in the Russian Federation, Singapore and Switzerland.

In China, students at the two main political colleges of the People's Liberation Army attended ICRC seminars, and two elite civilian universities requested ICRC input into courses for military officers. At China's peacekeeping training centre, civilian police attended ICRC guest lectures before their deployment on UN missions. Military and police peacekeepers already on deployment also benefited from such training, for example in Lebanon, Liberia and Sudan.

Members of the DPRK armed forces attended an introductory IHL seminar, and the authorities appointed a dedicated liaison officer for contacts with the ICRC.

The Mongolian General Staff and the ICRC co-organized a course for IHL instructors and produced a manual on integrating IHL into command-post exercises.

In the ROK, the armed forces and the ICRC maintained their dialogue on the systematic integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operations and on the possibility of conducting a legal



review of weapons in accordance with Article 36 of Additional Protocol I. Military lawyers attended ICRC briefings, as did peacekeepers prior to their deployment.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media in China and the ROK covered IHL-related issues on television and in the press, supported by press releases, interviews with ICRC staff, and other information materials. The ICRC's Chinese-language website remained a reference for journalists, academics and the general public.

Lecturers and students attended training seminars that aimed to enlist their support for the teaching of IHL in their universities. Such events began to bear fruit when Wuhan University and Peking University concluded the first cooperation agreements with the ICRC on IHL promotion in Chinese academic circles. The agreements included the setting up of a documentation centre and support for capacity building and research. In the ROK, the National Society, the Korean Society of International Law and the ICRC brought together a number of lecturers to consult them on the current state of IHL teaching and how the ICRC could support it. A similar consultation exercise took place in Mongolia. Teams from 16 universities put their skills to the test in the ICRC-supported regional IHL moot court competition organized by the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China.

In Mongolia, preparations for the final integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the official school curriculum made good headway. All relevant teachers had been trained, teaching materials had been printed, and a training event for Ministry of Education staff responsible for methodological support to teachers helped bring the goal well within sight. In China, instructors trained previously by the ICRC and the National Society continued to train new teachers. Children in schools in Shanghai and Sichuan provinces continued to benefit from the pilot version of the programme, which during the year was expanded to the municipality of Tianjin.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies, with ICRC financial and technical support and training, worked to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles and to improve their ability to meet humanitarian needs in the event of armed conflict, other situations of violence or natural or man-made disasters.

In China, for example, the National Society continued systematic dissemination training for its provincial branches using an updated manual. The Mongolian Red Cross Society established a dedicated dissemination department, and the new dissemination officer organized the first two staff training sessions.

In the DPRK and the ROK, National Society volunteers were trained in the Safer Access approach. The DPRK National Society received 200 stretchers for its first-aid posts, and the Chinese Red Cross organized a first-aid training exercise for volunteers from all cities involved in the 2008 Summer Olympics. The manual *First aid in armed conflict and other situations of violence* was translated into Chinese.

A regional seminar on the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement took place in May in Beijing, bringing together the National Societies of China, Japan, Mongolia, and the ROK. The DPRK National Society could not attend but later invited the ICRC to Pyongyang to provide a short training session on the Strategy. During and following the earthquake in China, the National Society benefited from the presence of an ICRC expert for four months, to help build its capacity to restore family links: a short-term and a longer-term approach were developed and the first national-level training took place.



# jakarta (regional)

The ICRC established a presence in Indonesia in 1979 and has been present in Timor-Leste since its independence in 2002. In each country the ICRC works closely with the National Society to protect and assist victims of violence. The ICRC continues to visit detainees held in connection with past armed conflict or current internal disturbances in both countries, and works to broaden understanding and acceptance of IHL. It promotes implementation of that law, supports its inclusion in training programmes for armed forces (and police personnel in Indonesia) and develops activities with universities to promote the study of IHL.

## COVERING

Indonesia, Timor-Leste

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,862 |
| Assistance                          | 2,256 |
| Prevention                          | 1,572 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,779 |
| General                             | -     |

► **8,469**

of which: Overheads 517

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 81% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>23</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>133</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- following the events of 11 February in Timor-Leste, reminded the relevant authorities of their obligations under IHL
- visited people detained in Indonesia and in Timor-Leste, including those arrested in relation to the 11 February events
- worked on a proposal for the integration of ICRC training seminars into the syllabus of Indonesia's National Corrections Academy where prison directors were trained
- ended its agricultural rehabilitation programme for residents and returnees affected by the former conflict in Indonesia's Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam province
- undertook a full review of the files concerning persons reported missing in relation to the 1975–1999 conflict in East Timor for submission to the governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste

## CONTEXT

In 2008, a few isolated violent incidents occurred in Indonesia's Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) province. The situation remained calm in Papua and Sulawesi, although there was some opposition to government decisions relating to the creation of a new West Papua province and to the use of regional symbols. Some tensions were observed in South Maluku, where arrests of people accused of pro-separatist activities increased.

On 11 February, a double assassination attempt was made against Timor-Leste President José Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, led by armed opposition leader Major Alfredo Reinado. The prime minister escaped unhurt, but the president was seriously injured. Major Reinado was killed during the attack and other people allegedly involved were either arrested or surrendered. The government imposed a curfew and boosted security operations, with the support of the Australian-led International Stabilization Force.

In mid-2008, people displaced by the violence in and around Dili in 2006 started to leave their camps after receiving assistance from the Ministry of Social Solidarity to rebuild their homes or settle in transitional centres in the outskirts of the capital.

The Commission for Truth and Friendship published its report in July. The presidents of Indonesia and Timor-Leste signed an agreement stating that they accepted the report and would implement its recommendations. One such recommendation was the establishment of a mechanism to address the issue of people missing in connection with the former conflict.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |
|---|--------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |        |
| Detainees visited   | 43,537 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 340    |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 3      |
| <i>of whom minors</i>   | 1      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 156    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 102    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS<sup>1</sup></b>   |        |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |        |
| RCMs collected  | 1,016  |
| RCMs distributed  | 1,431  |
| People reunited with their families   | 1      |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |        |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 20     |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 8      |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                                | 2      |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                                 | 106    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 2,664  |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 472    |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>                           | 623    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 23     |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 4      |

1. Indonesia and Timor-Leste

2. Indonesia only

|   | Total  | Women | Children |
|---|--------|-------|----------|
| <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM<sup>2</sup></b>       |        |       |          |
| <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                             |        |       |          |
| Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 12,663 | 30%   | 43%      |
| Water, sanitation and habitat projects <i>Beneficiaries</i>             | 12,700 | 3%    | 3%       |
| <i>Health</i>   |        |       |          |
| Health centres supported <i>Structures</i>                              | 1      |       |          |
| <b>WOUNDED AND SICK<sup>1</sup></b>                                     |        |       |          |
| Hospitals supported <i>Structures</i>                                   | 5      |       |          |
| Admissions <i>Patients</i>  | 2,382  | 1,006 | 855      |
| Operations <i>Operations performed</i>                                  | 176    |       |          |

## ICRC ACTION

In Indonesia and Timor-Leste, the ICRC continued to address the needs of civilians affected by past conflict or current tensions and to promote IHL.

In Indonesia's NAD province, the ICRC, in cooperation with the local authorities and the National Society, continued to assess the basic needs of the most vulnerable communities affected by the former conflict there and to discuss with the beneficiaries ways to address them. On the basis of these assessments, it provided people with agricultural inputs and training to help them resume sustainable agricultural production. It also conducted construction and rehabilitation work to improve access to clean water and adequate sanitation. Given the improvement in the humanitarian situation in NAD, all ICRC assistance programmes in the province were brought to a close.

Following the 11 February events in Timor-Leste, the ICRC, in coordination with other Movement partners in the country, deployed teams to conduct general needs assessments. National Society branches were given first-aid materials, medical facilities had their stocks replenished, and the government received logistical support in delivering urgent medical supplies to rural health clinics. Dialogue with the government, the armed forces, the police, the International Stabilization Force, the UN Police and members of the armed group led by Major Reinado provided opportunities to remind all parties of their obligations under IHL.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees in both countries, including those in Timor-Leste arrested in connection with the February events. Delegates assessed their treatment and living conditions and reported the findings confidentially to the authorities

concerned. They also provided multidisciplinary structural support to the prison authorities in Indonesia to help them improve the management of prison services. ICRC specialists conducted training workshops on health in detention and carried out minor rehabilitation work on prison infrastructure.

The issue of missing persons remained a priority for the ICRC in the region. The delegation undertook an internal review of files pertaining to persons reported missing during the former conflict in East Timor with a view to submitting the updated files and a position paper to the governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste in 2009. In support of the recommendation contained in the report of the Commission for Truth and Friendship, the ICRC and National Society reiterated to the Timor-Leste authorities their commitment to support the creation of a national mechanism to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for between 1975 and 1999. With the Indonesian Red Cross Society, supported by the Canadian Red Cross Society, the ICRC completed a census of mass graves of tsunami victims in NAD and handed over a 2,300-page report, including recommendations, to the relevant authorities for follow-up.

The ICRC worked on IHL implementation with both governments, pressing in particular for the completion of laws currently in the drafting process. Promotion of IHL/international human rights law among the armed and police forces, including peacekeepers, continued in the form of support to existing training modules and the conduct of specialized seminars. Opinion-leaders and journalists also attended ICRC dissemination sessions, and the organization of presentations and competitions aimed to increase knowledge of IHL among university lecturers and students and to gain support for its inclusion as a compulsory subject in relevant curricula.

Both National Societies remained the ICRC's key operational partners. The delegation continued to provide them with training and technical, material and financial support to strengthen their capacities in the fields of emergency preparedness, IHL promotion and restoring family links. To this end, the ICRC and the Swedish Red Cross pursued their joint five-year project to overhaul the Indonesian Red Cross's family-links set-up.

## CIVILIANS

### Boosting economic security

The voucher programme which began in September 2006 continued in districts of NAD previously affected by conflict, where few, if any, other humanitarian actors were working. Residents and returning IDPs in isolated communities received vouchers to exchange for agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides, tools and seed. Thus, farmers were able to choose for themselves the type of productive support that would be most effective in helping them improve their livelihoods or resume active production. The local economy also benefited as the programme involved working with local markets. In addition to the vouchers, farmers were given training and information materials to enable them to make best use of the resources at their disposal. An evaluation undertaken in February/March showed that 98% of the families that had taken part in the voucher programme had achieved sustainable production. Given that many farmers had also managed to boost their economic security enough to save money to cover the costs of the next production cycle, the programme was brought to a close in September.

- 12,663 people (3,095 households) benefited from agricultural initiatives

### Improving water supply and sanitation

In Indonesia's NAD province, residents of several villages benefited from the rehabilitation or construction of community-based water and sanitation facilities: wells, boreholes, latrines, water catchment systems, washrooms and water storage tanks. The local authorities, the National Society and ICRC specialists carried out the work jointly. The increased availability of clean drinking water and proper sanitation contributed to a general improvement in public health, enabling ICRC involvement to cease at the end of the year.

- 1,150 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

### Restoring family links and clarifying the fate of missing persons

People in Indonesia and Timor-Leste continued to use ICRC/National Society tracing and RCM services to restore or maintain contact with relatives from whom they had become separated, either within the country or abroad (see also *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Families received ICRC assistance in their quest to ascertain the fate of missing relatives. The delegation undertook an internal review of files pertaining to persons reported missing during the former conflict in East Timor with a view to submitting the updated files and a position paper to the governments of Indonesia and Timor-Leste in 2009. Some 200 families of missing persons in Timor-Leste received visits from ICRC and National Society delegates as part of the process. During meetings with civil society groups and various multilateral fora, ICRC delegates advocated that the rights of families of missing persons be respected and their

needs be met. In support of the recommendation made by the Commission for Truth and Friendship in its July report, in discussions with the Timor-Leste authorities the ICRC and the National Society reiterated the commitment they made in 2003 to provide financial and technical support for the creation of a national mechanism to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for between 1975 and 1999 and to inform their families.

With a view to boosting Indonesia's forensic capacities, representatives of the country's medico-legal services attended a regional seminar in Melbourne, Australia. The event aimed to improve communication and cooperation among medico-legal services in the Asia-Pacific region in dealing with the issue of persons missing in relation to natural disaster, armed conflict or other situations of violence.

The tsunami at the end of 2004 prompted huge tracing needs. The ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross, supported by the Canadian Red Cross, conducted a census of mass graves of tsunami victims, which was completed in February 2008. The 2,300-page report detailed 343 gravesites and gave recommendations, which included measures to acknowledge the suffering of the families. It was handed over to the social services in charge of graves and to the Governorate of Aceh for further follow-up.

#### Indonesia

- 146 RCMs collected from and 628 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 6 people (4 females); 182 people (38 females; 70 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 23 people issued with an ICRC travel document

#### Timor-Leste

- 699 RCMs collected from and 684 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 14 people (4 females; 2 minors at the time of disappearance); 106 people located; 2,482 people (434 females; 553 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In each country, detainees held in connection with past armed conflict or current disturbances, including those in Timor-Leste arrested in relation to the February events, received visits from ICRC delegates, who monitored their treatment and conditions of detention and enabled them to write RCMs to or receive visits from their families. Following the visits, which were conducted according to the ICRC's standard working procedures, the authorities in Indonesia and Timor-Leste received confidential reports on the delegates' findings, along with recommendations if necessary, which aimed to benefit the entire prison population.

#### Indonesia

- 43,501 detainees visited, of whom 304 monitored individually (2 females; 1 minor) and 79 newly registered (2 females; 1 minor), during 149 visits to 98 places of detention
- 29 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 53 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- 4 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families



*Timor-Leste*

- 36 detainees visited and monitored individually (1 female), including 23 newly registered, during 7 visits to 4 places of detention
- 142 RCMs collected from and 117 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 1 detainee visited by relatives with ICRC support

**Improving health in Indonesian prisons**

With ICRC support, the Food and Health Directorate of the Directorate General of Corrections of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights pursued its efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) in places of detention. In February, 40 representatives of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the Directorate General of Corrections, the Ministry of Health, prison administrations, international and local donor agencies, and many health-related authorities in Indonesia attended a round-table during which they agreed on the importance of improving coordination between programmes and institutions working on the issue of TB in prisons. They also provided input for the newly set up working group on the management of TB in prisons. Drawing on the advice provided at that meeting, and with ICRC support, the working group held a series of meetings and developed new technical guidelines for the diagnosis, treatment and management of TB in prisons.

With a view to improving general health in places of detention, the Food and Health Directorate and the ICRC organized seminars on the issue. Doctors, dentists and nurses from all over the country, as well as representatives of national and international organizations concerned with health in detention, studied and discussed practical examples of health situations that might arise in prisons. The National Corrections Academy of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights (where most prison directors were trained), the Food and Health Directorate and the ICRC worked on a proposal for integrating such seminars into the academy's official syllabus.

Minors in a Jakarta prison were treated for scabies during a mass campaign carried out by the Food and Health Directorate and the ICRC. This involved screening 563 inmates, providing them with medical treatment, cleaning their block, and sterilizing clothes, blankets and bedding.

**Improving general living conditions in Indonesian prisons**

Prison inmates had increased access to clean water and a more salubrious environment. This was either thanks to direct technical intervention from the ICRC (which drilled boreholes, rehabilitated kitchens and toilets, provided incinerators and generators, and installed water treatment units or water pumps) or as a result of the authorities' follow-up to recommendations made by the ICRC or their application of skills learned during training workshops. Prison directors from all major regions of Indonesia attended workshops organized by the Food and Health Directorate and the ICRC on how to improve nutrition, material conditions, and water and sanitation facilities for detainees.

- 11,550 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

**WOUNDED AND SICK**

Following the events of 11 February, Dili National Hospital and two other medical facilities received supplies to replenish their stocks, which had been depleted treating people wounded during the unrest. Right after the attack, with no public and little private transportation available, the Ministry of Health welcomed ICRC

logistical support in delivering urgent medical supplies to rural health clinics in the most vulnerable districts. Branches of the Timor-Leste Red Cross in the districts concerned were also provided with first-aid materials.

In Indonesia, a hospital in Lhokseumawe, NAD, and a hospital and a clinic in West Java, all run by the Indonesian Red Cross, received ICRC medical stocks that remained in place following the reduction of ICRC health activities. Materials and the beneficiary establishments were selected jointly by the National Society and the ICRC on the basis of needs.

In the 2 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- 2,282 patients (including 1,006 women and 855 children) admitted: of whom 471 surgical cases, and 1,382 medical and 529 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- 176 surgical operations performed
- 9,605 outpatients given consultations, including 8,780 attending surgical or medical consultations and 825 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations

With ICRC support, ophthalmological teams from two hospitals in the Papuan Highlands examined the eyes of some 425 people, treating many of them for infections. A total of 92 cataract operations were performed and 67 people were provided with reading glasses.

Representatives of the Indonesian Red Cross and the Provincial Health Offices in Central Sulawesi and Papua provinces attended ICRC-run workshops that aimed to improve their capacities to prepare for and respond to health emergencies.

**AUTHORITIES**

The Indonesian government, particularly through its national IHL committee, and the Timor-Leste government pursued efforts to implement IHL.

As a follow-up to the 2007 seminar on the 1977 Additional Protocols, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a one-day event for 40 representatives of various institutions and invited ICRC staff to give a presentation on the importance of ratifying the instruments.

With ICRC technical support, the Indonesian government and parliament continued to draft a law on the protection and use of the red cross and red crescent emblems, reconfirming the role of the State in ensuring proper use of the emblems and the unity of the National Society. Furthermore, the National Development Law Agency of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights and the ICRC organized a workshop to revise the law on Indonesia's Human Rights Court to make it compatible with the Rome Statute.

With a view to garnering further interest in IHL implementation, representatives of the Indonesian authorities and foreign diplomats attended IHL events both within the country and abroad, such as the South-east Asia Regional Conference on Cluster Munitions in Thailand (see *Bangkok*). Indonesia signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions in December.

In Timor-Leste, the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Society and the ICRC met to discuss the



pending draft law on the emblem; they requested that the ministry ensure its follow-up. In November, the Council of Ministers gave the go-ahead for ratification of Additional Protocol III.

Following the events of 11 February, the authorities in Timor-Leste were reminded of the need to respect and ensure respect for IHL in all circumstances.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Several military establishments in Indonesia, representing all three armed forces, worked to include IHL in their training curricula. Instructors, officers, soldiers, peacekeepers, and students took part in events, organized with ICRC technical support, that were tailored to the depth of knowledge required for their functions. High-ranking officers, for example, were sponsored by the ICRC to attend training events abroad, such as the 5th Course on International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Peace Operations at San Remo.

Troops already stationed in the field also learned more about IHL during ICRC dissemination sessions; those taking part in a command-post exercise on peace-support operations organized by the Indonesian army and the US army's Pacific Command benefited from the ICRC's input on IHL and the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action.

In another event, organized by the Indonesian Army and the ICRC, participants from the region explored the legal framework and other topics related to the use of force in internal security operations.

The armed forces of Timor-Leste continued to train their troops with Australian and Portuguese support. All those involved met regularly with the ICRC to discuss IHL-related matters.

Work to promote international human rights law among the Indonesian police focused on the mobile brigade responsible for riot control and security in urban areas. Instructors attended presentations on the ICRC's mandate and basic human rights rules applicable to law enforcement.

With ICRC support, the Timor-Leste police produced a new booklet containing the basic rules of international human rights law. Members of the police attended ICRC-supported dissemination sessions carried out by the National Society.

Following the events of 11 February, dialogue with the Timor-Leste armed forces and police, the International Stabilization Force, the UN Police and members of the armed group led by Major Reinado provided an opportunity to remind all parties of the ICRC's mandate and of their obligation to respect and ensure respect for IHL.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Representatives of the media attended ICRC-run dissemination sessions that aimed to improve their understanding of their rights and responsibilities in situations of armed conflict and to encourage them to give greater coverage to issues of humanitarian concern. With ICRC support, the Alliance of Independent Journalists organized a workshop for its members.

The number of leading law, political science and international relations faculties that had integrated IHL into their courses, or that were in the process of doing so, increased. To assist them in so doing, lecturers and students attended ICRC presentations and took part in IHL competitions. Some were sponsored to attend high-profile events abroad. For example, after winning the Indonesian national competition, two law students received ICRC support to participate in the regional IHL moot court competition in Hong Kong, China (see *Beijing*).

Other establishments, such as influential think-tanks, requested ICRC support in organizing IHL-related events. For example, the Habibie Center organized an IHL lecture for its members and some 30 government officials, NGO representatives, journalists and academicians.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With the technical, material and financial support of the ICRC and the International Federation, the two National Societies continued their activities in various fields, including emergency preparedness, restoring family links and IHL promotion.

To strengthen their capacities, six Indonesian Red Cross branches in Papua and Central Sulawesi received material and financial assistance, and their staff and volunteers were given intensive training. Countrywide, some 420 National Society personnel attended training in topics such as: needs assessment in conflict-prone areas, water and sanitation activities and IHL dissemination. The Safer Access approach was translated into guidelines for use by all National Society personnel in emergencies. Training curricula, guidelines and manuals relating to communication activities were also produced.

The five-year ICRC/Swedish Red Cross project to overhaul the Indonesian Red Cross's family-links set-up continued. By the end of 2008, family-links activities were formally part of the National Society's Disaster Management Division and an integral part of all needs assessments, a standardized training curriculum and manual had been produced, and all 33 provincial chapters had a trained family-links coordinator. In May, staff attended a regional meeting on restoring family links organized by the Indian Red Cross Society and the ICRC (see *New Delhi*).

Following the events of 11 February, six Timor-Leste Red Cross first-aid teams received dressing materials to treat people wounded in any unrest. The booklet *First aid in conflict* was translated into Tetum and 1,000 copies distributed. The National Society adopted new security guidelines and a code of conduct for staff working in armed conflict, and 15 new employees were trained in the Safer Access approach. New internal guidelines on use of the emblem and the National Society logo were adopted; all vehicles, buildings and personnel were marked accordingly.



# kuala lumpur (regional)

The ICRC began working in Malaysia in 1972 and opened a regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur in 2001. In the countries covered, the ICRC endeavours to involve government representatives, leaders, experts and National Societies in reflection on humanitarian issues and to gain their support for its activities. It encourages the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and the incorporation of IHL into military training and academic curricula. The delegation hosts the ICRC's Regional Resource Centre, which supports delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific in promoting IHL, strengthening support for the ICRC's humanitarian action and cooperation within the Movement.

## COVERING

Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 245   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,083 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 273   |
| General                             | -     |

► **1,601**

of which: Overheads **98**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>82%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>7</b>  | expatriates                                 |
| <b>17</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- with the Singaporean authorities and armed forces, organized a regional seminar on restoring family links in complex emergencies and peace-support operations
- participated in a session on complex emergencies during the Shangri-la Dialogue, one of the most prestigious security fora in the region
- facilitated the exchange of greetings and RCMs between people held in the US detention facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and their families in Malaysia
- organized a regional conference on humanitarian challenges in contemporary conflicts with the Malaysian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- worked to strengthen the family-links capacities of National Societies in the region

## CONTEXT

Natural disasters remained at the forefront of concerns in Japan, Malaysia and Singapore, as well as in regional fora, particularly in the wake of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and the earthquake in China. Singapore acted as the logistics base for many humanitarian organizations during the response to Cyclone Nargis.

In Malaysia, general elections took place in March without incident but transformed the political landscape. The presence of large numbers of undocumented immigrants was a source of tension in the country.

Japan continued its efforts to contribute more to humanitarian and development aid, pledging USD 110 million of new aid to Afghanistan and USD 100 million for WFP programmes in Africa.

The Charter of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), signed in 2007 and containing provisions on IHL, entered into force in December. ASEAN was one element of the Tripartite Core Group, along with representatives of the Myanmar government and the international humanitarian community, that was formed to oversee the coordination of international assistance during the response to Cyclone Nargis.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>                       |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i> |       |
| RCMs collected                                      | 27    |
| RCMs distributed                                    | 138   |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>                             |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued         | 142   |

## ICRC ACTION

The regional delegation's activities focused on raising awareness of and increasing compliance with IHL by identifying and using opportunities to discuss the ICRC's mandate and activities with relevant regional actors. The ICRC maintained contacts with the region's authorities to encourage accession to and national implementation of IHL instruments, including through the newly established national IHL committee in Malaysia, and continued working with the region's armed forces to advance the integration of IHL into their doctrine, training and operations. It also expanded its network of media and civil society contacts and pursued efforts to promote IHL in schools and universities as a way of reaching future decision-makers.

An ICRC delegate based in the offices of the Japanese Red Cross Society worked to promote ICRC priorities among important contacts and to increase awareness of the organization in Japan. In conjunction with the authorities and the Japanese Red Cross, the ICRC prepared the ground for the opening of an ICRC office in Tokyo in 2009.

As in past years, the ICRC worked with the National Societies of Japan, Malaysia and Singapore to promote IHL, including through joint dissemination programmes and seminars. In particular, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC worked together to ensure the continuity and quality of IHL teaching in secondary schools, with a view to the eventual phasing out of the ICRC's support for the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Malaysia.

In Malaysia, family-links activities for the relatives of people detained/interned abroad continued, while the ICRC helped the Malaysian Red Crescent build its family-links capacity.

The delegation's regional resource centre, established in 2003, continued to support the efforts of ICRC delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific to enhance their preventive activities. These included promoting the implementation of IHL in the region, intensive networking with Track II diplomacy stakeholders in the region, and participation in meetings of Asian regional organizations, particularly bodies related to ASEAN.

Cooperation between the ICRC, the International Federation and other Movement partners present in the region was stepped up to ensure a coherent response during emergency situations such as Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar.

## CIVILIANS

Families of Malaysian nationals in US custody at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba stayed in touch with their relatives through RCMs.

At UNHCR's request, refugees and asylum seekers were issued with travel documents enabling them to travel to countries that had accepted them for resettlement.

To help the Malaysian Red Crescent build its family-links capacity, training sessions were held for staff and volunteers at branch and chapter level, including for the new field officer at the national headquarters in charge of restoring family links. For the first time, staff from the Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society also participated in the training. In order to boost their efforts to inform the public about the availability of the family-links service, Malaysian Red Crescent branches received resource materials.

- 27 RCMs collected from and 138 RCMs distributed to civilians
- 142 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## AUTHORITIES

In Malaysia, members of the newly established national IHL committee discussed relevant issues and participated in ICRC-led IHL briefings. Based on the initial findings of a compatibility study between IHL and national legislation, the attorney general's chambers and the ICRC drafted a bill on international crimes. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), academics and members of civil society attended a regional conference on humanitarian challenges in contemporary conflicts organized by the MFA's Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) and the ICRC, at which participants increased their awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities. Thanks to contacts made during this conference, the IDFR invited the ICRC to participate in an international conference on Islam in the modern world (see *Civil society*).

Representatives from the region's governments learnt more about Movement family-links activities during a regional seminar on restoring family links in complex emergencies and peace-support operations organized jointly by the Singaporean Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs and armed forces and the ICRC.

The regional delegation focused on networking and improving contacts with multilateral bodies, including those related to ASEAN, with a view to promoting IHL and garnering support for humanitarian action. The Japanese Ministry of Defence invited the ICRC to share its expertise on neutral and independent humanitarian action with representatives of regional Defence and Foreign

Affairs ministries and supranational bodies such as ASEAN at the Tokyo Defence Forum, where the theme was international cooperation in disaster relief. The ASEAN Charter, which had included IHL provisions on the ICRC's recommendation, entered into force in December, binding all member States.

On the occasion of the ICRC president's visit to Japan in February, high-level meetings were held with relevant ministries on such issues as cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war and the importance of IHL. The president also spoke during the plenary session on complex emergencies during the Shangri-la Dialogue, a high-level security forum in Singapore attended by defence and security officials and members of think-tanks from the region. It was the first time a humanitarian organization had been invited to give a presentation at the event.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Members of the region's armed forces participating in various multilateral military events and exercises, including those organized by the US Pacific Command and at various command and staff colleges, learnt more about the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Contact was re-established with the senior command of the Royal Malaysian Police with a view to enhancing cooperation and planning future activities to familiarize members of the force with IHL and international human rights law.

- ▶ Malaysian and Singaporean officers departing on peacekeeping and security operations attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC as part of their pre-deployment briefings
- ▶ Malaysia's Joint Warfare Training Centre organized IHL train-the-trainer courses, and the Military Police and Army Medical Services participated in briefings on IHL and the ICRC as part of their internal training courses
- ▶ senior police officers in Malaysia participated in a seminar on IHL and international human rights law and the ICRC
- ▶ members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces participated in events, including a two-day presentation and classroom exercise on IHL and the ICRC at the training school in Kodaira and a briefing for the Judge Advocate General's Corps
- ▶ members of Japan's Central Readiness Force participated in an IHL session at the International Peace Cooperation Activities Training Unit

## CIVIL SOCIETY

During an international conference on Islam in the modern world organized by the IFDR, leaders of the Islamic community and the ICRC discussed mutual concerns and the ICRC's activities. The conference generated media interest in the ICRC's activities in Muslim countries and enabled the ICRC to expand its network of contacts.

Media contacts were increased to focus their attention on themes such as cluster munitions and anti-personnel landmines. In particular, media events took place in conjunction with the regional seminar in Singapore and the ICRC president's visit to Japan (see *Authorities*).

To raise awareness of the ICRC and its activities, contacts with Japanese NGOs were initiated. The ICRC continued to produce the quarterly *ICRC Bulletin*, a Japanese-language newsletter containing features on the ICRC and humanitarian topics. Recipients included members of the public and private sectors, think-tanks, academia and civil society.

Following extensive preparations and teacher training in previous years, IHL was taught in schools in Malaysia as part of the national civics and citizenship education curriculum. With a view to ending its support to the programme, the ICRC focused on building the capacities of teachers and trainers, including Malaysian Red Crescent staff members. The Malaysian Red Crescent and the ICRC agreed to organize IHL-related events jointly with the Ministry of Education. The Japanese Red Cross supported the testing of the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules in selected secondary schools with the ICRC's technical support.

Malaysian university students participated in an IHL debate tournament and in a moot court competition, thereby increasing their knowledge of IHL. In Japan, leading academics and the ICRC held a consultative meeting to explore how to integrate and teach IHL in selected Japanese universities and to propose the drafting of a model IHL syllabus. In Singapore, members of academic circles participated in a range of events, including the regional moot court competition in Hong Kong, China (see *Beijing*).

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

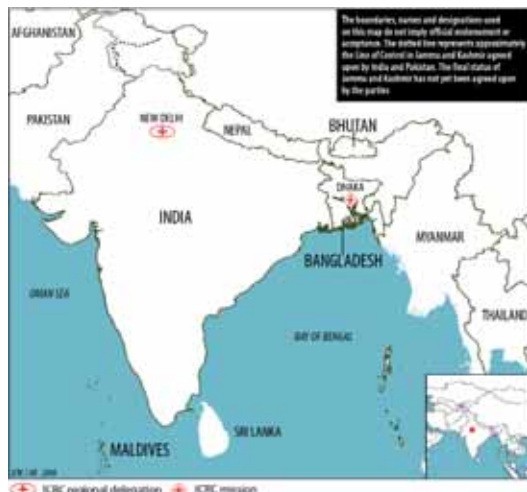
The Malaysian Red Crescent received support in building its capacity to provide tracing and family-links services so that it could continue to participate in national and international disaster-management operations (see *Civilians*). Capacity-building of the National Society's IHL-related activities also continued. These activities were particularly relevant given the recent establishment by decree of the national IHL committee.

The Japanese Red Cross and the ICRC had a joint communication strategy and coordinated IHL dissemination efforts and the training and mobilization of human resources for international relief activities. An expert from ICRC headquarters visited Japan in order to assess family-links needs in the country and to evaluate the family-links response capacity of the Japanese Red Cross.

South-east Asian National Societies met to discuss regional concerns, including disaster management and response, during a conference organized by the Malaysian Red Crescent and attended by the ICRC.

Members of the Movement met in Kuala Lumpur in May to mobilize support for and coordinate the Movement's response to the humanitarian needs generated by Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar, including in cooperation with ASEAN member States.





# new delhi (regional)

The regional delegation in New Delhi opened in 1982. It works with the armed forces, universities, civil society and the media in the region to promote broader understanding and implementation of IHL and to encourage respect for humanitarian rules and principles. The ICRC visits people arrested and detained in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (India), as well as in Bhutan and the Maldives. It also supports the development of the National Societies in Bangladesh and India and supports some of their assistance programmes in the field.

**COVERING**  
Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 3,316 |
| Assistance                          | 727   |
| Prevention                          | 2,521 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,828 |
| General                             | -     |

► **8,392**

of which: Overheads 512

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 84% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 26 | expatriates                                 |
| 96 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- based on its visits to detainees, shared its findings and recommendations on their treatment and living conditions with the authorities in India and the Maldives
- supported the Indian Red Cross Society in assisting vulnerable families in violence-affected areas
- began to train India's National Disaster Response Force in the management of human remains in disasters
- with Andhra University, organized a conference on the inclusion of IHL-related subjects in university curricula, attended by 25 vice-chancellors of universities in violence-affected areas of India
- made contact with relevant heads of department through IHL dissemination sessions carried out for the first time in Bangladeshi universities

## CONTEXT

The global food and energy crisis and various natural disasters affected the countries covered by the regional delegation.

Bombings and shootings, including a series of coordinated attacks in Mumbai in November, killed an estimated 600 people throughout India. Tensions continued to simmer in India's north-eastern states, fuelled by friction between ethnic and tribal groups and related movements seeking autonomy or independence, as well as in areas where Naxalite armed groups were present. Incidents of interreligious violence were also reported. Floods in Assam and Bihar displaced people and destroyed property, crops and livestock.

There was a relatively high turnout in elections in Jammu and Kashmir, while the number of violent incidents remained low. During the election period and demonstrations in connection with a land dispute, curfews were imposed. The foreign ministers of Pakistan and India met and agreed to strengthen their respective confidence-building mechanisms. In spite of tensions between the two countries after the Mumbai attacks, these mechanisms remained in place and dialogue on Kashmir continued.

The postponed parliamentary elections in Bangladesh took place in December, ending nearly two years of emergency rule. The fight against corruption and crime continued, leading to mass arrests, backlogs in the courts and overcrowding in prisons.

Elections took place in Bhutan in March and the hereditary monarchy became a two-party parliamentary democracy. A new king was crowned in November.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 910   |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 881   |
| of whom females   | 6     |
| of whom minors  | 17    |
| Number of visits carried out  | 37    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 24    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected  | 304   |
| RCMs distributed  | 369   |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 2     |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 9     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 937   |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 42    |

1. India and the Maldives

2. Bangladesh and India

3. India

|   | Total  | Women | Children |
|---|--------|-------|----------|
| <b>CIVILIANS<sup>2</sup></b>                                |        |       |          |
| <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                 |        |       |          |
| Essential household items <i>Beneficiaries</i>              | 25,036 | 40%   | 29%      |
| Water, sanitation and habitat projects <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 5,000  | 35%   | 30%      |
| <b>WOUNDED AND SICK<sup>3</sup></b>                         |        |       |          |
| <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                              |        |       |          |
| Patients receiving services <i>Patients</i>                 | 540    | 116   | 61       |
| Prostheses delivered <i>Units</i>                           | 76     | 17    | 2        |
| Orthoses delivered <i>Units</i>                             | 95     | 19    | 37       |

## ICRC ACTION

Visits to detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir remained the primary focus of the regional delegation in New Delhi. In accordance with its mandate, the ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Jammu and Kashmir and in other states and maintained its confidential dialogue with the detaining authorities.

In Jammu and Kashmir, regular curfews linked to unrest meant that the ICRC had to adapt some of its planned activities. Several detention visits, a train-the-trainer course for police and an IHL workshop at the University of Kashmir were cancelled. In response to a request from the authorities, the ICRC made emergency donations of surgical materials to two hospitals, in Jammu and Srinagar, to help them cope with an influx of patients wounded during protests in August.

The ICRC kept in regular contact with the authorities in the Maldives and visited security detainees there.

The regional delegation pursued its efforts to promote IHL and enlist support for the ICRC's activities among government officials, armed and security forces and civil society actors throughout the region. To this end, it organized IHL events and activities at national and regional level, gave presentations or conducted sessions on IHL during events organized by others, and sponsored the participation of government representatives, students and teachers in IHL events abroad. The ICRC supported instruction in IHL and international human rights law for the military and police in India and made preparations for similar training for police in Bangladesh.

The ICRC developed its cooperation with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Indian Red Cross Society, including on programmes to restore family links. It supported Indian Red Cross assistance activities in areas affected by violence, including the provision of primary health care services. National Society physical

rehabilitation centres in Jammu and Srinagar also received support, including emergency supplies to help them deal with a sudden influx of patients. In Bangladesh, the National Society continued its water and sanitation projects in the Chittagong Hill Tracts with ICRC assistance.

## CIVILIANS

Refugees and stateless persons without passports or other means of identification were issued with ICRC travel documents, at the request of the embassies concerned and in coordination with UNHCR, to enable them to travel to countries granting them asylum or resettlement.

Following a variety of initiatives to raise awareness of the Indian Red Cross's tracing services, courts and local authorities began to refer cases of unaccompanied minors to the National Society, which endeavoured to follow them up with the ICRC's support (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

- ▶ in India, 39 RCMs collected from and 178 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ in Bhutan, 38 RCMs collected from civilians
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 2 people; 9 people still being sought
- ▶ 937 people issued with an ICRC travel document
- ▶ 13 official documents relayed between family members

In the violence-prone state of Chhattisgarh, people received essential household items such as blankets and mosquito nets from the Indian Red Cross and the ICRC and learnt about malaria prevention and how to use the nets. People there also benefited from services provided by a National Society mobile health unit.

- ▶ 7,536 people (1,500 households) received essential household items

The ICRC-supported National Society mobile health unit (average monthly catchment population: 6,000):

- gave 4,832 people curative consultations
- referred 4 patients to a second level of care
- held 1,549 health education sessions

Violence-affected people in Assam received essential household and hygiene items from the National Society and the ICRC.

- 17,500 IDPs (2,500 households) received essential household items

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, including some held in other states, received ICRC visits, which were conducted according to the organization's standard working procedures. In some cases, visits and access to detainees were delayed. This happened after changes in visit authorization procedures by the authorities and as a result of curfews imposed in parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The findings and recommendations of ICRC visits relating to detainees' treatment and living conditions were shared with the detaining authorities through meetings and confidential working papers.

Detainees in Bhutan and India exchanged news with their families via RCMs and received visits from relatives living far away, who had their travel costs covered by the ICRC. While detainees in Bhutan did not receive ICRC visits in 2008, contact was maintained with the authorities with regard to a visit in 2009. Former detainees in India were checked on following their release, with special attention given to their health. Detainees visited in India received recreational and hygiene items.

Security detainees in the Maldives received ICRC visits, and the findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the authorities.

### India

- 893 detainees visited, of whom 865 monitored individually (6 females; 17 minors) and 315 newly registered (4 females; 12 minors), during 33 visits to 20 places of detention
- 227 RCMs collected from and 95 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 92 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- 4 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

### Bhutan

- 96 RCMs distributed through the prison administration to detainees
- 9 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- 38 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

### Maldives

- 17 detainees visited, of whom 16 monitored individually and 11 newly registered, during 4 visits to 4 places of detention

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The Indian Red Cross ran the physical rehabilitation centres at the Government Medical College in Jammu and the Bone and Joint Hospital in Srinagar. ICRC support took the form of training, materials and equipment to enhance the quality and sustainability of services through the use of polypropylene technology, and improvements were made in management and care with the help of ICRC specialists.

In the wake of the unrest in August, both hospitals received emergency supplies from the ICRC and the Indian Red Cross to help them cope with the sudden influx of wounded people. The Bone and Joint Hospital was able to provide accommodation for patients awaiting treatment following receipt of mattresses, blankets, cooking pots and utensils from the ICRC. Two technicians from Srinagar and one from Jammu had their formal technical training in Bangalore sponsored by the ICRC.

- 540 patients (including 116 women and 61 children) received services at 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 58 new patients (including 12 women and 1 child) fitted with prostheses and 89 (including 18 women and 34 children) fitted with orthoses
- 76 prostheses (including 17 for women, 2 for children and 10 for mine victims), 95 orthoses (including 19 for women, 37 for children and 1 for a mine victim), 40 crutches and 19 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

Government officials from Bangladesh and India increased their knowledge and understanding of IHL during ICRC-sponsored events held nationally and abroad. Such events included: an IHL training workshop organized with the Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies; the 12th and 13th South Asian Teaching Sessions on IHL; and a regional seminar on restoring family links in complex emergencies and peace-support operations, held in Singapore (see *Kuala Lumpur*). During a conference on the International Criminal Court organized by legal institutions in New Delhi, delegates from the region's governments and civil society gained a better understanding of the need for their countries to become party to the Rome Statute. During a conference at the National Judicial Academy, 25 High Court judges from across India attended an ICRC lecture on IHL.

In conjunction with the 47th annual session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) in New Delhi, representatives of governments and international organizations discussed contemporary IHL issues during a meeting organized by the ICRC and AALCO.

Representatives of India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) participated in a course organized by the ICRC in Geneva, Switzerland, on the management of human remains in armed conflicts and disasters. Subsequently, the NDMA organized a national conference on the development of minimum standards in disaster relief. The NDMA acknowledged the gap in existing guidelines on managing human remains and invited the ICRC to assist in developing new ones. The NDRF asked the ICRC to train its troops (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Members of the Bangladeshi and Indian armed and security forces, including those departing on UN peacekeeping missions, attended ICRC-led IHL briefing sessions and courses abroad. For example, members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police learnt about the elements of IHL applicable to their operations.

The Indian air force headquarters issued instructions for IHL to be taught at all levels of officer training, and instructors were trained by the ICRC.

At the request of the Indian army's NDRF (see *Authorities*), 30 commanders and officers from a BSF NDRF battalion participated in an ICRC-led training session on the management of human remains in disasters. The battalion expressed its willingness to support the National Society's family-links activities during disasters.

Police in Jammu and Kashmir participated in IHL briefing sessions. At the end of the year, however, security concerns related to the demonstrations over a land dispute and unrest during the election period halted ICRC dissemination efforts in the state.

In Bangladesh, army and navy personnel attended briefings on the ICRC's mandate and activities with a view to the integration of IHL into their training and operations.

An amendment to the Bangladeshi police code of conduct drafted with ICRC support was under consideration by the Bureau of Police Research and Development. Following meetings with Home Ministry and law enforcement officials, an assessment was carried out with a view to launching dissemination activities for the police and security forces.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Bangladeshi and Indian journalists attended seminars on conflict reporting and IHL, leading to an increase in the number of articles published on violence and IHL. Academic institutions and NGOs regularly invited the ICRC to participate in seminars, conferences and workshops on topics relevant to its work.

Lecturers and students from Bangladeshi and Indian universities participated in ICRC-led IHL seminars and in regional and national IHL moot court competitions to increase their knowledge of IHL. In particular, a total of 625 law lecturers and students attended IHL dissemination sessions held for the first time in Bangladesh, giving the ICRC the opportunity to visit these universities and discuss with relevant department heads the possibility of integrating IHL into their courses. A total of 25 vice-chancellors of universities in violence-affected areas of India participated in a conference organized by Andhra University and the ICRC on the inclusion of IHL-related subjects in their curricula. Some participants expressed interest in initiating IHL programmes in their institutions.

Nineteen schools took part in the pilot phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Jammu and Kashmir, with a second teacher-training session conducted by the ICRC. Some of the schools created clubs to help their communities.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Post-tsunami tracing projects continued in India. Representatives of the region's National Societies participated in a regional family-links meeting in May, organized by the Indian Red Cross and the ICRC, at which they discussed strengthening the family-links networks, particularly in relation to natural disasters and migration between southern Asia and the Middle East. Following this meeting, representatives of the Indian Red Cross were sponsored to attend the Movement family-links meeting in Qatar, where National Society representatives from Asia and the Middle East forged closer ties (see *Kuwait*).

The Indian Red Cross's family-links activities were strengthened through personnel training and the development of guidelines, including provisions for psychological support and the management of human remains. National Society staff used their training while responding to the Bihar floods, helping to register tracing requests.

With ICRC support, the Bangladeshi Red Crescent distributed RCMs to help separated family members, including those with relatives detained abroad and people affected by natural disasters, keep in touch.

The Indian Red Cross assisted violence-affected people in Assam and Chhattisgarh with ICRC support (see *Civilians*). After the Mumbai attacks in November, the Indian Red Cross assisted hospitals dealing with the casualties, helping them properly manage human remains, including by supplying 200 body bags donated by the ICRC. An ICRC tracing delegate also provided support. Staff from the Jammu and Kashmir branch attended disaster response management training in New Delhi, given by the National Society with support from the International Federation and the ICRC.

With ICRC support, the Bangladeshi Red Crescent built new wells and latrines for 5,000 people in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and organized hygiene education and maintenance training for the local population.

The Bangladeshi Red Crescent and Indian Red Cross promoted IHL and the Movement, including through emblem campaigns, with ICRC input.

The International Federation and National Societies operating in India coordinated their activities with the ICRC, and in some cases worked with the ICRC to strengthen the capacity of the Indian Red Cross.



# suva (regional)

Since 2001, ICRC operations in the Pacific have been carried out by the Suva regional delegation. It assists governments in the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and promotes respect for and compliance with IHL among the region's armed and security forces. It also promotes IHL among academic circles, the media and civil society. The ICRC visits people detained in connection with past unrest in Fiji and Solomon Islands. It also helps build the conflict response capacities of the region's National Societies.

## COVERING

Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and autonomous states, territories and colonies of the Pacific

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 492   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,395 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,164 |
| General                             | -     |

► **3,051**

of which: Overheads 186

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 79% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | expatriates                                 |
| 16 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- with the National Society, helped bring together communities in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea separated by inter-ethnic fighting by training them in first aid
- hosted a round-table to promote accession to the Rome Statute among 12 Pacific nations
- welcomed the Cook Islands' accession to the Rome Statute and the Biological Weapons Convention, Fiji's accession to the three Additional Protocols and New Zealand's accession to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property
- contributed to the adoption of a framework for building the capacities of 8 Pacific Island National Societies to restore family links

## CONTEXT

During 2008, the governments of Australia, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands enhanced their dialogue on issues of common interest, such as migration, transnational security and climate change. The prime ministers of Australia and Solomon Islands reaffirmed the relevance of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands. In June, New Zealand launched its new Pacific Development Strategy for the next eight years, giving priority to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Inter-tribal tensions persisted in Papua New Guinea's Highlands, periodically erupting into violence.

The interim military government of Fiji confirmed its intention to change the electoral system before holding elections. As a result, it said, the organization of elections by March 2009, as initially announced, would not leave enough time to implement the reform. The likelihood of a delay in restoring parliamentary democracy put further strain on relations between the governments of Fiji and other countries in the region.

The state of emergency declared after the 2006 riots in Tonga remained in effect in the capital Nuku'alofa till August 2008.

Australian and New Zealand troops continued to be deployed abroad, including in Iraq, Solomon Islands, Sudan and Timor-Leste.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 57    |
| Number of visits carried out  | 14    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 10    |

1. Fiji and Solomon Islands

## ICRC ACTION

Cooperation with the region's National Societies and the International Federation remained a priority for the Suva delegation. It focused its financial and technical support on the Red Cross Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga in order to boost their capacities in the fields of emergency preparedness, IHL promotion and restoring family links. In particular, it helped branches of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross Society in regions of the Highlands affected by violence or inter-tribal clashes to train first-aiders with a view to fostering reconciliation and cooperation among communities.

The ICRC continued to visit people detained in connection with past unrest in Fiji, as well as in Solomon Islands, where it worked with the National Society to enable inmates to receive visits from family members.

Work with the region's governments on the national implementation of IHL progressed well, with the ICRC providing technical advice for treaty ratification and the drafting of legislation and supporting the activities of newly established national IHL committees in the Cook Islands and Samoa. It co-hosted a seminar on the importance of acceding to the Rome Statute and gave examples of how to incorporate the treaty's provisions into domestic law. Following the meeting, the Cook Islands acceded to the instrument and enacted implementing legislation. In Kiribati and Vanuatu, the ICRC assisted the governments in preparing draft legislation to implement the Ottawa Convention, and in Fiji, it provided feedback on the draft of an amended Geneva Conventions Act to implement all three Additional Protocols. The ICRC promoted the signature and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and welcomed the treaty's signature by seven Pacific States.

Promotion of IHL and humanitarian principles continued among the armed and security forces of Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga. This included pre-deployment briefings for Fijian police officers bound for Liberia. Furthermore, during military training and command-post exercises run by the Australian and New Zealand armed forces, the ICRC raised awareness of the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action. For the first time, it was invited to attend a joint regional exercise, Croix du Sud, led by French forces in New Caledonia.

The ICRC continued to foster relations with academic circles in Australia and New Zealand and at the University of the South Pacific to promote the teaching of IHL to future decision-makers and opinion-leaders. The region's media, particularly through the ICRC's Sydney office, were supplied with press releases, interviews with ICRC staff, and video footage to help them keep IHL-related issues in the public eye.

## CIVILIANS

With ICRC support, the Papua New Guinea Red Cross brought together 100 Red Cross volunteers from five communities affected by violence and inter-tribal clashes in the Western Highlands and trained them, during four week-long courses, in basic health care and first aid. It was the first time in 20 years that members of those communities had accepted to sit and undertake an activity together. This enabled them not only to build relations with one another but also to work among their own communities to teach them first-aid techniques and promote basic humanitarian principles.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained in connection with past unrest in Fiji and Solomon Islands continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates, who monitored their treatment and living conditions and made confidential reports to the relevant authorities. Detainees held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, received visits from family members who lived on outlying islands.

### Fiji

- 17 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 1 newly registered, during 10 visits to 7 places of detention

### Solomon Islands

- 40 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 1 newly registered, during 4 visits to 3 places of detention
- 38 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support

## AUTHORITIES

With the technical support and advice of the ICRC, the Pacific States pursued their efforts to implement IHL. In particular, the newly established national IHL committees in the Cook Islands and Samoa received such support to help them get up and running.

In 2008, the Cook Islands acceded to the Biological Weapons Convention. The country also acceded to the Rome Statute following a two-day workshop on the issue organized by the Samoan attorney-general and the ICRC for representatives of 11 Pacific States. It also began to draft implementing legislation with ICRC support. Fiji acceded to Additional Protocols I, II and III and adopted implementing legislation, and New Zealand acceded to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property.

With ICRC support, the government of Kiribati drafted legislation to implement the Ottawa Convention, which was enacted by parliament in December. At a two-day workshop organized by the



Ministry of Internal Affairs and the ICRC, key representatives of Vanuatu's Foreign Affairs Ministry, the State Law Office and police also prepared draft legislation to implement the Ottawa Convention. The bill was then submitted to the Cabinet for its consideration and possible adoption.

At a meeting of the Pacific Islands Law Officers Network, co-hosted by New Zealand and Vanuatu in December, representatives of 13 Pacific States attended an ICRC presentation on the importance of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. By the end of the year, seven Pacific States (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau and Samoa) had signed the convention.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Representatives of the Pacific armed and security forces, including those departing on peacekeeping missions overseas, participated in ICRC seminars and presentations, including those held at the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law in Sydney. Such events served to raise awareness of IHL and the ICRC or to provide fora for the exchange of views on IHL-related matters.

The armed forces of Australia and New Zealand, which required no outside assistance in teaching advanced IHL to their troops, nevertheless regularly invited the ICRC and the Australian Red Cross to participate in their training courses. These included a two-week seminar on international peace operations, as well as command-post exercises, such as Australia's Vital Prospect and Excalibur exercises. On such occasions, the ICRC had the opportunity to enter into advanced dialogue with participants on neutral and independent humanitarian action and civil-military relations.

In the same vein, for the first time, participants in the regional joint military exercise Croix du Sud, organized by French armed forces in New Caledonia, benefited from the ICRC's participation in the event. Members of the armed forces of Australia, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu learnt about the ICRC's mandate and activities and the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Given their capacity to reach and influence a wide audience, the region's print, radio and television journalists were regularly provided with information and video footage on IHL and the ICRC, to encourage greater and more accurate coverage of issues of humanitarian concern. Journalists requested interviews with ICRC personnel on specific topics, such as the International Criminal Court, and on the organization's operations in specific contexts such as Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Israel and the Palestinian territories, and Myanmar. Ten senior ABC foreign correspondents were trained in IHL and the protection afforded to media workers in situations of conflict.

With ICRC support, a number of higher-education establishments continued in their efforts to promote the teaching of IHL, not only in law faculties, but also in faculties of international relations and journalism. For example, an intensive eight-day IHL course sponsored by the ICRC at the University of the South Pacific's Vanuatu campus sought to raise awareness of IHL among 42 students from 12 Pacific countries, so that they would return to their respective

countries and generate interest in the subject at their own universities. At the Australian National University, ICRC-led discussion fora brought together representatives of academia, the military and NGOs to exchange views on humanitarian action.

In Australia, representatives of NGOs learnt more about IHL and the protection it affords civilians and about the ICRC, its specific mandate and neutral and independent humanitarian action during two workshops organized by an umbrella organization of Australian NGOs, the Australian Red Cross and the ICRC.

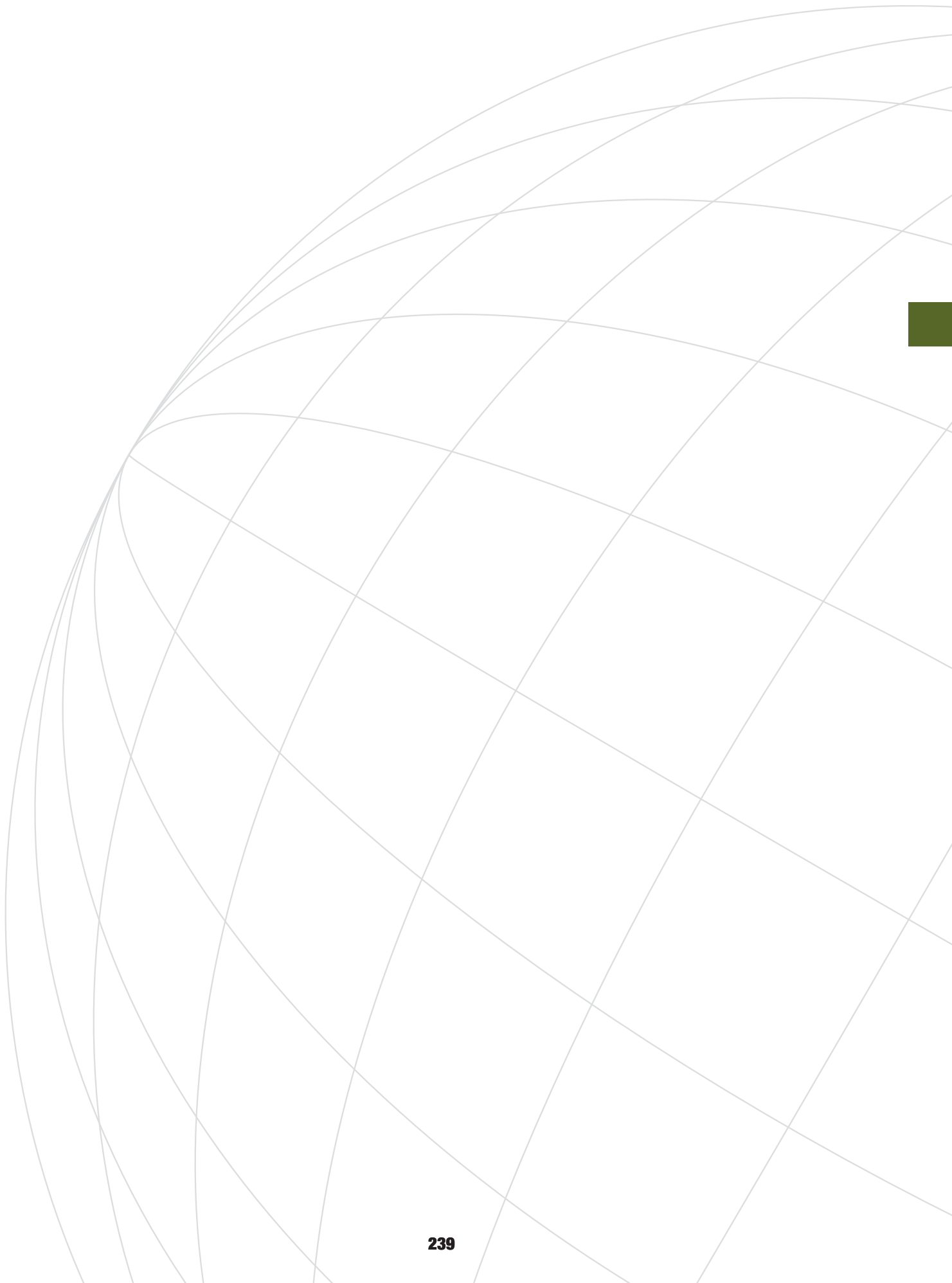
## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Cooperation with the region's National Societies – in particular, the Red Cross Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga – and the International Federation remained an ICRC priority. National Societies benefited from ICRC technical input, financial support, including for staff salaries, and training to help them to respond to needs arising from conflict, other situations of violence and natural disasters and to promote humanitarian principles, for example through radio and TV spots. For the first time, a concerted effort was made to build Pacific Island National Society capacities to restore family links.

The New Zealand Red Cross offered to assume a lead role in strengthening first-aid training among Pacific Island National Societies and in promoting the ICRC manual *First aid in armed conflicts and other situations of violence*. A consultative meeting was held in Wellington with the National Societies of Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tonga to assess the current level of expertise in the region. On this basis, the group concluded that the current 16-hour first-aid training package should be reinforced and/or supplemented by additional training sessions. The New Zealand Red Cross pledged to send an experienced trainer to co-facilitate the subsequent training events of other National Societies.

The Mount Hagen branch of the Papua New Guinea Red Cross in the Western Highlands received essential household items to replenish stocks that it distributed to meet the needs of families displaced by inter-tribal violence and natural disasters.

The Australian Red Cross and the ICRC organized a meeting to propose to eight Pacific Island National Societies a framework for building their capacities to restore family links. The framework was adopted unanimously, and over a four-month period, the Australian Red Cross conducted three general dissemination sessions and two introductory training sessions, on the management of human remains and on RCMs and basic tools for restoring family links.







## EUROPE DELEGATIONS

Armenia  
Azerbaijan  
Georgia

## EUROPE REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Budapest  
Kyiv  
Moscow  
Tashkent  
Western Balkans

Ankara  
Brussels  
International Tracing Service  
London  
Paris

## THE AMERICAS DELEGATIONS

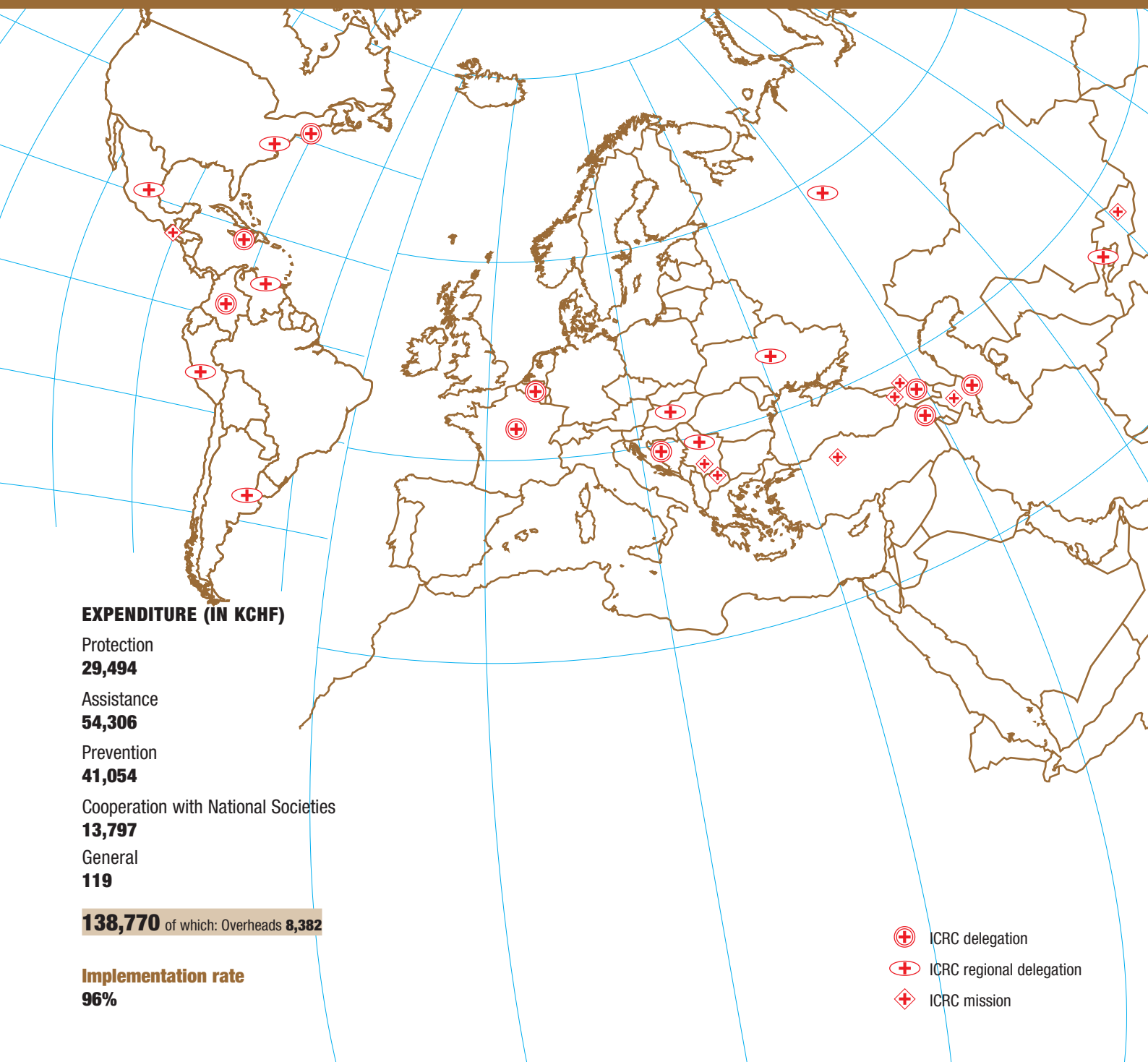
Colombia  
Haiti

## THE AMERICAS REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Buenos Aires  
Caracas  
Lima  
Mexico City  
Washington

New York

# EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS



## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection

**29,494**

Assistance

**54,306**

Prevention

**41,054**

Cooperation with National Societies

**13,797**

General

**119**

**138,770** of which: Overheads **8,382**

**Implementation rate**

**96%**

⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC mission

## EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

In 2008, the ICRC's main priorities across this region spanning three continents were to protect people deprived of their freedom, to seek clarification of the fate of people unaccounted for from past and current conflicts, and to assist and protect people directly affected by ongoing armed conflict, particularly in Colombia and South Ossetia. The ICRC also continued to promote IHL and foster a deeper understanding of its role and activities among the region's authorities, armed and security forces, universities and schools.

National Societies were the ICRC's main operational partners in many domains, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Colombia, Croatia, Georgia, Haiti and the Russian Federation. They continued to benefit from ICRC capacity-building support, in particular in the areas of disaster preparedness, the Safer Access approach, weapon contamination, restoring family links, and IHL dissemination. In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC also helped National Societies adapt their statutes and structures to Movement requirements.

The ICRC coordinated its activities with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian players in fields of common interest, in order to maximize impact, fill gaps and avoid duplication.

Across the region, delegates continued to visit detainees, particularly those held for reasons of State security, and sought access to others not yet visited. Whenever necessary, delegates also enabled the detainees to keep in touch with their families using the RCM network. After conducting private interviews with those held, the ICRC submitted confidential reports to the authorities, recommending measures, where necessary, for improving the detainees' treatment or living conditions.

The ICRC offered its expertise to governments acceding to IHL treaties and enacting national implementing legislation. It worked with the armed forces to incorporate IHL norms into military doctrine, operating procedures and manuals, while helping them to achieve autonomy in conducting IHL training programmes. A similar approach was employed with regard to police training in international human rights standards and humanitarian principles applicable to the use of force. The ICRC encouraged academic institutions and secondary schools to integrate IHL into their curricula. It further consolidated its network of media contacts to encourage journalists to highlight humanitarian concerns when reporting on conflicts around the world.

The region covered in this section comprises three sub-regions: Eastern Europe and Central Asia; North America and Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe; and Latin America and the Caribbean. The main ICRC activities in each sub-region in 2008 are summarized below.

### EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Immediately after the outbreak of the 2008 South Ossetia international armed conflict, the ICRC reminded all the parties of their obligations under IHL and requested their support in gaining access to conflict-affected people and responding to their emergency needs. From Tbilisi, Tskhinvali and Vladikavkaz, ICRC teams and National Society volunteers delivered emergency relief, supported health structures and rehabilitated collective centres

housing IDPs. They also visited people captured or detained in connection with the conflict and facilitated the exchange of family news and family reunifications.

Throughout the Caucasus, the ICRC continued to work with all stakeholders to determine the fate of missing persons and to provide support to their families. In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the authorities and the ICRC concluded framework agreements on the collection and management, by the respective State Commissions on Missing Persons, of ante-mortem data relating to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. Meetings took place between the Russian authorities and the ICRC, including during visits by the ICRC president, with the aim of accelerating the process of resolving cases of missing persons in the northern Caucasus and responding to the needs of their families. The relevant authorities were reminded of their obligation to provide answers to the families of people missing in connection with the Abkhazia and South Ossetia conflicts, but to no avail.

In Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC pursued its visits to people detained in connection with an armed conflict and for reasons of State security. The national authorities worked with the ICRC to screen and treat tuberculosis (TB) in prisons and to build the necessary national capacities to enable them to take over responsibility for TB control programmes. Visits to detainees in Uzbekistan resumed in March, and findings and plans for 2009 were discussed during high-level meetings between the authorities and the ICRC in December. The ICRC continued to act as a neutral intermediary, visiting POWs and civilian internees detained in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict and repatriating them upon their release, if they so wished. In the Russian Federation, where visits to detainees had been suspended because of the authorities' opposition to its standard procedures, the ICRC continued to organize family visits for sentenced detainees from Chechnya held far from their homes. It made no progress towards obtaining access to detainees in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

In addition to providing emergency assistance to victims of the South Ossetia conflict, in the northern Caucasus the ICRC ran livelihood-support programmes to boost the economic security of households in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia. It furnished expertise and equipment for the rehabilitation of water infrastructure, focusing on support to water boards in rural Chechnya. In and around Nagorny Karabakh, it provided affected communities with small-scale relief, supported rural health posts, and carried out projects to improve water supply and sanitation. In the Crimea, support to health posts in areas prone to inter-community tension was about to be redirected into a first-aid programme.

To help surgeons from all over the Caucasus respond to the needs of weapon-wounded patients, a war-surgery seminar was held in Nalchik for specialists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation. Furthermore, in Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Russian Federation (Chechnya) and Tajikistan, mine-affected communities continued to benefit from mine-risk education programmes. Disabled people, including mine victims, received physical rehabilitation services.

Efforts to promote IHL in academic circles saw a breakthrough with the signature, by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science, the National Red Crescent Society and the ICRC, of a framework agreement on the integration of IHL into State education standards and into the curricula of university law and international relations faculties.



## NORTH AMERICA AND WESTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

ICRC activities in North America remained focused on issues related to US detention at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, and on ensuring adequate coordination on similar issues regarding persons detained under US authority in Afghanistan and Iraq. The ICRC was again adamant that the US authorities had to define more clearly the status and rights of individual detainees/internees and ensure they fitted into a proper and adequate legal framework with procedural safeguards. This matter was at the heart of renewed discussions between the US authorities and the ICRC president during his mission to Washington in January. During the year, telephone calls between internees and their families were facilitated by the authorities in Guantanamo Bay, the ICRC and National Societies in the internees' countries of origin around the world.

In the Western Balkans, the ICRC monitored the detention conditions of people under investigation or sentenced for war crimes and visited people held by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

Ascertaining the fate of the some 14,000 people still unaccounted for remained a priority for the ICRC in the Western Balkans, and it continued to remind all the parties of their obligations in this respect. The organization lent its support to exhumation and identification processes and to the Bosnia and Herzegovina Missing Persons Institute. It maintained contact with the families of missing persons and supported their associations. It chaired three sessions of the Working Group on Missing Persons, the only forum for dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina on the issue of missing persons.

The ICRC's presence in Brussels, Budapest, London, Paris, New York and Washington provided a favourable environment to develop dialogue on IHL, the ICRC, the Movement and neutral and independent humanitarian action, in particular with intergovernmental organizations and their member States, and to enlist their support. In Brussels, for example, during European Parliament hearings, the ICRC had the opportunity to share its position on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and on the issue of women in conflict. In New York, in addition to conveying its humanitarian concerns in meetings of various UN bodies, the ICRC contributed to debates and reports on the protection of civilians and children during armed conflict and to the work of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on peacekeeping and best practices. In Washington, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at enhancing mutual efforts to promote IHL. From these capitals, the ICRC strengthened its network of contacts with influential sectors of society, such as NGOs, the media and think-tanks, to promote IHL and gain support for ICRC action.

In Brussels, the formal dialogue between NATO and the ICRC was strengthened. Meetings and various events provided opportunities to discuss issues such as the need for the ICRC to engage in dialogue with all parties to the conflict and to establish a clear distinction between neutral and independent humanitarian action and the civil-military work of Provincial Reconstruction Teams. NATO troops and US army and marine combat units were given ICRC briefings prior to their deployment, particularly to Afghanistan and Iraq.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Latin America and the Caribbean, respect for IHL, notably the protection of people not participating in armed conflict, remained a major ICRC concern, particularly in Colombia, where protection activities were again a priority. The ICRC made representations to the alleged perpetrators of IHL violations, reminded the authorities and weapon bearers in all its contacts with them of their obligations under IHL and explained the ICRC's neutrality and independence with a view to obtaining safe and unhindered access to victims. On several occasions it acted as a neutral intermediary between the parties to the conflict, facilitating medical evacuations, the release of people held by armed groups, or the recovery of human remains. Using the results of a 2007 ICRC/WFP study on the social and economic situation of IDPs and of a complementary internal evaluation, the ICRC continued to advocate improved services for IDPs. At the same time, it worked with the Colombian Red Cross to provide assistance directly to over 75,000 IDPs and conflict-affected residents. Communal water and sanitation facilities were upgraded and access to health services improved. Vulnerable communities were alerted to the dangers of mines and physical rehabilitation services offered to people in need.

In Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru, where poverty and inequality continued to spark outbursts of internal violence, the ICRC worked with police forces regarding the use of force during such incidents, and acted jointly with the National Society to address the needs of the most vulnerable victims of violence. In Haiti, the ICRC, together with the National Society, further developed humanitarian activities in the large shantytowns around Port-au-Prince, improving access to health facilities for the wounded and the sick, conducting sanitation and hygiene projects, and facilitating cooperation between all those involved. In Rio de Janeiro, in cooperation with the Brazilian Red Cross, the ICRC launched a first-aid project for inhabitants of four violence-affected *favelas*. It worked with national mechanisms for missing persons in Chile, Colombia, Guatemala and Peru and encouraged better coordination between the authorities and among national organizations working on the issue. It provided technical support for the exhumation and identification of human remains and assistance to families of missing persons, and afforded specialists the opportunity to share their expertise during workshops.

In Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Grenada, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela, ICRC delegates visited some 15,000 detainees to monitor their detention conditions and report to the authorities concerned. Particular attention was paid to penitentiary health care. For example, in Paraguay an ICRC assessment of health care in prisons prompted the Health and Justice ministries to conclude a cooperation agreement on incorporating detainee health care into the national health system. In Colombia, with ICRC technical support, the penitentiary administration organized seminars on prison health, including the third regional seminar for representatives of 10 Latin American countries and Spain. The health of detainees who were on hunger strike was monitored by ICRC doctors, in Chile and Peru for example.

In Mexico and Venezuela, the ICRC continued to discuss a comprehensive agreement on visits to detainees with the authorities. In Colombia, efforts to obtain access to people held by armed groups were again unsuccessful.



# armenia

The ICRC has been working in Armenia since 1992 in relation to the Nagorno Karabakh armed conflict. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees held in connection with the conflict, or for security reasons, or who are otherwise vulnerable, and monitors the situation of communities along the international border with Azerbaijan. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis under control in prisons. It also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. The ICRC works to strengthen the capacities of the Armenian Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Protection                          | 856 |
| Assistance                          | 884 |
| Prevention                          | 789 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 281 |
| General                             | -   |

► **2,810**

of which: Overheads 171

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 87% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | expatriates                                 |
| 53 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- signed a framework agreement with the authorities on the collection and centralized management of ante-mortem data on POWs, hostages and missing persons in relation to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict
- trained National Society volunteers in the collection of ante-mortem data
- facilitated the repatriation or transfer of released POWs and civilian internees formerly held in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict
- visited detainees held in the aftermath of post-electoral violence
- scaled back its support to the authorities in controlling tuberculosis in prisons, given significant progress in this area

## CONTEXT

Presidential elections took place in February, with the prime minister, Serzh Sargsian, winning in the first round. The result was immediately contested by supporters of the second-placed candidate, former president Levon Ter-Petrossian. Clashes between demonstrators and police led to several deaths and were followed by the declaration of a state of emergency, with the army deployed in the capital and more than 100 people arrested. The state of emergency came to an end shortly before the official investiture of the new president.

The UN General Assembly passed a non-binding resolution introduced by Azerbaijan that demanded “the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan”. Most voting States abstained and the three co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which was established to encourage a peaceful settlement of the conflict, voted against the resolution. Despite several meetings between the foreign ministers and the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, little progress was made in finding a permanent solution to the conflict. Indeed, the year saw periods of increased tension, and there were regular reports of exchanges of fire along the Line of Contact and the international border.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total         | Women | Children |
|---|-------|---|---------------|-------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |       | <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>     |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited   | 1,899 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i> |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 18    |   |               |       |          |
| Number of visits carried out  | 35    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects      | Beneficiaries | 1,568 |          |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 12    |   |               |       |          |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |       |   |               |       |          |
| RCMs collected  | 25    |   |               |       |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 25    |   |               |       |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |       |   |               |       |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 7     |   |               |       |          |
| of whom females   | 1     |   |               |       |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 5     |   |               |       |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 412   |   |               |       |          |
| of which for females  | 26    |   |               |       |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance                      | 33    |   |               |       |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 1     |   |               |       |          |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC in Armenia continued to tackle the humanitarian consequences of the unresolved Nagorny Karabakh conflict. A framework agreement signed by the ICRC and the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons paved the way for the collection of ante-mortem data on persons missing in relation to the conflict to begin. Following training by the ICRC, National Society volunteers started to collect data.

ICRC delegates monitored the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom, visiting people held in connection with the conflict, as well as other detainees, and regularly providing confidential feedback to the authorities. In the first part of the year, particular focus was placed on visiting people arrested in connection with the post-electoral disturbances. Given the progress made in recent years in reducing the prevalence of tuberculosis (TB) in Armenia's prisons and in view of the input of other international actors in this field, the ICRC significantly scaled back its support to the Health and Justice ministries.

The ICRC worked with the Ministry of Defence to provide IHL training for the armed forces, with Armenian officers sponsored to attend train-the-trainer courses in the Russian Federation and future IHL instructors taking part in ICRC-run courses.

In partnership with Armenian universities, the ICRC organized courses, competitions and an international conference to stimulate interest in and increase knowledge of IHL among students, researchers and lecturers. It supported the education authorities in their efforts to promote knowledge of IHL among schoolchildren through the incorporation of IHL into the new secondary school curriculum. Through briefings and the distribution of fact sheets, the ICRC encouraged the media to provide the public with accurate coverage of IHL and other humanitarian issues, such as respect for the dignity of POWs and civilian internees.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Armenian Red Cross Society continued. In addition to their partnership on ante-mortem data collection, this included building the capacities of the

National Society in tracing, dissemination, and first-aid training, carried out in close coordination with the International Federation.

## CIVILIANS

Ceasefire violations and the presence of mines along the international border with Azerbaijan continued to affect the lives of the local civilian population, particularly in the northern region of Tavush, where villagers reported regular cross-border exchanges of fire. Through field trips and its contacts with the civilian and military authorities and the local branch of the Armenian Red Cross, the ICRC kept abreast of the situation. During these field trips, civilians were able to raise their concerns with the ICRC, which brought them to the attention of the authorities.

## Clarifying the fate of missing persons and supporting their families

By the end of December 2008, 4,478 people were still unaccounted for as a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, and the ICRC was in contact in Armenia with the families of 412 missing persons. A sample of these families was interviewed with a view to identifying areas in which the ICRC could strengthen its direct support and advocacy work. Some families also approached the ICRC and provided new information concerning their relatives. This information was shared with the authorities concerned, who were reminded of their obligation to provide answers to the families.

A framework agreement on the collection and centralized management of ante-mortem data on persons missing in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict was signed in October by the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons and the ICRC. Following the signing of an operational project agreement by the Armenian Red Cross and the ICRC, National Society volunteers were trained and data collection began. Volunteers also received follow-up training and psychological support. By the end of the year, some 90 families had been interviewed by these volunteers and ICRC staff in all 11 districts of the country, including Yerevan.

RCMs remained the only means for some family members separated by the conflict to communicate with one another. Families were in some cases reunited with the help of the ICRC, and one person was issued with a travel document.

- 20 RCMs collected from and 21 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 7 people (1 female); 5 people located; 412 people (26 females; 33 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People held in places of detention under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, the State Police Service, the National Security Service and the Ministry of Defence, including those arrested in relation to post-electoral events, were visited by the ICRC in accordance with its mandate and standard working procedures. Their treatment and living conditions were assessed, and the authorities regularly provided with confidential feedback. Detainees were able to re-establish and maintain contact with their families through the exchange of RCMs. Some received visits from their families with ICRC support.

Among those visited by the ICRC was an Azerbaijani civilian internee captured at the end of 2006 and visited until his release in January 2008, following which he was resettled by other organizations in a third country in conformity with his expressed wish. Following their capture and detention by the Armenian authorities, two Azerbaijani soldiers and another Azerbaijani civilian internee were visited by the ICRC and their living conditions and treatment monitored in accordance with the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions respectively.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the return home, after their release, of three POWs: one repatriated from Armenia to Azerbaijan, one repatriated from Azerbaijan to Armenia, and one transferred from Nagorny Karabakh to Azerbaijan. It did the same for two civilian internees: one transferred from Azerbaijan to Nagorny Karabakh and one repatriated from Armenia to Azerbaijan. Other vulnerable detainees, such as women, minors and citizens of States without diplomatic representation in Armenia, were also monitored and provided with material assistance as needed, with a view to improving their physical and mental well-being. Foreign detainees obtained hygiene kits and clothing from the ICRC. One ex-detainee was assisted in finding accommodation.

### Armenia

- 1,895 detainees visited, of whom 14 monitored individually, during 18 visits to 10 places of detention
- 1 RCM collected from a detainee
- 3 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support

### In Armenia, in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict

- 4 detainees visited and monitored individually, of whom 3 newly registered, during 17 visits to 2 places of detention
- 4 RCMs collected from and 4 RCMs distributed to detainees

## Improving health in prisons

Given the considerable progress made in recent years in reducing the prevalence of TB in Armenia's prisons and in view of the input of international actors such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Médecins Sans Frontières, the ICRC significantly scaled back its support to the Ministries of Justice and Health. This process was informed by the recommendations of a review commissioned by the ICRC that involved all national and international stakeholders. Efforts during the year to ensure long-term sustainability of TB activities included staff training and the publication of manuals, while information campaigns promoted safe behaviour amongst staff and detainees. The penitentiary and civilian health sectors were also advised in their efforts to coordinate their activities, with a view to helping them bring TB under control throughout Armenia. The work of the national TB reference laboratory benefited from staff training and technical support in maintaining equipment.

Prison staff were sponsored by the ICRC to participate in national and international courses covering first aid, TB management, harm reduction and radiological diagnostic methods.

Detainees benefited from the ICRC's efforts to improve and ensure maintenance of the penitentiary system's physical infrastructure, which contributed to better hygiene and infection control measures, through:

- the creation of maintenance workshops in 4 prisons
- the construction of a multi-drug resistant TB treatment room and installation of better ventilation in wards
- provision of roofing materials to assist in the construction of a narcology department within the hospital for detainees, thereby freeing up space for the treatment of TB patients

## WOUNDED AND SICK

One military and one civilian surgeon augmented their skills and knowledge at the yearly ICRC war-surgery seminar in Nalchik, Russian Federation, with ICRC financial support.

## AUTHORITIES

The Armenian authorities and the ICRC met regularly to discuss humanitarian issues and review Armenia's progress in the ratification of key IHL treaties, such as Additional Protocol III, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Rome Statute. They were advised on the implementation of treaties to which the country was already party, such as the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property, and on the adoption of national legislation on the rights of missing persons and their families, especially in light of the results of the family needs assessment (see *Civilians*).

These discussions were pursued at national and regional fora, including a regional seminar on IHL implementation organized by the ICRC and hosted by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Interparliamentary Assembly in St Petersburg, Russian Federation (see *Moscow*).



## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Ministry of Defence strengthened its cooperation with the ICRC on the integration of IHL into military training, formalized by the signing of a joint plan of action for 2008. Armenian officers were sponsored by the ICRC to attend train-the-trainer courses in the Russian Federation and received ICRC training in Armenia itself, with a view to later contributing to the drafting of military documentation and running training courses in their units.

Some 70 officers and soldiers heading for Kosovo as part of the NATO-led peacekeeping force participated in pre-deployment briefings on the ICRC's mandate and activities.

In the framework of NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, Armenia hosted an international military exercise. Scenarios and role-play activities included elements of IHL, with ICRC involvement in the planning and running of these aspects of the exercise.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness of IHL among the general public

The media continued to work with the ICRC to promote public awareness of humanitarian issues, including the ICRC's mandate and activities. They were encouraged through briefings and the distribution of printed materials to provide accurate coverage of humanitarian issues, such as respect for the dignity of POWs and civilian internees. Young journalists participated in a workshop organized by the ICRC and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting to enhance their ability to report accurately on such issues.

### Teaching humanitarian values to schoolchildren

The education authorities worked with the ICRC on incorporating IHL into the new secondary school curriculum. Local experts charged with writing preliminary military education textbooks participated in a seminar conducted by the ICRC on the basics of IHL, following which the appropriate content was integrated into the military education curriculum and into new 8th grade textbooks.

### Promoting IHL in universities

Leading Armenian universities worked with the ICRC to consolidate IHL teaching and research in law faculties and to stimulate interest in and increase knowledge of the subject among lecturers and students. Lecturers and students participated in IHL events with this in mind, including:

- ▶ the Jean Pictet IHL competition in Switzerland
- ▶ the Martens Readings conference in the Russian Federation
- ▶ an international conference in Yerevan co-organized by the ICRC and the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) State University, at which young researchers from countries of the CIS, Eastern Europe and Iran presented papers
- ▶ a national moot court competition

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Armenian Red Cross continued to respond to the needs of people affected by conflict, with ICRC technical, financial and training support, provided in close coordination with the International Federation. In addition to its partnership with the ICRC on ante-mortem data collection, the National Society:

- ▶ carried out an evaluation which led to measures being taken to improve its tracing services
- ▶ raised public awareness of IHL and support for its activities through a revamped website and a mobile photo exhibition
- ▶ ran first-aid training courses for communities living close to the international border with Azerbaijan
- ▶ began to adapt its legal base to improve the efficiency of its programmes following decisions taken during statutory meetings





# azerbaijan

The ICRC has been working in Azerbaijan since 1992 in relation to the Nagorno Karabakh armed conflict. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees held in connection with the conflict, detained for security reasons or otherwise vulnerable, and monitors the situation of communities along the Line of Contact. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis in prisons under control. The ICRC promotes the implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. It works to strengthen the capacities of the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,539 |
| Assistance                          | 1,933 |
| Prevention                          | 1,374 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 373   |
| General                             | -     |

► **6,220**

of which: Overheads 380

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 91% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 10 | expatriates                                 |
| 62 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- signed a framework agreement with the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons on the collection and management of ante-mortem data on persons missing in relation to the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh, and a similar agreement with the Commission in Nagorno Karabakh
- trained National Society volunteers in the collection of ante-mortem data
- in cooperation with local authorities and communities, rebuilt water supply systems in conflict-affected villages
- facilitated the repatriation or transfer of released POWs and civilian internees formerly held in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict
- supported the Ministry of Justice in tackling multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in prisons by constructing, equipping and staffing the national reference laboratory

## CONTEXT

The political situation in Azerbaijan was stable, with the president, Ilham Aliyev, elected for a second term in November.

The UN General Assembly passed a non-binding resolution introduced by Azerbaijan that demanded “the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Armenian forces from all the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan”. Most voting States abstained and the three co-chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which was established to encourage a peaceful settlement of the conflict, voted against the resolution. Despite several meetings between the foreign ministers and the presidents of Armenia and Azerbaijan, little progress was made in finding a peaceful solution to the conflict. Indeed, the year saw periods of increased tension, and there were regular reports of exchanges of fire along the Line of Contact and the international border.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |   | Total         | Women  | Children    |
|---|--------|---|---------------|--------|-------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |        | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |               |        |             |
| Detainees visited   | 13,416 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |               |        |             |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 112    | Food  | Beneficiaries | 300    | 70%         |
| Number of visits carried out  | 110    | Essential household items                             | Beneficiaries | 300    | 70%         |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 61     | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | Beneficiaries | 2,285  | 40% 30%     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        | <i>Health</i>   |               |        |             |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |        | Health centres supported                              | Structures    | 70     |             |
| RCMs collected  | 109    | Consultations   | Patients      | 21,566 |             |
| RCMs distributed  | 82     | of which curative                                     | Patients      |        | 7,941 1,220 |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |        | of which ante/post-natal                              | Patients      |        | 2,999 5,523 |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 88     |   |               |        |             |
| of whom females   | 8      |   |               |        |             |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                           | 2      |   |               |        |             |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 12     |   |               |        |             |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 4,066  |   |               |        |             |
| of which for females  | 338    |   |               |        |             |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance                      | 75     |   |               |        |             |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |   |               |        |             |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 22     |   |               |        |             |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC in Azerbaijan continued to tackle the humanitarian consequences of the unresolved Nagorny Karabakh conflict. In April, it signed a framework agreement with the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons on the collection and centralized management of ante-mortem data on persons missing in relation to the conflict. National Society volunteers were trained by the ICRC, and data collection began in the Baku area in June. The ICRC signed a similar framework agreement with the Commission in Nagorny Karabakh in October.

The needs of the families of missing persons were assessed to identify areas in which the ICRC could adapt its support and advocacy work. On the basis of the initial findings, families were provided with information, including the contact details of organizations providing legal, medical and social support throughout the country.

Tensions along the Line of Contact and the international border with Armenia and their impact on the lives and livelihoods of the civilian population living in the area continued to give rise to needs requiring an ICRC response. This response included the rehabilitation of water supplies and activities carried out in partnership with the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan. The regular presence of the ICRC in the area enabled it to strengthen its dialogue with representatives of local communities and the authorities with a view to improving the situation of the affected population.

ICRC delegates monitored the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom, regularly providing confidential feedback to the authorities. Given the epidemic of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) in Azerbaijan's prisons, the ICRC continued to provide material support and expert advice to the authorities in their efforts to combat the disease, and to encourage and advise the ministries of Health and Justice in the coordination of their activities.

The ICRC provided IHL training to military and police officers, interior troops and border guards. It boosted the efforts of the

education authorities to teach IHL-related subjects to young people by training secondary school teachers and by running IHL courses and competitions for university students. It promoted public awareness of humanitarian issues, particularly ICRC activities with regard to the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh, by regularly briefing and providing information to journalists.

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Azerbaijani Red Crescent continued. In addition to the partnership on ante-mortem data collection, this included building safe play areas to protect children in front-line areas from gunfire, mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

## CIVILIANS

The civilian population living near the Line of Contact and the international border with Armenia, including IDPs, continued to report regular breaches of the ceasefire and the presence of mines and ERW. They were able to raise their concerns with the ICRC during its regular field trips to affected areas and, through ICRC intercession, bring them to the attention of the authorities.

In March, the Azerbaijani Red Crescent assessed the impact of mines and ERW in contaminated areas, following which safe play areas were constructed in seven communities in an operational partnership with the ICRC.

In Fizuli district, the living conditions of IDPs in areas close to the Line of Contact improved following the rehabilitation of the drinking water supply, which was directed into the village by ICRC technicians. Previously, members of this community, usually women, had been required to walk several kilometres to fetch water safely. Similarly, a project jointly undertaken by members of the community in Gedabey district and the ICRC rehabilitated the water supply and storage system for people living there.

► 1,315 people benefited from water projects

### Clarifying the fate of missing persons and supporting their families

The updating and consolidation of lists of missing persons by the ICRC and the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons continued in 2008. By the end of the year, 4,478 people were still unaccounted for as a result of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, with 4,066 cases of missing persons being handled by the ICRC in Azerbaijan.

A framework agreement on the collection and centralized management of ante-mortem data on persons missing in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict was signed in April by the State Commission and the ICRC. Soon afterwards, following the signing of an operational project agreement, National Society volunteers underwent training by ICRC experts and began data collection. Volunteers received follow-up training and regular psychological support. The process generated a large amount of media coverage (see *Civil society*), raising the profile of the issue among the public and providing information to the families. By the end of the year, 777 of the 1,389 families of missing persons living in the Baku area had been interviewed and the second phase of the project, to interview more than 1,000 families in the Barda area, was being planned.

In parallel, families of missing persons were interviewed, with a view to identifying and then meeting their needs. On the basis of the initial results, they were given information, including the contact details of organizations providing legal, medical and social support throughout the country.

In Nagorny Karabakh, following advocacy efforts by the ICRC, a working group was established which was provided with office equipment to help it start work. A framework agreement on ante-mortem data collection was signed in October, and the ICRC's consolidated lists of missing persons were submitted to it. By the end of the year, 18 family questionnaires had been completed.

RCMs remained the only means for some family members separated by conflict to communicate with one another. Families were in some cases reunited with the help of the ICRC, which issued them with travel documents.

- 51 RCMs collected from and 41 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 88 people (8 females; 2 minors at the time of disappearance); 12 people located; 4,066 people (338 females; 75 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 22 people issued with an ICRC travel document

### Delivering assistance and boosting health services in Nagorny Karabakh

Vulnerable people in urban areas of Nagorny Karabakh, including pensioners living alone, continued to cope in difficult conditions with assistance from the ICRC in the form of parcels containing necessities such as food, soap and washing powder. An orphanage and the association for the deaf and dumb in Stepanakert/Khankendi were supplied with blankets, warm clothing, boots and candles in cold weather.

- 300 people received food
- 300 people received essential household items

The primary health care system in Nagorny Karabakh lacked resources and a steady supply of medicines. Seventy rural health centres were supplied with drugs and medical consumables by the

ICRC to help rectify the situation. Epidemiological services received donations of drugs for a campaign against intestinal parasites among schoolchildren. The rural population also received information on reducing food-borne and air-borne infections when some 26,000 leaflets were distributed to them.

In the 70 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 13,000):

- 21,566 people given consultations, including 8,522 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 13,044 attending curative consultations

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in permanent and pre-trial detention facilities under the authority of the Ministries of National Security, Defence, Interior and Justice were visited by the ICRC in accordance with the organization's mandate and standard working procedures. Their treatment and living conditions were assessed and the authorities provided with confidential feedback. Detainees were able to correspond with their families through RCMs. In Nagorny Karabakh, four detainees were visited by their families through ICRC-sponsored visits.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the return home, after their release, of three POWs: one repatriated from Armenia to Azerbaijan, one repatriated from Azerbaijan to Armenia, and one transferred from Nagorny Karabakh to Azerbaijan. It did the same for two civilian internees: one transferred from Azerbaijan to Nagorny Karabakh and one repatriated from Armenia to Azerbaijan. The ICRC also facilitated the transfer of the remains of one Azerbaijani soldier from Nagorny Karabakh to Azerbaijan.

Penitentiary, law enforcement and armed forces personnel attended presentations on the ICRC's detention-related activities, which enabled this information to be spread as widely as possible among those involved in detention work.

### Azerbaijan

- 13,408 detainees visited, of whom 104 monitored individually and 61 newly registered, during 94 visits to 56 places of detention
- 38 RCMs collected from and 23 RCMs distributed to detainees; 30 calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative

### In relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict

- in Azerbaijan, 7 detainees visited and monitored, of whom 6 newly registered, during 12 visits to 4 places of detention
- in Nagorny Karabakh, 1 detainee newly registered and monitored during 4 visits to 1 place of detention
- 20 RCMs collected from and 18 distributed to detainees; 3 calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative

### Improving health in prisons

The authorities pursued their efforts to tackle the epidemic of MDR TB in Azerbaijan's prisons, with technical and financial support from the ICRC, including in the implementation of the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS)-plus pilot project. The ministries of Health and Justice were also advised on

coordinating their activities and developing joint policies to tackle TB throughout society, in particular through the national MDR TB working group. Together the two ministries endorsed a control plan for blood-borne infections.

Following completion of an ICRC survey among detainees and prison staff, a report on HIV in prisons was sent to the Justice Ministry, leading to the organization of a workshop at which the findings were presented. Recommendations were made by the experts present and plans to implement them developed.

Penitentiary staff were sponsored by the ICRC to enhance their knowledge and skills at international training courses on second-line drug susceptibility testing, X-ray examinations and harm reduction activities among detainees co-infected with TB/HIV. The head of the Main Medical Department of the Justice Ministry attended the International Harm Reduction Association conference in Spain, which included sessions on combating TB and other diseases in prisons.

With technical advice and material support from a German development bank and the ICRC, the national reference laboratory was constructed and equipped, staff were trained and the laboratory began work. Maintenance work was also carried out, including at the prison TB hospital in Baku. The bacteriological laboratory at the hospital performed 15,469 sputum smear examinations and 4,360 cultures, and undertook 941 drug sensitivity tests.

- ▶ 745 detainees began DOTS treatment
- ▶ 558 detainees completed DOTS treatment
- ▶ 54 detainees began DOTS-plus treatment
- ▶ 970 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Since mid-2007, when the ICRC had terminated its direct technical support, the Ahmedly Prosthetic Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre in Baku and the centre's two branches in Ganja and Nakhichevan had been operating autonomously under the authority of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. These institutions remained in contact with the ICRC, and the centre in Baku received a one-off donation of materials. Nine amputees from Chechnya living in Azerbaijan were provided with prostheses in a joint project between the centre and the ICRC.

Two surgeons (one civilian, one military) augmented their skills and knowledge at the yearly ICRC war-surgery seminar in Nalchik, Russian Federation, with ICRC financial support.

## AUTHORITIES

Parliamentarians and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Commission on Prisoners of War, Hostages and Missing Persons held a series of meetings with the ICRC. The authorities were advised on the implementation of IHL treaties to which the country was already party, including at a regional seminar on IHL implementation organized by the ICRC and hosted by the Commonwealth of Independent States Interparliamentary Assembly in St Petersburg, Russian Federation (see *Moscow*).

In light of the start of ante-mortem data collection, the authorities were encouraged to work on the drafting of legislation regarding the

legal status of missing persons and their families and the exhumation and identification of human remains. To assist them, a national expert was commissioned by the ICRC to prepare a summary of the recommendations resulting from a study of the compatibility of Azerbaijani law and the requirements of international law. Judges and prosecutors took part in ICRC-led presentations and discussions on the repression of war crimes and international criminal justice as part of their training.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Promoting IHL among the armed forces

The military authorities in Azerbaijan held regular meetings with the ICRC to discuss progress made on the integration of IHL into armed forces' training. Military instructors and senior officers continued to attend ICRC-run training courses.

Officers responsible for combat education participated in a training course in Nagorny Karabakh, and 150 senior officers there attended a presentation on the ICRC's role and mandate.

### Familiarizing interior troops, police and border guards with IHL and international human rights law

The working group charged with overseeing the integration of IHL and international human rights law into the training and doctrine of Azerbaijan's interior troops continued to work with the ICRC, and officers and staff of the police academy participated in training sessions on these subjects. More than 500 police officers stationed along and near the front line received information on IHL during ICRC briefings conducted in 14 districts.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Promoting IHL through the media

The media continued to work with the ICRC to promote public awareness of humanitarian issues, including the ICRC's mandate and activities. Journalists attended courses and briefings and received leaflets and fact sheets. They reported on ICRC activities in regions along the front line, including on the construction of safe play areas for children and water rehabilitation projects. There was also widespread reporting of the signing of the framework agreement on the collection and centralized management of ante-mortem data (see *Civilians*), including coverage by all six national television channels. Families of missing persons were informed of the imminent data collection process through announcements prepared by the ICRC and aired free of charge on television channels and radio stations.

### Teaching humanitarian values to schoolchildren

The Ministry of Education and the ICRC worked together to strengthen IHL teaching in secondary schools. IHL-related topics were included in the curricula of secondary schools. To back up this progress, trainee teachers and their trainers attended ICRC presentations on IHL, the organization's mandate and activities, and IHL teaching methods.

To increase their knowledge of IHL, schoolchildren in Nagorny Karabakh watched puppet shows and took part in a writing competition on IHL-related themes.

### Promoting IHL in universities

Journalism students at Baku State University participated in an ICRC presentation, which provided the ICRC with an opportunity to promote understanding of its activities among future journalists. Students, including in Nagorny Karabakh, attended ICRC-run courses and presentations, at which they learnt about and discussed IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

- 12 teams from 9 universities participated in the 3rd national IHL moot court competition
- students from the international law faculty of Baku State University took part in an IHL course in Poland

### RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Azerbaijani Red Crescent continued to respond to the needs of people affected by conflict. In addition to its partnership with the ICRC on ante-mortem data collection, this included building seven safe play areas to protect children from gunfire, mines and ERW in front-line areas and following up ex-detainees who had started MDR TB treatment while in detention.

The National Society's dissemination work was strengthened through the participation of volunteers in ICRC information sessions on IHL, the Movement, the Fundamental Principles and the emblem. The volunteers were then in turn able to carry out training sessions across the country, at the same time testing a dissemination manual, which was later modified and improved.

The National Society also worked on developing modern communication tools, such as a new website, with ICRC advice and technical support.

Regular consultations and coordination meetings between the National Society and the ICRC were held to increase the efficiency of these activities.



# georgia



The ICRC has been present in Georgia since 1992. It visits detainees throughout Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and supports the authorities in bringing tuberculosis in prisons under control. It contributes to efforts to provide answers to families of missing persons and protects and assists displaced people and other vulnerable groups in conflict-affected regions. The ICRC also promotes the integration of IHL into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. In cooperation with Movement partners, the ICRC helps to strengthen the capacities of the National Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 2,933  |
| Assistance                          | 13,896 |
| Prevention                          | 1,525  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,512  |
| General                             | -      |

► **19,867**

of which: Overheads 1,125

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 92% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 25  | expatriates                                 |
| 135 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- reminded the parties to the international armed conflict in August of their obligations under IHL
- worked closely with local branches of the National Society and other Movement partners, while coordinating the Movement's humanitarian response to the armed conflict
- provided emergency relief and shelter support to victims of the conflict
- visited POWs and security detainees, including those held in relation to the 2008 hostilities, providing confidential feedback to the authorities
- helped family members separated by armed conflict to restore contact, in some cases reuniting them with relatives at their request
- provided kits to hospitals to treat the weapon-wounded and supported medical facilities

## CONTEXT

Mikheil Saakashvili won the presidential election in January 2008. In parliamentary elections in May, the ruling National Movement Party obtained a constitutional majority, although there were allegations of flaws in the election process. The opposition held demonstrations to contest the results.

In August, heavy fighting erupted between Georgian troops and South Ossetian separatist forces. The Russian Federation sent troops into South Ossetia, took control of Tskhinvali, bombed military bases in Georgia and deployed militarily in parts of western Georgia and the Gori area. Operations by Abkhaz separatist forces resulted in a modification of the demarcation line between them and Georgia's armed forces to include the whole Kodori valley on the Abkhaz side. These events followed earlier armed conflicts and years of tensions and security incidents.

Several hundred people were reportedly killed and several thousand injured in the hostilities. Tens of thousands of people throughout Georgia fled the fighting and reported threats to their security from weapon bearers. Many ended up in collective centres, often schools and other public buildings. Many civilians lacked food and access to medical services.

The Georgian and Russian authorities agreed to a ceasefire on 16 August. Russian forces withdrew from western Georgia, Gori and the area north of Gori, after temporarily occupying self-declared "buffer zones" beyond the administrative boundaries of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. On 26 August, the Russian Federation recognized the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Georgia broke off diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation and withdrew from the Commonwealth of Independent States.

By the end of December, most IDPs had returned to their homes to find difficult living conditions. Thousands of others, mainly from South Ossetia, could not return and were usually accommodated in collective centres or in State-built "settlements".

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |  | Total         | Women  | Children |
|--|--------|--|---------------|--------|----------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)   |        | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM |               |        |          |
| Detainees visited  | 22,174 | Economic security, water and habitat           |               |        |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually   | 153    | Food   | Beneficiaries | 61,185 | 45%10%   |
| of whom females  | 6      | Essential household items                      | Beneficiaries | 71,357 | 43%13%   |
| Number of visits carried out   | 73     | Water, sanitation and habitat projects         | Beneficiaries | 85,694 | 28%14%   |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 29     | Health   |               |        |          |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |        | Health centres supported                       | Structures    | 29     |          |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications   |        | Consultations                                  | Patients      | 6,478  |          |
| RCMs collected   | 1,666  | WOUNDED AND SICK                               |               |        |          |
| RCMs distributed   | 1,604  | Hospitals supported                            | Structures    | 2      |          |
| People reunited with their families  | 241    | Physical rehabilitation                        |               |        |          |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons   |        | Patients receiving services                    | Patients      | 1,121  | 134355   |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered   | 1,194  | Prostheses delivered                           | Units         | 336    | 4217     |
| of whom females  | 419    | Orthoses delivered                             | Units         | 692    | 61590    |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance  | 52     |  |               |        |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)  | 1,041  |  |               |        |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)   | 139    |  |               |        |          |
| of which for females   | 25     |  |               |        |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance   | 8      |  |               |        |          |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers |        |  |               |        |          |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC  | 2      |  |               |        |          |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |        |  |               |        |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued  | 2      |  |               |        |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued  | 38     |  |               |        |          |

## ICRC ACTION

Following the outbreak of the hostilities in August, the ICRC reminded the parties of their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms to respect and protect people not or no longer participating in the armed conflict and to meet the basic needs of the affected population.

The ICRC responded to the needs of people affected by the conflict by delivering emergency relief, supporting health facilities and rehabilitating collective centres. It stepped in to help family members split up by the hostilities to restore contact. At their request, some people were reunited with their families across front lines through transfers organized by the ICRC, which shared information on the transfers with the authorities. The ICRC also reminded the parties concerned of their obligation to provide answers to the families of missing persons on the fate of their relatives and offered its services as a neutral intermediary to assist in the resolution of cases. The ICRC visited POWs and security detainees and provided confidential feedback to the detaining authorities concerned. It also supplied the authorities with materials to help them raise awareness of the risks to civilians posed by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In delivering assistance to civilians, the ICRC worked closely with Georgian Red Cross volunteers, with National Societies working internationally and with the International Federation. As lead agency, in line with the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures, the ICRC supported Movement partners, coordinated activities in order to maximize impact, fill gaps and avoid duplication, and mobilized support for the National Society.

In addition to visiting people held in connection with the international armed conflict, the ICRC continued to visit detainees regularly throughout Georgia and to report its findings and recommendations confidentially to the authorities. The Justice Ministry and the ICRC completed a health needs assessment in Georgian prisons and pursued efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB), despite complications arising from the outsourcing of health care in prisons to a private insurance company.

Progress on resolving cases of missing persons from the different conflicts stalled owing to tensions between the parties, despite ICRC efforts to bring them together to agree on ways to move forward. The needs of families of missing persons were assessed in Abkhazia to identify and fill any gaps in support.

The ICRC provided limited support to physical rehabilitation services in Gagra and Tbilisi and enabled patients from South Ossetia to travel to the Russian Federation for such services.

Efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties continued. The Defence Ministry and the ICRC worked together to advance the integration of IHL into the armed forces' training, doctrine, standard operating procedures and sanctions. The ICRC continued to assist the Education Ministry in introducing IHL-related topics into school curricula and textbooks and supported universities in teaching IHL. It familiarized the media with its work, resulting in widespread coverage of its activities.

In cooperation with the International Federation, the ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Society of Georgia in implementing its new statutes and developing its operational capacity.

## CIVILIANS

### Promoting respect for IHL

Following the outbreak of hostilities in August, tens of thousands of civilians fled their homes, some returning later in the year. Others remained at home throughout the hostilities, despite reported security incidents. The ICRC followed the situation closely and reminded all the parties of their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms to respect and protect people not or no longer participating in the hostilities and to meet the basic needs of the affected population.

### Delivering immediate and longer-term assistance

Following the outbreak of the international armed conflict, civilians in South Ossetia and central and western Georgia were provided with food and essential household items to meet their immediate survival needs by the ICRC working closely with local branches of the National Society. In November, the focus switched to ensuring that vulnerable civilians would be able to cope in winter, for which purpose they received food rations, essential household items, hygiene kits and, in some cases, firewood.

Many people displaced by the armed conflict were accommodated in collective centres, which were often in poor condition. In central and western Georgia, rehabilitation and winterization work on the centres, along with the training of staff and residents in maintenance, was undertaken by the ICRC in coordination with the Ministry of Refugees and Resettlement. Collective centres housing people displaced by previous armed conflicts were also rehabilitated.

Residents living in damaged buildings received shelter materials and assistance in repairing their homes. Public services, such as the water supply in Tskhinvali, were restored with the help of equipment and technical assistance provided by the ICRC.

Following the signing of a memorandum of understanding and further rehabilitation and maintenance work, the ICRC handed over its database containing the technical specifications of collective centres in western and eastern Georgia, compiled during its six-year rehabilitation programme, to the Georgian authorities. The handover began with an update of the database and the training of staff in its management.

- ▶ 61,185 people (13,826 households) received food, including 45,944 IDPs and, in South Ossetia, 15,241 residents or returnees
- ▶ 71,357 people (19,729 households) received essential household items, including 52,498 IDPs and, in South Ossetia, 18,859 residents or returnees
- ▶ 85,014 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including 20,937 IDPs

### Supporting community health services

Civilians in conflict-affected areas were often left without access to functioning primary health care services. Access to such services improved following the supply of medicines and equipment and the rehabilitation of buildings by the ICRC. Workshops were held to boost the skills of local medical staff. Vulnerable people in self-declared “buffer zones”, in which Russian forces were temporarily deployed, enjoyed improved access to health care through mobile health clinics, whose safe passage was ensured by the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary.

In the 29 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 21,000):

- ▶ 6,478 people given consultations

In Abkhazia, vulnerable elderly people continued to require personal care, which was provided by the local Red Cross in Abkhazia with ICRC financial and technical support. The ICRC ceased its support at year-end, when the *de facto* authorities took over responsibility for funding these services.

### Restoring family links

As a result of the different armed conflicts, civilians were often separated from their families. Through RCMs and telephone calls, family members separated by conflict restored contact with relatives. In some cases, they were reunited with their families across front lines, at their request, through transfers organized by the ICRC after it had cleared them with the authorities concerned.

Following the outbreak of hostilities, more than a thousand people approached the ICRC for help in finding missing relatives. The authorities concerned were reminded of their obligation to provide answers to the families, while the ICRC also offered its services as a neutral intermediary to assist in the resolution of cases.

Progress on resolving cases from the different armed conflicts stalled owing to tensions between the parties, despite ICRC efforts to engage them in constructive discussions and to remind them of their responsibilities towards the families. The needs of families in Abkhazia were assessed to determine how best to increase support to them, while family associations received ICRC support in their advocacy efforts.

- ▶ 1,364 RCMs collected from and 1,363 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ 241 people reunited with their families, including 2 unaccompanied/separated children, and 67 civilians transferred at their request
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 1,194 people (419 females; 52 minors at the time of disappearance); 1,041 people located; 139 people (25 females; 8 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 2 people issued with an ICRC travel document
- ▶ 40 official documents relayed between family members across front lines

### Raising mine awareness

Civilians living in areas of central and western Georgia contaminated by mines and ERW as a result of the different armed conflicts were made aware of the risks they faced through some 30,000 handouts produced by the ICRC and distributed by the ICRC, National Society volunteers, the Ministry of Education and Science, and Defence Ministry demining units. Demining units also received 500 danger signs, 100 danger stickers and marking tape, as well as medical kits in case of injury. In South Ossetia, around 10,000 leaflets were distributed in schools and posters were put up in public places. Demining units there were informed of the location of any identified mines and ERW.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Following the outbreak of the international armed conflict, 2 Russian POWs and 12 security detainees held by the Georgian authorities, and 88 security detainees held by the South Ossetian *de facto* authorities received visits from ICRC delegates. Confidential feedback on their treatment and living conditions was provided to the detaining authorities. Detainees were able to contact their families through RCMs and phone calls and received clothes, blankets and soap.

In addition, people throughout Georgia deprived of their freedom continued to receive visits from the ICRC according to its standard working procedures, and those arrested for security reasons were monitored individually. Confidential reports containing the ICRC's findings and recommendations were submitted to the authorities, while detainees and their relatives were able to keep in touch through RCMs.

### Central and western Georgia

- 21,168 detainees and POWs visited, of whom 57 monitored individually (2 females) and 23 newly registered, during 57 visits to 21 places of detention
- 295 RCMs collected from and 238 RCMs distributed to detainees and POWs

### Abkhazia

- 918 detainees visited, of whom 8 monitored individually (3 females) and 5 newly registered (2 females), during 9 visits to 5 places of detention
- 7 RCMs collected from and 3 RCMs distributed to detainees

### South Ossetia

- 88 detainees visited and monitored individually (1 female) and 87 newly registered (1 female) during 7 visits to 3 places of detention

### Improving health in prisons

Detainees in Georgia remained at high risk of TB infection. Despite the decision to outsource health care in Georgian prisons to a private insurance company and lack of capacity in the Justice Ministry and Department of Prisons, treatment of detainees ill with TB continued through the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) strategy, and TB treatment units were rehabilitated by the ICRC. The Justice Ministry completed a health needs assessment in Georgia's prisons with ICRC technical support and on the basis of the results began to discuss ways of improving health care services.

- 630 detainees commenced DOTS
- 335 detainees completed DOTS
- 219 detainees still under treatment
- 600 detainees benefited from water/sanitation projects in 2 TB treatment units

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Following the outbreak of hostilities, two hospitals in central and western Georgia were able to deal with the influx of weapon-wounded patients thanks to the provision of medical supplies by the ICRC, while Tskhinvali hospital (60 beds) benefited from small-scale repairs.

According to official estimates prior to the August hostilities, there were some 5,600 amputees throughout Georgia. Aiming to become financially independent, the physical rehabilitation centre in Tbilisi continued to apply to potential donors for funding and developed income-generating activities. In 2008, the centre had some 40% of its costs reimbursed by the ICRC, the rest being borne by the government and donors. Abkhazia's *de facto* health authorities increasingly found the financial resources to purchase raw materials for Gagra Orthopaedic Centre but required ICRC assistance in transporting them across the administrative boundary. South Ossetian patients continued to be fitted with prosthetic/orthotic appliances at the Vladikavkaz Orthopaedic Centre in the Russian Federation, with ICRC support.

- 1,121 patients (including 134 women and 355 children) received services at the 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 124 new patients (including 23 women and 4 children) fitted with prostheses and 300 (including 28 women and 252 children) with orthoses
- 336 prostheses (including 42 for women, 17 for children and 40 for mine victims), 692 orthoses (including 61 for women and 590 for children) and 484 crutches delivered

## AUTHORITIES

Following the outbreak of the international armed conflict, the parties were reminded of their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms (see *Civilians*). They were also briefed on the ICRC's operations in order to enlist their support.

On the basis of a compatibility study carried out in 2006, the authorities continued to discuss modifying national legislation on missing persons to bring it in line with international norms. Representatives of relevant ministries participated in international IHL conferences with ICRC support, including in an international seminar on the protection of cultural property in time of armed conflict held in Tallinn, Estonia.

In November, Georgia acceded to Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on ERW.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Georgian Defence Ministry pursued efforts to integrate IHL into the training, doctrine, standard operating procedures and sanctions of the armed forces, with the support of the ICRC, which conducted IHL sessions for officers and produced a handbook for instructors.

Following the signature in 2007 of a memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC on the integration of IHL, the working group established early in 2008 to oversee the process selected candidates to take part in IHL training courses, including three courses conducted by the ICRC between February and July for some 50 officers. As a result of changes in personnel within the Defence Ministry and joint staff following the international armed conflict, a new IHL working group was established and began work.

Officers of Georgian and Russian peacekeeping forces based in Zugdidi took part in two ICRC briefings aimed at raising their awareness of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Russian armed forces, Ministry of Interior troops and border troops, as well as officers of the *de facto* authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, were familiarized with the ICRC's mandate and the red cross emblem through ad hoc dissemination sessions held throughout the year.

Following the outbreak of the international armed conflict, members of the armed forces involved and other bearers of weapons were reminded of their obligations under IHL and its practical applications in the field.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness of IHL among the general public

Media and NGOs throughout Georgia, including in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, were briefed and provided with information on the ICRC's mandate and activities. The media regularly reported on ICRC activities with regard to the August conflict, as well as on its regular activities, such as efforts to control TB in prisons. Booklets describing the ICRC's mandate and activities were distributed to the general public.

### Teaching humanitarian values to schoolchildren

The Ministry of Education continued to introduce IHL-related topics into new school curricula and textbooks, with ICRC support. For example, two new civic education textbooks for 9th grade pupils, which included IHL topics, were published. The CD-ROM "Basics of IHL" was posted on the Ministry of Education's website and 340 copies were distributed to increase the number of teachers capable of teaching the course to 11- to 15-year-olds. The authors of teachers' in-service training programmes attended IHL training sessions to encourage them to include IHL in curricula.

To engage children in the subject, some 250 pupils from across Georgia participated in an IHL competition organized by the ICRC.

### Promoting IHL among university students

The law faculty of Tbilisi State University and the Caucasus School of Law, where IHL was taught at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, received IHL-related publications from the ICRC. Lecturers and students were able to take part in national and international IHL events with ICRC support, thereby consolidating their interest in the subject. For example, an IHL lecturer from the Caucasus School of Law participated in the Martens Readings conference in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, while students of Tbilisi State University took part in the Jean Pictet IHL competition in Switzerland.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Red Cross Society of Georgia continued to implement its new internal regulations and procedures with advice from the ICRC and the International Federation. Tripartite monthly meetings were held between the National Society, the International Federation and the ICRC to ensure a coherent approach among the partners and improve information sharing. The National Society held induction courses for new staff members and volunteers, with ICRC technical support.

With the outbreak of hostilities, Movement partners received support from the ICRC, which, as lead agency, coordinated and supported activities and mobilized support for the National Society. Georgian Red Cross volunteers participated in the distribution of relief items together with the ICRC and attended sessions on working safely in weapon-contaminated areas. Local branches were provided with vehicles and their offices rehabilitated.

The National Society continued to build capacity, with ICRC and International Federation support, in providing first-aid services and psychological and social support and in boosting its emergency preparedness.





# budapest (regional)

The Budapest regional delegation, established in 1997, encourages and supports the States of the region in their efforts to ratify and implement IHL treaties. It assists the military authorities in incorporating IHL into their training programmes and exercises, and the civil authorities in integrating IHL into university and secondary school curricula. It also promotes research and debate on IHL and humanitarian issues among academic circles. The delegation supports the development of the region's National Societies. The delegation will close in mid-2009.

## COVERING

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

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 198   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,468 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 493   |
| General                             | -     |

► **2,159**

of which: Overheads 132

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 97% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | expatriates                                 |
| 11 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

In 2008, the ICRC:

- through visits by its president to Poland and Slovenia, held high-level discussions on topics such as the national implementation of IHL treaties, pre-deployment training of armed forces, and the applicability of IHL during armed conflict
- advised education authorities and universities in the region with a view to their taking long-term responsibility for the teaching of IHL-related subjects to schoolchildren and university students
- prepared for the closure of the delegation in mid-2009

## CONTEXT

All of the States of the region except Croatia were members of the European Union (EU) and NATO. At its summit in Bucharest, NATO invited Croatia to join, with full membership planned for 2009. Some progress was also made in Croatia's EU accession negotiations, with full membership set for 2011. On assuming the EU presidency in January, Slovenia set as its humanitarian priority the issue of children and women in armed conflict.

The armed forces of several countries in the region continued to take part in multilateral military operations, including in Afghanistan and Iraq.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 3     |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 2     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 2     |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 2     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |       |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 31    |
| of which for females  | 5     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 22    |

1. Croatia

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the authorities in the region to encourage the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger's visits to Poland and Slovenia and high-level discussions between the ICRC and senior officials in Estonia and Lithuania provided further opportunities to promote IHL and further increased understanding in these countries of their obligations under IHL, notably while taking part in multilateral operations such as those in Afghanistan and Iraq. The visits also led to wide media coverage of humanitarian issues.

The ICRC assisted the authorities and National Societies in consolidating the teaching of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools. Cooperation with the region's leading universities in the teaching of IHL was also maintained, with the ICRC supplying materials and other assistance and helping to organize IHL-related events.

By providing expertise and financial support to the dissemination and tracing services of the region's National Societies, the ICRC continued to boost their capacity-building efforts. In particular, the ICRC maintained financial, technical and training support to the tracing service of the Croatian Red Cross.

Preparations went ahead for the closure of the ICRC's delegation in Budapest in mid-2009 and for the handover of its remaining responsibilities to ICRC headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, with respect to dialogue with national authorities in the region, and to the regional delegation for the Western Balkans, with respect to the protection of victims of past conflicts.

## CIVILIANS

In Croatia, families of persons missing in connection with the conflicts between 1991 and 1995 and their associations continued to receive ICRC support in their efforts to obtain information on the fate of their relatives. The National Society regularly reminded the authorities of their obligation to provide answers to the families. It also registered new information on existing cases provided by the families, working closely with the Department for Detained and Missing Persons. The National Society received technical, financial and training support from the ICRC in these activities with a view to ensuring their sustainability.

Some 142 Serbian family members, invited by the Croatian government to identify the remains of their relatives, were transported by the ICRC to Croatia, where they identified 75 sets of human remains (see also *Western Balkans*).

While the National Society concentrated on persons missing in relation to the conflicts in Croatia between 1991 and 1995, the ICRC continued to seek information on 31 cases not related to these conflicts.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In October, detainees held in Croatia in relation to past conflicts were visited by the ICRC during its annual round of visits. Following these visits, which were carried out according to the organization's standard working procedures, a confidential report on the ICRC's observations and recommendations was submitted to the authorities. Former detainees or their families were issued with detention certificates.

- ▶ 3 detainees visited, of whom 2 monitored individually and 1 newly registered, during 2 visits to 2 places of detention
- ▶ 22 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Detainees held in Croatia in relation to past conflicts were visited by their relatives living in Serbia (see also *Western Balkans*). The Croatian authorities and the ICRC held discussions on ways of making it easier for families to undertake such visits in the future.

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities in the region and the ICRC maintained a dialogue on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, the relevance and applicability of IHL during military operations, and other humanitarian issues of mutual concern. The visits of the ICRC's president to Poland and Slovenia provided opportunities to engage the authorities at the highest level on these topics. In Poland, discussions focused on strengthening the training of Polish armed forces in IHL, particularly prior to their deployment in Afghanistan and Iraq. While in Poland, the ICRC president also signed the Amendment of the Agreement between the International Commission for the International Tracing Service (ITS) and the ICRC with the Polish authorities

(see *International Tracing Service*). In Slovenia, discussions centred on ways to tackle the situation of children caught up in armed conflicts around the world. Slovenia's presidency of the EU was also a means of further enlisting support for these activities among leaders of other EU governments (see *Brussels*). Both Poland and Slovenia ratified Additional Protocol III, bringing the total number of States in the region that had signed the instrument to 9 out of 11.

To support States in implementing IHL treaties, the ICRC provided expert advice and co-organized meetings, including:

- the fourth regional meeting of national IHL committees of Central and South-eastern Europe, held in Lithuania, which reviewed recent progress made in the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties
- an international conference on implementing the Hague Convention on Cultural Property, held in Estonia, which enabled participants representing governments from across the region to share experiences
- a conference in Poland on the national prosecution of war crimes, following which the ICRC was invited to submit comments on draft national legislation

Military legal advisers from across the region enhanced their knowledge of IHL and of the ICRC's mandate and activities at a course in Austria organized by the Austrian Ministry of Defence and the ICRC.

Hungary introduced a national moratorium on the use of cluster munitions prior to the entry into force of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

See *Brussels*.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness among the general public

The media in Poland and Slovenia raised awareness of IHL-related topics among the public through reports published or broadcast during and after the visits by the ICRC president. The signing of the Amendment of the Agreement between the International Commission for the ITS and the ICRC (see *Authorities*) was widely covered in the Polish media and increased awareness among the public of the importance of the ITS and tracing activities in general. The Slovenian newspaper *Delo* published an interview with the ICRC president in relation to Slovenia's focus on women and children in war during its presidency of the EU, further increasing public understanding and support for the ICRC's work in this regard.

### Promoting knowledge of IHL among young people

Schoolchildren across the region learnt about the principles of IHL through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, although the programme was not formally integrated into the curricula of all countries. Ministries of Education received advice from the ICRC and National Societies in so doing, where necessary, and were assisted in their efforts to take full responsibility for the programme in the long term.

In their ongoing efforts to incorporate IHL into law courses, leading universities in the region received support from the ICRC in the form of teaching materials, regular information updates on humanitarian issues, and assistance in organizing IHL-related events. Seven teams from the region were sponsored to participate in an IHL competition for law students organized by the ICRC in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, boosting their interest in IHL and the activities and mandate of the ICRC.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

As in previous years, the tracing and dissemination services of the 11 National Societies in the region benefited from ICRC expertise and financial support. In particular, the Croatian Red Cross received extensive technical, financial and training support to strengthen the capacity of its tracing service (see *Civilians*).

Dissemination officers of the region's National Societies developed sustainable programmes by further extending networks of volunteer disseminators. These networks contributed to improved communication and cooperation with local authorities, civilians and media on the Fundamental Principles, IHL and protection of the emblem.



# kyiv (regional)

The Kyiv regional delegation, in operation since 1995, promotes the integration of IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula and the training programmes and codes of conduct of the armed, police and security forces in the region. It visits detainees in the Republic of Moldova and seeks access to security detainees in Belarus. The ICRC is strengthening cooperation with the region's National Societies and helping them to address emerging needs for humanitarian assistance, such as those of detained migrants.

## COVERING

Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 26    |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,280 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 478   |
| General                             | -     |

► **1,785**

of which: Overheads 109

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 85% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | expatriate                                  |
| 9 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- helped create an IHL section in the General Staff's Legal Department in the Republic of Moldova
- welcomed the establishment of a mobile IHL instructors' group at the Military Institute of Kyiv National University in Ukraine
- held, for the first time in Ukraine, a moot court competition for university students from the region
- transferred ownership of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in all three countries to the Ministry of Education and the National Society
- supported the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's family-links services and first-aid posts run by the National Society's Crimean branch
- prepared for the handover of responsibility for Belarus and the Republic of Moldova to the Moscow regional delegation at the end of the year, and for the establishment of a mission in Ukraine

## CONTEXT

Ukraine remained politically divided between parties favouring closer ties with the West and those wishing to maintain strong links with the Russian Federation, reflecting divisions within the population. Internal political tensions mounted in 2008. The ruling coalition of the two "Orange" parties collapsed in September, after unsuccessful attempts to form an alternative coalition. Earlier, the leadership had signed an application for a NATO membership action plan, sparking demonstrations in the south-east of the country. In the Crimea, intercommunal tensions, separatist trends and disputes over the presence of the Russian fleet increased. Relations between Ukraine and the Russian Federation came under strain following the outbreak of hostilities in South Ossetia, Ukraine's application for NATO membership, and disputes over payments for Russian gas. Towards the end of the year, the Ukrainian economy entered recession.

In Belarus, economic growth remained slow, and the government undertook no significant reforms. Six detained opposition figures were released early in 2008, while the remaining two were freed later in the year.

Meetings between the leadership of the Republic of Moldova and the break-away Dniester region in 2008 failed to achieve notable progress in resolving the frozen conflict.

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, the Kyiv regional delegation pursued its efforts to promote respect for IHL among the region's civil and military authorities and throughout civil society.

The delegation continued to offer encouragement and advice to the authorities of the three countries covered on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. During the year, Belarus ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocol V on explosive remnants of war, while the Republic of Moldova ratified Additional Protocol III.

Representatives of the region's Defence ministries pursued a dialogue with the ICRC on the integration of IHL into military training, doctrine and standard operating procedures and, with ICRC support, worked to ensure the programmes' long-term sustainability. The delegation worked with the authorities concerned to provide IHL/international human rights law training to law-enforcement officers in the Republic of Moldova and to Ukrainian police officers participating in missions abroad.

The ICRC supported the efforts of leading universities in the region to strengthen IHL teaching. Ukrainian journalism students took part in an ICRC-organized seminar on IHL and the role of the media in situations of conflict. A regional moot court competition on IHL took place for the first time in Ukraine and a national moot court competition was held in Belarus.

Following several years of extensive groundwork and teacher training, the Ministries of Education of all three countries were provided by the ICRC with the means to integrate the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula. In the second half of the year, the ICRC was able to transfer full responsibility for the programme to the region's Ministries of Education and National Societies.

The delegation worked closely with the region's National Societies to restore family links. In Ukraine, for example, the ICRC worked in partnership with the National Society to help alleged illegal migrants held in places of temporary detention to re-establish contact with their families.

Also in Ukraine, the ICRC cooperated with the National Society and its Crimean branch to supply medicines to first-aid posts serving vulnerable populations in remote areas.

In November, ICRC delegation and headquarters staff carried out an assessment of the humanitarian situation resulting from the rising tensions in Crimea. In light of the situation there and the national and regional tensions, the ICRC decided to maintain a presence in Ukraine following an earlier decision to close the regional delegation at the end of 2008. It went ahead with its plans to hand over responsibility for Belarus and the Republic of Moldova to the Moscow regional delegation at the end of the year, while establishing a mission in Kyiv to cover Ukraine.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

At the beginning of 2008, members of the opposition arrested during the election process in Belarus in 2006 were still in detention. The authorities declined a renewed proposal from the ICRC to hold a meeting to review their cases. All the detainees were released during the year, leaving no more detainees of ICRC concern in the country.

In the Republic of Moldova, all detainees of ICRC concern had also been released.

## AUTHORITIES

The region's authorities received encouragement and advice from the ICRC on the implementation of IHL treaties to which their countries were party and on accession to other major humanitarian instruments. The national IHL committees in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova continued their work with ICRC technical support. Under the auspices of the Belarusian IHL committee, the working group on the protection of cultural property in time of conflict began to prepare implementing legislation. In Ukraine, the national IHL committee resumed work after a two-year break.

- Belarus ratified the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocol V on explosive remnants of war
- the Republic of Moldova ratified Additional Protocol III

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Promoting IHL among the armed forces

Representatives of the region's Defence ministries pursued a dialogue with the ICRC on the integration of IHL into military training, doctrine and standard operating procedures and, with ICRC support, worked to ensure the programmes' long-term sustainability. In Ukraine, a mobile IHL instructors' group was established at the Military Institute of Kyiv National University to ensure wide geographical coverage, and an IHL classroom was opened at the National Defence Academy. In the Republic of Moldova, an IHL section was created at the newly established General Staff's Legal Department. The region's Defence ministries and the ICRC jointly ran training sessions and IHL competitions.

- 400 officers, cadets and non-commissioned officers across the region learnt about IHL during 20 training events run jointly by Defence ministries and the ICRC
- in Belarus, officers from the Operations Department joined the Defence Ministry's IHL integration group
- in Ukraine, manuals on the treatment of prisoners of war and the management of human remains published with ICRC support
- in Ukraine, the 8th Yaroslav the Wise competition organized by the ICRC to test the IHL knowledge of personnel from the region's defence forces



### **Familiarizing the police and security forces with IHL/international human rights law**

With ICRC support, Moldovan law-enforcement officers continued to receive training in the basic norms and principles of human rights law and IHL. The following groups attended training events:

- ▶ 20 instructors from the police academy of the Ministry of the Interior
- ▶ 25 officers of *carabinieri* brigades of the Ministry of the Interior
- ▶ 25 officers from a police brigade for special operations

In Ukraine, officers due to take part in UN and Europol police missions abroad, including 100 officers heading for Kosovo, received training in IHL/international human rights law conducted by the Interior Ministry and the ICRC.

### **Promoting IHL among other bearers of weapons**

In the Republic of Moldova, the authorities included representatives of the Transnistrian military in IHL events organized jointly with the ICRC. The Transnistrian University strengthened the training of officer cadets in IHL, using ICRC educational materials.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **Raising awareness of IHL among the general public**

Journalists across the region received information on IHL and ICRC activities, enabling them to raise public awareness of humanitarian issues. Regional think-tanks received updated IHL publications, boosting their efforts to increase understanding of humanitarian issues among decision-makers. Leading NGOs were briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities to ensure effective coordination of humanitarian work and to foster their support for the organization's work.

### **Promoting IHL among students**

Leading universities in the region strengthened IHL teaching with ICRC support. For example, in November, 25 students of the School of Journalism of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy took part in an ICRC-organized seminar, enabling these future journalists to learn about IHL and the role of the media in situations of conflict. Representatives of leading universities also took part in and helped judge IHL competitions, thereby enhancing knowledge of IHL among young people.

- ▶ 10 university teams from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine took part in the first regional IHL moot court competition to be held in Ukraine
- ▶ lecturers from Kyiv National University and the Free International University of Moldova participated as jury members in the third national IHL moot court competition for students in Belarus
- ▶ a student team from the Republic of Moldova took part in the Jean Pictet IHL competition in Schwarzenburg, Switzerland

### **Exploring Humanitarian Law for schoolchildren**

Following several years of extensive groundwork and teacher training, the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was integrated into secondary school curricula in all three countries. To assist the region's Ministries of Education and National Societies in ensuring the sustainability of the programme, the ICRC provided financial and technical support and advice. In Belarus, building on capacity previously developed with ICRC support, 110 teachers from several pedagogical institutes took part in training courses on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme organized by the institutes themselves. By the end of the year, the authorities and National Societies in each of the countries covered were able to assume full responsibility for the programme.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Cooperation with the region's National Societies centred on supporting sustainable implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme (see *Civil society*) and the provision of family-links services.

In Ukraine, alleged illegal migrants held in places of temporary detention benefited from family-links services provided by the National Society in cooperation with the ICRC. Staff of three local National Society branches visited these places of detention and, with ICRC support, enabled more than 4,900 detainees to make contact with their families by telephone. At the request of several international humanitarian organizations and embassies representing European Union member States, migrants from various countries were issued with travel documents by the ICRC to facilitate their resettlement in third countries. The National Society, with ICRC support, continued to process tracing cases dating from the Second World War.

Also in Ukraine, vulnerable people living in remote settlements in Crimea, including ethnic Tatars and children under 15 years of age, benefited from the distribution of medicines to first-aid posts carried out by the National Society's Crimean branch with ICRC financial support.



# moscow (regional)

The Moscow delegation, which opened in 1992, combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions. The ICRC assists vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in Chechnya, in cooperation with the National Society, and supports capacity building of the National Society in the northern Caucasus. In all the countries covered, it runs long-term communication programmes to promote IHL and foster understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

## COVERING

Russian Federation, with specialized services for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and parts of Central Asia

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,755 |
| Assistance                          | 6,455 |
| Prevention                          | 5,519 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,730 |
| General                             | -     |

► **16,458**

of which: Overheads **1,005**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>82%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

**23** expatriates

**244** national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- through visits by its president, gave new impetus to bilateral relations with the Russian government
- responded to the emergency needs of people fleeing South Ossetia as a result of the armed conflict, in partnership with the Russian Red Cross Society
- visited Georgian POWs in accordance with its standard procedures
- made progress in promoting a comprehensive approach to the issue of missing persons in the northern Caucasus through dialogue at both federal and republican level
- widened access to micro-economic initiatives for the most vulnerable people in the northern Caucasus
- co-organized an international conference on IHL in St Petersburg, following which a model law on missing persons was adopted by the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States

## CONTEXT

The Russian authorities continued to emphasize the country's interests in the "near abroad" of former Soviet republics, including through regional integration mechanisms such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

In August, the Russian Federation became engaged in an international armed conflict with Georgia. Thousands of people fleeing the hostilities found temporary refuge in the Russian Federation. Weapon-wounded patients were treated in hospitals or received physical rehabilitation services there.

In Chechnya, reconstruction and the return of IDPs continued, although vulnerable people still faced severe economic difficulties. Despite the relative stabilization of the situation, skirmishes, armed attacks on law enforcement agencies, and "security operations" regularly occurred. The presence of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) hindered the return of the population and economic recovery in rural areas. An earthquake hit Chechnya in October leaving several people dead and some 200 reportedly injured.

In Ingushetia, a volatile security situation affected the safety of civilians. There were regular armed attacks against law enforcement agents and "security operations" by the authorities. In Daghestan, armed attacks by weapon bearers and targeted "security operations" by the authorities increased in number and intensity. In North Ossetia, high-profile assassinations of public figures and members of criminal investigation bodies took place. In November, a bomb blast reportedly killed 12 and wounded 40 civilians.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total <sup>1</sup> |  | Total <sup>1</sup>   | Women   | Children       |
|--|--------------------|--|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) |                    | CIVILIANS  |                      |         |                |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                   | 3                  | Economic security, water and habitat               |                      |         |                |
| Number of visits carried out                                   | 1                  | Food   | Beneficiaries        | 8,389   | 33%<br>45%     |
| Number of places of detention visited                          | 1                  | Essential household items                          | Beneficiaries        | 22,079  | 35%<br>43%     |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |                    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | Beneficiaries        | 6,513   | 30%<br>37%     |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications                   |                    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects             | Beneficiaries        | 850,000 | 30%<br>40%     |
| RCMs collected   | 81                 | WOUNDED AND SICK                                   |                      |         |                |
| RCMs distributed   | 97                 | Hospitals supported                                | Structures           | 13      |                |
| People reunited with their families                            | 0                  | Admissions   | Patients             | 9,166   | 4,475<br>2,098 |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons           |                    | Operations   | Operations performed | 3,267   |                |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 83                 | Physical rehabilitation                            |                      |         |                |
| of whom females  | 5                  | Patients receiving services                        | Patients             | 1,840   | 248<br>1,114   |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                    | 5                  | Prostheses delivered                               | Units                | 288     | 71<br>7        |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 12                 | Orthoses delivered                                 | Units                | 787     | 82<br>580      |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 1,495              |  |                      |         |                |
| of which for females   | 54                 |  |                      |         |                |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance               | 45                 |  |                      |         |                |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED   |                    |  |                      |         |                |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                    | 25                 |  |                      |         |                |

1. Russian Federation

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger's three visits to the Russian Federation, during which he met the prime minister and several other government ministers, gave new impetus to relations between the ICRC and the Russian authorities and to discussions on global, regional and operational issues of mutual concern.

Following the sharp escalation of hostilities and the outbreak of the international armed conflict in August, discussions with the authorities focused on the need for them to meet their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms. The ICRC visited Georgian POWs held in the Russian Federation. Through its Vladikavkaz office, the ICRC supported health facilities treating weapon-wounded patients and worked closely with the National Society to deliver assistance to conflict-affected civilians who had taken refuge there.

In addition to its delegation in Moscow and its office in Vladikavkaz, the ICRC maintained offices in four locations in the northern Caucasus. With the generally improved security situation in Chechnya, the organization was able to keep a larger expatriate presence in the republic and to boost its assistance to civilians there. It undertook water supply rehabilitation projects, supplied maintenance equipment to water boards and provided their personnel with technical training. Increasing numbers of vulnerable people benefited from ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives, not only in Chechnya, but also in Daghestan and Ingushetia. The ICRC supported the Russian Red Cross Society in assisting victims of the earthquake that struck Chechnya in October.

The ICRC reminded the authorities of the need to intensify their efforts to resolve outstanding cases of missing persons in the northern Caucasus and to provide answers to the families. In parallel, the ICRC made representations to the authorities regarding individual cases. Meanwhile, the families were given access to ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives following an assessment of their needs.

As the federal authorities had still not agreed to its standard visiting procedures, the ICRC was unable to resume visits to people arrested in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus. However, the organization continued to enable family members to visit detained relatives.

The ICRC continued to support the integration of IHL into the training, doctrine and operations of the Russian armed and security forces. It worked closely with schools, universities, military academies, NGOs and think-tanks to boost their efforts to teach and disseminate knowledge of IHL.

The ICRC strengthened its relations with influential regional organizations, building contacts with leaders and decision-makers, encouraging the adoption of relevant laws and promoting IHL among member States. An international conference on IHL in St Petersburg bringing together delegates from 36 countries was co-organized by the ICRC and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. The following day, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly adopted a model law on missing persons for replication by member States.

The ICRC's Moscow-based regional communication centre supported long-term communication and prevention programmes in the Russian Federation and elsewhere in the CIS.

After making the necessary preparations, the delegation took over responsibility for Belarus and Moldova from the Kyiv regional delegation, which became a mission covering Ukraine at the end of the year.

The ICRC phased out its support to the Grozny prosthetic/orthotic centre following completion of training courses and rehabilitation work.

The first visit of the ICRC president to the Russian Federation provided a further opportunity for the ICRC to discuss with the authorities the enquiry into the killing of six of its delegates in

Novye Atagi in December 1996 and to urge them to provide information about one of its Grozny staff members, abducted by unidentified armed men in Chechnya in 2003.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

The authorities were regularly reminded by the ICRC of their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms to respect and protect people not or no longer participating in armed conflict and to meet the basic needs of the conflict-affected civilian population. Following the outbreak of hostilities in August, these representations were stepped up in light of the humanitarian needs arising from the hostilities.

In some cases, the authorities were approached by the ICRC at the request of alleged victims of armed confrontations in the northern Caucasus seeking compensation for damaged property or at the request of families of alleged opposition fighters killed during such confrontations seeking the handover of their relatives' remains for burial.

Difficulties faced by IDPs living in temporary accommodation centres in Chechnya, or resulting from the closure of such centres, were brought to the attention of the local authorities. In some cases, vulnerable IDPs received emergency assistance from the ICRC (see *Assisting the vulnerable*).

### Restoring family links

Despite a decrease in reported forced disappearances in the northern Caucasus in recent years, families continued to approach the ICRC to register missing relatives. Representations regarding individual cases were made on their behalf to the authorities. In support of these efforts, regular discussions between the federal and republican authorities and the ICRC took place, including during two of the ICRC president's visits to the Russian Federation. These discussions aimed to accelerate the process of resolving outstanding cases and included the need to establish a federal commission on missing persons and to coordinate lists of missing persons. Following the outbreak of hostilities in South Ossetia, the authorities were reminded of the need to provide answers to the families of any persons missing in relation to that conflict.

Alongside these efforts, the ICRC assessed the economic, legal and psychological needs of families of missing persons to see where there were gaps in support and to compile information for an advocacy report. The most vulnerable were given access to ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives (see *Assisting the vulnerable*). In Chechnya, vulnerable elderly relatives of missing persons received home care from ICRC-supported Russian Red Cross nurses (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Relatives separated by conflict, including those separated during the conflict in South Ossetia, continued to be assisted in restoring family links by the ICRC in cooperation with the National Society. On request, refugees and asylum seekers received travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

- 58 RCMs collected from and 48 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 84 people (6 females; 5 minors at the time of disappearance); 12 people located; 1,495 people (54 females; 45 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 25 people issued with an ICRC travel document

### Assisting the vulnerable

During the year, an increasing number of the most vulnerable people in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia were aided in becoming more self-sufficient by ICRC-funded micro-economic initiatives. Alongside, a report was submitted to the authorities highlighting the main problems they faced. Recipients of grants and vocational training included former relief beneficiaries, families of missing persons and detainees, people displaced from the Prigorodny district, patients of the Grozny prosthetic/orthotic centre and residents of rural mine-affected areas.

Vulnerable individuals in the northern Caucasus, including IDPs who had fled into the Russian Federation because of the conflict in South Ossetia and victims of the earthquake in Chechnya, were provided with food and essential household and hygiene items by the Russian Red Cross in partnership with the ICRC. The assistance aimed to ensure their immediate survival and to bolster their ability to cope over the winter.

- 8,389 people (1,753 households) received food
- 22,079 people (5,220 households) received essential household items
- 6,513 people (1,148 households) benefited from micro-economic initiatives

### Improving water supplies

The population of rural Chechnya continued to benefit from water rehabilitation projects run by the ICRC in partnership with the rural water board or with recognized private building companies. The water board received equipment and training to reinforce its capacity. An assessment of the population's access to safe and regular water in Grozny showed that the water board succeeded in improving the necessary infrastructure, ensuring sustainability of the clean water supply. To further strengthen their capacities, technical staff received training in the production of project proposals.

- 850,000 people benefited from water projects

### Increasing mine awareness

The Chechen authorities continued to undertake mine-awareness activities, for which they received ICRC technical and financial assistance, in particular to increase children's awareness through events and campaigns, including the publication of articles in children's magazines and a competition to determine the best mine-risk education class. More than 10,000 children and teenagers benefited from such activities. Access of some 19,000 children to safe play areas constructed with ICRC support in 2004–2006 was assessed and 32 play areas were rehabilitated before being handed over to the authorities.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

As the federal authorities had still not agreed to its standard visiting procedures, the ICRC was unable to resume visits to people arrested in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus. However, the ICRC made written representations to the authorities on behalf of people detained in relation to that situation, in particular regarding their health. In some cases, families reported improvements in the situation of a detained relative as a result of these efforts.

Families were able to maintain contact with relatives detained in penal colonies across the Russian Federation through the RCM service or ICRC-supported visits. The family of a deceased detainee was able to bring his body home with ICRC support.



Three Georgian POWs captured in August by the Russian armed forces were visited by ICRC delegates, and confidential feedback was provided to the authorities prior to their release.

- ▶ 3 POWs newly registered and monitored individually, during 1 visit to 1 place of detention
- ▶ 23 RCMs collected from and 49 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 357 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Ensuring effective medical care

Health facilities in Chechnya were found to be adequately provisioned with drugs following the cessation of direct assistance from the ICRC in 2007. Six hospitals in Chechnya previously receiving such assistance were given a one-off supply of drugs and consumables to boost their contingency stocks. The functioning of the central blood bank in Grozny was also closely monitored following the cessation of direct ICRC support at the end of 2007. The final, increased donation of blood screening, cross-matching and collection materials made at the end of 2007 helped ensure that the blood transfusion system continued to work effectively in 2008.

Seven Chechen surgeons and four traumatologists improved their skills during two advanced specialized training courses held in the Russian Federation. The yearly ICRC war- and emergency-surgery seminar was held in Nalchik for specialists from the Russian Federation, as well as from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Following the outbreak of hostilities in South Ossetia, some 275 weapon-wounded patients evacuated to the Russian Federation received medical care, with the support of the ICRC, which distributed medical supplies to nine hospitals.

In the 13 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 9,166 patients (including 4,475 women and 2,098 children) admitted: of whom 355 weapon-wounded (including 86 women, 2 children, and 98 people injured by mines or ERW), 3,707 other surgical cases, and 2,577 medical and 2,527 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- ▶ 3,267 surgical operations performed

### Supporting physical rehabilitation services

Disabled people, including mine victims, continued to receive physical rehabilitation services at the Grozny prosthetic/orthotic centre. Four Chechen students successfully completed their training in St Petersburg with ICRC support and were then employed by the centre. Patients benefited when new physiotherapy services became available following staff training by the ICRC. By the end of the year, the final training courses and infrastructure rehabilitation works had been completed and new equipment and tools provided, enabling the ICRC to phase out its support to the centre.

The Vladikavkaz Prosthetic Orthotic Enterprise was supported by the ICRC in providing rehabilitation services to patients coming from South Ossetia, where such services were unavailable.

- ▶ 1,845 patients (including 248 women and 1,114 children) received services at 2 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres

- ▶ 62 new patients (including 13 women and 1 child) fitted with prostheses and 377 (including 23 women and 309 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 288 prostheses (including 71 for women, 7 for children and 123 for mine victims), 787 orthoses (including 82 for women and 580 for children) and 2 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

Several meetings between the authorities of the Russian Federation and the president of the ICRC in 2008 gave new impetus to bilateral relations. A dialogue on global and regional topics of concern, as well as operational matters, enabled the Russian authorities to obtain a better understanding of the ICRC's mandate and operations and to convey to the ICRC the constraints under which they operated. The authorities were reminded of their obligations under IHL in respect of the international armed conflict with Georgia. They were also briefed on ICRC operations in that context in order to enlist their support for them.

In November, an international conference on IHL, co-organized by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly and the ICRC, was held in St Petersburg on the 140th anniversary of the St Petersburg Declaration on explosive projectiles, which was the first treaty prohibiting the use of certain weapons in war. The meeting provided an opportunity for the ICRC to promote related issues among some 1,000 delegates from 36 countries and to engage in further high-level dialogue with the Russian authorities. On the day after the meeting, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly adopted a model law on missing persons with a view to pressing national parliaments to adopt such legislation.

Legal professionals from the Russian Federation took part in events organized by the ICRC bringing together experts from several countries to share national perspectives on IHL. For the first time, a regional seminar for CIS countries on IHL implementation took place, organized by the ICRC and hosted by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly in St Petersburg with a view to boosting IHL implementation across the region.

In 2008, the Russian Federation ratified Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Promoting IHL among the armed forces

The strengthened relationship between the Russian authorities, including the Ministry of Defence, and the ICRC (see *Authorities*) facilitated an effective dialogue between the armed forces and the ICRC during the international armed conflict with Georgia. The armed forces were thus kept informed of ICRC concerns and operations during the conflict and reminded of their obligations under IHL and other relevant norms.

Meanwhile, the integration of IHL into the educational, legal and operational systems of the armed forces continued with the support of the ICRC. This included updating educational and operational documentation to ensure that it reflected IHL norms and running courses for the Defence Ministry's IHL integration working group, IHL instructors and peacekeeping troops.



Members of the armed forces destined for operations in the northern Caucasus, South Ossetia and Abkhazia were briefed on the ICRC's humanitarian activities and basic IHL norms during dissemination sessions.

### **Familiarizing the police and security forces with IHL/international human rights law**

In the northern Caucasus, dissemination activities continued for forces under the authority of the Interior Ministry conducting "special operations" in the region.

In Daghestan, the Makhachkala branch of Krasnodar University of the Ministry of Interior began a course on international standards of law enforcement for cadets, receiving support from the ICRC in the form of classroom equipment, training of lecturers and dissemination materials. The Nalchik branch of the university, where officers from the northern Caucasus were studying, opened a centre dedicated to the study of IHL and international human rights law, with the support of the ICRC, and included elements of an ICRC manual within the curriculum.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY**

Following the ICRC president's visits to the Russian Federation, coverage of humanitarian and IHL-related issues in the Russian media increased. Contact was maintained with journalists at both federal and republican level, raising their interest in IHL through events such as competitions on humanitarian topics.

Leading Russian academic institutions and the Russian Association of International Law continued to work with the ICRC to develop the teaching of IHL and promote research across the CIS. A meeting of lecturers teaching IHL was held in St Petersburg to take stock of IHL programmes in the region and plan future work.

- 15 Russian universities participated in the 11th De Martens IHL competition
- 120 academics from 11 CIS countries took part in the 7th Martens Readings conference in St Petersburg

The reform process launched by the Russian Education Ministry continued, with the ICRC lobbying for the integration of IHL principles into teaching standards, school programmes, and pre-service and in-service training for teachers. Students in secondary schools and military cadet colleges continued to learn about the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action with ICRC support, while some 20,000 of their teachers participated in IHL training given by the ICRC, which enhanced prospects for the long-term integration of IHL into secondary education.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Russian Red Cross and the ICRC worked in partnership to deliver assistance to victims of the fighting in South Ossetia and of the earthquake in Chechnya. For example, the North Ossetia branch of the Russian Red Cross distributed essential household items supplied by the ICRC to people displaced by the armed conflict. The Russian Red Cross continued to receive support from the ICRC to help it build its capacities and enhance its tracing service and IHL promotion activities.

In the northern Caucasus, chronically ill people living alone in remote areas and elderly people with missing relatives received home care from Russian Red Cross nurses, with ICRC support.



# tashkent (regional)

The regional delegation in Central Asia was opened in 1992. It assists governments in implementing IHL instruments and integrating IHL into secondary school and university curricula. It also supports the integration of IHL into armed forces' doctrine, training and sanctions, and promotes international human rights law among police and security forces dealing with law enforcement. The ICRC contributes to strengthening the capacities of the region's National Societies, in particular in the fields of promoting IHL and restoring family links. It also endeavours to protect and assist people detained for security reasons, focusing on access to health care.

## COVERING

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,870 |
| Assistance                          | 2,120 |
| Prevention                          | 2,692 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 916   |
| General                             | -     |

► **8,598**

of which: Overheads 525

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 119% |
|---------------------------|------|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 19 | expatriates                                 |
| 88 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- held high-level meetings with the authorities to share its findings and recommendations following completion of the six-month trial period for visits to detainees in Uzbekistan
- provided medical and laboratory expertise, equipment, drugs and consumables to help the authorities in Kyrgyzstan control tuberculosis in prisons
- discussed measures for integrating IHL into military doctrine and standard operating procedures with operational commanders in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
- signed a trilateral framework agreement on the integration of IHL into university curricula with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science and the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan
- signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection in Tajikistan on the eventual phasing out of ICRC support to the Dushanbe physical rehabilitation centre
- signed new cooperation framework agreements with the Red Crescent Societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan on the basis of an external evaluation of National Society programmes supported by the ICRC in Central Asia

## CONTEXT

Kazakhstan's government prepared for the country's presidency of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in 2010, and announced that it would be undertaking political and legal reforms to meet commitments made in this regard.

In Kyrgyzstan, the government carried out some judicial reforms. Alleged members of Islamist groups were arrested following public demonstrations in October.

An extremely cold winter and very dry spring caused problems for the region's populations, particularly in Tajikistan where the severe weather conditions led to power failures and food shortages.

President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov of Turkmenistan continued to undertake moderate economic and social reforms. The new constitution adopted in September did not represent a major change in the political system.

In Uzbekistan, some judicial reforms were announced. Relations between the Uzbek government and Western countries improved.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total           |   | Total         | Women | Children |
|---|-----------------|---|---------------|-------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |                 | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM<sup>2</sup></b> |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited   | 21,486          | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>                       |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 598             | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                            | Beneficiaries | 2,495 | 30% 50%  |
|   | of whom females | 80  |               |       |          |
|   | of whom minors  | 4   |               |       |          |
| Number of visits carried out  | 140             | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK<sup>3</sup></b>                               |               |       |          |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 42              | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                                    |               |       |          |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |                 | Patients receiving services                                       | Patients      | 1,068 | 226 185  |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |                 | Prostheses delivered  | Units         | 320   | 52 32    |
| RCMs collected  | 531             | Orthoses delivered  | Units         | 137   | 35 50    |
| RCMs distributed  | 495             |   |               |       |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |                 |   |               |       |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 90              |   |               |       |          |

1. Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan

2. Kyrgyzstan

3. Tajikistan

## ICRC ACTION

Detention-related activities remained an important focus of the Tashkent regional delegation. In Uzbekistan, after more than three years of negotiations, the ICRC resumed its visits to places of detention for a six-month trial period beginning in March. Confidential discussions were held with the authorities on the ICRC's findings and recommendations, and plans were made for visits to resume in 2009. In Kyrgyzstan, the ICRC continued to assess conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees and to inform the authorities of its observations and recommendations through confidential reports. In Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, no progress was made in gaining access to detainees.

The ICRC continued to support the Health and Justice ministries in Kyrgyzstan in their efforts to control tuberculosis (TB) in prisons, particularly in implementing the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS)-plus strategy. ICRC teams renovated TB infrastructure in places of detention.

With a view to ensuring the sustainability of the only physical rehabilitation centre in Tajikistan, the ICRC and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection signed a cooperation agreement on the gradual phasing out of ICRC support. Specialized staff at the centre were trained by an ICRC physiotherapist, while the ICRC and the authorities continued to discuss ways to increase staff salaries in order to retain trained technical personnel.

The ICRC regularly met representatives of the region's governments to discuss ways of making progress in the implementation of IHL treaties. To this end, it organized a regional seminar attended by representatives of the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, who presented reports on the situation in each country and discussed ways of accelerating progress.

The ICRC maintained its dialogue with representatives of the region's Defence ministries, and with operational commanders in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, on means of ensuring the permanent integration of IHL norms into the doctrine, standard operating procedures, training and sanctions of the armed forces. It also continued to raise awareness of relevant international norms among the authorities responsible for the training programmes

and standard operating procedures of police and security forces in the region. Discussions took place in all five countries between representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the ICRC to explore potential areas of collaboration, such as workshops for law enforcement officers on the use of force in crowd control.

The ICRC worked with the relevant authorities to ensure the sustainability of IHL teaching in universities, schools, military lyceums and in-service training institutions, organizing conferences and courses for officials and teachers. Representatives of the region's media were also regularly briefed to enhance their understanding of the ICRC and its activities.

Central Asian National Societies received ICRC and International Federation assistance in developing stronger institutional capacities, strengthening their legal bases and harmonizing their programmes and procedures. With a view to improving its support to the region's National Societies, the ICRC commissioned an external evaluation of the programmes it supported. On the basis of the results, it drafted new cooperation framework agreements with all five National Societies, each containing a strategy for sustainable implementation of the programmes. The National Societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan signed the agreements before year-end.

## CIVILIANS

Families in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan benefited from the ICRC's family-links service, in some cases being able to communicate with their detained relatives through RCMs. Travel documents were provided to refugees and asylum seekers to enable them to resettle in third countries, at the request of embassies or UNHCR.

- 202 RCMs collected from and 243 RCMs distributed to civilians
- 90 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Uzbekistan

Visits to detainees in Uzbekistan, on hold since December 2004, resumed in March for a six-month trial period. People held in nine places of detention, including in the main pre-trial facility in Tashkent and in a prison for women, received visits from the ICRC according to its standard working procedures. Detainees in almost all of these places of detention were visited more than once. While security detainees were the main focus of attention during ICRC visits, the treatment and living conditions of all detainees, including women and minors, were also assessed. The authorities were informed of the ICRC's findings and recommendations through meetings and confidential reports. Some detainees were able to keep in touch with their relatives living abroad through RCMs.

After the trial period, high-level meetings between the authorities and the ICRC took place to discuss the ICRC's findings and recommendations and to draw up plans for visits to resume in 2009. Discussions included the ICRC's wish to gain access, according to its standard procedures, to detainees held in police stations and by the State security services.

- ▶ 12,595 detainees visited, of whom 511 monitored individually (76 females; 3 minors) and 401 newly registered (66 females; 3 minors), during 19 visits to 9 places of detention
- ▶ 90 RCMs collected from and 50 RCMs distributed to detainees

### Kyrgyzstan

People held in 33 places of detention, including penal colonies and pre-trial facilities under the authority of the Ministry of Justice and police stations under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior were visited by the ICRC. The treatment and living conditions of detainees were assessed, particularly those of security detainees, women, minors, foreigners, detainees whose death sentences had been commuted, newly arrived detainees, and alleged members of an Islamist group arrested following public protests in October. The authorities were informed of the ICRC's observations and recommendations through confidential reports and regular meetings. When necessary, detainees received blankets and warm clothes from the ICRC to help them through the winter months, along with hygiene articles and mattresses.

Detainees held by the State security services had not received ICRC visits since mid-2007 after access to them was restricted. Following repeated representations during the year, the authorities gave the ICRC written authorization to undertake such visits, which were then planned for 2009.

The interministerial working group established in response to the ICRC report entitled *Treatment of Detainees, Their Conditions of Detention and Respect of Essential Judicial Guarantees in Police Detention* met only once, in February 2008, following which the authorities received numerous representations from the ICRC to reactivate it.

Detainees restored contact with family members through the exchange of RCMs, with the assistance of the Red Crescent Society of Kyrgyzstan and the ICRC. Women deprived of freedom traced their children with ICRC support. On their release, refugees and asylum seekers received ICRC travel documents, following a

request from UNHCR, to allow them to return to their countries of origin or resettle in third countries.

- ▶ 8,891 detainees visited, of whom 87 monitored individually (4 females; 1 minor) and 52 newly registered (4 females; 1 minor), during 121 visits to 33 places of detention
- ▶ 125 RCMs collected from and 60 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 1 detainee visited by relatives with ICRC support

The prevalence of multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB in Kyrgyzstan was one of the highest in the world, posing a serious threat to the success of TB-control activities both within and outside prisons. The efforts of the Health and Justice ministries to bring TB under control in places of detention through the DOTS-plus programme received ICRC technical assistance.

With the support of the ICRC, including medical and laboratory expertise, equipment, drugs, consumables and sponsorship:

- ▶ the Ministry of Justice supervised diagnostic and treatment activities, drug management, staff training and the treatment of the side effects of TB medication in places of detention
- ▶ the authorities drafted applications for funding from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria and UNITAID, with a view to obtaining sustainable extra-budgetary financing for TB-control activities
- ▶ detainees with MDR TB in Colony 27 began to receive ICRC food parcels to supplement their existing diet
- ▶ the national reference laboratory enhanced its ability to test for first- and second-line drug susceptibility
- ▶ medical staff of penitentiary institutions participated in national and international seminars and conferences on TB and HIV prevention and treatment, thereby updating their knowledge of these topics
- ▶ representatives of Central Asian governments discussed the positive steps taken in Kyrgyzstan to combat TB following ICRC presentations at an international conference held in Uzbekistan
- ▶ detainees and medical and custodial personnel in places of detention obtained information on TB, HIV/AIDS and drug use

Detainees benefited from ICRC support for TB-control efforts through renovation of TB infrastructure in places of detention, including patient rooms, treatment rooms and doctors' rooms. Two TB laboratories were also renovated by the ICRC. Detainees being treated in the TB hospital in Colony 27 were able to keep warm following the installation of a combined coal/electrical heating system by the ICRC. In order to enhance the treatment of detainees through improved collaboration between civilian TB services and places of detention, three TB laboratories within the civilian health care system were renovated and equipped by the ICRC.

The authorities were provided with a report on the conditions of detention and treatment of detainees under the authority of the Ministry of the Interior, based on ICRC visits to five temporary isolators, and renovation work began on sanitary facilities and TB cells in three police stations to identify and demonstrate low-cost solutions.

- ▶ 2,495 detainees benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

## Turkmenistan

Meetings held with the Turkmen authorities, including the foreign minister and government officials with responsibility for detention matters, through which the ICRC hoped to obtain access to security detainees, failed to produce results.

## Tajikistan

Despite efforts to discuss with the authorities the resumption of ICRC visits to detainees in Tajikistan according to its standard working procedures, no progress was made on this issue during the year. Nevertheless the ICRC enabled detainees to make contact with their relatives through RCMs.

- 114 RCMs collected from and 142 RCMs distributed to detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The Tajik Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, with limited ICRC management, technical and financial support, ran the physical rehabilitation centre in Dushanbe and outlying satellite workshops. The authorities signed a cooperation agreement with the ICRC outlining a plan of action for the eventual transfer of full responsibility for the centre to the ministry. Specialized staff at the centre underwent training provided by an ICRC physiotherapist, and new manufacturing guidelines for trans-tibial and trans-femoral prostheses were translated into Tajik as part of the effort to develop the sustainability of the centre's services. The authorities and the ICRC continued to discuss ways to increase staff salaries in order to retain trained technical personnel.

- 1,068 patients (including 226 women and 185 children) received services at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 99 new patients (including 16 women and 9 children) fitted with prostheses and 59 (including 17 women and 20 children) fitted with orthoses
- 320 prostheses (including 52 for women, 32 for children and 29 for mine victims), 137 orthoses (including 35 for women and 50 for children), 238 crutches and 2 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

Although the States of the region were party to many IHL treaties, mechanisms for their integration into national legislation were often lacking. The authorities received advice from the ICRC on making progress in implementation, as well as on the ratification of further IHL treaties. Representatives of the governments of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan participated in a regional seminar on IHL implementation organized by the ICRC. They presented reports on the situation in each country and drafted plans of action on making further progress. The Kyrgyz IHL committee met for the first time, with the participation of the ICRC, and discussed ways of accelerating progress in national implementation of IHL.

- Kyrgyzstan acceded to the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture
- Uzbekistan acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In Kazakhstan, the authorities and the ICRC discussed the need for a headquarters agreement formalizing the ICRC's presence in the country.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Building on a decade of IHL teaching and training in Central Asia, representatives of the region's Defence Ministries discussed with the ICRC the long-term integration of IHL norms into the doctrine, standard operating procedures, training and sanctions of the armed forces. Operational commanders in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan held meetings with the ICRC to examine specific steps to take in this regard. Based on a model IHL integration order provided by the ICRC, the operational command of the Kyrgyz armed forces began drafting such an order.

Teams from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan participated in the sixth Al-Farabi IHL competition organized by the Kazakh Ministry of Defence with ICRC support.

An evaluation to ascertain the extent to which international standards applicable to policing had been integrated into national legislation was under way. This provided an opportunity to raise awareness among the authorities concerned of the ICRC's mandate and activities. Discussions took place in all five countries between representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs and the ICRC to explore potential areas of collaboration, such as workshops for law enforcement officers on the use of force in crowd control.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Ministries of Education, National Societies and the ICRC discussed means of maintaining the level of integration of IHL teaching into secondary education, with a view to the eventual handover of long-term responsibility for IHL teaching to the authorities of each country. In December, a framework agreement detailing plans of action in this regard was signed in Kyrgyzstan. In order to keep up interest in IHL among pupils and teachers, the ICRC and the region's Ministries of Education and National Societies held IHL conferences, competitions and summer camps.

The authorities continued to integrate IHL into pre-military education in schools, military lyceums and in-service training institutes, with ICRC support in running training courses for teachers and students. In Kazakhstan, teachers participated in train-the-trainer courses run by the ICRC. Practical IHL lessons were introduced at military lyceums there.



Discussions between the region's Ministries of Education and National Societies, leading universities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan and the ICRC focused on means of ensuring the sustainability of IHL teaching in universities. In December, the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science, the Kyrgyz Red Crescent and the ICRC signed a trilateral framework agreement on the integration of IHL into State educational standards and law, international law and international relations curricula.

University students and lecturers took part in national and international IHL events with ICRC support.

- ▶ 100 students and teachers participated in IHL courses in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan run by the ICRC in collaboration with local universities
- ▶ more than 60 students and teachers participated in the ninth annual Central Asian IHL competition in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan
- ▶ 8 IHL professors and lecturers from leading Central Asian universities participated in the Martens Readings conference in St Petersburg, Russian Federation
- ▶ 30 academics and civil servants took part in a regional IHL seminar co-organized with the Tashkent State Institute of Law
- ▶ a team of Kyrgyz students took part in the international Jean Pictet IHL competition in Schwarzenburg, Switzerland

Media professionals, including young journalists working for mass media outlets in Uzbekistan, were also regularly briefed by the ICRC, thereby increasing their ability to report more accurately on humanitarian issues.

In March, a BBC correspondent, with ICRC technical and logistic support, made a video story on efforts to combat TB in prisons in Kyrgyzstan, which was broadcast worldwide on television, radio and the Internet on world TB day.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies continued to build their institutional capacities and strengthen their legal bases with financial support and advice from the ICRC and the International Federation, which worked to harmonize their support activities. The National Societies remained ready to assist victims of armed conflict, other situations of violence and natural disaster, whilst working on national and regional contingency plans. They helped restore family links and contributed to the dissemination of IHL and humanitarian values. The Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan was involved in mine action.

The findings of an external evaluation of ICRC-supported programmes led the ICRC and each National Society to draft new cooperation framework agreements containing a strategy for sustainable implementation of the programmes, adapted to local needs and constraints. The ICRC and the National Societies of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan had signed such agreements by year-end.

With financial and technical support from the ICRC and the International Federation, representatives of the region's National Societies regularly met and planned common strategies, harmonized planning methods and exchanged information. For example, 50 volunteers from all five Central Asian National Societies participated in a regional seminar in Kyrgyzstan, updating their skills in restoring family links and their knowledge of the Movement and IHL.

In Tajikistan, an induction course for new staff members in management positions was organized by the International Federation, with the participation of the ICRC and National Societies working internationally.



# western balkans (regional)

The ICRC has been working in the countries covered since the early 1990s. The organization strives to respond to the needs remaining from armed conflicts in the region. It seeks to clarify the fate of missing persons and to address the needs of their families. It also monitors the situation of minority communities, IDPs and returnees facing security problems and, if necessary, lobbies the authorities concerned to respond to their needs. Throughout the region, the ICRC visits detainees, works with the authorities and civil society to promote IHL, and supports the development of the National Societies.

## COVERING

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia), Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> Montenegro, Serbia

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 4,022 |
| Assistance                          | 759   |
| Prevention                          | 2,951 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 2,485 |
| General                             | -     |

► **10,217**

of which: Overheads **624**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>94%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>13</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>116</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- chaired three sessions of the Working Group on Missing Persons which brought together officials from Belgrade and Pristina to clarify the fate of persons missing in relation to the Kosovo conflict
- participated in efforts to set up an effective and independent Missing Persons Institute in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- informed the authorities of the situation of vulnerable communities in Kosovo to enable them to take remedial action where necessary
- in FYR Macedonia, handed over responsibility for the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to the education authorities and the National Society

## CONTEXT

Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence in February was not followed by large-scale violence or population movements, although there were some violent protests, including clashes with international security forces. Minority communities did report increased insecurity, which, they said, limited their freedom of movement and access to public services. Kosovo Serbs later gained full control of the local administration, police force, customs and judiciary in the north of Kosovo. In December, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) began its deployment, taking over many responsibilities from the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, political tensions persisted. The mandate of the Office of the High Representative was prolonged indefinitely, while the mandate of the European Union Force and its 2,500 troops was extended by the UN Security Council until the end of 2009.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia signed Stabilization and Association Agreements with the EU. Serbia's agreement was frozen, however, because some war crimes suspects remained to be handed over to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. Albania was invited to join NATO at the Bucharest Summit in April. NATO also raised the level of cooperation with Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia by inviting them to move to Intensified Dialogue status. The ongoing dispute over the name of FYR Macedonia prevented any invitation for it to join NATO being made at the summit.

The armed forces of several countries in the region took part in multilateral military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

1. UN Security Council Resolution 1244

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |
|---|--------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |        |
| Detainees visited   | 131    |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 74     |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 1      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 27     |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 17     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |        |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 28     |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 9      |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                                | 1      |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                                 | 915    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 13,927 |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 1,654  |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>                           | 855    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 1      |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 905    |

1. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, FYR Macedonia and Serbia

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC's main focus in the region was on supporting efforts to determine the fate of persons missing in relation to past conflicts and to ensure that their families' legal, psychological and social needs were met. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the ICRC participated in efforts to set up an effective and sustainable Missing Persons Institute, a State-level institution with responsibility for addressing the issue of missing persons. The ICRC continued to encourage and facilitate dialogue between officials from Belgrade and Pristina through the Working Group on Missing Persons and the Sub-Working Group on Forensic Issues. The ICRC provided financial support and advice to family associations throughout the region, to help them lobby the authorities for information, raise public awareness and provide psychological and social support to the families.

The ICRC visited people deprived of their freedom throughout the region in accordance with its standard working procedures, focusing on those detained for war crimes or on security-related charges. The authorities were provided with confidential feedback on the findings of these visits and with recommendations where necessary. Negotiations on concluding a formal agreement on access to people deprived of their freedom in Serbia continued but by year-end had still not achieved a successful outcome. Visits nevertheless continued on an ad hoc basis. In Montenegro, the minister of justice signed a letter of intent formalizing ICRC visits to detainees held in the country.

The humanitarian situation of minority communities and IDPs in Kosovo continued to be monitored and assessed by the ICRC, which made representations to the authorities regarding their security concerns and provided basic assistance where needed.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the armed forces of the region regarding the integration of IHL into military training, participated in training events and assisted in the development of training manuals. It also gave presentations on IHL to officers and cadets of the Kosovo Police Service and to officers of the Kosovo Protection Corps.

The national authorities received advice from the ICRC on acceding to and implementing IHL treaties and assistance in drawing up legislation to address the legal needs of families of missing persons. As part of their training, judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers dealing with war crimes cases attended presentations on IHL and its relevance to their work.

Media representatives throughout the region were provided with information by the ICRC, helping them report accurately on humanitarian issues, in particular that of missing persons. The ICRC also supported the authorities in integrating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into school curricula, by training teachers and instructors at teacher-training institutions. Law, political science and journalism students were sponsored by the ICRC to attend national, regional and international IHL competitions and courses.

In line with its strategy to build the capacities of the region's National Societies, the ICRC, in coordination with the International Federation, trained personnel and provided them with technical and financial assistance in their family-links, first-aid, IHL dissemination and mine-action activities. Their activities relating to missing persons included transporting families to identification centres and providing them with psychological and social support during identification.

Preparations were made for the regional delegation to take over responsibility for activities with regard to victims of past conflicts in Croatia after the closure of the ICRC's delegation in Budapest in mid-2009 (see *Budapest*).

## CIVILIANS

### Providing assistance in Kosovo

The security and living conditions of minority communities and IDPs in Kosovo were monitored by the ICRC, in coordination with other humanitarian organizations working in Kosovo. Ad hoc representations were made on their behalf to the authorities, including the Kosovo Police Service and UNMIK Police. In several cases, the ICRC's recommendations on tackling the situation were followed.

## Clarifying the fate of missing persons

As a result of past conflicts in the Balkans, almost 14,000 people whose relatives had approached the ICRC for assistance in locating them remained unaccounted for.

### *Bosnia and Herzegovina conflict 1992–95*

Efforts to resolve the fate of persons missing in relation to the 1992–95 conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina made some progress: more than 800 families recovered the remains of their relatives during the year. However, almost 12,000 families were still waiting for information on the fate of their relatives and for recognition and compensation. The authorities were therefore reminded of their obligations to the families, both directly and via public events such as the International Day of the Disappeared. The names of those still being sought in relation to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina were published on the ICRC website ([www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org)).

To help them make progress in resolving outstanding cases, the national authorities received advice and material support from the ICRC, in particular in establishing an effective and sustainable Missing Persons Institute. Once by-laws on the protection of personal data, in particular the management of central records on missing persons and their families, had been adopted, with input from the ICRC and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), the ICRC's ante-mortem database was transferred to the institute as planned. Expert advice and equipment were provided to assist in data management. During the rest of the year, forensic experts across the country were provided with ante-mortem data and DNA match reports by the institute, continuing the work previously carried out by the ICMP and the ICRC.

Experts from Tuzla Canton responsible for exhumations, forensics and identifications had help in coping with the stress caused by the nature of their difficult work through workshops financed by the ICRC.

- new tracing requests registered for 24 people (8 females; 1 minor at the time of disappearance); 872 people located; 11,989 people (1,367 females; 681 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

### *Kosovo conflict 1999*

The number of people unaccounted for as a result of the Kosovo conflict continued to fall slowly, with identification of previously exhumed human remains continuing, but little progress was made on the identification of grave sites. The authorities in Belgrade and Pristina were reminded of their obligation to take all necessary steps to provide answers to the families and of the importance of coordinating their activities. Dialogue between them was facilitated through three meetings of the ICRC-chaired Working Group on Missing Persons, which was the only forum for discussion that existed between officials of Belgrade and Pristina following Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence. The Sub-Working Group on Forensic Issues met and held teleconferences to discuss technical matters relating to identification.

In Kosovo, the authorities began to take steps to establish a functioning Commission on Missing Persons and to draft laws on missing persons and forensics, following lobbying by the ICRC, which then provided expert advice to help them in the process.

Information obtained through research in the archives of the ICTY and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

(OSCE) was handed by the ICRC to the UNMIK Office on Missing Persons and Forensics, leading to the recovery of the remains of three people in 2008.

The names of those still being sought in relation to the conflict in Kosovo were published on the ICRC website ([www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org)).

- new tracing requests registered for 4 people (1 female); 43 people located; 1,924 people (287 females; 173 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

### *Croatian conflicts 1991–95*

No official meeting between the Croatian and Serbian authorities took place to exchange information on persons missing in relation to the conflicts in Croatia between 1991 and 1995, despite the efforts of the ICRC and other organizations. With a view to accelerating progress on the resolution of outstanding cases, the Croatian and Serbian State Commissions on Missing Persons were provided in the meantime with ante-mortem data.

A total of 142 Serbian family members invited by the Croatian government to identify the remains of their relatives were transported by the ICRC to Croatia, where they identified 75 sets of human remains (see also *Budapest*).

## Support to families of the missing

Family associations received funding and advice in support of their efforts to obtain information from the authorities, to organize events to raise public awareness, and to refurbish premises used for the reception of families during the identification of human remains. An ICRC handbook describing ways to support families of missing persons was translated into local languages and then distributed to National Societies and family associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. Members of family associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina were also trained by the ICRC to provide psychological and social support.

The details of 66 people who went missing during the Balkan conflicts and whose families lived in Montenegro were transferred to the Red Cross Society of Montenegro, which was the focal point in the country for the families of people unaccounted for from those conflicts.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People deprived of their freedom continued to be visited by ICRC delegates in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures. The authorities were informed of the ICRC's observations and recommendations through confidential oral and written reports. The focus was on those detained for war crimes or on security-related charges, as well as on potentially vulnerable detainees among the general prison population; in view of political developments relating to Kosovo, particular attention was paid in Serbia to the situation of ethnic Albanian detainees. A detainee held by the ICTY was visited by relatives with ICRC support.

Negotiations on concluding a formal agreement on access to people deprived of their freedom in Serbia, initiated following difficulties in obtaining access during the state of emergency in 2003 and resumed in 2007, continued but by year-end had still not achieved a successful outcome. Visits nevertheless continued on an ad hoc basis.



In Montenegro, the minister of justice signed a letter of intent formalizing ICRC visits to detainees held in the country.

Detainees held in Croatia in relation to past conflicts were visited by their relatives living in Serbia, one of whom was provided with a travel document by the ICRC (see also *Budapest*).

- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina: 12 detainees visited, of whom 3 monitored individually and 2 newly registered, during 4 visits to 3 places of detention; 854 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ Kosovo: 1 detainee newly registered and monitored individually, during 1 visit to 1 place of detention; 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ FYR Macedonia: 37 detainees visited, of whom 4 monitored individually and 3 newly registered, during 7 visits to 4 places of detention
- ▶ Montenegro: 4 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- ▶ Serbia: 81 detainees visited, of whom 66 monitored individually (1 female) and 16 newly registered, during 15 visits to 9 places of detention; 45 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## AUTHORITIES

Representatives of national authorities and ICRC delegates met regularly to discuss humanitarian and IHL-related topics, including the importance of acceding to IHL treaties. Particular attention was paid to the right of families of missing persons to obtain answers on the fate of their relatives, and, in Kosovo and Serbia, to the requirement for the adoption of effective legislation to address the families' legal needs. The authorities in Pristina included ICRC comments in a draft law on forensics and in specific provisions of Kosovo's constitution and, with ICRC advice, established a working group charged with drafting a law on the missing and their families.

The region's national IHL committees received ICRC support in their work, which included organizing and participating in international meetings at which experts could share experiences and know-how. One such meeting was held in Sarajevo on the implementation of the Hague Convention on Cultural Property and its protocols. The fourth regional meeting of national IHL committees of Central and South-eastern Europe, held in Lithuania (see *Budapest*), was attended by members of the Macedonian IHL committee.

- ▶ Albania ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- ▶ Albania and FYR Macedonia ratified Additional Protocol III
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina acceded to amended Article 1 to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

Judges, prosecutors and defence lawyers dealing with war crimes cases in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo, including over 40 EULEX legal staff, attended ICRC presentations on the applicability of IHL to their work, during training sessions co-organized by national authorities, international organizations and the ICRC.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces across the region continued to make progress in integrating IHL into military training and received ICRC support in developing manuals and training instructors. Military personnel undertook advanced IHL studies with help from ICRC scholarships. A regional assessment enabled this support to be focused where it was most needed.

National and regional training courses, including those run by NATO and the OSCE, featured ICRC presentations on topics such as neutral and independent humanitarian action and the relevance of IHL to contemporary conflicts. National and international military exercises similarly benefited from ICRC input, which ensured the inclusion of relevant IHL elements in these events.

A total of 72 officers from across the region took part in 2 regional planning seminars on multinational peace-support operations held by the Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Sarajevo. Participants learnt from the ICRC about the organization's activities, notably visits to detainees, relief logistics and the protection of civilians in combat zones.

Police officers, cadets attending the Kosovo Police School and officers of the Kosovo Protection Corps learnt about the ICRC's mandate and activities, as well as other humanitarian issues affecting the country, during ICRC presentations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness of IHL among the general public

Regular contacts between representatives of national and international media and the ICRC helped them to provide accurate and widespread coverage of humanitarian issues and the ICRC's activities throughout the region, in particular with regard to missing persons. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Serbia, for example, the media reported widely on events held to commemorate the International Day of the Disappeared and broadcast television spots produced by the ICRC on mine action and cluster munitions.

Representatives of NGOs and religious leaders were also kept up to date on ICRC activities, particularly those regarding missing persons, and events such as round-table debates were organized to bring them together to discuss humanitarian topics of concern in the region.

### Raising awareness of IHL among schoolchildren

The promotion of IHL and humanitarian values among the region's schoolchildren through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme continued in 2008. The programme entered the final phase of integration in Albania, FYR Macedonia and Montenegro; in FYR Macedonia, the programme was handed over to the country's education authorities and to the Macedonian Red Cross at the end of the year. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the authorities of three more cantons decided to integrate the programme into school curricula. In Kosovo, the programme was in its pilot phase.

In support of efforts to ensure sustainability of the programme, teachers, instructors responsible for teacher-training, and decision-makers responsible for education policy attended national and regional training events and meetings organized by the authorities with ICRC support. In Kosovo, contacts with the minister of



education and heads of relevant departments within the ministry were maintained to ensure continuation of the pilot phase of the programme, and primary school teachers attended a training workshop prior to the launch of the second phase.

### **Promoting IHL among students**

Many of the region's leading universities offered IHL courses to students in their law and political science faculties. In an effort to begin to promote IHL in the region's journalism faculties as well, a course on the role of the media in armed conflict was run for future journalists in Serbia, with OSCE backing and in cooperation with Serbia's War Crimes Court and the ICRC. Students across the region were sponsored to attend national, regional and international IHL competitions and courses, organized with ICRC technical and financial support, thereby further stimulating interest in the subject.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

Cooperation with the region's National Societies focused on capacity building in IHL dissemination, first aid, mine action and restoring family links. National Society activities with regard to missing persons included transporting families to identification centres and providing them with psychological and social support. Mine action included holding education sessions for schoolchildren. The National Societies received financial and technical support and training from the ICRC. In Kosovo, the two local Red Cross units also received ICRC support in these areas.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the National Society was urged to implement its revised statutes by the International Federation and the ICRC with a view to aiding it to become unified, functional and self-sustained. In the meantime, it continued its mine-action, family-links and dissemination work.



# ankara

On the basis of an agreement with the Turkish authorities and in direct relation to the armed conflict in neighbouring Iraq, the ICRC opened a temporary mission in Ankara in April 2003. ICRC activities in connection with the situation in Iraq focus mainly on protection issues. The mission in Ankara also provides logistic support for ICRC assistance programmes in the region. Other ICRC activities in Turkey include supporting the authorities in the promotion of IHL and assisting the armed forces in integrating IHL into their training programmes. In addition, the ICRC conducts a number of joint programmes with the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Protection                          | 89  |
| Assistance                          | -   |
| Prevention                          | 546 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 170 |
| General                             | -   |

► **805**

of which: Overheads 49

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 75% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | expatriate                                  |
| 3 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- came to a mutual understanding with the Turkish authorities regarding the legal implications of the military operations conducted by the Turkish armed forces in northern Iraq
- gave presentations on IHL and the ICRC at the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Centre in Ankara and at a seminar organized by the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey in Istanbul
- participated in a round-table on customary IHL attended by 40 Turkish experts
- distributed the first Turkish edition of the *International Review of the Red Cross* to various Turkish authorities
- sponsored the participation of Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese and Nigerian military officials in a course at the PfP Training Centre on the provisions of IHL applicable to the conduct of military operations
- helped finalize the Turkish version of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to be integrated into secondary school curricula in Turkey

## CONTEXT

In October 2008, the Turkish parliament renewed authorization for a second consecutive one-year period for the government to order the military to enter northern Iraq to target bases of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) located there.

Turkish air strikes against PKK positions in northern Iraq were reported throughout 2008. In February, the Turkish armed forces launched a one-week ground offensive involving 10,000 troops against PKK bases. Turkish forces also engaged in clashes with the PKK inside Turkey and reportedly made a number of arrests.

In March 2008, the Iraqi president, Jalal Talabani, made his first official visit to Ankara, and in July, the Turkish prime minister visited Baghdad for the first time, an indication of improved relations between the two countries. Some lower-level contact took place with officials of Iraq's Kurdish regional government.

Turkey mediated indirect peace talks in Istanbul between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic. Four rounds of talks took place in the first half of 2008.

An attempt by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) to lift the headscarf ban in Turkish universities was overruled by the Constitutional Court in June. In another ruling delivered on 30 July on an indictment accusing the AKP of contradicting the principle of secularism, the Constitutional Court decided not to ban the AKP. However, 10 of the Constitutional Court's 11 members agreed that the AKP was responsible for anti-secular activities and decided to cut its treasury funding by half for 2008.

In October, 86 people – 46 of whom were remanded in custody – went on trial in Istanbul on charges of setting up a network to overthrow the government by force, plotting the assassination of prominent political and military officials, including the prime minister and the Turkish chief of the general staff, and possessing explosives and firearms. Other charges included obtaining classified documents, provoking military disobedience, inciting hatred, and abuse of power.

Negotiations on Turkey's bid to join the European Union (EU) remained stalled. By year-end, more than three years after the negotiations began, only 10 of the 35 chapters in Turkey's EU accession process had been opened.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained its temporary presence in the Turkish capital. Dialogue with the Turkish authorities centred mainly on operational matters related to the conflict in neighbouring Iraq. In a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, in November 2008, the Turkish ambassador there and the ICRC director of operations discussed, among other issues, the legal implications of the military operations conducted by the Turkish armed forces in northern Iraq. Activities carried out by the ICRC in relation to the situation in Iraq included notifying the authorities of the detention of Turkish nationals in Iraq and enabling such detainees to exchange news with their families through RCMs.

Discussions on a proposed headquarters agreement submitted to the Turkish government in September 2007, which would establish a permanent ICRC presence in Turkey, remained on hold.

As part of its ongoing cooperation with the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Training Centre in Ankara, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL at several of its training events and sponsored the participation of representatives of countries that were not members of the PfP in an IHL course at the Centre.

The Ministry of Education and the Turkish Red Crescent Society received technical support to facilitate the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula.

## CIVILIANS

Protection activities in relation to the situation in Iraq continued and included notifying the authorities of the detention of Turkish nationals in Iraq.

Turkish families seeking news of relatives detained/interned abroad were able to renew or maintain contact with family members detained in Iraq through the ICRC family-links service. The Turkish authorities were notified of the detention of Turkish nationals visited by the ICRC in Iraq.

At the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a Turkish business person detained in northern Iraq was visited by the ICRC in January. A Turkish family contacted the ICRC in May in the hope of tracing a relative allegedly detained in Iraq. The person was located through the ICRC's worldwide tracing network and reunited with his family a fortnight later. The release and repatriation of three Turkish detainees in the custody of US forces in Iraq were closely followed by the ICRC delegation, along with the families concerned and the Turkish authorities.

An ICRC medical expert participated in a seminar on "delivering health in prisons", which took place in Alanya, Turkey, on 16–17 October. Organized by the EU's Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office (which provides technical assistance to EU candidate countries), in cooperation with the Turkish Ministry of Justice, the seminar was attended by some 100 doctors and psychologists delivering primary health care in Turkish prisons. Meanwhile, the Turkish version of the ICRC-produced CD-ROM on prison health was finalized and ready to be shared with all those concerned with ensuring adequate health conditions in Turkish prisons.

## AUTHORITIES

In May, the Turkish authorities invited representatives of ICRC headquarters to visit a Turkish army medical and physical rehabilitation centre in Ankara and a munitions disposal facility in the Kirikale district to witness steps taken to comply with Turkey's obligations under Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention to destroy all known stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines by 1 March 2008.

Also in May, a Turkish delegation attended the fourth regional meeting of national IHL committees from Central and South-Eastern Europe, organized by the Lithuanian IHL committee and the ICRC (see *Budapest*), and chaired a session on the promotion of IHL among the armed forces.

On 16 and 17 October, Marmara University in Istanbul organized a round-table attended by 40 Turkish experts in IHL. Participants included State officials, members of the armed forces and a number of representatives of universities, institutes and think-tanks. Turkish-speaking experts from Cyprus and Iraq also took part in the debate, which centred on the content of the ICRC's study on customary IHL. An official report on the seminar's conclusions was to be published in 2009.

Relevant authorities read about international criminal tribunals, truth and reconciliation commissions, private military companies and methods of warfare in the Turkish edition of the *International Review of the Red Cross*. The first Turkish-language version of the journal was printed in December and included five articles covering the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

A total of 228 participants – members of the Turkish armed forces and representatives of some 30 countries – received training in IHL and related issues in 8 different courses run by the PfP Training Centre in Ankara. As part of its ongoing cooperation with the Centre, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL and distributed sets of IHL publications to participants.

For the first time, the ICRC sponsored the participation of representatives of non-PfP member countries in a PfP course held in November on the provisions of IHL applicable to the conduct of military operations. Participants included an Egyptian colonel, two Iranian generals, an Iranian legal adviser, a Lebanese colonel and a Nigerian colonel.

NATO's annual conference for legal advisers, held in April in Istanbul, was an opportunity for participants to discuss IHL-related topics with ICRC experts. In May, NATO's Rapid Deployable Corps-Turkey organized a civil-military cooperation seminar, GÖKSU-5, in which the ICRC took part, in line with a memorandum of understanding concluded between the two organizations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

With ICRC support, the Ministry of Education and the Turkish Red Crescent were engaged in integrating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary school curricula. A working group set up in April finalized the Turkish version of the revised training modules, and preparations were under way to train 180 teachers from 14 different cities so that they could test them in their schools.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In January, the Turkish Red Crescent informed the ICRC that, in view of its commitments to institutional restructuring, it would have to suspend its participation in ICRC programmes for a period of six months, a decision that it confirmed in July. However, the ICRC maintained its support to various National Society programmes, including those related to the teaching of IHL principles to secondary school children (see *Civil society*).

On 13–14 June, the ICRC took part in the second Consultation Meeting of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies of Member States of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, organized by the Turkish Red Crescent in Istanbul. The event was followed by celebrations marking the 140th anniversary of the Turkish National Society.



# brussels

The ICRC has been working in Brussels since 1999, building strong institutional and operational relations with European Union institutions, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, and NATO and its Parliamentary Assembly. It is expanding its sphere of activity to include key armed forces based in Western Europe. Its aim is to make the ICRC's mandate better known, mobilize political, diplomatic and financial support for its activities and ensure that relevant military decision-makers in Western Europe view the ICRC as the main reference point for neutral and independent humanitarian action.

## COVERING

Institutions of the European Union (EU), the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and key armed forces in Western Europe

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | -     |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 2,510 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 158   |
| General                             | 119   |

► **2,787**

of which: Overheads 170

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 89% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 2  | expatriates                                 |
| 10 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- president engaged in high-level dialogue on operational and topical issues with the Political and Security Committee of the EU, NATO's Supreme Allied Command Europe, and the Slovenian and French Presidencies of the EU
- stressed the importance of upholding the principles of independence, impartiality and neutrality at the core of humanitarian action during a hearing before the European Parliament to discuss the implementation of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid
- further developed its dialogue on operational and thematic issues with the Council of Europe, EU institutions, NATO and the OSCE
- produced jointly with the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) a spot, shown in cinemas in Brussels, on the plight of children in armed conflict and illustrating the strong ICRC-ECHO partnership
- enhanced its cooperation with European National Societies and the International Federation through dialogue with the Brussels-based Red Cross/EU Office
- organized the 9th Bruges Colloquium on IHL with the College of Europe

## CONTEXT

The Lisbon Treaty ratification process was stalled after Ireland rejected the Treaty in a referendum on 13 June 2008. Another referendum on the Treaty, which had been due to enter into force in January 2009, was expected to be held in Ireland in 2009.

The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, adopted on 18 December 2007 by the Council of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament, continued to be a key instrument in determining the approach of EU institutions and member States to humanitarian aid.

During the year, the EU regularly expressed its concerns in relation to major crises around the world. The conflict regarding South Ossetia in August, the fighting in the North and South Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the situation in Israel and the occupied and autonomous Palestinian Territories, notably in the Gaza Strip at the end of the year, attracted particular attention. The ceasefire agreement between Georgia and the Russian Federation, initiated by President Nicolas Sarkozy during the French Presidency of the EU, was recognized as a major diplomatic breakthrough.

The EU left its member States free to decide individually whether to recognize Kosovo's<sup>1</sup> unilateral proclamation of independence and refrained from taking a common position on the issue.

By year-end, the EU had conducted 14 active field missions within the framework of its European Security and Defence Policy. Five of these missions took place in 2008 (EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic, EUMM Georgia, EU SSR Guinea-Bissau, EULEX Kosovo, and EU NAVFOR, an anti-piracy mission off the Somali coast).

Negotiations on an EU directive setting common standards for the return of irregular migrants generated tensions, notably between civil society and EU institutions. After lengthy discussions, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached a consensus on major issues (pre-departure detention period, detention regime for minors and period of re-entry ban) and the directive was formally adopted.

1. UN Security Council Resolution 1244



NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) continued to be heavily deployed in operations in Afghanistan. In 2008, the "Operation Allied Provider" anti-piracy mission was deployed off the Somali coast before the EU mission took over. At the NATO summit in Bucharest, Romania, in April, participants agreed on the future membership of Albania and Croatia and confirmed the eventual participation of Georgia and Ukraine in NATO's Membership Action Plan.

Council of Europe bodies and the OSCE continued to address certain issues of concern to the ICRC, especially in relation to the conflict regarding South Ossetia, for which they sought to play a role in finding a settlement.

Other contexts, as well as important humanitarian issues such as those relating to missing or internally displaced persons, remained high on the agenda of the Council of Europe. The OSCE also pursued efforts to resolve frozen conflicts in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to strengthen its dialogue with EU institutions, notably with the EU Presidency, the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, and the European Commission. Discussions centred primarily on EU initiatives taken in major operational contexts in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy and the EU Guidelines on improving compliance with IHL. The aim of these discussions was to ensure that the EU took into account the ICRC's priorities and analyses of specific issues of humanitarian concern, such as the situations in Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, the Middle East, Somalia and Sudan.

ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited Paris and Ljubljana to discuss matters of common interest with the French and Slovenian authorities during their respective EU Presidencies. He also visited Brussels to pursue discussions on operational and thematic issues with the EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC).

During the debate in the European Parliament on the European Commission's proposal for a European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, the ICRC reasserted the importance of upholding the principles of independence, impartiality and neutrality at the core of humanitarian action.

The ICRC pursued its substantive dialogue with the European Commission, in particular the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and other services in charge of new financial instruments, with a view to obtaining financial support for ICRC activities. The ICRC and ECHO implemented a joint communication plan highlighting the partnership between the two institutions.

The ICRC strengthened its formal dialogue with NATO on specific operations and on general humanitarian issues and continued to participate in pre-deployment and generic military exercises in order to provide IHL training support and information on the ICRC's specific identity.

Discussions also continued with the Council of Europe, in particular in the framework of its Parliamentary Assembly, which adopted a report on ICRC activities.

Cooperation was maintained with European National Societies and the International Federation through the Red Cross/EU Office in Brussels.

## AUTHORITIES

### EU Council

The implementation of the EU Guidelines on promoting compliance with IHL and current and planned European Security and Defence missions were among the leading issues discussed on a regular basis with the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, as well as with the Slovenian, French and future Czech EU Presidencies.

In February, at the request of the Slovenian Presidency, the Public International Law Working Group (COJUR) was briefed by the ICRC on the principle of non-refoulement, IHL and armed conflict. The French Presidency also invited the ICRC in September to brief COJUR members on the issue of private military and security companies.

In May, the ICRC Head of Operations for the Middle East took part in a special policy briefing organized by the Slovenian Presidency and the Permanent Representation of Switzerland.

The Slovenian and French EU Presidencies invited the ICRC president in May and December respectively to address the PSC. On both occasions, he focused on the ICRC's humanitarian priorities and exchanged views with PSC ambassadors on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, Darfur (Sudan), the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, the occupied and autonomous Palestinian Territories, and Somalia. In June, the ICRC co-organized with the Slovenian EU Presidency the annual seminar on IHL for EU civil servants and staff of Permanent Representations.

In September, on the invitation of the French Presidency, the ICRC addressed the Working Group on Disarmament on progress made in the field of regulating cluster munitions.

### European Commission

The European Commission and the ICRC pursued their dialogue, mainly through ECHO. They implemented a joint communication plan targeting decision-makers, opinion-leaders and young people and agreed on action to implement the plan for a second year (see *Civil society*).

In March, the Slovenian EU Presidency invited the ICRC to share its views with participants in a meeting of the Humanitarian Aid Committee on the theme of children affected by armed conflict. In November, at another meeting, the Humanitarian Aid Committee invited the ICRC to present the coordination mechanism between the ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The ICRC president took part in a conference co-organized by the European Commission and the European Parliament on respect for IHL.

## European Parliament

The European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs and its Sub-Committees on Human Rights and on Defence and Security had the opportunity to take into account general and specific humanitarian issues thanks to the participation of the ICRC in many of their hearings and debates.

The European Parliament gave the ICRC the opportunity to convey the organization's position on the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and on the issue of women in armed conflict during hearings held in January and May. In November, it invited the ICRC to present its perspective on civil-military cooperation.

## NATO

Representatives of the Office of NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy and the ICRC met regularly to discuss various issues of common interest. The annual ICRC-NATO meeting between senior officials of each institution in June enabled an exchange of views on selected operational contexts, as well as on certain thematic issues.

NATO's annual conference of legal advisers, held in April in Istanbul, Turkey (see *Ankara*), and NATO's Parliamentary Assembly sessions in Berlin, Germany, and in Valencia, Spain, in May and June respectively were an opportunity for participants to discuss IHL-related topics with the ICRC.

## Council of Europe

In the framework of its dialogue with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the ICRC attended sessions of the Committees on Migration, Refugees and Population and on Legal Affairs and Human Rights and the fourth annual plenary meeting of PACE in Strasbourg, France. The Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population prepared a report and a preliminary draft resolution on ICRC activities, which PACE adopted during its plenary session in June, at which the ICRC president was a guest speaker.

Regular contacts were maintained with other Council of Europe bodies, in particular its General Secretariat.

## OSCE

The Office of the General Secretariat of the OSCE in Vienna, Austria, and the ICRC exchanged views on subjects of common interest, such as the activities of their respective organizations in Afghanistan and in the southern Caucasus, the situation in Kosovo and the training of police forces, with a view to strengthening operational cooperation whenever possible. In December, the ICRC participated as an observer in the annual Ministerial Council held in Helsinki, Finland.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### NATO

The formal dialogue between NATO and the ICRC was strengthened at both strategic and operational levels. Meetings with the commander and deputy commander of the Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy, and between the ICRC president and the supreme allied commander Europe (SACEUR – strategic commander for all NATO operations) in Mons, Belgium, were opportunities to discuss numerous issues of mutual interest. These included the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, the need to engage in a dialogue with all parties to the conflict and the need to establish a clear distinction between neutral and independent humanitarian action and the civil-military work of Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Participants in an annual conference on Provincial Reconstruction Teams, organized by the Allied Joint Force Command in Brunssum, the Netherlands, as well as in a seminar on civil-military cooperation organized by the Allied Command Transformation, were also informed of these core principles underpinning ICRC humanitarian action. All these meetings provided an opportunity to address legal, operational and training issues and to exchange views on specific contexts such as Afghanistan and the Balkans.

### NATO training and exercises

NATO's annual conference for legal advisers, held in April in Istanbul, as well as the advanced operational law course at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, were opportunities for participants to discuss IHL-related topics with the ICRC. The ICRC also participated in seven pre-deployment or generic military exercises. It took part in the ISAF Regional Command South Missions Specific Training in Germany, in ISAF Headquarters staff training in Turkey, and in various courses organized either by the NATO School or by the Joint Forces Commands.

### US European Command (EUCOM) and African Command (AFRICOM)

US command structures and the ICRC held a first joint meeting in February, which established the basis for a regular dialogue on IHL in the context of the fight against "terrorism" and on operational contexts in Africa. It was followed up by a meeting between the ICRC's deputy director of operations and the AFRICOM commander and, in December, by an ICRC visit to the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Germany, where 60,000 US and Allied soldiers were trained yearly.

## European Union Force (EUFOR)

The command structures of EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic and NAVFOR-Atalanta continued discussing issues of common interest with the ICRC, including detention policy. In November, a meeting took place with the director of the EU military staff.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Participation in debates and conferences organized by think-tanks such as the Centre for European Policy Studies, the European Policy Centre, the Security & Defence Agenda and the Royal Institute of International Relations enabled the ICRC to share its views on issues of humanitarian concern with a wide range of audiences. Among other issues, the definition of the notion of armed conflict and the nexus between IHL and human rights law in the framework of the fight against “terrorism” were addressed.

Students from the College of Europe and other universities in the region attended the 5th IHL course in Bruges, Belgium, while a similar course was held for the second time for students at the College of Europe’s Natolin campus in Warsaw, Poland. In October, the 9th Bruges Colloquium, organized jointly with the College of Europe, addressed the issue of rendition in situations of armed conflict.

In February, the ICRC president gave an interview during his official visit to Slovenia, in which he reflected on current challenges facing the ICRC, its humanitarian concerns and its relations with the EU.

As part of a communication plan established in 2007, an ECHO-ICRC spot was shown over a three-month period in cinemas in Brussels, highlighting both the plight of children in armed conflict and the partnership between the two institutions (see *Authorities*).

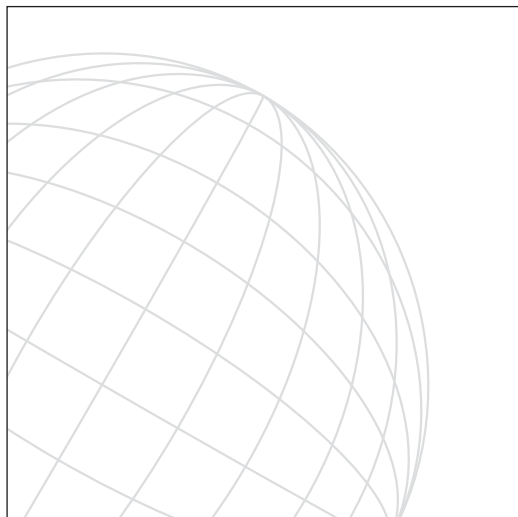
For the second time, the Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE), a network of European NGOs, organized a conference jointly with the ICRC, this time on the theme of “Water and War”. The ICRC presented its approach to water and sanitation, illustrated by examples from Iraq and Lebanon.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

A sustained dialogue between the Red Cross/EU Office and the ICRC led to greater coordination of their respective positions regarding issues dealt with by European institutions. The Red Cross/EU Office invited the ICRC to participate in its annual meeting held in November. Its director accompanied the ICRC to a meeting with the new director of ECHO, who was briefed on ICRC activities.

ICRC participation in meetings of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants, the European Legal Support Group and the Disaster Management Working Group helped the organization stay abreast of relevant national and international issues. It also provided the ICRC with an opportunity to share its views with the participants on matters related to its specific mandate and expertise.

The ICRC also attended a conference on gender and migration in the Mediterranean region organized by the Italian Red Cross.



# international tracing service

The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, serves the victims of Nazi persecution and their families by documenting their fate through the archives it manages. The ITS preserves these historical records and makes them available for research. The ITS is governed under the 1955 Bonn Agreements and its 2006 Protocol by the 11-member International Commission for the International Tracing Service (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America). The ICRC manages the ITS on behalf of the International Commission.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Protection                          | 568 |
| Assistance                          | -   |
| Prevention                          | 92  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | -   |
| General                             | -   |

► **661**

of which: Overheads 40

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 85% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | expatriates                                 |
| 0 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ITS:

- dealt with the backlog of enquiries, so that there were no further pending requests in the forced labour and post-war sections
- welcomed 1,300 visitors following the official opening of the archives to the public in April
- took an active part in the debate on the future of the institution being undertaken by the Strategic Study Group established by the International Commission

## CONTEXT

In 2008, the ITS remained an invaluable resource for civilians persecuted under the Third Reich and for their families. It used its archive of documents to record and confirm individual cases of incarceration and forced labour and undertook worldwide searches for persons missing from that period.

The entry into force on 28 November 2007 of the May 2006 Protocol on the amendment of the 1955 Bonn Agreement Constituting an International Commission for the International Tracing Service, following its ratification by all 11 member States of the International Commission, had paved the way for the opening of the ITS archives to the public and for historical research. On 6 February 2008, the president of the ICRC and the Polish authorities (which held the presidency of the International Commission) signed the Amendment of the Agreement between the International Commission for the International Tracing Service and the ICRC, completing the process of opening the archives to the public.

Following the opening of the archives for research and given a reduction in tracing work, discussion in the International Commission turned to the ITS's future structure and administrative responsibilities. To explore the matter in greater depth, the International Commission established a Strategic Study Group, headed by the Netherlands, which began to identify future challenges for the ITS and ways of addressing them. A first meeting of the Strategic Study Group was held in Geneva, Switzerland, in September.

## CIVILIANS

Victims of persecution under the Third Reich, and/or their family members, continued to receive responses to their enquiries, including certificates enabling them to access due compensation. Almost 11,000 enquiries received in 2008 were answered within eight weeks of being submitted, in line with the new accelerated procedure for processing requests. All prior enquiries had also been answered, leaving no further requests pending in the forced labour and post-war sections.

With a view to improving the infrastructure of the ITS and the tools available to historical researchers, advice was sought from a wide range of experts in the field. A meeting of historians, archivists, information technology engineers and other specialists from among the member States of the International Commission concluded that alterations to the cataloguing and indexing systems would be required, and outlined means of ensuring multilateral cooperation in implementing such changes. Two groups of genealogists undertook research in the archives, checking the fate of more than 10,000 victims of Nazi persecution and providing another useful opportunity for the ITS to determine areas requiring improvement. Work on infrastructure began, including the establishment of a library and a reading room.

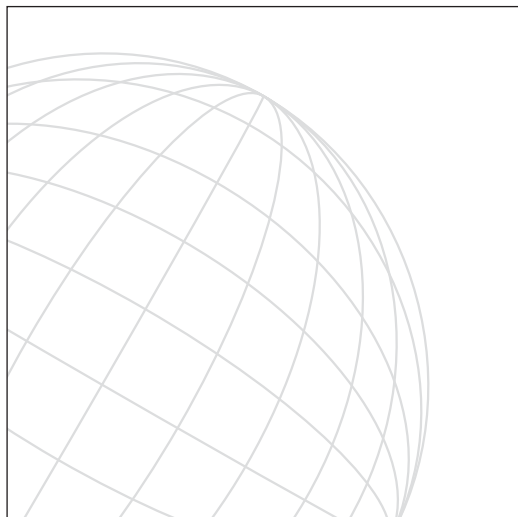
In 2007, the International Commission had laid down rules governing access to the archives in Bad Arolsen. It had also established a procedure for transferring digital copies of documents to member States to enable them to store the data on their own computer systems and so afford researchers in those countries direct access to

the information. Three member States received digital copies of a total of 7 million displaced persons' registration cards in March and digital copies of documentation on forced labour in August, benefiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Yad Vashem in Israel and the Institute for National Remembrance in Poland. Scanning and indexing of the files on displaced persons continued.

In order to publicize the opening of the archives and encourage researchers to use them, an official opening ceremony took place on 30 April. Approximately 1,300 people from 24 countries visited the ITS after it opened to the public, including 330 researchers, 100 journalists and 290 victims of Nazi persecution and their family members.

With a view to ensuring its continuing ability to provide the best possible support to people who suffered under the Third Reich, their family members and historical researchers, the ITS took an active part in the work of the Strategic Study Group, participating in the study group's first meeting in September (see *Office of the Director-General*).





# london

Set up in 2003 as a communication hub for the ICRC worldwide, the London office, in cooperation with the British Red Cross, has since focused on pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the British authorities and armed forces, members of parliament, think-tanks and major international NGOs. Through such contacts, the ICRC seeks to improve understanding of and secure broad support for IHL and ICRC and Movement operations.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Protection                          | -   |
| Assistance                          | -   |
| Prevention                          | 559 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 87  |
| General                             | -   |

► **647**

*of which: Overheads 39*

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>77%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | expatriate                                  |
| <b>0</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- concluded a Cooperation Framework Agreement with the British Red Cross enabling closer cooperation across a wide range of fields of expertise and in specific operational contexts
- in partnership with the British Red Cross, conducted a month-long communication campaign focusing on the impact of armed conflict on civilians
- participated in debates with influential members of civil society and government representatives on topics of concern to the ICRC

## CONTEXT

In 2008, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland continued to play an important role on the international scene. The British armed forces remained engaged in Afghanistan and Iraq, both of which featured regularly in the media and were of public concern. As well as its participation in multilateral military operations, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland remained politically active in many contexts of interest to the ICRC.

London was home to influential think-tanks and academic institutions with an international focus and was the venue for many conferences, seminars and workshops dealing with international relations, security, conflict analysis and military and humanitarian intervention. Also, as one of the world's foremost media centres, the city remained a focal point for international debate on current global issues. A large number of news organizations with worldwide reach were based in London, as was a high concentration of foreign media from all continents, including all major transnational satellite broadcasters.

## ICRC ACTION

To enhance its network for humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC strengthened its relations with key stakeholder groups in 2008, including the British political authorities and armed forces, through training events and a series of visits by senior ICRC staff. The ICRC also continued to reinforce its links with media based in the country to encourage journalists to give prominence to humanitarian concerns when reporting on conflicts around the world. Similarly, it fostered ties with academic institutions and think-tanks to increase knowledge of IHL and other topics of ICRC concern among influential members of civil society. A British national was hired to assist in the development of links with the authorities and the media.

The ICRC continued to develop its training activities with the British armed forces. These included supporting officer training at the Joint Services Command and Staff College and participating in pre-mission training events for troops heading for Afghanistan and Iraq.

The ICRC and the British Red Cross continued to coordinate their activities and to work together to increase public awareness of humanitarian issues. The two organizations concluded a Cooperation Framework Agreement to enable closer cooperation across a wide range of fields of expertise and in specific operational contexts.

## AUTHORITIES

Key decision-makers in the British civil service and ICRC representatives in London met on numerous occasions to discuss issues of mutual concern relating to UK security policy and force deployment. Such meetings enabled the ICRC to familiarize British officials with its mandate and operations and for them to convey to the ICRC the constraints under which they operated.

Several senior civil servants attended a speech given by the ICRC director-general at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, which aimed to stimulate debate on contemporary challenges to IHL. Humanitarian and conflict advisers of the Department for International Development took part in a training course on the legal framework for humanitarian action. Participants had an opportunity to share ideas on operational aspects of IHL, the ICRC's mandate and the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action during a presentation by the ICRC at the event.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Military officers continued to learn about IHL in their training programmes, gaining deeper knowledge of the ICRC's mandate and operations during regular briefings by the ICRC. Officers at the Joint Services Command and Staff College took part in IHL training sessions, which included presentations given by the ICRC. Participants in training courses run by the UK Joint Civil-Military Cooperation Group and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, with ICRC support, learnt about the organization's activities and

their relevance to British military operations. Troops intended for deployment in contexts such as Afghanistan and Iraq, including those responsible for detainees, also learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's humanitarian activities during pre-mission and other training exercises.

A dialogue was maintained with representatives of private military and security companies regarding ICRC efforts to raise awareness of its role and mandate among their personnel. Senior military officers were reminded of the importance of establishing a legislative framework under IHL to ensure accountability of such companies operating in armed conflicts.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Representatives of UK-based media and NGOs met senior ICRC personnel, including the ICRC director-general, and learnt about the organization's mandate, its humanitarian activities in conflict zones where the British military was operating, and the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action.

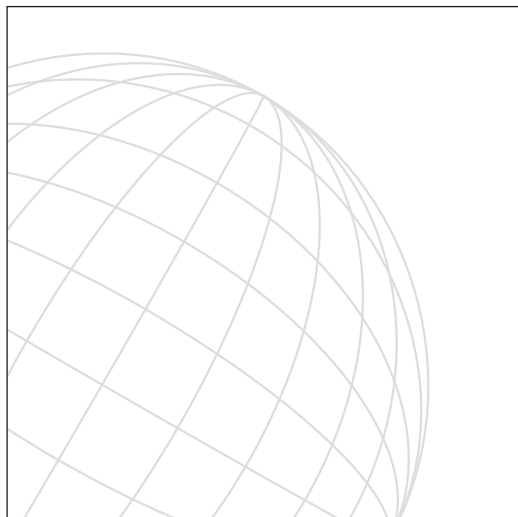
Events hosted by think-tanks, NGOs, academic institutions and the media provided opportunities to increase knowledge of IHL and awareness of other topics of ICRC concern among influential members of civil society. Staff and students of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, attended an address given by the ICRC's director-general, which aimed to stimulate interest in and debate on contemporary challenges to IHL. The Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and the ICRC co-hosted events at which lawyers, academics, NGO representatives and government officials discussed topics such as the legal implications of private military and security companies operating in armed conflicts and procedural safeguards in non-international armed conflict.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The British Red Cross and the ICRC continued to coordinate their activities and undertook a number of collaborative initiatives. For example, representatives of major media organizations and NGOs discussed the relationship between humanitarian aid agencies and the media in armed conflicts during a public debate hosted by the British Red Cross with ICRC support.

The two organizations also conducted a month-long communication campaign focusing on the impact of armed conflict on civilians. The campaign included sponsored visits by members of the media to selected contexts, which led to the publication of articles in British newspapers on related humanitarian issues and the work of the British Red Cross.

A Cooperation Framework Agreement was concluded to enable closer cooperation between the British Red Cross and the ICRC across a wide range of fields of expertise and in specific operational contexts.



# paris

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, focuses on promoting IHL, pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the French authorities, military and academic circles, the diplomatic community, representatives of third countries, economic interest groups, the media, and the French Red Cross.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 57    |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,123 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 59    |
| General                             | -     |

► **1,239**

*of which: Overheads 76*

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>93%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | expatriate                                  |
| <b>3</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- organized web-based public debates involving representatives of academic and research institutions, NGOs and the media
- established an operational partnership with the French Red Cross to provide first-aid training within ICRC health programmes

## CONTEXT

France continued to play an important role in international affairs in 2008. The country held the presidency of the EU from July to December, and President Nicolas Sarkozy and Foreign Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner undertook high-profile diplomatic initiatives in contexts of interest to the ICRC. The government reaffirmed France's commitment to the multilateral military operation in Afghanistan, sending additional troops, and declared its intention to reintegrate into the command structure of NATO in 2009. It also announced widespread cuts in civilian and military defence jobs over the coming years.

Given its large Arabic-speaking community and traditionally close ties with many African countries, France remained an important focus for humanitarian diplomacy, offering opportunities for intercession on behalf of victims of armed conflict in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

## ICRC ACTION

The Paris delegation continued to be a key part of the ICRC's humanitarian diplomacy network, through which the organization sought to promote IHL, increase understanding of its mandate and operations, and stimulate debate on humanitarian issues. In France, this network included the French authorities, particularly the Office of the President and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence and Justice, foreign opposition movements based in the country, and Paris-based international organizations, as well as NGOs and the media.

The delegation maintained support to the authorities' efforts to train the French armed forces in IHL, briefing officers, cadets and military legal advisers on the ICRC's mandate and operations.

The ICRC gave presentations on IHL at leading academic and research institutions. It also worked on projects to stimulate debate in civil society and inform the public about humanitarian issues and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

The ICRC and the French Red Cross continued to discuss practical issues regarding contexts in which both were working. They established an operational partnership to provide first-aid training to National Society personnel and members of the public within ICRC health programmes in such contexts.

## AUTHORITIES

The French authorities met representatives of the ICRC, including the ICRC president, on several occasions to discuss topics of mutual concern. The meetings enabled the authorities to obtain a better understanding of the ICRC's mandate and operations and to convey to the ICRC the constraints under which they operated. France's presidency of the EU from July to December offered an opportunity to elicit further support for ICRC operations among leaders of other EU governments. The French authorities also facilitated wider debate among the ICRC's major donors by hosting the yearly Donor Support Group meeting (see *Resources and operational support*).

Parliamentarians and representatives of the Defence, Foreign and Justice ministries pursued a dialogue with the delegation on France's implementation of and accession to IHL treaties. A bill on the incorporation of the repression of war crimes into France's criminal justice code was passed by the Senate in June, a step towards the adoption of the necessary legislation. Together with the National Society, the delegation continued to encourage the Ministry of Defence to create a Prisoners of War Information Bureau in line with Article 122 of the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

The Commission nationale consultative des droits de l'homme, a national body advising the French government on IHL implementation, received advice from the ICRC on topics such as the legal implications of private military and security companies operating in armed conflicts.

Foreign opposition groups and international organizations based in France, through regular contact with the ICRC, increased their understanding of the ICRC's mandate and role as a neutral and independent humanitarian actor, facilitating ICRC operations in the field.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Military officers, cadets and legal advisers to the Ministry of Defence continued to learn about IHL in their training programmes. They also gained deeper knowledge of the ICRC's mandate and operations during regular ICRC briefings, including pre-deployment briefings. Members of the Groupement inter-armées des actions civilo-militaires in Lyon, as part of their training in civil-military cooperation, attended sessions on the importance of neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and the ICRC's activities.

For administrative reasons relating to the Ministry of Defence, IHL briefing sessions for senior officers at the Ecole de gendarmerie de Rochefort did not take place in 2008.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Representatives of the media, academia and NGOs continued to receive information on topics of concern to the ICRC. As a result of regular briefings, the French-language press published articles on subjects such as the consequences of armed conflict on women. Lecturers, researchers and students from leading academic institutions and research centres increased their knowledge of IHL during ICRC presentations. French NGOs, including Handicap International, Médecins du Monde, Action Contre la Faim, Médecins Sans Frontières and Secours Islamique France, invited the ICRC to participate in conferences and debates, which provided opportunities to boost coordination of humanitarian action.

French academics, journalists and the wider public were able to follow and discuss humanitarian issues and the ICRC's activities on the ICRC blog hosted by *Le Monde's* website. Three major public debates were held on topics of concern to the ICRC during the year, with the participation of representatives of academic and research institutions, NGOs and the media. These debates, streamed live on the France Info website and subsequently posted on the ICRC blog, prompted exchanges of views on humanitarian issues among influential members of civil society and reinforced public perception of the ICRC as a key reference on IHL and a proponent of neutral and independent humanitarian action.

An international audience enjoyed access to high-quality television documentaries and radio programmes on IHL-related subjects pooled among member States of the Paris-based International Radio and Television University (URTI). The material was selected by members of URTI, including the ICRC. The Monte Carlo Television Festival again featured an ICRC-sponsored prize for a documentary focusing on topics of concern to the ICRC.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

During the year, the French Red Cross and the ICRC regularly discussed practical issues regarding operational contexts in which both were working. They established an operational partnership to provide first-aid training to National Society personnel and members of the public within ICRC health programmes in such contexts. The National Society also received ICRC advice on improving its tracing services.



# colombia

The ICRC has been working in Colombia since 1969, striving to protect and assist victims of the armed conflict, to secure greater compliance with IHL by all weapon bearers, and to promote integration of IHL into the armed forces' doctrine, training and operations. The ICRC also visits security detainees. For IDPs and conflict-affected residents, it provides relief, helps ensure access to health care, and carries out small-scale repairs to infrastructure. It also runs a comprehensive mine-action programme, which includes mine-risk education and physical rehabilitation for victims. It works closely with the National Society and other Movement components active in Colombia.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 5,975  |
| Assistance                          | 24,948 |
| Prevention                          | 5,355  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,309  |
| General                             | -      |

► **37,587**

of which: Overheads 2,294

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>110%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>61</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>257</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- in all dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers, reiterated their obligations under IHL to protect those not or no longer participating in the fighting and to ensure that their needs were met
- with the Colombian Red Cross, delivered emergency aid to more than 75,000 newly displaced people
- also with the Colombian Red Cross, provided health care to some 4,000 conflict-affected people
- as a neutral intermediary, provided logistical assistance in the release of 31 people held by armed groups and ensured the safe passage of 11 government mobile health units
- with the Colombian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, ran a comprehensive programme to address Colombia's widespread weapon-contamination problem through data gathering, mine-risk education and victim assistance
- assisted government efforts to clarify the fate of missing persons by boosting national forensic and data-management capacities

## CONTEXT

The Colombian government's political difficulties continued into 2008 as yet more paramilitary leaders, demobilized within the framework of the Justice and Peace Law, revealed alleged links between them and State officials or members of the armed forces or National Congress. A scandal over the extrajudicial execution of civilians presented as battlefield casualties led to the dismissal of some high-ranking officers. Further tension was created by talk of a possible constitutional reform to enable President Álvaro Uribe to stand for re-election for a third consecutive term.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) faced a series of major setbacks, including the deaths of its leader, his second in command, and another member of the FARC secretariat, who was killed by his own men.

Clashes persisted between government forces and armed groups, as well as among armed groups (between the FARC and the National Liberation Army, for example), intensifying in the south-west and east of the country. Large numbers of people were displaced: approximately 2.58 million IDPs were registered by the end of 2008 with Acción Social, the Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation. The presence of new armed groups was reported countrywide, and Colombia remained infested with mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The red cross emblem was misused in July during an operation by the Colombian army to rescue 15 people, including "high-profile" hostage Ingrid Betancourt. President Uribe later apologized to the ICRC for the improper use of the emblem.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total   |   | Total                    | Women  | Children    |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|--------|-------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |   | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                          |        |             |
| Detainees visited   | 6,090   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                          |        |             |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 3,874   | Food  | Beneficiaries            | 50,783 | 27% 52%     |
|   |   | Essential household items                             | Beneficiaries            | 75,769 | 27% 52%     |
|   | of whom females 227                                 | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | Beneficiaries            | 81,324 | 27% 52%     |
|   | of whom minors 7                                    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | Beneficiaries            | 4,379  | 26% 49%     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 508   | <i>Health</i>   |                          |        |             |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 257   | Health centres supported                              | Structures               | 9      |             |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |   | Consultations   | Patients                 | 3,900  |             |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |   |   | of which curative        |        | 889 1,533   |
| RCMs collected  | 43  |   | of which ante/post-natal |        | 113         |
| RCMs distributed  | 53  | Immunizations   | Doses                    | 792    |             |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |   | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                          |        |             |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 443   | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                          |        |             |
|   | of whom females 79                                  | Patients receiving services                           | Patients                 | 14,370 | 3,529 6,357 |
|   | of whom minors at the time of disappearance 83      | Prostheses delivered                                  | Units                    | 1,108  | 244 130     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 111   | Orthoses delivered                                    | Units                    | 5,052  | 1,059 2,562 |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 270   |   |                          |        |             |
|   | of which for females 53                             |   |                          |        |             |
|   | of which for minors at the time of disappearance 53 |   |                          |        |             |

## ICRC ACTION

More than 40 years of conflict continued to take their toll in Colombia. The ICRC concentrated its field activities in 20 priority zones, where needs were greatest. Protection activities remained high on the agenda, with the ICRC making representations to the alleged perpetrators of IHL violations. In all dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers, it reiterated their obligations under IHL, including to protect those not or no longer participating in the fighting and to respect medical personnel, equipment and facilities. Given recent abuses of the red cross emblem, delegates stressed its protective nature and the importance of respecting it and using it correctly. They also explained the ICRC's neutrality and independence, with a view to obtaining safe and unhindered access to victims.

Using the results of a 2007 ICRC/WFP study on the social and economic situation of IDPs and of a complementary internal evaluation, the ICRC continued to encourage the authorities and other organizations to improve services for IDPs. In parallel, however, given the huge numbers of IDPs in Colombia, the ICRC, with the Colombian Red Cross, provided assistance directly. Most of the IDPs assisted by the ICRC/National Society received food and/or essential household items, although IDPs in six cities were given vouchers to exchange for food or hygiene kits. Furthermore, as part of an inter-institutional group set up to improve overcrowded government-run IDP centres, the ICRC carried out small-scale rehabilitation work and provided equipment to enable the centres to better cater for the large numbers of IDPs requiring support.

Residents, too, benefited from ICRC assistance to help them cope with the burden placed on resources by IDPs or because they lived in areas particularly affected by mines, fighting or economic restrictions. Some received food; others benefited from improvements to water supply systems and schools. Agricultural projects helped boost residents' economic security and avoid the need for IDPs to move to larger, already crowded cities.

For IDPs and residents alike, the ICRC helped improve access to health services. It directed beneficiaries to government facilities;

acted as a neutral intermediary to ensure the safe passage of government mobile health units in remote conflict-affected areas; and on two occasions, when the security of national health personnel could not be guaranteed, dispensed care directly.

With the Colombian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, the ICRC continued to address the widespread weapon-contamination problem, through data gathering, mine-risk education and victim assistance, including physical rehabilitation.

Stepping up its support to State entities and NGOs working on the issue of missing persons and to family associations, the ICRC focused on improving forensic capacities and data management and on developing psychological support standards.

The ICRC visited people held by the government in connection with the conflict to assess their treatment and living conditions and made confidential reports and recommendations to the authorities. It also worked with the prison administration (INPEC) to improve conditions. The ICRC continued to seek access, so far denied, to people held by armed groups. Acting as a neutral intermediary, however, it did facilitate the release of 31 people held by armed groups.

Technical support to the IHL implementation efforts of the government, the armed and police forces and academic circles continued. Journalists were briefed on IHL and humanitarian issues to encourage greater and more accurate coverage of such matters.

Coordination continued with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations active in Colombia.

## CIVILIANS

Civilians approached the ICRC with allegations of IHL violations, such as disappearances, threats, summary executions, sexual violence and the forced recruitment of minors. Delegates made oral and written representations to the alleged perpetrators with a view to ending such practices. Victims of death threats were directed to organizations

with specialized programmes or, as a last resort, after an in-depth assessment of their situation, were given the means to move to a safer place within Colombia. Also on an ad hoc basis, families of victims of alleged summary executions or of people who had died in connection with the conflict were given help with funeral expenses.

In all dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers, the ICRC reminded them of their obligations under IHL, including to protect those not or no longer participating in the fighting and to respect the emblem and medical infrastructure and personnel. Delegates also explained the ICRC's neutrality and independence, with a view to obtaining safe and unhindered access to victims. Acting as a neutral intermediary between the parties to the conflict, the ICRC facilitated the release of 31 people held by armed groups.

### **Boosting the economic security of conflict-affected civilians**

Actual, or fear of, IHL violations prompted individual households or larger groups to flee, abandoning their homes and land. ICRC assistance programmes continued in 20 areas worst hit by the conflict, carried out in tandem with the National Society. Activities were implemented in coordination with the government and other stakeholders in order to fill gaps and avoid duplication.

IDPs were better able to cope with their displacement after receiving food rations and essential household items. By year-end, instead of receiving goods, IDPs in six cities, four more than in 2007, were being given vouchers to exchange for food or hygiene items. This was a more dignified way for them to receive aid and helped boost the local economy.

Many IDPs moving to cities converged on government reception centres, which often lacked the facilities to cater for such large numbers. Conditions improved following small-scale repairs and the provision of additional equipment by the ICRC, acting as a member of an inter-institutional group (also comprising Acción Social, IOM and UNHCR) seeking to upgrade such centres.

Resident populations also suffered the effects of the conflict. ICRC assistance helped them cope with the burden placed on resources by IDPs or was provided because they lived in areas affected by mines or economic restrictions imposed by weapon bearers. Some received food; others benefited from improvements to water and sanitation infrastructure or schools. Small agricultural projects helped boost the economic security of residents and returnees and prevent IDPs from moving to larger, already crowded cities.

- 50,783 (12,736 households), of whom 44,406 IDPs (11,160 households), received food
- 75,769 people (19,135 households), of whom 73,258 IDPs (18,525 households), received essential household items
- 77,470 people (19,775 households) benefited from a voucher programme
- 3,854 people (790 households) benefited from agricultural initiatives
- 4,379 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects

While carrying out its direct assistance programmes, the ICRC endeavoured to persuade the authorities and other organizations to improve services for IDPs. The results of an ICRC/WFP study published in 2007 on the living conditions of IDPs and the response to their needs, along with a complementary internal ICRC evaluation, were instrumental in helping the government improve its longer-term planning.

### **Ensuring access to health care**

IDPs and residents alike benefited from a range of services offered by the ICRC. Sometimes patients simply needed to be directed to government facilities, although some required help with transport and treatment costs; victims of mine/ERW accidents and of sexual violence were referred for specialized treatment. Others attended ICRC-supplied health centres. People in remote conflict-affected areas were able to consult Ministry of Health personnel on their rounds in mobile units. Given the repeated non-respect of medical personnel in Colombia, the ICRC, as a neutral intermediary, accompanied 11 mobile health units to ensure their safe passage; in two instances, when the security of national health workers could not be guaranteed, the ICRC sent its own staff. Health personnel received training in their rights and obligations under IHL when carrying out their work, such as marking structures with a protective emblem. Some 250 local health personnel also learned how to deal with HIV/AIDS in sessions run in cooperation with the National Society.

In the 9 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 3,700):

- 3,900 people given consultations, including 113 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 3,787 attending curative consultations
- 792 vaccine doses administered (including 227 to children aged five or under and 133 to women of childbearing age)
- 90 patients referred to a second level of care
- 60 health education sessions held

### **Reducing the risk of mine injuries**

Colombia remained infested with mines/ERW. In parallel to discussions with parties to the conflict on their use of the weapons, efforts to prevent accidents and improve victims' quality of life continued as part of an ICRC/National Society programme supported by the Norwegian Red Cross.

An ICRC database was set up to record incidents, and a memorandum of understanding on data sharing was signed by the government mine-action body and the ICRC. Municipal and community leaders, health personnel and teachers attended training on victims' rights and their role in upholding them. Furthermore, thousands of people learnt about how to reduce their risk of accidents through community-based dissemination sessions or educational materials distributed in contaminated areas. Mine/ERW victims were referred for specialized medical care or physical rehabilitation (see *Wounded and sick*).

### **Missing persons**

Many people remained without news of relatives unaccounted for in connection with the conflict. To boost national forensic capacity, five forensic professionals and a National Society representative attended events abroad on DNA profiling and the management of human remains. Representatives of State entities, family associations, NGOs and OHCHR learnt about the ICRC's new ante/post-mortem software; the national forensic institute invited the ICRC to assess Colombia's own ante/post-mortem database and make recommendations on how to improve it.

With a view to improving the support afforded to the families of missing persons, family associations, NGOs, OHCHR and the ICRC met regularly to work on psychological/social support standards and guidelines and on a paper recommending a national policy on missing persons and their families.

A number of people approached the ICRC in the hope of tracing relatives with whom they had lost contact. Others, including demobilized child soldiers, used the RCM service to restore or maintain contact with family members.

- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 443 people (79 females; 83 minors at the time of disappearance); 111 people located; 270 people (53 females; 53 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 21 RCMs collected from and 36 distributed to civilians

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained by the government in connection with the conflict received regular visits, according to ICRC standard procedures, from delegates, who assessed their treatment and living conditions and made confidential reports on their findings and recommendations to the relevant detaining authorities (INPEC, the police, the army, the State Prosecutor's Office and the Administrative Department of Security). Detainees were offered the RCM service to stay in touch with their relatives, and many received family visits with ICRC support.

The ICRC pursued its efforts, without success, to obtain access to people held by armed groups.

- ▶ 6,090 detainees visited, of whom 3,874 monitored individually (227 females; 7 minors) and 1,643 newly registered (124 females; 6 minors), during 508 visits to 257 places of detention
- ▶ 186 RCMs collected from and 80 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 1,897 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support

With ICRC technical support, INPEC conducted an assessment in 19 prisons with a view to drawing up a plan of action to improve general living conditions for the detainees, focusing in particular on health. In support of this, INPEC representatives, often accompanied by the ICRC, attended various national and international seminars on how to address health-related issues and overcrowding in prisons. With ICRC support, INPEC also organized its own events: a second national seminar on prison health, for 55 prison health workers, and the third regional seminar on the same topic, for representatives of 10 Latin American countries and Spain. Health promoters (INPEC personnel and detainees), trained by university medical faculties with ICRC support, taught inmates the benefits of improved hygiene practices.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Patients in need of specialized care, including mine/ERW victims, were referred to the national health system. Some had their transport and/or medical fees paid. To improve the quality of care, some 400 health staff attended ICRC-supported training courses in first aid and weapon-wound management, run by the Ministry for Social Protection, the National Society and university medical faculties.

- ▶ 568 patients (including 472 weapon-wounded patients, 314 of whom injured by mines/ERW) referred to appropriate health facilities, of whom 392 given financial support

Patients requiring physical rehabilitation, including those who had lost limbs in mine/ERW accidents, had access to such services at

six centres assisted as part of the ICRC/National Society mine-action programme supported by the Norwegian Red Cross (see *Civilians*). The quality of services improved after two centres received materials and machinery to refurbish workshops, and staff received further training in ICRC polypropylene technology. Eight students continued their prosthetic/orthotic training at Don Bosco University, El Salvador.

- ▶ 14,370 patients (including 3,529 women and 6,357 children) received services at 6 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 461 new patients (including 115 women and 35 children) fitted with prostheses and 2,676 (including 478 women and 1,556 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 1,108 prostheses (including 244 for women and 130 for children; 152 for mine victims), 5,052 orthoses (including 1,059 for women and 2,562 for children; 18 for mine victims), 70 crutches and 23 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

The Colombian authorities and the ICRC maintained their dialogue on issues of humanitarian concern, during which delegates reiterated the authorities' obligations under IHL, including protection of those not or no longer participating in the fighting and respect for the emblem. In parallel, with ICRC technical support, the Colombian authorities pursued their efforts to implement IHL.

The Constitutional Court worked on draft laws to ratify amended Article 1 of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and to strengthen the rights of IDPs. As part of efforts to reinforce legislation on missing persons, Congress was examining the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance with a view to ratifying the instrument.

Consideration of the issue of cluster munitions by Congress culminated in the government's signature of the Convention on Cluster Munitions at the dedicated conference in December.

The launch in Bogotá of the Spanish version of the ICRC's study on customary IHL boosted efforts to promote IHL throughout Latin America. Some 150 government representatives, diplomats, members of the armed forces and academics from the region attended the event.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Colombian armed forces had integrated IHL into their doctrine and training: more than 120 IHL instructors at various academies and training centres received technical support and teaching materials to help them in their work. The Ministry of Defence requested ICRC feedback on the draft of a guide to implementing its IHL/human rights policy.

Further support was required to ensure the application of IHL at field level. Legal and operational military advisers and divisional and battalion commanders were advised on how to improve integration of IHL into the army's operational procedures. In addition, after-action reviews, to evaluate the application of IHL in specific combat operations, were attended by the ICRC, which gave advice on better incorporating IHL into army operations.

The police pursued integration of IHL into the training of units engaged in armed hostilities. To this end, some 300 police officials and instructors attended ICRC-run training sessions on integrating IHL into their training curriculum. The sessions were based on an IHL integration guide that had been developed by the national police, the National Society and the ICRC.

At field level, thousands of army and police troops attended operational dissemination sessions to learn about IHL, the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, the ICRC and its response.

In all dialogue with weapon bearers, including those from armed groups, the ICRC reiterated their obligations under IHL, including to protect those not or no longer participating in the fighting and to respect the emblem and medical personnel. Delegates also explained the ICRC's neutrality and independence, with a view to obtaining safe and unhindered access to victims. Following receipt of an ICRC report on the armed forces' IHL obligations, the Ministry of Defence called on all regional divisions and brigades to increase the frequency and improve the quality of their dialogue with the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media remained a vehicle for reaching a wide range of influential people. On the basis of regular briefings, press releases and information materials provided by the ICRC, the media published articles and broadcast radio and television reports on the country's humanitarian situation. Some 350 journalists received more in-depth information about IHL and the ICRC during 8 seven-day workshops. The public learned more about the ICRC's neutrality and independence and the importance of respecting the emblem during extensive media coverage of the release of "high-profile" hostages.

University professors from eight Latin American countries, including Colombia, and representatives of various Colombian ministries discussed the integration of IHL into university curricula and shared best practices during a regional ICRC seminar in Bogotá.

A number of lecturers and university students in law and psychology faculties provided IDPs and victims of sexual violence with free legal advice and psychological support; ICRC-run seminars on IHL and the rights of victims aimed to improve their knowledge and thus their services.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC worked in close partnership, particularly in IDP assistance and mine action (see *Civilians*). The National Society also helped run a public campaign to promote correct use of and respect for the emblem.

The National Society also received ICRC technical and financial support for its own activities. For example, it boosted its psychological/social support programme for victims of the conflict by training more volunteers; raised awareness of IHL and humanitarian principles among municipal authorities, the armed forces and indigenous groups in 14 departments; and developed a pilot project aimed at preventing youth violence.

With Movement support, the Colombian Red Cross overhauled its organizational structure. Its revised statutes were approved by its General Assembly in November.





# haiti

The ICRC's involvement in Haiti began in 1994, when it started visiting detainees falling within its mandate. Haiti became a fully-fledged delegation in February 2004 when armed conflict broke out. While the conflict ended in 2007, given the persisting violence, the ICRC continues its humanitarian endeavours there. It focuses on implementing protection activities for detainees and civilians, ensures that people wounded as a result of violence have access to medical services, and improves water and sanitation in violence-prone shantytowns. It contributes, along with other Movement partners, to strengthening the emergency response capacity of the Haitian Red Cross.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,408 |
| Assistance                          | 2,912 |
| Prevention                          | 739   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 630   |
| General                             | -     |

► **5,689**

of which: Overheads 347

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |      |
|---------------------------|------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 102% |
|---------------------------|------|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 12 | expatriates                                 |
| 49 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- after visiting 8,228 detainees in 27 places of detention, shared its findings and recommendations regarding their treatment and living conditions confidentially with the authorities
- treated 1,154 detainees in 5 places of detention for skin diseases and intestinal worms
- aided victims of tropical storms, indirectly by supporting the relief effort of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the International Federation and directly by assisting, together with Red Cross volunteers, some 2,000 families in shantytowns
- with the Haitian Red Cross, established a project for the evacuation of wounded and sick people in Martissant
- with the Haitian Red Cross, provided ambulance services during food riots in April and after the collapse of a school building in November
- assisted the water board in supplying water to 209,000 inhabitants of Cité Soleil

## CONTEXT

The substantial rise in food and fuel prices exacerbated Haiti's already dire economic and social situation, sparking violent riots in many parts of the country in early April. Demonstrators vented their anger against the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the government. In the immediate aftermath of the riots, Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis was voted out of office by the Senate, to be replaced after a five-month hiatus by Michèle D. Pierre-Louis.

In August and September, Haiti was struck in rapid succession by four tropical storms, which left hundreds of people dead or injured and inflicted heavy damage on agriculture and housing. The city of Gonaïves was particularly hard hit. In another disaster in November, 90 people were reportedly killed and 150 injured when a school collapsed in Pétionville (Port-au-Prince).

Haiti's detainee population swelled to over 8,000. This worsened conditions in the country's already overcrowded prisons, especially in the national civilian prison in Port-au-Prince where roughly half of the detainees were kept. Prolonged preventive detention – about 85% of the detainees were still awaiting trial – was a major contributing factor, prompting the creation of a national commission, in addition to the existing temporary consultative body, to tackle the problem through penitentiary and judicial reform.

Gang violence decreased significantly in Haiti, including in the capital's shantytowns of Cité Soleil and Martissant. There were, however, more abductions for ransom.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total         | Women   | Children |
|---|-------|---|---------------|---------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |       | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |               |         |          |
| Detainees visited   | 8,228 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |               |         |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 451   | Essential household items                             | Beneficiaries | 17,959  | 17%      |
|   |       |   |               | 15%     |          |
|   | 6     | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | Beneficiaries | 214,505 | 34%      |
| of whom females   |       |   |               | 31%     |          |
| of whom minors  | 38    |   |               |         |          |
| Number of visits carried out  | 67    |   |               |         |          |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 27    |   |               |         |          |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment and living conditions of people held in civilian prisons and police stations throughout the country, sharing its findings and recommendations, in confidence, with the authorities. It carried out a campaign against intestinal parasites and the most frequent skin diseases in five prisons and repaired water and sanitation infrastructure as needed. In parallel, the ICRC continued to advocate penitentiary reforms. Together with the authorities and other relevant stakeholders, it sought ways to improve detention conditions, organizing discussion fora on the topic in the form of round-tables held in Port-au-Prince in February and in Cap-Haïtien in July.

As a neutral and independent intermediary, the ICRC continued to assist victims of armed violence in shantytowns by helping the Haitian National Red Cross Society evacuate wounded and sick people, first from Cité Soleil and, since the end of March 2008, also from Martissant. Before launching the first-aid and evacuation project in Martissant, the ICRC, together with the National Society, conducted community outreach sessions to explain the project to residents, local authorities and gang leaders and to recruit and train Red Cross volunteers from the shantytown. Through its network of contacts, the ICRC also aimed to explore ways of assisting victims of sexual violence in Cité Soleil. It continued to monitor the use of force by members of the Haitian police and MINUSTAH and briefed them on IHL, human rights law, the ICRC's mandate and the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC continued to assist the city water board in ensuring a regular supply of water to Cité Soleil and to contribute to building the capacities of the local water management committee. It also assessed the needs of people living in a particularly hard-to-reach district of Martissant.

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC continued to strengthen the capacity of the Haitian Red Cross to respond to emergencies, including natural disasters. During the riots in April and the school collapse in November, the ICRC provided the Haitian Red Cross with equipment, staff and four-wheel-drive vehicles for use as ambulances. It also assisted the National Society in training ambulance drivers and volunteers recruited among the residents of Martissant.

The ICRC contributed staff, material, logistics and other support to the Haitian Red Cross/International Federation relief response in the wake of the storms. Along with Red Cross volunteers, it also provided essential supplies to disaster victims in Cité Soleil and Martissant.

The ICRC coordinated its activities with those of Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in areas of common interest.

## CIVILIANS

Despite much lower levels of gang violence, the inhabitants of Cité Soleil, Martissant and other shantytowns were still at risk from weapon bearers and shoot-outs.

By expanding its dialogue with community leaders, weapon bearers and humanitarian organizations, the ICRC gained a better understanding of the dynamics underlying the violence in shantytowns and the needs of people living there. Frequent dialogue with the various armed gangs in Martissant helped build a relationship that enabled the ICRC to explain basic humanitarian principles. It also prepared the ground for the implementation of assistance programmes in Martissant (see *Wounded and sick*) and opened up the possibility of assisting victims of sexual violence in Cité Soleil.

## Improving water and hygiene in Cité Soleil

Residents of Cité Soleil enjoyed a regular supply of drinking water as the water board, supported by the ICRC, repaired equipment for the water distribution network, maintained two pumping stations installed with the ICRC's help and prepared a proposal for the rehabilitation of a third pumping station, which enabled it to secure funding from UNICEF. On three occasions, the water board was able to ensure an unbroken water supply for Cité Soleil residents by using ICRC-delivered fuel to keep pumping stations working.

The local water management committee maintained communal water fountains with the ICRC's help, repairing 16 of them. The ICRC stepped in when major repairs were needed. In addition, the committee received support from the city water board, provided in conjunction with the ICRC, in the form of funds for salaries, the supply of tools and office equipment, the construction of a repair workshop and training sessions for water fountain operators.

Because of persistent problems within the local waste collection service, a project to improve refuse collection in Cité Soleil was dropped. However, four communal latrines were rehabilitated with ICRC assistance.

Jointly with the local community and the ICRC, the city water board made a preliminary assessment of the water and sanitation needs of residents of Martissant's Grand Ravine district, to be used for a future assistance project.

► 209,000 people benefited from water and sanitation projects

## Restoring family links

Many people were uncertain of the fate of family members after storms devastated Gonaïves. In a few cases, the missing relatives were located and reunited with their families through the efforts of the ICRC. In many cases, only human remains were found. Material and technical support was required for the appropriate management of human remains. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Belgium and the health authorities received 300 body bags from the ICRC.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained in civilian prisons and police stations continued to be visited by the ICRC, according to its standard working procedures, to check that their treatment and living conditions corresponded to internationally recognized standards. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the ICRC's findings and recommendations. Inmates were offered the RCM service to contact their families.

- ▶ 8,228 detainees visited, of whom 451 monitored individually (6 females; 38 minors) and 129 newly registered (6 women; 29 minors), during 67 visits to 27 places of detention

### Improving hygiene and health

Detainees faced increased health risks stemming from unhygienic conditions in overcrowded places of detention. Action taken by the ICRC at various levels, including regular visits by its health and water and sanitation specialists and distributions of hygiene kits to over 7,600 detainees, contributed to alleviating the situation.

In a campaign co-organized with the prison authorities, detainees in five prisons were treated for scabies, mycosis and other skin diseases and for intestinal parasites causing nutritional deficiencies. They were also given fresh clothes and sheets. Sick detainees in Port-au-Prince's main prison and those interned in the main public hospital and the sanatorium were regularly examined by an ICRC doctor. The penitentiary authorities received basic medical kits and a second-hand four-wheel-drive vehicle to be used as an ambulance. Starting in October, four additional Haitian doctors began working in Port-au-Prince's main prison, with salary support provided by the ICRC.

All the country's detention centres were assessed in terms of their water and sanitation infrastructure, nine of them twice to check for storm damage. Six prisons, including two in Port-au-Prince and Gonaïves, were selected for improvements to water and sanitation systems. These involved, for example, connecting the water supply to the urban network and installing a more effective distribution system.

The penitentiary authorities kept up a regular dialogue with the ICRC regarding health and hygiene services available to the detainee population and ways to improve these. In additional round-table discussions, the introduction of screening of new detainees for potential illnesses and the keeping of individual health registers for each detainee emerged as priorities. Haitian authorities, a local NGO, the Pan American Health Organization and the ICRC met several times to draw up a plan of action to fight tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in prisons. In meetings with the authorities, MINUSTAH, UN agencies and representatives of the international community, the ICRC continued to advocate reform of the penitentiary system, including the construction of additional prisons.

- ▶ 7,689 detainees received hygiene kits
- ▶ 5,505 detainees benefited from water and sanitation projects, including:
  - more than 3,200 detainees in Port-au-Prince's main prison
  - 1,154 detainees in 5 places of detention from treatment for skin diseases and intestinal worms

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Wounded and sick people in Cité Soleil had better access to health care thanks to the services provided by the Haitian Red Cross branch in the shantytown, with the support of the ICRC. As before, they were evacuated in local taxis fitted out as ambulances and marked with the red cross emblem. People with minor injuries were treated at two first-aid posts run by some 30 Haitian Red Cross volunteers trained in first aid. They applied 5,669 dressings in the course of 2008. Over 120 seriously ill or injured residents were transported to hospitals outside Cité Soleil.

A similar project began in Martissant, involving 80 volunteers recruited from the resident population. They were trained in first aid, community liaison and the Safer Access approach to assist the Haitian Red Cross in administering first aid and preparing evacuations to a medical facility in the shantytown. The Haitian Red Cross recruited four drivers, who were trained as ambulance drivers by the ICRC, using a National Society vehicle fitted out for the purpose. A building refurbished by the ICRC as an ambulance base doubled as a first-aid post. Another first-aid post was set up in a different area of Martissant. Evacuations began in late March, initially only in the daytime, but as of August they were carried out at all hours. More than 1,000 people benefited from this service.

During the riots in April, some 30 Haitian Red Cross volunteers, with ICRC material and logistic support, evacuated 46 injured people to nearby hospitals. Haitian Red Cross volunteers and ICRC medical staff administered first aid to another 139 people throughout the city. To help them cope with the influx of wounded people, the Haitian Red Cross and two medical facilities received dressing kits and Médecins Sans Frontières received mattresses.

Following the natural disasters in August and September, the Haitian Red Cross, supported by the ICRC, transported victims who had been helicoptered out of Gonaïves by MINUSTAH from the airport to hospital. Ten of these patients were followed up by the ICRC, which also carried out evacuations from Cabaret to Port-au-Prince.

After a school building collapsed in Pétionville, Haitian Red Cross volunteers worked around the clock for ten days to assist the victims, with ICRC support made available in the form of staff, nine four-wheel-drive ambulances, first-aid materials and body bags. Supported by the ICRC and other Movement partners, the National Society administered first aid to casualties, evacuated the injured and tendered psychological support to people without news of their children.

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities were encouraged to reform the penitentiary system, to ratify Additional Protocol III and to enact legislation to protect the emblem. Members of parliament and of political parties were briefed on IHL, international human rights law and the ICRC.

The mayor and deputy mayors of Cité Soleil met the ICRC in March to gain a better understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities and to explore the possibility of implementing activities jointly. In a similar session in October, 28 local authorities of Cité Soleil were briefed by the Haitian Red Cross on its activities carried out in Cité Soleil since 2004.

Members of the diplomatic community were kept informed of ICRC activities in Haiti.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

A sustained dialogue with MINUSTAH, the Haitian police and shantytown gang leaders on basic humanitarian principles, focusing on the need to respect the emblem and medical staff and facilities, facilitated the evacuation of wounded and sick people from Cité Soleil and Martissant.

- 86 police officers in charge of arrests in Port-au-Prince briefed on international human rights standards, the principle of proportionality in the use of force, and the fundamental rights of detainees
- 300 police officers participating in the anti-scabies campaign in prisons and newly recruited prison guards briefed on IHL, humanitarian principles, and health care in prisons
- 457 MINUSTAH troops and 109 officers in UN-trained police units briefed on IHL basics and international human rights standards

## CIVIL SOCIETY

During the April riots, local radio stations carried messages in Créole, prepared by the ICRC, urging the population and armed gangs to respect the staff and ambulances of the Haitian Red Cross. Journalists continued to be briefed on the plight of Cité Soleil residents.

After public information sessions held in Martissant on the Haitian Red Cross first-aid and evacuation project and humanitarian principles, scores of residents volunteered to take part in the project.

At the request of the Spanish Red Cross, which was developing a violence-prevention project in Bel Air, 60 community leaders from the shantytown were briefed on the Movement and its Fundamental Principles.

With ICRC support, the State University continued to integrate IHL into its curriculum. Some 350 students from three higher management and international relations institutes participated in a half-day seminar on IHL, and another 50 took part in a conference on IHL at Quisqueya University, where IHL was a compulsory subject.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Haitian Red Cross remained the ICRC's key partner for the implementation of assistance programmes in Cité Soleil and Martissant (see *Wounded and sick*).

At the start of the year, coordination between Movement partners was reinforced, focusing on disaster preparedness, the establishment of a contingency plan for the 2008 hurricane season, and capacity building of the Haitian Red Cross. Capacity building included first-aid training and the provision of materials by the ICRC for 120 volunteers posted in locations at risk of storms.

After the storms in August and September, the International Federation conducted an initial assessment, in which the ICRC participated, followed by a mission in support of Haitian Red Cross relief efforts. These focused on addressing the needs of the worst-off people and were coordinated with the ICRC and other Movement partners present in the country. Responding partly to security concerns, the ICRC accompanied Haitian Red Cross volunteers in bringing ICRC disaster relief to residents of Cité Soleil and Martissant.

- 10,270 people (2,053 households) in Cité Soleil and Martissant received essential supplies

Alongside other organizations, the Haitian Red Cross and its Movement partners were given official recognition by the Haitian president for their work on behalf of the victims of the school collapse.

With ICRC support, the Haitian Red Cross:

- investigated management issues within the Gonaïves branch
- traced the families of very sick detainees
- organized follow-up training for volunteers involved in the family-links programme countrywide



# buenos aires (regional)

From its Buenos Aires regional delegation, established in 1975, the ICRC visits security detainees in Chile and Paraguay. It also responds to situations of internal strife and social unrest, often in conjunction with the region's National Societies, which it supports in developing the capacity to act in such situations, particularly in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and into the doctrine and training of the armed forces. Similarly, it works with police forces on the integration of human rights law applicable to the use of force.

## COVERING

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 768   |
| Assistance                          | 39    |
| Prevention                          | 1,834 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,000 |
| General                             | -     |

► **3,641**

of which: Overheads **222**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>104%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>4</b>  | expatriates                                 |
| <b>25</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- monitored the treatment and living conditions of 62 security detainees in 15 places of detention in Argentina, Chile and Paraguay
- in cooperation with the Brazilian Red Cross, launched a first-aid and medical evacuation project for the inhabitants of four violence-ridden *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro
- in Brazil, focused its programme to familiarize secondary school pupils with basic IHL principles on six violence-affected *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro
- facilitated the conclusion of an agreement between the Health and Justice Ministries in Paraguay, resulting in the creation of a national body concerned with health in prisons
- welcomed a directive issued by the Brazilian Defence Ministry making IHL a compulsory part of military procedures
- contributed to strengthening IHL implementation mechanisms by bringing together the national IHL committees of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay at a seminar held in Chile

## CONTEXT

Social and economic disparities remained a major destabilizing factor in the region, exacerbated by the worldwide economic crisis. Land distribution issues and indigenous grievances prompted repeated bouts of violence in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay.

In Brazil, urban violence, often related to drug trafficking, continued to affect the population, especially in Rio de Janeiro's deprived neighbourhoods known as *favelas*. The use of heavy weaponry in clashes between law enforcement agents and armed gangs, or among armed gangs, led to hundreds of deaths, injuries and arrests.

In Paraguay, the election in April of Fernando Lugo, a former bishop and a proponent of agrarian reform, ended the Colorado Party's 61-year stretch in power. After a period of calm, landless farmers resumed their protest by occupying land. This led to renewed violent confrontations with landowners and law enforcement agencies.

Governments in the region continued to deal with the consequences of the enforced disappearance of thousands of people during the years of military rule. They enacted legislation to pave the way for the investigation of the fate of missing persons and the payment of some form of compensation to their families and to prevent further disappearances.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 62    |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 60    |
| of whom females   | 6     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 17    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 15    |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 6     |

1. Argentina, Chile and Paraguay

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to address the humanitarian consequences of past conflict, especially in connection with forced disappearances in Argentina and Chile during the years of military rule, and of other situations of violence, such as in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay. Its activities in these three countries targeted landless farmers, indigenous groups and residents of marginalized urban slums.

In Brazil, the ICRC adopted a multifaceted approach in response to the needs of victims of urban violence in deprived neighbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro. It opened an office in the city, stepped up its dialogue regarding international human rights law and the appropriate use of force with law enforcement officials working in and around the *favelas* and, together with the Brazilian Red Cross, established contacts with residents, community leaders and local associations/NGOs. It trained National Society staff in first aid so that they could in turn recruit and train *favela* residents to assist victims of violence. Under the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, secondary school pupils in these troubled neighbourhoods learnt about basic IHL principles. In parallel, the ICRC laid the groundwork for an assessment of prison conditions in Rio de Janeiro.

As before, the ICRC visited security detainees in Paraguay and detained Mapuche Indians in Chile, some of whom had been sentenced under Chile's anti-terrorist laws for acts of protest. In Paraguay, the ICRC encouraged the Justice and Health ministries to implement an interministerial cooperation agreement on improving detainee health care. The agreement had already led to the establishment of a special body in charge of prison health care, which now needed to be made as effective as possible.

As in past years, the ICRC promoted the ratification of IHL instruments and their implementation throughout the region. Priority was given to: the Rome Statute and the incorporation of measures to repress war crimes into domestic legislation; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The delegation also worked with the region's armed forces to advance the integration of IHL into their doctrine and training. It also continued to implement cooperation programmes with the Paraguayan police and with police forces in violence-prone Brazilian states. It briefed Argentinian and Brazilian peacekeeping contingents on IHL before their deployment to Haiti.

University lecturers in the region continued to receive IHL teaching materials and technical advice. Implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Chile and Uruguay was in the

initial stages of being handed over to the education authorities, while a similar programme for secondary school pupils in six troubled neighbourhoods of Rio de Janeiro was being consolidated.

The ICRC helped strengthen the capacities of the region's National Societies, notably in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, to respond better to the needs of people affected by urban violence and of ethnically marginalized communities.

## CIVILIANS

Landless farmers in Brazil and Paraguay, indigenous communities in Brazil and Chile and residents of *favelas* in Rio de Janeiro continued to be affected by violence and a lack of basic services. In Chile, indigenous leaders, the authorities, NGOs and the National Society discussed the situation of Mapuche communities with the ICRC, which in turn engaged the authorities in a dialogue on the rules governing the use of force in law enforcement. Similar discussions were held with police forces in Brazil, particularly those working in Rio de Janeiro's *favelas*, and in Paraguay. Paraguayan parliamentarians and the ICRC discussed concerns about the alleged use of force against landless farmers occupying land (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

With ICRC support, the regional branch of the Chilean Red Cross in Temuco assisted indigenous communities, while the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Brazilian Red Cross carried out first-aid activities for *favela* residents. Community leaders and residents of four *favelas* discussed their needs with Brazilian Red Cross and ICRC representatives, who emphasized the importance of respecting medical staff and the red cross emblem. This dialogue prepared the ground for a joint Brazilian Red Cross/ICRC first-aid and medical evacuation project in these four neighbourhoods, which started in the second half of the year. Another joint health project was in preparation (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Governments in the region were encouraged to revise existing legislation to strengthen mechanisms to prevent enforced disappearances and to investigate the fate of missing persons and assist their families.

Forensic experts who had participated in a regional conference on forensic medicine held in Buenos Aires in 2007 kept in touch with the ICRC, asking for technical advice as needed. A Chilean forensic practitioner attended a specialized course abroad, with ICRC support.



Families of victims of past and current conflicts used the family-links service provided by the ICRC and National Societies in the region and elsewhere, mostly to locate or make contact with a relative.

- ▶ 10 tracing requests forwarded to the National Societies concerned and 5 requests for information forwarded to the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany
- ▶ 3 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to civilians and 4 calls facilitated between family members

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The living conditions and treatment of security detainees in Chile and Paraguay were regularly monitored in the course of ICRC visits, conducted according to the organization's standard procedures. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the findings and recommendations. Paraguayan and Chilean nationals held for security reasons in Argentina were similarly visited on an ad hoc basis. Detainees contacted their families via the RCM service provided by the ICRC. The families of two Argentinian servicemen detained in the 1982 Malvinas/Falklands conflict received certificates enabling them to obtain pensions.

People visited in Chile were mainly from the indigenous Mapuche community, detained for acts of protest over land issues. On several occasions, these detainees went on hunger strike to protest against their detention conditions and to seek a review of their trials. Their health was closely monitored by an ICRC doctor and recommendations made according to internationally recognized medical guidelines. The detainees ended their hunger strikes after being granted better living conditions.

In Paraguay, based on an ICRC assessment of health care in prisons, the Health and Justice ministries concluded a cooperation agreement on incorporating detainee health care into the national health system. In addition, the authorities agreed to set up a special structure for prison health care, managed by the Justice Ministry. Families of detainees were able to visit their relatives in detention thanks to a family visits programme run by the National Society with the ICRC.

The Brazilian authorities, members of civil society in Rio de Janeiro and the ICRC pursued discussions regarding a possible future survey of living conditions in selected prisons. The prison authorities gave their agreement in principle to such a survey.

### *Argentina*

- ▶ 6 detainees newly registered and monitored individually during 1 visit to 1 place of detention
- ▶ 3 RCMs collected from detainees
- ▶ 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

### *Chile*

- ▶ 32 detainees visited, of whom 30 monitored individually (2 females) and 17 newly registered, during 11 visits to 10 places of detention
- ▶ 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

### *Paraguay*

- ▶ 24 detainees (4 females), of whom 2 newly registered, visited and monitored individually during 5 visits to 4 places of detention
- ▶ 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## AUTHORITIES

With ICRC technical support, national IHL committees in the region focused on the signing, ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and on the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Brazilian IHL committee resumed its work after a two-year interruption.

- ▶ a draft bill on the implementation of the Rome Statute completed and submitted to Brazil's parliament
- ▶ the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance entered into force in Argentina, submitted to parliament for ratification in Uruguay, and considered for ratification by Brazil and Paraguay
- ▶ Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay joined international efforts that led to the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in Dublin, Ireland, in May
- ▶ the national IHL committees of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay held a first regional meeting in Chile, at the ICRC's instigation, with a view to strengthening implementation mechanisms

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The integration of IHL into the doctrine and training of the region's armed forces proceeded at a good pace. With ICRC support:

- ▶ in Argentina, IHL incorporated into a new armed forces manual
- ▶ in Brazil, a directive calling for integration of IHL into military procedures issued by the Defence Ministry, and a new armed forces manual including IHL elements being prepared
- ▶ in Chile, military doctrine revised to include IHL
- ▶ in Paraguay, air force, army and navy officers and instructors attended ICRC training courses to strengthen the integration of IHL into military doctrine

Before their deployment, Argentinian and Brazilian contingents joining the UN peacekeeping mission in Haiti were briefed by the ICRC on IHL, international human rights law and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Given the violence in Brazilian cities and social protests rooted in land distribution and indigenous issues in Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, ensuring respect for the rules governing the use of force during law enforcement operations remained paramount throughout the region. To this end, military and police authorities in Brazil and Paraguay had regular discussions with the ICRC.

Based on cooperation agreements with the ICRC, police forces in Paraguay and Brazil were in the process of integrating human rights norms into their manuals, training and procedures. With ICRC technical support, police in Paraguay and in six Brazilian states completed the first phase of the integration process, mainly in the field of education, to be evaluated in 2009. In Brazil, encouraging contacts were made with a national police unit set up to deal with situations of violence, enabling the integration of human rights norms at national level to be envisaged. The police forces of two more violence-affected Brazilian states signed cooperation agreements with the ICRC. Senior police officers in Paraguay participated in two workshops on international human rights law.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Journalists in the region reported more accurately on ICRC operational contexts in Latin America and elsewhere, on topical issues such as cluster munitions and on the ICRC's role as a neutral and independent intermediary, using press releases, leaflets and web-based information produced by the ICRC. In São Paulo, Brazilian journalists participated in workshops on IHL, international norms on the use of force, and the ICRC's mandate and activities, co-organized by an association of Brazilian journalists and the ICRC. Similar events took place in Argentina and Chile.

Community leaders and local associations/NGOs working in two *favelas* in Rio de Janeiro were briefed on the first-aid/medical evacuation project launched by the Brazilian Red Cross and the ICRC for violence-affected residents.

As the long-running Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary school pupils in Chile and Uruguay was well established, the ICRC was able to phase out its support. In Brazil, a programme on basic IHL principles for young people, piloted in 2006, was re-focused on six schools in *favelas* of Rio de Janeiro, complementing other ICRC activities for residents of these violence-prone neighbourhoods.

Some 300 university lecturers from across the region continued to update their IHL knowledge using reference documentation provided by the ICRC. University teams sponsored by the ICRC participated in IHL events abroad, such as the 20th Jean Pictet moot court competition held in Switzerland, which a team from Brazil won.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies of the region strengthened their institutional capacities by concluding tripartite agreements with the International Federation and the ICRC. They also developed their capacities to respond to the humanitarian consequences of violence, particularly through training in first aid and the Safer Access approach.

The Argentine Red Cross produced an internal security manual after its staff had been trained in the Safer Access approach in 2007. The manual was adopted by the Paraguayan Red Cross at the beginning of the year, before being translated into Portuguese for use by the Brazilian Red Cross.

In Brazil, more than 20 Red Cross staff members and volunteers in Rio de Janeiro, previously trained by the ICRC, received further training for a first-aid and medical evacuation project launched in four particularly violence-prone *favelas* (see *Civilians*). A campaign to prevent dengue fever was being prepared by the Brazilian Red Cross and the ICRC to be launched in 2009 in seven *favelas* with a high dengue risk.

As shown by an evaluation conducted in February, Mapuche communities in southern Chile enjoyed better health and access to medical care as a result of first-aid, primary health care and social programmes implemented by the Chilean Red Cross branch in Temuco, supported by the ICRC. These communities benefited from similar activities relaunched later in the year.

The Temuco branch of the Chilean Red Cross and the Rio de Janeiro branch of the Brazilian Red Cross participated in workshops on IHL, international human rights law and the Movement, and volunteers from all branches received training in these topics from the ICRC.



# caracas (regional)

The Caracas regional delegation was first established in 1971. It focuses on promoting the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, into the operational procedures and training of the region's armed forces and into the curricula of academic institutions, as well as the inclusion of human rights standards in police manuals and training. It reinforces the capacities of the region's National Societies in the fields of IHL promotion, restoring family links, and assistance to victims of violence. It also monitors the humanitarian situation along the Venezuelan border with Colombia.

## COVERING

Suriname, Venezuela and the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean Community: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 214   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,528 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 336   |
| General                             | -     |

► **2,078**

of which: Overheads 127

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 92% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 2 | expatriates                                 |
| 9 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- continued to visit security detainees in Grenada and Venezuela and, whenever necessary, recommended improvements in their treatment and living conditions in confidential reports to the detaining authorities
- launched a programme to integrate IHL into the doctrine, training and operations of the Venezuelan armed forces
- briefed Venezuelan army units, local authorities and representatives of civil society in areas bordering Colombia on IHL, humanitarian principles and the ICRC
- supported Venezuelan Red Cross branches in three regions bordering Colombia, with emphasis on the Safer Access approach
- participated as a neutral intermediary, in coordination with the Venezuelan authorities, in the release of six "high-profile" hostages held in Colombia by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
- made headway in encouraging countries in the Caribbean Community to accede to or implement IHL instruments

## CONTEXT

The ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela won a majority of seats in local elections in November, although opposition candidates took the two most populous and wealthy states, home to the capital, Caracas, and to Venezuela's main oil production centre. The elections were seen as the first test of President Hugo Chávez's popularity, following the rejection in a referendum in December 2007 of a constitutional amendment that would have allowed him to campaign for an unlimited number of terms in office.

Among the biggest challenges facing the Venezuelan government were spiralling levels of violent crime, the highest inflation rate in Latin America and lower income due to falling oil prices. In April, President Chávez signed a decree to create a national police force to crack down on gang violence and reduce the high murder rate.

Venezuelan relations with the United States of America reached a low point in September, after President Chávez expelled the US ambassador and recalled his own ambassador from Washington, alleging the United States of America was aiding a purported coup plot by dissident Venezuelan military officers.

At the beginning of 2008, President Chávez played a key role in the release, in January and February, of six "high-profile" hostages held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). In March, a political crisis erupted between the governments of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela following a military operation conducted on Ecuadorian soil by the Colombian military, in which a top-level FARC commander was killed. President Chávez ordered troops to the Colombian border and briefly broke off diplomatic ties with Colombia.

Thousands of Colombians continued to cross into Venezuela to flee the armed conflict in their home country. The security situation in the regions bordering Colombia remained tense owing to the spillover of the conflict in Colombia.

In the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), crime linked to illicit drug and arms trafficking remained rampant, particularly in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. The problem posed by rising crime rates was compounded by the global economic downturn, which adversely affected tourism, the region's main source of income.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |
|--|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) <sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                       | 41    |
| <i>of whom females</i>   | 1     |
| Number of visits carried out   | 9     |
| Number of places of detention visited  | 5     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>  |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued  | 18    |

1. Grenada and Venezuela

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC regional delegation continued to focus on promoting IHL among political, military and police authorities and civil society, on addressing issues related to the armed conflict in neighbouring Colombia and on fostering acceptance of the ICRC's mandate throughout the region.

In coordination with the Colombian and Venezuelan authorities, the ICRC delegation in Colombia acted as a neutral intermediary in the release of hostages held in Colombia by FARC. After strengthening contacts during the planning of the hostage release operation, the ICRC and the Ministry of Defence drew up a joint plan of action to integrate IHL into the doctrine, training and operations of the Venezuelan armed forces and started its implementation.

The ICRC stepped up its presence in the regions bordering Colombia, conducting IHL dissemination sessions for army units based there and developing its local network of contacts. It also initiated a process with the Venezuelan Red Cross to assess the capacities of three of the National Society's branches in the border regions in order to identify ways to improve their response to humanitarian needs arising from the spillover of the Colombian conflict and to fine-tune ICRC support to them.

ICRC delegates continued to visit and monitor the treatment and living conditions of people detained for security reasons in Grenada and Venezuela and to share their observations and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities.

Working closely with the CARICOM Secretariat, in accordance with a cooperation agreement signed in 2007, the ICRC coordinated activities and high-level interventions with the Legislative Drafting Facility and its Legal Affairs Committee to enhance the promotion and implementation of humanitarian norms and principles in the CARICOM region. This led to the ratification or implementation of a number of IHL instruments by certain CARICOM States.

Following the commitment of senior defence and police officials in CARICOM countries to integrate IHL and international human rights law respectively into training and operations, the ICRC conducted training workshops on these topics for military and police personnel.

In tandem with the International Federation, the ICRC endeavoured to strengthen the capacities of the region's National Societies to deliver humanitarian services. The two organizations also contributed to the revision of the statutes of the Venezuelan Red Cross and initiated a similar process for National Societies in the CARICOM region.

Throughout the year, the ICRC conducted workshops or refresher courses on the Safer Access approach for National Society staff in Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained in Grenada in connection with a coup in 1983 continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates, conducted according to the organization's standard working procedures, as did people detained in Venezuela in connection with an attempted coup against President Chávez in April 2002 and with alleged plots in 2004 and 2008. In both countries, the ICRC monitored detainees' treatment and living conditions and shared its findings and recommendations with the authorities through confidential reports.

Discussions with the Venezuelan authorities to secure a formal agreement on prison visits were inconclusive.

- in Grenada, 10 detainees visited and monitored individually during 1 visit to 1 place of detention
- in Venezuela, 31 detainees visited and monitored individually (1 female), including 2 newly registered, during 8 visits to 4 places of detention

## AUTHORITIES

During negotiations undertaken in January and February by the Venezuelan authorities to secure the release of people held in Colombia by FARC, the ICRC, in its capacity as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization, liaised closely with the Ministry of Defence in organizing the logistical aspects of the operations.

The Venezuelan authorities were encouraged to ratify international instruments, including Protocols IV and V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, its amended Article 1 and the two protocols to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property, and to enact implementing legislation. Thirty lawyers from the Office of the Attorney General and the Office of the Prosecutor General participated in a seminar on the inclusion of the repression of war crimes in domestic legislation.

ICRC legal advice contributed to the accession to or implementation of various IHL instruments by countries in the CARICOM region. The 39th meeting of the CARICOM Chief Parliamentary Counsel and the 10th meeting of the CARICOM Legal Affairs Committee provided opportunities for the ICRC to give presentations on these topics, which resulted in the adoption and confirmation



of CARICOM model legislation on the 1949 Geneva Conventions (and the three Additional Protocols), the Biological Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention.

- ▶ Trinidad and Tobago implemented their Geneva Conventions Act
- ▶ Jamaica became party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, its Protocols I, II, III and IV and its revised Framework Convention and was reviewing a draft bill on the Geneva Conventions
- ▶ Suriname acceded to the Rome Statute
- ▶ Barbados acceded to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property

At the request of UNHCR or embassies, 18 people received an ICRC travel document to ease their resettlement.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Contacts established with the highest levels of the Venezuelan Ministry of Defence during the hostage release operations led to improved cooperation with the armed forces on the integration of IHL into the doctrine, training and operations of all branches of the military. For the first time, a plan of action was drawn up and, during several workshops, the curriculum of military schools was revised to include IHL and some 60 military instructors were trained to teach the subject. Army units posted in areas bordering Colombia were given presentations on IHL, basic humanitarian principles and the ICRC.

Plans to introduce international human rights law into the Venezuelan police school curriculum were put on hold, pending the scheduled creation of a national police force in 2009. However, police force training and operational handbooks were revised, with ICRC support, to include the provisions of human rights law applicable to law enforcement. This followed the issuing by presidential decree of an Organic Law of Police Service and National Police, which included measures aimed at improving police accountability, the creation of a new office within the Ministry of Interior to evaluate the performance of all police departments, and a requirement for all police forces to establish internal affairs and independent disciplinary units.

The ICRC secured the commitment of senior defence and police officials in countries of the CARICOM region to engage in a programme to integrate IHL and international human rights law into military and police training and operations. This led to two regional training workshops on these laws for military and police personnel. Participants in the annual conference of the Association of Caribbean Police Commissioners held in Jamaica in May learned about human rights law applicable to policing from an ICRC perspective.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The media in Venezuela covered humanitarian topics based on information provided by the regional delegation on IHL-related issues and ICRC activities. Venezuelan journalists attended an annual meeting with ICRC delegates focusing on the provisions of IHL applicable to armed conflict and other situations of violence. Selected media representatives based in provinces bordering

Colombia attended five ICRC courses on IHL. Throughout the process that culminated in the release of hostages held in Colombia, a network of journalists familiarized with IHL over the years by the ICRC was instrumental in reporting on the events from a humanitarian perspective.

In Venezuela's border towns of Maracaibo and San Cristóbal, 30 lecturers from 10 universities attended two courses on IHL, organized with the active participation of lecturers previously trained by the ICRC.

Students in Suriname continued to study IHL at two universities, while an elective course on IHL was maintained at the University of the West Indies, Barbados.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the Education Ministry, with ICRC support, revised its implementation strategy for the pilot phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools, after it experienced administrative difficulties. Twenty-five teachers were trained to teach the programme and a working group chaired by the curriculum department of the Ministry of Education was established to speed up its implementation.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Venezuelan Red Cross was completing the revision of its statutes with support from the ICRC and the International Federation. Discussions with three branches of the National Society in the border departments of Apure, Táchira and Zulia initiated a process to assess their capacities to respond to the humanitarian situation in the region. The National Society and the ICRC aimed to identify areas, beyond the ongoing training in the Safer Access approach, in which ICRC support to selected branches could help make a difference to people affected by the spillover of the conflict in Colombia.

In the CARICOM region, cooperation with National Societies remained focused on their training and capacity-building needs. Staff and volunteers of the Red Cross Societies of Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago attended ICRC workshops and refresher courses on the Safer Access approach.

A regional workshop on the revision of National Society statutes was organized by the ICRC and the International Federation.





# lima (regional)

The delegation in Lima opened in 1984, becoming a regional delegation in 2003. The ICRC visits detainees, endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons, assists people affected by the lingering consequences of the former conflict in Peru, and monitors the humanitarian situation along the Ecuadorean border with Colombia. It develops its own activities and reinforces the capacities of the region's National Societies to respond to situations of internal strife, and helps police forces integrate into their doctrine, training and operations human rights norms applicable to the use of force. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and into the doctrine, training and operations of the armed forces.

## COVERING

Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,203 |
| Assistance                          | 358   |
| Prevention                          | 1,620 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 494   |
| General                             | -     |

► **3,675**

of which: Overheads 224

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 86% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 7  | expatriates                                 |
| 32 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- reminded armed forces and police in the region repeatedly of the rules governing the appropriate use of force in situations of violence
- strengthened the operational capacities of the region's National Societies, working with them to assist victims of unrest and other situations of violence
- in addition to visiting 22 detainees in Bolivia and 799 detainees in Peru, supported the penitentiary administration in both countries in upgrading conditions of detention
- conducted 7 missions along Ecuador's border with Colombia to assess needs arising from the spillover effects of the armed conflict in Colombia
- helped to address the missing persons issue by financing and co-organizing the 2nd Latin American meeting of experts from institutes of forensic medicine, and by financing and promoting the work of a Peruvian forensic NGO
- signed cooperation agreements with the Defence Ministries of Ecuador and Peru on the integration of IHL into armed forces training, procedures and doctrine

## CONTEXT

In Bolivia, long-simmering tensions resulted in sporadic confrontations between the indigenous and agricultural highland populations, who supported President Evo Morales, and inhabitants of the gas- and oil-rich eastern lowland departments seeking greater autonomy. The worst bout of violence erupted in September, when an earlier referendum on autonomy of the lowlands was overridden by the president's victory in a recall referendum. A state of emergency was declared in the north-eastern province of Pando and a number of government opponents were arrested. The situation had calmed down by year-end.

In Ecuador, the main disruption to calm came on 1 March, when Colombian forces launched a strike on a camp of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) on Ecuadorean territory. Diplomatic relations between the two countries were suspended. In a popular vote held in September, Ecuadoreans approved a new constitution, ahead of general elections in 2009.

In Peru, clashes between police and alleged members of the Shining Path, as well as between police and protesting farmers, miners and indigenous groups, resulted in casualties and arrests throughout the year. In late August, the armed forces carried out a major operation against one of the few remaining Shining Path strongholds in the Ene-Apurimac river basin.

Families presented some 2,000 new cases of relatives who went missing in connection with the past conflict to the human rights ombudsperson, bringing the total number of unresolved cases to 15,000. The Public Prosecutor's Office and the Medical Forensic Institute continued exhumations and identifications in the Ayacucho region.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 821   |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 385   |
| of whom females   | 41    |
| of whom minors  | 3     |
| Number of visits carried out  | 58    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 32    |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected  | 22    |
| RCMs distributed  | 19    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 2     |

1. Bolivia and Peru

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC kept a close eye on areas of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru affected by violence. It collected allegations regarding the inappropriate use of force by the armed and police forces and made written and oral representations, as needed, to the authorities concerned with a view to preventing future abuses. In Bolivia, the ICRC checked on the treatment and detention conditions of people arrested in connection with the disturbances in Pando. These visits provided the ICRC with an opportunity to foster contacts with both the authorities and the opposition. The ICRC carried out several fact-finding missions in the border region between Ecuador and Colombia to evaluate the spillover effects of the armed conflict in Colombia on the people living along the border. During these missions, the ICRC also established a dialogue with law enforcement units stationed there to raise their awareness of IHL and human rights norms should protection or detention-related issues arise.

In parallel, the ICRC continued to provide the region's armed forces with technical advice on the integration of IHL into their doctrine and training and supported the integration of pertinent human rights norms into the manuals and training programmes of the region's police forces.

In light of the social unrest plaguing the region, the ICRC reinforced the capacities of National Societies to respond effectively to the consequences of violence. It strengthened the operational capacities of Bolivian Red Cross branches in the capital and eastern lowland departments and carried out a public information campaign with the National Society to promote respect for the emblem, medical staff and ambulances. These measures contributed to more effective National Society action when violence broke out in September.

The ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of nearly 800 security detainees in Peru and some 20 in Bolivia. It also provided expertise and structural support to prison authorities in the two countries in their efforts to upgrade general conditions and health services for detainees.

The ICRC continued to work with the Peruvian authorities, forensic institutes, NGOs and associations of families of missing persons to help clarify the fate of some 15,000 people officially unaccounted

for in connection with 20 years of armed conflict. It stood by the families when human remains requiring identification were located and gave technical support to forensic experts in the collection and management of ante-mortem forms. A photo exhibition, seminars and lectures were organized in Ayacucho on the International Day of the Disappeared, and an ICRC documentary on the missing persons issue was televised.

Universities in the region continued to teach IHL as part of law, political science and communication studies. Teaching of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools was consolidated in Peru, in preparation for the ICRC's withdrawal from programme implementation, as planned. In Bolivia, the ICRC worked directly with teachers on evaluating the programme, prior to ending its involvement. A sustained dialogue, particularly in Bolivia, with members of civil society, including the media, enabled the ICRC to relay clear messages on basic humanitarian principles.

The ICRC continued to work with the region's national IHL committees towards the ratification of IHL instruments and their subsequent integration into national legislation. It encouraged these committees to keep the issue of appropriate use of force and the protection of people caught up in situations of internal violence at the forefront of their work.

## CIVILIANS

Social unrest frequently resulted in casualties and arrests. In all three countries, the ICRC worked on a continuous basis with the military and police authorities to remind them to apply international standards in the use of force during law enforcement operations (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*). In several cases of particularly violent clashes between demonstrators and law enforcement agents, the ICRC made oral and written representations to the authorities, reminding them of the need to observe international human rights norms.

In Bolivia, longstanding tensions erupted into violence in early September between government supporters and opponents in the north-eastern lowlands, mainly in Pando province. The National Society administered first aid and carried out medical evacuations, supported by the ICRC, which appealed to the authorities and

government supporters and opponents to let Red Cross staff work unhindered. People imprisoned in connection with these events were visited by the ICRC (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

In Ecuador, after the military strike on the FARC camp, three injured women were visited by the Ecuadorean Red Cross and the ICRC to monitor their condition. The families of people killed in the strike were informed of their relatives' death by the ICRC. The organization also made sure that human remains were properly managed. Tracing requests from Colombian nationals who believed a family member might be among those killed were handled by the Lima delegation. In the course of seven visits, the ICRC followed up the situation of refugees and residents along Ecuador's border with Colombia. Army and police units stationed there were contacted and made aware of possible detention and protection issues.

In late August, some 300 families were displaced by an armed forces offensive against one of the last Shining Path strongholds in the Ene-Apurimac river basin. The ICRC worked alongside other actors to respond to their needs and brought concerns about alleged human rights violations to the attention of the military authorities.

### **Persons missing in connection with past conflict in Peru**

Although the Peruvian government progressed in making reparations to families of missing persons and normalizing their legal status, more needed to be done to determine what had happened to the some 15,000 people who, according to official figures, were unaccounted for in connection with 20 years of armed conflict. State bodies and NGOs working on the missing persons issue continued to receive support from the ICRC, including recommendations for best practices and help in coordinating their activities.

For example, the State Reparations Commission began cooperation with an NGO specialized in forensic anthropology, with the Commission drawing up a central registry of victims and the NGO supplying data collected from exhumations (mainly in the Ayacucho region). As part of an ICRC-supported project, the NGO collected from families of missing persons 947 completed ante-mortem forms which would later help identify human remains. The major NGOs working on the identification of human remains were trained in the use of software developed by the ICRC to standardize the management of ante- and post-mortem data, so that data on missing persons could be centralized and human remains identified more easily. Closer coordination between institutions also resulted in the adoption of a document setting international standards for psychological and social support to families during the exhumation process.

People in the Ayacucho region profoundly affected by the disappearance of family members received psychological support from an NGO partly financed by the ICRC. The NGO also helped train staff of the Health Ministry. With financial support from the ICRC, family associations organized meetings and conventions, at which the relatives of missing persons could voice their grievances. With their travel expenses covered by the ICRC, 44 relatives of missing persons were able to take part in preliminary investigations and travel to exhumation sites. One family association received computer equipment and 10 coffins for the burial of human remains.

With ICRC support, Peruvian forensic experts and other interested parties shared expertise with their counterparts from other Latin American countries at such events as the ICRC course on the

management of human remains in conflicts and natural disasters, the 2nd Latin American meeting of forensic institutes in Lima and the annual regional conference on forensic anthropology.

Subjects relating to missing persons and the support owed to their families were introduced in university curricula (see *Civil society*).

## **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

In Peru, people continued to be detained on "terrorism" charges. Although the overall number of security detainees decreased as many were released after serving sentences dating back to the 1990s, the number of newly registered detainees rose, especially in the violence-prone regions of Alto Huallaga and Ayacucho.

Security detainees were visited by the ICRC according to its standard procedures, and offered the RCM service to contact their relatives. The authorities were informed, in confidence, of the ICRC's findings and recommendations regarding the detainees' treatment and living conditions. In several cases, police were reminded of the appropriate use of force during arrests.

Early in the year, some 100 detainees went on a prolonged hunger strike. They were frequently visited by ICRC doctors, who monitored their condition and informed them of the risks to their health. Prison medical staff were advised on how to deal with the situation appropriately in accordance with international provisions and were supplied with medicines for the detainees.

Unlike other detainees, people held on "terrorism" charges were mostly transferred to Lima for trial. The majority of new security detainees therefore found themselves separated from their families. Children or elderly parents living in remote areas had their transport costs paid by the ICRC so that they were able to see their relative in detention. In two cases, newly released detainees had their fares home paid.

In Bolivia, people arrested in connection with the state of emergency in the Pando province and transferred to La Paz were visited by the ICRC. The authorities were informed confidentially of the ICRC's findings and recommendations. As a result of the closely coordinated efforts of the office of Bolivia's ombudsperson and the ICRC, the detainees were able to contact their families.

### *Peru*

- 799 detainees visited, of whom 363 monitored individually (41 females; 2 minors) and 104 newly registered (11 females; 2 minors), during 54 visits to 30 places of detention
- 20 RCMs collected from and 3 RCMs distributed to detainees and 2 collected from civilians for detainees and 16 distributed to civilians from detainees
- 29 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

### *Bolivia*

- 22 detainees registered and monitored individually (1 minor) during 4 visits to 2 places of detention

### **Supporting penitentiary authorities**

With the ICRC's financial and technical backing, Bolivia's penitentiary authorities established a digitized detainee registry, including health data, to which eight major prisons holding up to 80%

of the detainee population were connected. The prison health department received financial support, and some 60 health and administrative staff from all the country's prisons enhanced their capacities to deliver prison health services at the fifth national conference on prison health, financed by the ICRC.

Similarly in Peru, 35 managers of the national penitentiary service and medical staff working in Peru's main prisons discussed ways of improving detainee health care at the first national meeting on prison health, organized by the ICRC. The penitentiary service's health department received financial support enabling it to supervise health services delivered in nine prisons.

Peru's national penitentiary service began to implement recommendations put forward jointly by the ICRC and a specially designated committee of the Justice Ministry. Recommendations consisted, for example, of closer coordination between the health authorities and the prison service in the purchase of medicines. In addition, with ICRC support, the Health Ministry and the prison service initiated a survey of mental health problems and remedial services available in prisons, with a view to making improvements as necessary.

With ICRC sponsorship, representatives of the prison service had the opportunity to update their knowledge of health information systems and medical issues at the third regional seminar on prison health, held in Colombia.

## AUTHORITIES

Drawing on ICRC expertise, national IHL committees in the region worked towards the ratification of IHL instruments, including: Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the convention's amended Article 1; Additional Protocol III; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; and the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention on Cultural Property (in Bolivia and Ecuador).

The IHL committees were encouraged to concentrate on the issues of appropriate use of force and the protection of people during internal disturbances. Government experts from the region discussed relevant regulations at two meetings organized by the ICRC.

With ICRC support:

- Bolivia's and Ecuador's IHL committees each held their first IHL course for officials of government, parliament and the National Society
- Ecuador's IHL committee organized the 2nd regional meeting of national IHL committees
- Peru's IHL committee held its 3rd regional IHL course for government, parliamentary and National Society officials and members of national IHL committees
- Peru finalized draft legislation to implement the Geneva Protocol and the Biological Weapons Convention, and continued to promote a resolution on the missing persons issue at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Police and security forces

Armed forces and police from the region attended an ICRC workshop in Lima on the appropriate use of force and the protection of people during internal disturbances.

In Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, 640 police officers were trained in human rights norms relevant to law enforcement, at 10 events held by the ICRC. Additionally, at Bolivia's first international seminar on law enforcement and human rights, police from the region were introduced to a new handbook on human rights norms in policing, prepared with the ICRC's input for wide distribution in 2009.

In Ecuador, a new manual on human rights norms was posted on the web, giving police broad access to e-learning opportunities. In coordination with the national human rights commission of the Interior Ministry and supported by ICRC expertise, a police committee prepared a rule book on policing emphasizing the appropriate use of force and the protection of people, to be published in 2009.

### Armed forces

On several occasions, military commanders in violence-prone regions of Bolivia were reminded of the need to respect the emblem, medical staff and ambulances in case of clashes.

In Ecuador, the Defence Ministry, the National Society and the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement on IHL integration by the armed forces. The land forces organized basic and advanced IHL training for officers and instructors. The peacekeeping training unit included IHL and human rights norms in its instructors' training.

In Peru, the defence authorities concluded a similar cooperation agreement with the ICRC. The armed forces organized 52 training courses and workshops on IHL/human rights norms for military personnel. The peacekeeping training centre included a presentation on the ICRC in its briefings for military observers.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Media

In Bolivia, the ICRC engaged in a dialogue on the role of the Red Cross with the media and student leaders in case of violence during a controversial referendum in May. In a national radio campaign, the National Society, the Office of the Ombudsman and the ICRC appealed for respect for the work of the Red Cross.

In Ecuador, at a press conference following the Colombian strike on the FARC camp, the ICRC clarified its role in assisting the victims.

In Peru, a photo exhibition and a TV documentary on the missing persons issue were shown to mark the International Day of the Disappeared. At three seminars, 136 journalists discussed the humanitarian consequences of internal disturbances, the missing persons issue and the Movement's action.

## Universities

Regionwide, seven universities started teaching IHL, either as a separate course or as part of existing law courses.

In Peru, two further universities produced IHL publications. Seven university lecturers attended three ICRC-sponsored IHL events in Peru and Switzerland and worked with the ICRC to keep the issues of missing persons and the appropriate use of force in situations of violence on the academic and national agendas. A university workshop on IHL was held, three doctoral theses on forensic anthropology written and public discussions and a book presentation organized.

ICRC involvement in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary school pupils in Bolivia and Peru was in its final stages. When the Bolivian education authorities suspended their participation, the ICRC switched to working directly with the teachers already trained on preparing an evaluation of the programme in 2009.

In Peru, as planned, the ICRC began to phase out its support, in coordination with the education authorities. Up-to-date teaching tools were produced and distributed and teachers refreshed their knowledge of IHL and international human rights norms at workshops on the issues of missing persons and social violence. Teachers from across Peru worked with the ICRC on developing a new tutorial on these topics, to become part of standard curricula.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies continued to receive technical, material and financial support from the ICRC to boost their emergency response capacities.

Jointly with the ICRC, Bolivian Red Cross branches promoted respect for the emblem, medical staff and ambulances in case of violence during the May referendum and worked effectively during the upheavals in September. In a new decentralized approach, volunteers in seven branches were trained, with a view to setting up rapid response teams in violence-prone regions. All nine branches strengthened their networks of contacts across society to generate support for the National Society's work in situations of violence.

In Ecuador, the National Society concentrated on disaster relief in the flood-affected central and western areas. Cooperation projects were kept on hold pending restructuring at headquarters level.

With financial and other support from its Movement partners, the Peruvian Red Cross emerged from an institutional crisis, allowing it to envisage new board elections in 2009. Volunteers in violence-prone areas received ICRC financial support for their first-aid efforts and were escorted by the ICRC when bringing aid to families displaced by fighting.





# mexico city (regional)

The Mexico delegation opened in 1998, becoming a regional delegation in 2002. It strengthens the tracing and dissemination capacities of the region's National Societies, assists Colombian refugees in Panama's Darién region and the local populations hosting them, monitors the conditions of detainees in Mexico and Panama, and endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons, particularly in Guatemala. It also seeks to integrate IHL into academic curricula and into the doctrine and training of the armed forces (and human rights norms applicable to the use of force in the case of the police). The delegation hosts the Advisory Service on IHL for Latin America and the Caribbean.

## COVERING

Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,046 |
| Assistance                          | 1     |
| Prevention                          | 2,361 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 652   |
| General                             | -     |

► **4,059**

of which: Overheads 248

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 74% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 9  | expatriates                                 |
| 27 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- in Mexico, visited people detained for alleged links with armed groups or following clashes with law enforcement agencies, and in Panama, visited people detained in relation to the armed conflict in Colombia
- provided 1,194 National Society staff and volunteers in 8 violence-prone Mexican states with training and printed guidelines on the Safer Access approach
- signed a memorandum of understanding with Mexico's Secretariat of Public Security, enabling 18 federal police officers to be trained as certified human rights instructors
- welcomed the enactment of a new criminal code in Nicaragua incorporating a comprehensive chapter on the repression of war crimes and other IHL violations
- welcomed the signing of the Convention on Cluster Munitions by Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama
- in Guatemala, provided financial and technical support to State institutions and NGOs dealing with the missing persons issue and gave administrative and legal advice to missing persons' families

## CONTEXT

The region was plagued by growing violence linked to the expansion of organized crime, mostly related to drug trafficking.

In Mexico, over 6,000 people reportedly died in the violence. Drug-related riots raged in prisons. Social unrest simmered in several states as protesters voiced their opposition to government policies.

There were fewer migrants detained by the Mexican authorities, the flow towards the United States of America having been curbed by harsher policies and diminishing economic opportunities there.

In Guatemala, the surge of organized crime and violence prompted the government to include the military more systematically in internal security operations. It involved local NGOs, international organizations and embassies in an action plan to establish short-term security and justice goals, as recommended by the International Commission against Impunity. In various regions, the authorities declared a state of emergency in response to violent social protests.

El Salvador and Nicaragua experienced sporadic outbursts of election-related violence. In Honduras, protests by teachers against education reform created social turmoil.

Cuba was admitted to the Rio Group, a regional grouping of States, and normalized its relations with Mexico. Devastating tropical storms struck the country in August and September.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |  | Total                | Women | Children |     |
|---|-------|--|----------------------|-------|----------|-----|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) <sup>1</sup> |       | CIVILIANS <sup>2</sup>                             |                      |       |          |     |
| Detainees visited   | 29    | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>        |                      |       |          |     |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                | 29    | Essential household items                          | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 330   | 25%      | 65% |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 3     | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 120   | 25%      | 65% |
| Number of visits carried out  | 12    | <i>Health</i>                                      |                      |       |          |     |
| Number of places of detention visited                                       | 11    | Health centres supported                           | <i>Structures</i>    | 12    |          |     |
|   |       | Consultations                                      | <i>Patients</i>      | 1,558 |          |     |
|   |       | <i>of which curative</i>                           | <i>Patients</i>      |       | 98       | 800 |
|   |       | <i>of which ante/post-natal</i>                    | <i>Patients</i>      |       | 110      | 480 |
|   |       | Immunizations                                      | <i>Doses</i>         | 315   |          |     |

1. Mexico and Panama

2. Panama

1. Mexico and Panama

2. Panama

## ICRC ACTION

In Mexico, the ICRC continued to visit people detained for alleged links with armed groups and those arrested in connection with acts of protest. It also continued to seek a comprehensive agreement with the authorities on visits to detainees in all penitentiary facilities. In Chiapas and Morelos states, the ICRC followed the situation of people arrested as a result of public protests and offered to visit them. However, the detainees were released shortly afterwards.

The ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat of Public Security, aiming to encourage law enforcement bodies to integrate human rights norms and humanitarian principles into their training, doctrine and disciplinary systems.

In Guatemala, the ICRC focused on providing financial and technical support to State institutions and NGOs concerned with the missing persons issue and on helping families address administrative, legal and economic problems in connection with the disappearance of relatives.

To address the needs of sick and injured migrants, the ICRC tendered assistance to the Guatemalan, Honduran and Mexican Red Cross Societies, enabling them to provide ambulance services to help these migrants return to their countries of origin. Through the Special Fund for the Disabled, the ICRC began supporting a local prosthetic/orthotic centre for migrants in Mexico's southern border region.

In Panama, the ICRC, together with the National Society, continued to look after the needs of Colombian refugees and IDPs in eight communities in the Darién region. It also registered detainees held in Panama in relation to the armed conflict in Colombia and revisited a detainee held in connection with the US military operation in Panama in 1989.

The ICRC cooperated with the region's National Societies, supporting programmes to restore family links, particularly during natural disasters, to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles and to implement the Safer Access approach. It also helped fund a Honduran Red Cross project for young people in a deprived neighbourhood of Tegucigalpa, aimed at showing them alternatives to a life of crime.

Regionwide, the ICRC continued to encourage the armed forces to integrate IHL into military doctrine and provided them with technical support. Given increasing military involvement in law

enforcement operations, it engaged the top echelons of the armed forces in a dialogue on the applicability of human rights norms in such situations.

With ICRC expertise and technical support, governments in the region made good progress in adapting their criminal codes to include the repression of war crimes, in line with the Rome Statute.

The ICRC handed over to the Honduran education authorities the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme aimed at teaching secondary school pupils basic humanitarian principles. The Education Ministry, in cooperation with the ICRC, evaluated the programme's state of implementation.

## CIVILIANS

The families of people who went missing during Guatemala's non-international armed conflict continued to face administrative, legal and economic problems. In interviews conducted by five local organizations and the ICRC, 292 families in the Alta Verapaz, Quiché and Guatemala departments had a chance to express their needs, putting the ICRC in a better position to mobilize support for them from the authorities and other entities.

At an ICRC workshop, representatives of 17 NGOs discussed ways of helping missing persons' families.

Fifteen people who had been separated from their families as children during the non-international armed conflict were reunited with their relatives. The reunions were organized by local NGOs with the ICRC's financial support.

On the national and international Day of the Disappeared, Guatemalans had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the missing persons issue and available help through an ICRC TV spot aired by two networks, a photo exhibition and an article about a recent family reunification posted on the ICRC website.

At conferences and training courses, Guatemalan forensic experts, government experts from the region and other interested parties studied DNA technology and management of human remains in situations of violence and natural disaster. The events also enabled them to share best practices and updates on the state of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which only eight countries, including, from the region, Cuba, Honduras and Mexico, had ratified.

- ▶ 110 families from 29 Mayan communities held burials, with ICRC support, after the remains of their missing relatives had been found
- ▶ 14 forensic and government experts from the region sponsored to attend conferences and training courses on the missing persons issue

### Assistance to refugees and residents in the Darién region, Panama

Colombian refugees and indigenous families displaced by the spillover of the Colombian conflict were struggling to survive in difficult conditions in Panama's remote jungle region of Darién. They were better equipped to cope after receiving assistance from the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of Panama.

Visits carried out in March, April and October to villages in the upper Río Tuira revealed that 12 families had completed their homes with building materials supplied in 2007, while 8 other families were still building theirs. Part of the materials had been used to build a school dining room and in one village had enabled the water supply network to be extended to the homes of families living on the outskirts. Newly arrived families found it easier to settle in after receiving farming tools, construction materials, clothes, and household and personal hygiene items. Refugees were able to contact relatives in Colombia via RCMs.

- ▶ 330 refugees/IDPs (55 households) received essential household items
- ▶ 120 refugees/IDPs (21 households) received tools
- ▶ 6 RCMs collected from and 2 RCMs distributed to civilians, 45 pre-paid telephone cards given out
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 5 people; 10 people (4 females; 4 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

People settled in communities in the upper Río Tuira received medical attention and dental care in 12 ICRC-supported health centres. Doctors of the mobile medical clinic helped deliver babies safely. Regular medical visits contributed to lowering the malnutrition rate among children, who were also vaccinated and treated for lice.

In the 12 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 1,560):

- ▶ 1,558 people given consultations, including 590 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 968 attending curative consultations
- ▶ 394 people had dental consultations
- ▶ 315 vaccine doses administered (including 150 to children aged five or under and 15 to women of childbearing age)
- ▶ 11 patients referred to a second level of care
- ▶ 12 health education sessions held

### Addressing migrants' needs

Many migrants from the region headed for the United States of America, some of whom lost limbs or were otherwise injured while travelling as stowaways on freight trains bound for Mexico's northern border. After receiving medical treatment, they were redirected to a shelter near the Guatemalan border, where they were then left stranded without any means to return home. After an assessment of their needs, a local prosthetic/orthotic technician working at the shelter was offered the opportunity to attend a six-week training course at the Don Bosco University in El Salvador, funded by the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled. Under this new ICRC-supported

project, carried out in close cooperation with Guatemalan, Honduran and Mexican Red Cross branches working along the border, 11 sick or injured migrants were able to travel home to Guatemala and Honduras, with the ICRC covering their transport costs.

Humanitarian issues related to migration in the Americas were highlighted at a workshop organized by the International Federation in Antigua, Guatemala, which provided a forum for the ICRC to share its views.

### Showing young people alternatives to violence

In Honduras, some 2,000 young people in a deprived neighbourhood of Tegucigalpa attended music, art and theatre classes partly financed by the ICRC as part of a National Society programme to deter them from joining street gangs (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

### Studying other situations of violence

As situations of violence and unrest worsened across the region, an ICRC study was initiated in Guatemala in late 2008 to examine the origins and consequences of social violence from a humanitarian angle, with a view to defining appropriate responses.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Mexico, people detained for alleged links with armed groups and those arrested in connection with acts of protest mainly in the southern states were visited by the ICRC to check that their treatment and living conditions complied with internationally recognized standards. The ICRC's findings and recommendations were shared, in confidence, with the authorities. The detainees were offered the RCM service to contact their relatives.

Indigenous protesters in Chiapas and teachers opposed to education reform in Morelos state were arrested during clashes with law enforcement agents. The ICRC approached the local authorities, offering to visit the detainees. However, they were released shortly afterwards.

The ICRC continued to seek a comprehensive agreement with the prison authorities to visit all detainees in Mexico, particularly those in five high-security prisons under the authority of the federal government.

At a seminar organized by Mexico's National Human Rights Commission on the national preventive mechanism against torture, participants deepened their understanding, through an ICRC presentation, of the ways in which ill-treatment and torture affected detainees.

As Mexico City's authorities were getting ready to restructure public services and upgrade temporary places of detention (*galeras*), they asked the ICRC to monitor conditions in four *galeras*. The authorities were then informed, in confidence, of the ICRC's findings and recommendations, which mainly concerned improvements in living conditions.

In Panama, a detainee held in connection with the 1989 US military operation in Panama benefited from renewed ICRC visits, during which his treatment and living conditions were monitored. Six Colombian nationals, arrested in February for alleged links with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), were similarly visited by the ICRC.

At the request of the Nicaraguan government, two Colombians and a Mexican received ad hoc ICRC visits. They had previously been visited in Ecuador, where they had been wounded during cross-border military operations by the Colombian armed forces.

- in Mexico, 22 detainees visited and monitored individually (2 females), during 8 visits to 7 places of detention; 6 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support
- in Panama, 7 detainees visited and monitored individually (1 female), of whom 6 newly registered (1 female), during 4 visits to 4 places of detention; 2 RCMs collected from detainees

## AUTHORITIES

Nicaragua's new penal code featured comprehensive measures to repress war crimes and other serious IHL violations. Similar legislation was being prepared by the Dominican and Mexican authorities. As new penal codes were being drafted in Guatemala and Honduras, the national IHL committees contributed proposals regarding the inclusion of IHL provisions. The authorities drew on the ICRC's technical expertise.

Costa Rica and Mexico presented draft resolutions on IHL and the International Criminal Court, which were approved at the 37th General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

The Central American Parliament approved a resolution promoting respect for IHL.

- Guatemala ratified Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Additional Protocol III
- Honduras and Mexico ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
- Costa Rica and Mexico acceded to Additional Protocol III
- Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As borne out by evaluations, the region's armed forces had made progress in integrating IHL into training. The ICRC encouraged them to incorporate IHL also into military doctrine. Given the armed forces' increasing involvement alongside security forces in situations of unrest, the ICRC engaged the top echelons in a dialogue regarding the need to observe human rights norms applicable to law enforcement. The chiefs of staff of the Guatemalan and Mexican armed forces (including the secretariat of the Mexican navy) were briefed on the ICRC's humanitarian concerns about the use of force in such situations.

- 50 Mexican military legal advisers deepened their IHL knowledge at 2 courses in Mexico City
- 18 Central American military legal advisers participated in a workshop on the repression of IHL violations
- 4,355 cadets and officers of the Mexican and Central American armed forces attended presentations on the use of force in law enforcement operations and IHL
- 41 army instructors from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua attended an advanced IHL train-the-trainer course

- 3 officers from El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico participated in the annual Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, held in Switzerland

The Mexican Secretariat of Public Security signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC to advance the integration of human rights norms into law enforcement. This enabled 18 federal police officers to qualify as human rights instructors at two train-the-trainer courses held at the Academy for Public Security. In addition, 2,600 federal police officers were briefed on the use of force and assistance to victims in police operations.

Colombian refugees in Panama's border region of Darién were in a vulnerable situation. To make Panamanian law enforcement agents aware of refugees' right to protection, the ICRC and the Panamanian Red Cross co-organized two workshops on human rights norms for 60 border police officers, at both the national and Darién's provincial police headquarters.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

In Mexico, members of Oaxaca's human rights commission attended IHL talks. In two training sessions organized by the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters, 60 journalists from Michoacán and Oaxaca were briefed by the ICRC on the role of the media in conflict situations.

In Guatemala, 22 journalists participated in a similar training session organized by the news agency Centro de reportes informativos sobre Guatemala. The National Society contributed a presentation on first aid.

The general public was informed about ICRC activities mostly via electronic media. Journalists received materials on the plight of missing persons' families (see *Civilians*).

At the 26th Interdisciplinary Course on Human Rights organized by the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, a multidisciplinary audience from across the region was informed about the ICRC's operational priorities.

Universities expanded IHL teaching, with 29 out of 31 selected universities in 8 countries integrating IHL into their curricula. Twenty ICRC-trained lecturers promoted IHL among the armed forces, authorities and academic audiences in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. Two universities in Guatemala and Mexico organized their own teacher-training courses with ICRC-trained lecturers.

- 9 students from Mexico and Panama participated in the 20th Jean Pictet IHL competition in Switzerland
- 11 university lecturers in Guatemala took part in a round-table on emblem protection

Through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, pupils in Honduras were taught about IHL by 81 specially trained teachers. The education authorities took over the programme from the ICRC. An evaluation co-organized with the ICRC in 39 secondary schools showed that the importance of respecting humanitarian principles in situations of violence had been well understood, giving the programme particular relevance in a context of social protest.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC support, the Guatemalan, Honduran and Panamanian National Societies were developing their own manuals on emblem protection. Contingency plans in case of internal disturbances were prepared by the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua and by four Mexican Red Cross branches.

National Societies in the region stood ready to activate their national tracing networks, and did so in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Panama during floods caused by tropical storms.

Supported by the ICRC and other Movement partners, the Honduran Red Cross expanded its project to reach out to more than 2,000 young people in deprived neighbourhoods of the capital (see *Civilians*).

Coordination with other Movement partners in Panama was strengthened.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ senior management of the Guatemalan, Mexican, Nicaraguan and Panamanian Red Cross Societies trained in emblem protection, the Seville Agreement, the Safer Access approach and the family-links strategy
- ▶ in the region, 5,160 Red Cross staff and volunteers trained in restoring family links, the Safer Access approach and the Seville Agreement, and over 5,230 people trained in IHL and the Fundamental Principles
- ▶ 300 emergency/paramedical staff in Mexico briefed on the ICRC's first-aid manual
- ▶ 3,700 staff and volunteers in violence-prone regions of Mexico received training and guidelines, or briefings on the Safer Access approach





# washington (regional)

Established in 1995, the ICRC's regional delegation in Washington is a source of information for government officials and relevant organizations, academic institutions and other interested groups in the United States of America and Canada. The delegation heightens awareness of the ICRC's mandate, mobilizes political and financial support for ICRC activities and secures support for IHL implementation. Since 2002, the ICRC has been regularly visiting people held at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba, and Charleston Navy Brig, South Carolina. It also supports other delegations through ad hoc representations, meetings or networking. It works closely with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies, focusing on their international activities and the promotion of IHL.

## COVERING

Canada, United States of America, Organization of American States (OAS)

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,965 |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 3,302 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 636   |
| General                             | -     |

► **5,903**

of which: Overheads 360

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 96% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 11 | expatriates                                 |
| 17 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- facilitated phone calls for the first time between detainees/internees in US custody at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and their families in their countries of origin
- president visited the United States of America to discuss issues relating to US detention and other operational matters with the authorities
- provided its IHL expertise to the US Congress, think-tanks and various inter-American bodies
- with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies, expanded its network of media contacts with a view to increasing public awareness of humanitarian issues

## CONTEXT

Throughout 2008, the political scene in the United States of America was dominated by the run-up to presidential elections held on 4 November. The vote saw Barack Obama elected as the country's first African-American president. Although the collapse of the stock market refocused much of the election campaign on economic issues and away from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, following his election Mr Obama reiterated his intention to close the US detention/internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and to review military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In 2008, the Canadian government announced that Canadian forces would remain in Afghanistan until at least 2011. Canada committed its troops once NATO allies had met Canada's condition of providing additional troops.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited   | 280   |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 273   |
| Number of visits carried out  | 18    |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 3     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected  | 3,771 |
| RCMs distributed  | 2,102 |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                       | 5     |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 11    |

1. People detained interned on US soil and people detained/interned by the United States of America in Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba

## ICRC ACTION

Activities related to people held in US custody in Guantanamo Bay remained a priority for the ICRC's Washington delegation. Delegates carried out regular visits to the detainees/internees to assess their treatment and conditions of detention and to enable them to write RCMs to their families. Following the visits, the delegates confidentially reported their findings and recommendations to the relevant US authorities. During the year, telephone calls were initiated between detainees/internees and their families, facilitated by the authorities in Guantanamo Bay and the ICRC and National Societies in the detainees'/internees' countries of origin around the world.

The ICRC continued its dialogue with the US authorities on the need to define the status and rights of all individual detainees/internees in US detention/internment facilities and to ensure that they fitted into an adequate legal framework providing the relevant procedural safeguards. During his mission to Washington in January, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger discussed these and other issues with the secretary of state, the attorney general, the deputy secretary of defense, the director of national intelligence, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the national security advisor and the chair and vice-chair of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Furthermore, the ICRC regularly expressed its opposition to secret detention and requested timely notification of and access to all persons held by the United States of America in relation to any armed conflict.

Officials throughout the US administration maintained dialogue with the ICRC on other IHL-related matters and issues of mutual interest. Congress made use of the ICRC as an IHL resource, inviting it to brief the House and Senate leadership offices and key committees such as the House Armed Services Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee.

During the year, the ICRC prepared for the transition of power from the administration of President George W. Bush to a new administration in 2009.

The ICRC worked with the US military to ensure that army and marine units being deployed abroad, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq, were familiar with the mandate and activities of the ICRC in those contexts and elsewhere. Working with military academic and other training institutions, it also gave presentations and took

part in training and mission rehearsal exercises to ensure that its role as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization was clearly understood by current and future military decision-makers. The ICRC also gave feedback on draft pieces of military doctrine.

By means of ICRC press releases, briefing sessions, seminars and technical input at various fora, members of think-tanks, media representatives and NGO staff with the capacity to influence public opinion were informed about IHL, the ICRC's role and mandate, and the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action. The ICRC expanded its network of journalists with a view to increasing public awareness of humanitarian issues through greater media coverage. Students, as tomorrow's leaders and policy-makers, benefited from the efforts of various US universities to promote IHL teaching in law faculties, with ICRC support. The ICRC worked closely with the American Red Cross and the Canadian Red Cross in its efforts to promote IHL and increase awareness of humanitarian concerns among members of civil society.

As part of efforts to reach a wider audience of decision-makers, the ICRC worked with the OAS and other inter-American bodies, which every year adopted resolutions and declarations on topics of interest to the ICRC. Through briefings and IHL courses for staff and diplomats and technical support on IHL-related matters, the ICRC sought to promote IHL throughout the Americas and ensure the inclusion of IHL in policy decisions.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout 2008, the US authorities and the ICRC maintained a frank and open dialogue on issues related to US detention in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq. Through contacts with various agencies of the US administration, at various levels, the ICRC continued to encourage the US authorities to define the rights of individual detainees/internees and to ensure they fitted into a proper and adequate legal framework providing the relevant procedural safeguards. Likewise, the authorities were urged to comply with the relevant provisions of IHL, in particular the Third or Fourth Geneva Conventions, and/or other appropriate internationally recognized standards concerning the treatment of detainees/internees and their conditions of detention/internment. There remained, however, fundamental disagreement between the ICRC and the US authorities on what constituted an

appropriate legal framework applicable to US detention/internment in Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and Iraq. With regard to the repatriation of detainees/internees, and their transfer either to other countries or within a country to the national authorities, the ICRC repeatedly emphasized to US authorities their obligation to respect the principle of non-refoulement. It also regularly expressed its opposition to secret detention and requested timely notification of and access to all persons held by the United States of America in relation to any armed conflict.

People held in Guantanamo Bay, one person held in Charleston Navy Brig, South Carolina, and another held in Miami Federal Prison were visited regularly by the ICRC, according to its standard procedures. Following these visits, delegates confidentially reported their findings and recommendations regarding the treatment and living conditions of the detainees/internees to the US authorities at both operational and Washington level.

As in the past, restoring and maintaining links between detainees/internees and their families remained a priority. Those held in Guantanamo Bay were able to use the RCM network, which involved more than 20 ICRC delegations and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worldwide. Following the agreement of the US authorities to allow detainees/internees held in Guantanamo Bay to have regular telephone calls with their families, the ICRC in 2008 began to facilitate calls through its delegations in the countries concerned. For most detainees/internees, this was the first direct contact with their families since they had been detained/interned, in most cases for more than six years. In addition to the regular telephone calls, the authorities also offered more rapid access to “humanitarian calls” following the bereavement of a member of a detainee’s/internee’s immediate family. Dozens of families of detainees/internees in Guantanamo Bay were also visited in their home countries by ICRC delegates who regularly participated in visits to the Guantanamo Bay detention/internment facility. Family photos and news could thereby be shared with the detainees/internees regarding their next of kin and vice versa. The ICRC also continued to recommend that the detainees/internees in Guantanamo Bay be allowed to receive family visits and continued to offer its services to help facilitate such visits.

#### *Guantanamo Bay Naval Station*

- 278 detainees/internees visited, 271 of them monitored individually, including 1 newly registered, during 9 visits
- 3,767 RCMs collected from and 2,085 RCMs delivered to detainees/internees
- 221 calls between detainees/internees and family members facilitated and 1,214 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of an interned relative
- 29 detainees/internees interviewed prior to repatriation or transfer to other countries
- 11 detainees/internees issued with detention certificates
- 5 people issued with an ICRC travel document

#### *Detention facilities on the US mainland*

- 2 detainees/internees visited and monitored individually, during 9 visits to 2 places of detention
- 4 RCMs collected from and 17 RCMs delivered to detainees/internees
- 2 phone calls facilitated between detainees/internees and family members

## AUTHORITIES

Contacts throughout the US administration maintained dialogue with the ICRC on IHL-related matters and issues of mutual interest. This dialogue included monthly meetings with the Departments of State and Defense, which provided an opportunity for the ICRC to stress the importance of neutral and independent humanitarian action, to provide information on IHL and to highlight humanitarian crises around the world. In January, during a high-level mission to Washington, the ICRC president reiterated the ICRC’s concerns regarding certain aspects of US detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

The US Congress increasingly used the ICRC as an IHL resource, inviting it to brief the House and Senate leadership offices and key committees. A seminar organized by the University of Virginia School of Law, the Army Judge Advocate General’s School and the ICRC served to raise awareness, principally among congressional staff, of the importance of taking IHL into account in detention-related policy decisions.

The ICRC prepared for the transition of power from the Bush administration to a new administration so as to be in a position to inform the new administration fully about the authorities’ historical relationship with the ICRC, thus enabling work to continue.

The Canadian authorities, particularly the Department of National Defence and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, held regular discussions with the ICRC on its activities in a variety of contexts, including Afghanistan.

### **Promoting IHL throughout the Americas**

Permanent representatives to, and staff of, the OAS and other inter-American entities discussed a range of humanitarian issues with the ICRC. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen mutual efforts to promote IHL and international human rights law. Representatives of the 34 member States of the OAS received detailed briefings on the ICRC’s concerns during meetings of committees addressing a range of humanitarian and IHL-related issues. IHL courses for OAS diplomats and staff of inter-American bodies sought to raise their awareness of that body of law and to garner their support for its promotion throughout the Americas.

As in previous years, the OAS General Assembly adopted a resolution on the promotion and respect of IHL. Several other OAS resolutions and declarations by inter-American fora upheld the relevance of IHL to issues such as armed forces training and weapons transfer.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

A priority in 2008 was to ensure that US army and marine combat units being deployed abroad, particularly to Afghanistan and Iraq, were familiar with the ICRC's mandate and activities in those contexts and elsewhere, in order to facilitate the organization's work. Those soon to depart were given ICRC briefings facilitated by the Army Combined Arms Center, its two main combat training facilities, and the main Marine Corps training centre.

Meanwhile, students of selected military schools and colleges attended ICRC lectures on the organization's role and mandate, with several establishments offering the ICRC a regular slot. Hundreds of mid-level officers – current and future military decision-makers – learnt about neutral and independent humanitarian action as a result of ICRC participation in role-playing activities and mission rehearsal exercises.

The US military asked the ICRC to comment on pieces of draft doctrine, including on foreign humanitarian assistance.

On the operational front, Joint Forces Command, Central Command, Southern Command, Pacific Command, the Marine Corps Command and the NATO Allied Command Transformation discussed issues of mutual concern with ICRC representatives from the Washington delegation, relevant operational delegations and ICRC headquarters.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Given their ability to influence public debate, the media remained key vehicles for raising awareness of humanitarian issues. On the basis of press releases, briefings, and interviews with ICRC staff, journalists from US, Canadian and other international media based in Washington regularly featured IHL-related matters in their broadcasts and articles. In 2008, contacts were made with journalists in cities other than Washington, often through the American and Canadian National Societies.

A number of think-tanks and organizations working in fields or contexts similar to the ICRC, such as the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, and InterAction, an NGO umbrella organization, invited the ICRC to give their members, often influential opinion-leaders, briefings on its activities in a variety of contexts. Bodies such as the civil-military relations working group of the United States Institute of Peace and the protection working group of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative called on the ICRC for its IHL expertise.

Students and lecturers at several Canadian and US universities learnt about IHL and the ICRC during presentations and roundtables co-organized or attended by the organization. Furthermore, as follow-up to the survey of IHL teaching in the United States of America conducted by the American University, Washington, and the ICRC in 2007, law professors from US and Canadian universities attended a seminar hosted by the two organizations aimed at boosting teaching capacities. Participants received a resource booklet compiling examples of IHL syllabuses from respected US law schools.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The two National Societies worked with the ICRC to promote IHL and increase awareness of humanitarian concerns, particular among civil society. They assisted the ICRC in extending its network of journalists and continued to implement the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary school children, with ICRC technical support.

The American Red Cross produced audiovisual resources for the media and hosted a travelling Red Cross photo exhibition, organizing related panel discussions on various humanitarian issues. With ICRC support, it also trained its staff in facilitating emergency family contact for US soldiers abroad.

The Canadian Red Cross and the ICRC continued to engage with the Canadian government and military on issues of common concern, including the possibility of conducting pre-deployment briefings for Canadian forces being deployed to Afghanistan. With ICRC support, the Canadian Red Cross organized an IHL course at the University of Ottawa for government representatives, law students and other members of civil society.



# new york

The multiple tasks and activities of the UN often have implications of a humanitarian nature. Operating since 1983, the ICRC delegation to the UN serves as a support and a liaison for ICRC operational and legal initiatives. The delegation conveys the ICRC's viewpoint, keeps abreast of trends and developments relating to humanitarian issues and promotes IHL.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | -     |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,886 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | -     |
| General                             | -     |

► **1,886**

of which: Overheads 115

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 92% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 | expatriates                                 |
| 5 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- president met the UN secretary-general in New York to exchange views on humanitarian issues of common interest
- delivered 6 statements at the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly, including 1 on strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance
- held information sessions for State and NGO representatives on the Rome Statute, ICRC operations in the Middle East and North Africa, the situation in Somalia, the proposed Arms Trade Treaty, and children and armed conflict
- co-organized with New York University a seminar for UN-accredited diplomats to promote understanding of and respect for IHL
- met UN and State legal advisers to promote the importance of safeguarding IHL within legal developments concerning counter-“terrorism”
- strengthened interaction with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure humanitarian concerns and IHL were taken into account in initiatives concerning security sector reform, peacekeeping and the rule of law

## CONTEXT

Issues and situations of relevance to the ICRC continued to be addressed by the UN in 2008.

The UN Security Council dealt with contexts where the ICRC had operations, including Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia/Russian Federation (South Ossetia), Kenya, Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories (in particular Gaza), Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan (Darfur) and Zimbabwe. The Council also monitored the UN's involvement in each of these contexts, particularly those in which peacekeeping operations were ongoing.

Peacekeeping was also addressed by the UN General Assembly, which opened its 63rd session in September under the presidency of His Excellency Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann. In April, the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations reached agreement on most parts of its report on UN peacekeeping operations. At the level of the UN Secretariat, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) published a document defining the nature, scope and core activities of UN peacekeeping and created an Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions within the department.

Other cross-cutting issues of humanitarian concern were continually addressed within the UN system. The Security Council discussed peacebuilding and the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including children. The Economic and Social Council convened a special session on the global food crisis. The General Assembly monitored and followed up UN reform recommendations, progress towards the Millennium Development Goals set out at the 2005 World Summit, the work of the Central Emergency Response Fund, and issues surrounding the safety and security of UN and humanitarian personnel.

1. UN Security Council Resolution 1244



## ICRC ACTION

To contribute to international efforts to protect and assist people affected by armed conflict worldwide, the ICRC maintained contact with UN bodies, member States, observers and civil society groups. Through seminars, meetings and reports, the ICRC made its legal and operational expertise available to UN staff and diplomats to deepen understanding of IHL and the ICRC's position on topical humanitarian issues, thereby facilitating the incorporation of IHL and related humanitarian issues into UN activities, policies, programmes and resolutions.

Thus, to the extent that its mandate allowed, the ICRC shared information on and concerns about developments in the humanitarian arena with UN and member State personnel. It did so, for example, through a meeting between the ICRC president and the UN secretary-general in March, through monthly meetings with the president of the UN Security Council and through attendance at General Assembly debates and open sessions of the Security Council.

The increased presence of diplomats and experts in New York for the 63rd session of the General Assembly afforded the ICRC valuable opportunities to raise awareness of humanitarian concerns through the delivery of six official ICRC statements, through legal and policy input to State resolutions, and through bilateral meetings. During the session, the ICRC vice-president addressed General Assembly members on the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance and met high-ranking UN personnel such as the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs. In addition, the head of the ICRC legal division met legal advisers to the General Assembly and to various UN member States, as well as the incoming under-secretary-general for legal affairs/UN legal counsel, to discuss IHL developments.

Throughout the year, the ICRC encouraged UN, member State and NGO representatives to consult it on matters within its expertise and organized events for the diplomatic community on topical humanitarian issues and the ICRC's related operations. In March, UN-accredited diplomats assessed 25 years of IHL developments and their future relevance at a seminar organized by the ICRC and New York University. The ICRC also hosted briefings for State and NGO representatives on the Rome Statute, ICRC operations in the Middle East and North Africa, the situation in Somalia and the proposed Arms Trade Treaty, with input from visiting ICRC experts when possible. In addition, IHL events were held in conjunction with the special representative of the secretary-general for children and armed conflict and for State military attachés and police advisers. Workshops and seminars organized by think-tanks and NGOs helped the ICRC contribute to a wider understanding of IHL and the protection it affords.

To further monitor UN-wide developments on humanitarian and legal issues, including those related to UN reform, integrated peacekeeping operations, neutral and independent humanitarian action and the protection of civilians, the ICRC kept in regular contact with UN departments and agencies, such as the Department of Political Affairs, the DPKO, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA). This enabled the ICRC to encourage consideration of the direct ramifications of UN decisions on humanitarian action. For example, dialogue with the DPKO aimed to ensure humanitarian concerns and IHL were taken into account in initiatives concerning security sector reform, peacekeeping, best practices and the rule of law.

## AUTHORITIES

### Promoting incorporation of IHL into UN activities, policies and programmes

Meetings and briefings organized by the ICRC on topics pertinent to UN initiatives served to promote greater reference by UN and State representatives to IHL provisions in their work and to encourage their continued consultation of the ICRC, in particular its Advisory Service on IHL.

At the 25th annual IHL seminar organized by New York University and the ICRC, 80 diplomats reviewed IHL developments over the past 25 years and deepened their understanding of State obligations under IHL. The seminar facilitated discussion of the relationship between law and politics and between IHL and human rights law and included a panel on "the contribution of international and national criminal courts to the development of IHL". Following the seminar, some diplomats requested further legal advice from the ICRC.

The special representative of the secretary-general for children and armed conflict and her staff, together with UN agency officials, attended a half-day ICRC briefing to support the integration of IHL into the special representative's field missions and UN reports, including those pertaining to the monitoring and reporting mechanism on the use of child soldiers set up in 2005 by the Security Council. After the briefing, UNICEF staff requested the ICRC's help to further incorporate IHL into their work. In addition, at the General Assembly's 63rd session, the special representative continued discussions with the ICRC's vice-president and, aided by ICRC legal experts, held a briefing for humanitarian actors interested in IHL provisions protecting children.

Other IHL events involved:

- ▶ some 60 delegates from the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court at an ICRC briefing on the Rome Statute
- ▶ participants in a panel discussion on the 2006 International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearance at which ICRC staff promoted the Convention's ratification and raised awareness of the ICRC's work on missing persons
- ▶ some 50 military attachés and police advisers from more than 30 States attending an ICRC briefing hosted by the Swiss Permanent Mission on IHL and the protection of civilians

With ICRC legal staff, legal experts working for the UN or member States also examined developments in international law, including those pertaining to counter-"terrorism", with a view to safeguarding IHL and ensuring respect for fundamental procedural and legal guarantees. To this end, the head of the ICRC legal division exchanged views with legal advisers to the General Assembly and with the incoming under-secretary-general for legal affairs/UN legal counsel.

### Addressing humanitarian issues and concerns

To encourage the incorporation of humanitarian provisions into multilateral decisions and national positions and to safeguard the neutrality and independence of humanitarian action, UN staff and State representatives were kept abreast of topical humanitarian issues and the ICRC's activities.

In March, the UN secretary-general and the ICRC president met to discuss challenges facing humanitarian action worldwide, and the contexts in which the ICRC had major operations. Monthly meetings between the UN Security Council president and ICRC delegates allowed ongoing discussion of these issues and contexts, as did ad hoc meetings with the UN under-secretaries-general for humanitarian and economic and social affairs and with State diplomats.

Security Council members were kept informed of humanitarian needs and activities through ICRC briefing papers and through delegates' attendance at open debates on issues such as peacebuilding, small arms, and children and armed conflict. General Assembly members were also regularly updated on ICRC activities and policy positions. State representatives attended ICRC briefings on its work in the Middle East and North Africa, the situation in Somalia and the proposed Arms Trade Treaty. Bilateral communication was also conducted with diplomats on topics such as the protection of civilians and the regulation of the use of weapons.

At the General Assembly's 63rd session, ICRC statements addressed the protection of IDPs, women and girls, IHL and weapons, peacekeeping, and acceptance and implementation of the protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Legal and policy advice was provided to State officials to encourage the incorporation of such issues into UN resolutions. Assembly members were addressed by the ICRC vice-president on the subject of strengthening the coordination of UN emergency humanitarian assistance.

The ICRC followed wider UN discussions on subjects such as UN reform, humanitarian funding and action, and the safety of UN and humanitarian personnel and maintained contact with relevant UN bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission and the General Assembly's Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. Regular and constructive dialogue was developed with the UN Secretariat dealing with common concerns, such as the protection of civilians, access to humanitarian assistance, landmines and other weapon-related issues, and peacekeeping operations. The ICRC also attended coordination meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and other bodies such as the Department of Political Affairs, OCHA, OLA and UN agencies. In particular, ICRC interaction with the DPKO aimed to support the department's work on security sector reform, peacekeeping, best practices and the rule of law.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

ICRC input at events organized by think-tanks and NGOs, including the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, the Council on Foreign Relations, the International Peace Institute, the International Crisis Group, the Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict and the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, increased understanding of the ICRC's mandate and humanitarian issues. Coordination with NGOs was also enhanced through ICRC involvement in the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, a grouping of eight humanitarian organizations.

UN and UN-accredited media services maintained contact with the ICRC on humanitarian issues debated at the UN. They received responses to their queries and relevant documentation, as did individuals and organizations that consulted the delegation. As a result, references to IHL and the ICRC in media reports were more frequent and accurate.







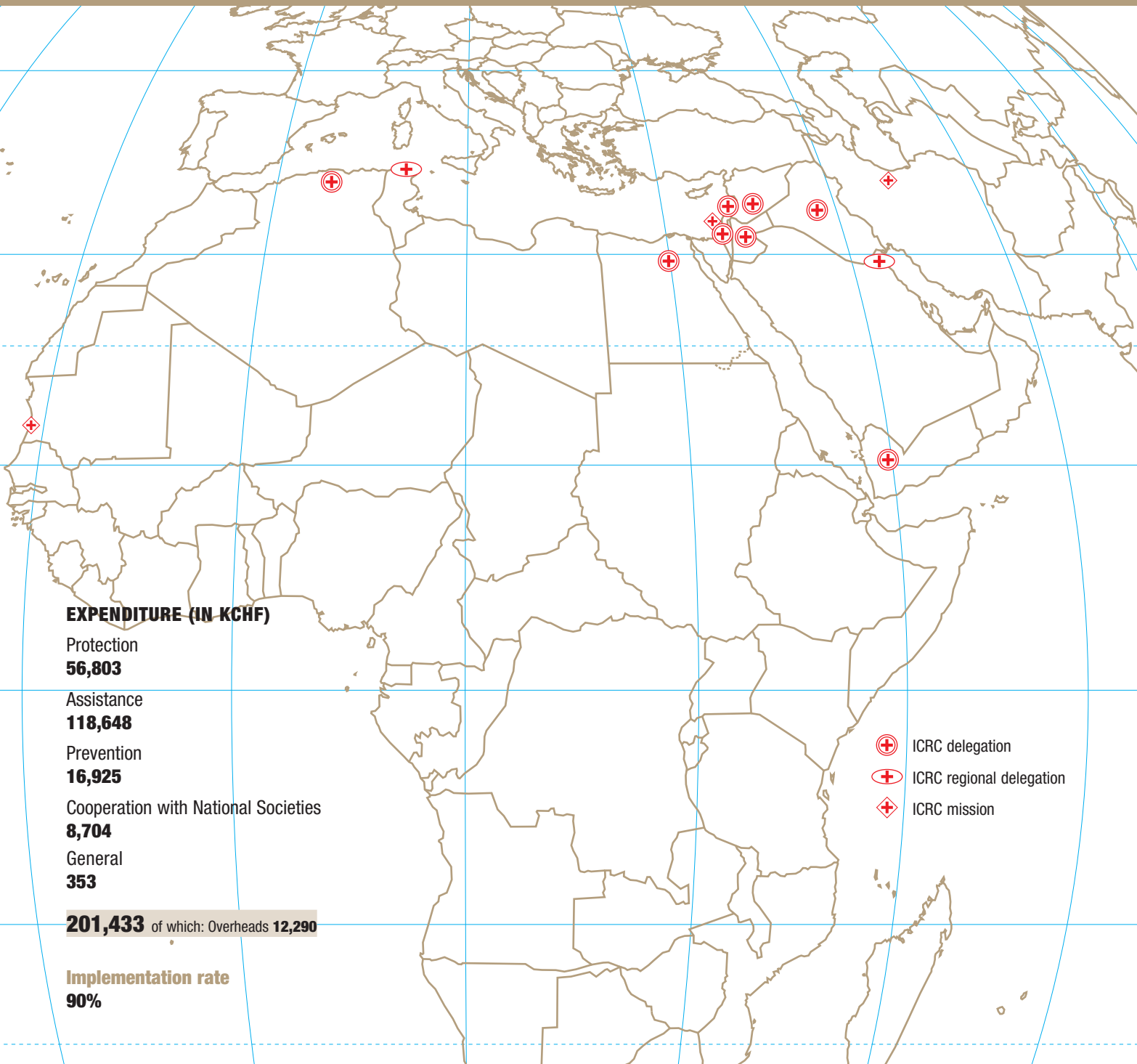
## DELEGATIONS

Algeria  
Egypt  
Iran, Islamic Republic of  
Iraq  
Israel, the Occupied and  
Autonomous Territories  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Syrian Arab Republic  
Yemen

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Kuwait  
Tunis

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection  
**56,803**

Assistance  
**118,648**

Prevention  
**16,925**

Cooperation with National Societies  
**8,704**

General  
**353**

**201,433** of which: Overheads **12,290**

Implementation rate  
**90%**

-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission



## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

In 2008, the ICRC was compelled to maintain a strong presence and wide operational reach in order to meet the multiple urgent needs of millions of victims of past and current conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. It did so through a wide range of protection and assistance activities carried out alongside preventive action based on advocacy for greater adherence to and respect for IHL. ICRC action varied according to its operational objectives in each context but in all cases was rooted in the organization's neutral, independent and impartial approach to its strictly humanitarian mission.

In contexts experiencing ongoing or recurrent armed conflict, such as Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, Lebanon and Yemen, the ICRC sought as a priority compliance with the provisions of IHL relative to the conduct of hostilities and/or occupation by the parties directly concerned. It maintained relations with government authorities, armed groups, influential sectors of civil society, religious circles and militant groups as an essential step to gaining acceptance of and support for its work and to reassert the relevance of IHL in contemporary forms of armed conflict and violence. These relations also contributed to enhancing understanding of the humanitarian norms common to both IHL and Islamic law insofar as they reflect the universality of certain basic principles of humanity.

The ICRC endeavoured to ensure that people directly affected by armed conflict or the consequences of occupation had access to food, water, sanitation and medical care and that those deprived of their freedom were treated humanely. Restoring family links and determining the fate of people unaccounted for from past and current conflicts also remained core activities in many countries in the region.

ICRC operations in Iraq and in the occupied and autonomous Palestinian territories were again by far the organization's largest in the region and among its most extensive worldwide. Meeting humanitarian needs stemming from the recurrent armed violence in Lebanon and Yemen also remained at the forefront of ICRC operations.

Iraq remained a challenging operational environment for the ICRC, although improved security conditions in many parts of the country enabled more direct access to conflict victims, both residents and IDPs, in hitherto inaccessible regions. Some 300,000 people in Iraq received food assistance and 260,000 others household essentials directly from the ICRC or in partnership with local authorities or organizations. Livelihood support projects for some 90,000 people were implemented for the first time, mainly in the Kurdish provinces, and were expected to continue in 2009 in other provinces. They addressed the increasingly chronic economic security problems facing the general population as a result of declining income-generating opportunities. A total of 77 hospitals and 26 health structures struggling to cope with frequent mass-casualty emergencies were regularly provided with surgical equipment and medical supplies, while emergency repair and rehabilitation work kept numerous Iraqi health and water and sanitation facilities serving more than 2.5 million people in operation.

In the occupied and autonomous territories, over 10,000 destitute Palestinians benefited from food aid and more than 43,000 from livelihood-support projects. Household kits were distributed to

Palestinians whose homes had been levelled or confiscated by Israeli forces. Several water projects in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were ongoing or completed, benefiting some 181,000 people. The Palestine Red Crescent Society's emergency medical services received funds to cover most of their operating costs and support for training. At the end of the year, the Gaza Strip became the focus of ICRC emergency action after Israel launched a sustained military offensive there on 27 December, entailing the mobilization of substantial human and material resources to address a humanitarian crisis that had already been exacerbated by an 18-month Israeli blockade of the territory. From the first days of fighting, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the ICRC worked together to evacuate the dead and wounded and to ensure that medical, water and power facilities functioned.

The upsurge of fighting in Yemen early in the year and the growing humanitarian needs thus generated compelled the ICRC to launch a budget extension in May. Working alongside the Yemen Red Crescent Society, the ICRC assisted civilians, mainly IDPs, caught up in the conflict between government forces and armed groups in the north of the country. Although activities outside Sa'ada were delayed for several weeks owing to insecurity and access restrictions, the Yemen Red Crescent Society and the ICRC subsequently established and managed six IDP camps in the city. Some 15,000 IDPs in the camps and others hosted by families in and around Sa'ada received household essentials, while food was distributed to around 50,000 IDPs in northern areas where the ICRC had registered cases of severe malnutrition. Mobile health clinics were deployed in conflict-affected parts of Sa'ada not covered by governmental medical services.

In Lebanon, the ICRC continued to strengthen the capacities of the Lebanese Red Cross ambulance and first-aid services to respond to humanitarian needs arising from recurrent outbreaks of violence in the country. Staff training and medical equipment were provided to Palestine Red Crescent Society medical facilities in Lebanon to improve health services for the more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees in the country. Water and sanitation projects benefiting nearly one million people initiated following the July–August 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israeli forces were completed. Water supply was also improved for some 500,000 Iraqi refugees and Syrian residents in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

ICRC delegates continued to visit people interned or detained in Algeria, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, the Palestinian territories, Qatar and Tunisia. The largest number of detainees visited was in Iraq (some 45,700 held by the multinational forces, the central Iraqi authorities or the Kurdish regional authorities) and in Israel (some 22,000). Around 15,800 detainees in the region were monitored individually by ICRC delegates. Efforts were made to increase access to security detainees held in various countries in connection with the "global war on terror".

Discussions were pursued with the authorities in other countries in the region with a view to securing access to detainees, notably in Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco and Yemen. Despite repeated requests, the ICRC had not been granted access to an Israeli soldier held by Hamas by year-end.

The ICRC maintained a comprehensive and confidential dialogue with the detaining authorities, sharing with them its delegates' findings, making recommendations whenever necessary, and offering and providing support to enhance detainees' treatment and living conditions.

Detainees received direct assistance from the ICRC, as required. As a priority, the specific needs of women were taken into account wherever possible. In Yemen, for example, female detainees received vocational training and literacy courses to enhance their prospects of reintegration after release, while in Jordan, the ICRC worked to ensure the safe reinsertion into society of women detained for their own protection from potential acts of violence for having committed “honour crimes”. In many cases, detainees, including those held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba, informed their relatives of their imprisonment through a telephone call made possible by the ICRC and kept in touch with their families through the exchange of RCMs. More than 27,500 detainees, mainly in Iraq and Israel, were able to receive family visits through the ICRC. Almost 16,000 former inmates or their families received ICRC certificates of detention, which sometimes qualified them to obtain State allowances.

In many countries of the region, demand remained high for ICRC tracing and RCM services as a means of restoring or maintaining contact with family members detained/interned in their home country or abroad or living in places such as Iraq, where normal communications had been disrupted. Several countries in the region, such as Egypt, Jordan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, hosted large and sometimes increasing numbers of refugees, many of whom were able to locate and restore contact with their families by means of RCMs. Some 1,400 refugees were issued with ICRC travel documents to facilitate family reunification or resettlement in third countries. The ICRC also facilitated travel for Palestinians affected by mobility restrictions wishing to visit or be reunited with family members living in other parts of the occupied territories or in Jordan, as well as contacts between Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and their families in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC pursued action to address unresolved cases of persons – both military and civilian – who went missing during past conflicts in the region, notably the numerous Arab-Israeli wars from 1948 onwards, the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict, the 1975–91 armed conflict in Lebanon, the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990–91 Gulf War. Representatives of the Iranian and Iraqi governments and the ICRC signed a joint memorandum of understanding aimed at clarifying the fate of thousands of combatants and civilians still unaccounted for in connection with the Iran-Iraq war. The memorandum established a clear framework for collecting information and sharing it between the two countries and for handing over human remains, with ICRC support. Following this agreement, the ICRC facilitated the repatriation of 241 sets of remains of Iranian and Iraqi combatants. ICRC expertise in forensics was offered to organizations involved in the process of recovering and identifying human remains related to the same conflict.

Meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Subcommittee set up to clarify cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War continued to be chaired by the ICRC. Work on this issue was hampered by the security situation in Iraq, which prevented exhumation and identification at gravesites in that country. Dialogue was maintained with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front to resolve the cases of combatants and civilians from both sides still missing in connection with the Western Sahara conflict. The ICRC rehabilitated a number of mortuaries in Iraq and provided forensic equipment and data collection/management equipment and training to the Medico-Legal Institute in Baghdad and its branches in other locations to enhance

their capacities to identify human remains, thereby giving families a better chance of learning of the death of a relative and of recovering the remains.

The ICRC also acted as a neutral intermediary to facilitate a number of repatriation operations in the region, notably between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq and between Israel and Lebanon.

ICRC technical and material support was maintained for physical rehabilitation centres in Algeria, the Gaza Strip, Iraq and Yemen. In Iraq, where the number of disabled people continues to rise, physical rehabilitation centres either run or supported by the ICRC remained the only structures providing such services in the country. During the year, the ICRC also officially started producing and fitting prosthetic/orthotic appliances at a new physical rehabilitation centre in Rabouni (south-western Algeria) for disabled Sahrawis.

Promoting greater knowledge, acceptance and implementation of IHL throughout the region, in cooperation with the Cairo-based League of Arab States, remained the main task of the ICRC in Egypt. To this end, it stepped up efforts to encourage adherence to IHL and its incorporation into military training and doctrine and into school and university curricula. As part of this process, the Cairo delegation organized regional seminars on IHL and produced written and audiovisual materials on IHL translated into Arabic for distribution to governments and civil society audiences in the region. Governments also received assistance from the ICRC Advisory Service in assessing the compatibility of national legislation with IHL and adapting it accordingly.

National Societies were the ICRC's main operational partners in several countries of the region, and cooperation with them therefore remained a key component of ICRC activities. The primary aim was to strengthen the National Societies' emergency-response capacities, particularly with respect to ambulance services, first aid, tracing, restoring family links and mine action, and to spread awareness of IHL. Various forms of material, training and financial support were extended to National Societies, according to needs.

Close coordination was maintained with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors, particularly in conflict zones, in order to maximize impact and avoid gaps or duplication in relief aid.



# algeria

The ICRC has been working in Algeria, with some interruptions, since the 1954–1962 Algerian war of independence. It carries out visits to people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and to people remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries*. The ICRC also works to promote IHL among Algerian civil society, the authorities and the armed forces. The ICRC supports the Algerian Red Crescent's reform process, which resumed in 2007.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,016 |
| Assistance                          | 88    |
| Prevention                          | 509   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 132   |
| General                             | -     |

► **1,745**

of which: Overheads 107

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 94% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 5 | expatriates                                 |
| 7 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- following visits to people held in places of detention, shared with the highest authorities its findings and recommendations on detainees' treatment and living conditions
- discussed with members of the newly established national IHL committee their role and responsibilities in promoting the national implementation of IHL instruments
- co-organized with the Ministry of Religious Affairs a first seminar for religious leaders on the main principles common to IHL and Islamic law
- strengthened cooperation with the Ministry of Defence on making IHL an integral part of the armed forces' theoretical and practical training programmes
- maintained support to the physical rehabilitation centre at the Ben Aknoun Hospital in Algiers serving disabled people with limited means
- offered advice to the Algerian Red Crescent on the regularization of its governance and operational structures

## CONTEXT

Throughout 2008, the Algerian armed forces remained on high alert in their endeavour to dismantle armed groups believed to be behind recurrent attacks against government and foreign targets in the country. An organization calling itself the al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb, formerly known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

As sporadic clashes between Algerian forces and armed groups persisted, scores of people were killed and many more injured in a spate of bombings in August targeting a police academy, a military barracks and a Canadian engineering company. It was the worst violence in the country since the twin suicide bombings of UN offices and a court building in Algiers in December 2007.

The upsurge in violence came against a backdrop of social unrest linked to decreasing purchasing power caused by rising prices of food and other basic necessities, which culminated in a series of strikes and riots in several cities.

While reasserting its determination to eradicate violent Islamic militancy in the country, the government pursued efforts to apply a Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation designed to heal the rifts in society caused by the violence of the 1990s. The charter proposed an amnesty for people allegedly involved in the years of violence that followed general elections in 1992 and compensation for the families of the victims, including the close relatives of those still unaccounted for from that period.

The government also pressed ahead with measures to reform the country's judicial and penitentiary systems, in particular efforts to address the problem of severe overcrowding in prisons, and sought to boost the economy and to reduce unemployment through measures financed by oil and gas revenues.

An amendment to the constitution adopted by parliament in November paved the way for incumbent president Abdelaziz Bouteflika to bid for a third term in presidential elections scheduled for April 2009.

Owing to tighter restrictions on entry into Europe, Algeria became a destination country for rising numbers of irregular migrants, many of whom were either arrested or deported.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total  |                             |          |    |    | Total | Women | Children |
|--|--------|-----------------------------|----------|----|----|-------|-------|----------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) |        | WOUNDED AND SICK            |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| Detainees visited  | 11,648 | Physical rehabilitation     |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                   | 205    | Patients receiving services | Patients | 41 | 7  | 12    |       |          |
| <i>of whom females</i>   | 2      | Prostheses delivered        | Units    | 4  |    |       |       |          |
| Number of visits carried out                                   | 23     | Orthoses delivered          | Units    | 53 | 10 | 19    |       |          |
| Number of places of detention visited                          | 20     |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |        |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications                   |        |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| RCMs collected   | 194    |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| RCMs distributed   | 133    |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons           |        |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 1      |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 9      |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| <i>of which for females</i>                                    | 5      |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>        | 2      |                             |          |    |    |       |       |          |

## ICRC ACTION

In 2008, ICRC activities in Algeria focused mainly on visits to people deprived of their freedom to assess their treatment and living conditions. Confidential oral and written reports containing the findings and recommendations of ICRC delegates were subsequently submitted to the detaining authorities.

In May, the ICRC president held talks in Algiers with the Algerian president and other high-level officials, providing a further opportunity for discussion of detention and other humanitarian issues of mutual concern. The question of ICRC access to people detained in connection with acts allegedly endangering State security remained high on the agenda of these and other meetings with the Algerian authorities.

As in past years, Algerians benefited from ICRC tracing and RCM services to restore or maintain contact with family members detained/interned abroad. However, at the request of the Algerian authorities, these services were handed over to the Algerian Red Crescent in August 2008, for which the National Society continued to receive ICRC technical support. At the same time, the ICRC remained at the disposal of the Algerian authorities to help them clarify the fate of people unaccounted for in relation to past violence in the country.

A physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers caring for disabled people with limited means, who often were not covered by the Algerian social security system, continued to receive ICRC technical, material and financial support.

Contacts were reinforced with Algerian universities to promote the inclusion of IHL in law curricula and with key sectors of civil society, such as the media and religious circles, to foster knowledge and acceptance of the Movement and the ICRC's mandate and activities. Enhanced dialogue with the Ministry of Religious Affairs led to a first seminar for imams and female religious leaders on the main principles common to IHL and Islamic law.

Members of the newly created national IHL committee and the ICRC held discussions on the role, responsibilities and functioning of the committee. Several seminars to promote the integration of IHL into military training were held with representatives of the Ministry of Defence.

The Algerian Red Crescent received further advisory support from the ICRC, provided in cooperation with the International Federation, in its efforts to regularize new governance and operational structures.

## CIVILIANS

## Restoring family links

For many years, through ICRC tracing and RCM services, families in Algeria were able to locate and restore or maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad or living in conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq or held in the US facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and regularly visited by ICRC delegates.

Two staff members from the ICRC delegation in Algeria made two visits to the Guantanamo facility to monitor the treatment and living conditions of Algerian nationals held there, thus ensuring a more direct exchange of news between families in Algeria and their interned relatives. In August 2008, at the request of the Algerian authorities, the ICRC handed over its tracing and RCM activities in Algeria to the Algerian Red Crescent.

- 194 RCMs collected from and 132 RCMs distributed to civilians between January and August 2008, when the ICRC handed over these activities to the Algerian Red Crescent
- new tracing requests registered for 1 person; 9 people (5 females; 2 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought at the time of the August handover

## Resolving the cases of missing persons

The decision of the Algerian authorities in the framework of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation to compensate financially the families of people who went missing during the internal strife of the 1990s effectively closed these cases, leaving the families concerned with the anguish of not knowing the fate of their loved ones. The ICRC nevertheless remained at the disposal of the Algerian authorities to provide them with its expertise to help clarify the fate of these missing persons.



## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

At the end of 2008, around 59,000 people were being held in Algeria's 127 prisons, many of which were severely overcrowded. To alleviate the problem, the Algerian authorities announced plans to build 13 new prisons in 2009. An ICRC report based on an assessment it made in 2007 of the causes and consequences of overcrowding in Algerian prisons was submitted to the Ministry of Justice on 11 June and was the subject of follow-up discussions with ministry officials.

The ICRC continued to carry out regular visits to people deprived of their freedom in prisons, police stations and *gendarmeries* and to report confidentially on the findings to the authorities with, when necessary, recommendations for improvements in the treatment and living conditions of detainees. Particular attention was paid to the conditions and treatment of detained women, minors and foreign nationals. Emphasis was also placed on respect for the judicial guarantees of all people remanded in custody, the confidentiality of their medical files and the need to give them the opportunity to inform relatives rapidly of their detention.

These and other detention issues, including authorization of ICRC access to people held in interrogation and detention centres under the authority of the intelligence and security services, were discussed during several high-level meetings between the Algerian government and the ICRC. The Algerian and ICRC presidents met in March in Dakar, Senegal, on the occasion of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference summit. They met again in May in Algiers, where the ICRC president also held meetings with the defence and interior ministers and with the general secretary of the Ministry of Justice.

In addition to the reports submitted to the authorities after each detention visit and the one on overcrowding in prisons, a confidential ICRC report summarizing data collected in 2007 regarding the living conditions and treatment of people held in provisional detention centres under the authority of the Ministries of Interior and Defence was handed to the authorities concerned in April. Follow-up discussions on the reports' recommendations were held with Ministry of Justice officials.

Magistrates with whom the ICRC was in regular contact regarding its detention-related activities broadened their knowledge of IHL and humanitarian issues pertaining to detention and ICRC work in this field during two ICRC-organized seminars.

- 11,648 detainees visited, of whom 205 monitored individually (2 females), including 170 newly registered (2 females) during 23 visits to 20 places of detention
- 1 RCM distributed to 1 detainee

## WOUNDED AND SICK

As in past years, disabled people with limited means and not registered under the national social security system were fitted with artificial limbs and other mobility aids at affordable cost at the Ben Aknoun Hospital's physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers. The centre continued to receive ICRC material, technical and financial support under a programme initiated in 2001 in agreement with the Algerian Ministry of Health and the Algerian Red Crescent. It included the training of physical rehabilitation apprentices in working with low-cost polypropylene technology used at the centre. To increase the centre's current production level and to enable it to make better use of its human and material resources, the ICRC proposed adding a training structure for prosthetic/orthotic technicians and trainees to the centre. Exploratory meetings to this end took place with the Ministry of Health.

The number of patients treated at the centre in 2008 fell short of expectations owing to a combination of factors: a lack of communication between those responsible for the centre at various levels; changes in the centre's management; staff on leave; and extensive construction work on the centre from August onwards.

A local association for the disabled provided the ICRC with a list of destitute amputees with a view to increasing the number of patients benefiting from the centre's services.

- 41 patients (7 women and 12 children) received services at 1 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- 3 new patients fitted with prostheses and 37 (7 women and 12 children) with orthoses
- 4 prostheses, 53 orthoses (10 for women and 19 for children) and 4 crutches delivered

## AUTHORITIES

The Algerian authorities and the ICRC remained in regular contact on humanitarian issues of mutual concern.

A national IHL committee under the authority of the Ministry of Justice was created by presidential decree in June. Soon after it was established, its members and the ICRC discussed the committee's role, responsibilities and functioning. While Algeria had ratified the majority of IHL instruments, it had yet to incorporate all of their provisions into national legislation. The committee's principal role was to advise legislators on moving this process forward, with the help of the ICRC's legal advisory services, whenever requested.



In May, the ICRC president met the Algerian authorities in Algiers to discuss humanitarian issues of mutual concern, in particular ICRC activities related to people detained in the country (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

The Algerian Magistrates' School (*Ecole de la Magistrature*) and the ICRC agreed to hold periodic seminars on IHL both for practising and trainee magistrates. In January, 25 practising magistrates attended the first seminar, which focused primarily on the protection of detainees under IHL, in particular their right to judicial guarantees (see *People deprived of their freedom*). In November, a further 27 practising magistrates, as well as members of the national IHL committee, attended a second seminar on the same topic.

Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice participated in regional meetings on IHL organized by the League of Arab States and the ICRC (see *Egypt*).

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL was already part of the curricula of military training establishments in Algeria. However, it had yet to be integrated systematically into military training programmes. In 2008, the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC further strengthened their cooperation with a view to speeding up this process and revising military manuals accordingly. Together with the ICRC, the Cherchell Military Academy organized a seminar on the integration of IHL into military training. Cadets at the academy had the opportunity to learn about the activities of the ICRC and the Movement during an ICRC presentation.

At its request, the Ministry of Defence was provided with technical documents on issues such as IHL rules governing the conduct of hostilities and the use of weapons.

An Algerian officer attended the Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations organized by the ICRC in Switzerland in November 2008.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising awareness of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities among key civil society sectors, including universities, the media, NGOs and religious circles, remained a priority in order to promote existing services and gain support for the ICRC.

The Algerian media regularly reported on ICRC activities and humanitarian concerns, thanks to information and briefings from the delegation.

The ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme continued to be pilot-tested in a number of schools near Algiers at the beginning of 2008. However, the programme was discontinued in June owing to a change in priorities within the Ministry of Education.

Progress was made in promoting the teaching of IHL in Algerian universities, where an increasing number of students had started to study the subject. The University of Annaba, for example, offered the possibility of doing a doctoral thesis on IHL. University students regularly consulted the IHL reference library at the ICRC delegation in Algiers.

Contacts were reinforced with influential religious leaders and institutions. In March, 97 imams and 8 female religious leaders participated in a seminar on IHL and Islamic law, organized in conjunction with the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The seminar provided an opportunity for the participants to explore and discuss similarities and differences between the two bodies of law.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In 2008, the Algerian Red Crescent remained in a transition phase involving major management and structural changes. In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC stood ready to support the National Society's efforts to regularize its governance and operational structures in line with the Movement's Fundamental Principles and the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures.

At the request of the Algerian authorities, the ICRC handed over its tracing and RCM activities to the Algerian Red Crescent in August 2008 but increased technical support aimed at boosting the National Society's expertise in these fields (see *Civilians*).



# egypt

The ICRC has been in Egypt, with some interruptions, since the beginning of the Second World War. The delegation works primarily as a regional centre to promote the national implementation of IHL and its incorporation into military training and academic curricula in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world. The Cairo-based regional legal advisory, communication and documentation centre, working in close cooperation with the League of Arab States, plays an important role in this process. The ICRC supports the work of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society. It has also expressed its interest in visiting people deprived of their freedom in Egypt.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |     |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Protection                          | 251 |
| Assistance                          | -   |
| Prevention                          | 769 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 76  |
| General                             | -   |

► **1,095**

of which: Overheads 67

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 78% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | expatriates                                 |
| 33 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- together with the League of Arab States, actively promoted the integration of IHL into national legislation, university and school curricula, and national armed forces' training throughout the Arab world
- for the first time, facilitated telephone contact between Egyptian nationals in US custody at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and their families in Egypt
- restored contact between asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt and their families in their home countries, mainly in the Horn of Africa
- reinforced the capacity of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to respond to emergencies, such as mass population movements from the Gaza Strip into Egypt
- pursued discussions with the Egyptian authorities on ICRC access to security detainees in Egypt

## CONTEXT

Egypt continued to play an important role in efforts to defuse tensions in the region, particularly in the contexts of Palestinian infighting and the Israeli-Palestinian armed conflict. Notable were its attempts to broker a durable ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

In January, tens of thousands of Palestinians from the Gaza Strip poured into Egypt after Hamas militants blew a hole in the border wall, triggering the mass buying of goods not available in Gaza because of Israel's blockade of the territory. Most Palestinians had returned to Gaza within a few weeks, although a number of them were reportedly arrested for alleged illegal activities on Egyptian soil. Thereafter, the border was opened on rare occasions to allow the passage out of Gaza of wounded or sick civilians referred to hospitals in Egypt or elsewhere, or for other humanitarian purposes, notably during the Israeli military offensive launched in the Gaza Strip on 27 December.

Large numbers of people fleeing armed conflict, other situations of violence and economic hardship, mainly from the Horn of Africa, continued to enter Egypt seeking asylum, refugee status or resettlement in third countries. An increasing number of African asylum seekers and migrants tried illegally to cross the Sinai desert and enter Israel. A number of them were reportedly killed by Egyptian border guards, while hundreds of others were deported to their home countries.

The ruling National Democratic Party won a landslide victory in local elections held in April that were boycotted by the Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest opposition force. Hundreds of independent candidates linked to the Muslim Brotherhood Movement were reportedly arrested during the campaign. Prior to the elections, labour protests and riots provoked by rising food and fuel prices escalated and resulted in a number of fatalities and injuries.

In May, parliament approved a government request to extend for another two years the state of emergency in place since 1981.

Egypt was increasingly concerned about the deteriorating situation in neighbouring Sudan and the potential impact of piracy off the coast of Somalia on shipping through the Suez Canal.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |
|--|-------|
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>                                  |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>            |       |
| RCMs collected   | 184   |
| RCMs distributed   | 203   |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>    |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 47    |
| <i>of whom females</i>   | 18    |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>             | 9     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 20    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 42    |
| <i>of which for females</i>                                    | 19    |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>        | 5     |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>  |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                    | 816   |

## ICRC ACTION

Egypt continued to be the regional base of ICRC activities to promote greater knowledge and acceptance of IHL and neutral and independent humanitarian action, as well as the national implementation of IHL, in the 22 members of the League of Arab States. Efforts included engagement in humanitarian diplomacy with the Egyptian government and the Arab League, direct participation in meetings of the African Union (AU) and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), and networking with influential figures in the Arab world to gain respect and mobilize support for the ICRC's specific role and operations worldwide.

Government officials, parliamentarians, judges, academics, military staff and diplomats of Arab League member States attended regional seminars aimed at promoting the integration of IHL into national legislation, university and school curricula, and the theoretical and operational training programmes of the armed forces. In support of these activities, governments and national implementation bodies received relevant materials from the ICRC's regional documentation and promotion centre in Cairo, which continued to produce written and audiovisual resources on IHL in Arabic. The ICRC's Cairo-based Arabic-language website was also widely consulted as a key reference on IHL-related issues.

Another ICRC priority was to promote IHL and knowledge of the organization's specific mandate among key civil society audiences, such as the media, human rights NGOs and faith-based Arab humanitarian organizations, in order to gain their active support.

Egyptian nationals and refugees were able to restore contact with family members detained/interned abroad or living in countries affected by armed conflict through ICRC tracing and RCM services. A number of refugees in Egypt – mainly nationals from countries in the Horn of Africa – also received ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC cooperated closely to assess possible humanitarian needs related to the sudden massive influx of Gaza residents into Egypt in January (see *Context*). Together with the International Federation, they also drew up contingency plans to respond to possible cross-border emergency needs arising from the hostilities in the Gaza Strip

in December and facilitated the transit of aid destined for the Gaza Strip and the transfer of wounded people from Gaza to Egyptian hospitals.

Further discussions took place with high-level Interior Ministry officials regarding ICRC access to people deprived of their freedom in Egypt, particularly those held on charges of endangering State security or in connection with the fight against "terrorism". No such agreement had been concluded by the end of the year.

A decentralized human resources employment promotion unit was opened in Cairo, in order to facilitate the selection and recruitment of Arabic-speaking delegates to carry out ICRC activities in the region.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

Asylum seekers and refugees, particularly sub-Saharan nationals, continued to rely on ICRC tracing and RCM services to locate and restore contact with family members in their home countries. Families living in Egypt were able to trace and re-establish contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad or present in countries where communications had been disrupted by armed conflict or other situations of violence.

A number of unaccompanied minors received ICRC travel documents to enable them to join family members in other countries. Unaccompanied minors received psychological and vocational counselling provided by an NGO, with ICRC support.

Large numbers of people fleeing their home countries for political or economic reasons continued to arrive in Egypt. The majority came from Sudan but also from other countries of the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and West Africa. Only a limited number were granted refugee status and accepted for resettlement in third countries. Those that were accepted but had no valid identification papers received travel documents issued by the ICRC at the request of embassies, the IOM or UNHCR.

Family-links activities were carried out in close coordination with international organizations, NGOs and the Egyptian Red Crescent, as well as with community-based associations of refugees and migrants

from Africa and Iraq. Information sessions were held within these circles to raise awareness of ICRC tracing and RCM services.

- 184 RCMs collected from and 203 RCMs distributed to civilians; 12 calls facilitated between family members
- new tracing requests registered for 47 people (18 females; 9 minors at the time of disappearance); 20 people located; 42 people (19 females; 5 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 816 people issued with an ICRC travel document to facilitate their resettlement in third countries

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Based on its right of initiative conferred by the Movement's Statutes, the ICRC pursued discussions with high-level officials of the State Security Department on access to security detainees in Egypt. No access agreement had been reached by the end of the year.

Two Egyptian nationals in US custody at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and their families in Egypt were able for the first time to have direct telephone conversations, facilitated by the ICRC.

## AUTHORITIES

The 22 members of the League of Arab States were encouraged to accede to IHL instruments to which they were not yet party and to incorporate the relevant legal provisions into their national legislation. Thirteen countries in the region had created national IHL committees by the end of the year. Those that had not yet done so were urged to establish one.

Working in collaboration with the Arab League, the ICRC provided expertise, IHL-related documentation and draft model laws to governments and IHL implementation bodies in the region. Regional meetings on IHL for parliamentarians, judges, academics, military staff and diplomats of Arab countries were jointly organized by the Arab League and the ICRC (see *Kuwait* and *Tunis*), and missions to advance IHL implementation were carried out from Cairo to countries in the region.

In Egypt, regular meetings between the Egyptian IHL committee members, legislative bodies and the ICRC kept the implementation process at national level on course. Scores of civilian and military judges and public prosecutors attended ICRC training sessions on IHL.

Egyptian government and Arab League representatives and the ICRC held several meetings, which provided opportunities to share their respective concerns and constraints and for the ICRC to gain respect and mobilize support for its specific role and operations worldwide. The participation of the ICRC in meetings of the AU and the OIC, as well as networking with influential figures in the Arab world, contributed to this process.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Arab League's Military Affairs Department invited the ICRC to participate in discussions on IHL-related issues during periodic meetings of Arab military officials at its Cairo headquarters. A joint regional seminar was held there for 22 high-ranking officers from 13 Arab States to promote the integration of IHL into their military teaching and training programmes. This was followed up by support missions throughout the region. Seminars were also held in several Arab countries to promote the incorporation of humanitarian principles and human rights standards into the training programmes of national security forces.

In Egypt, military forces about to be deployed in Darfur, Sudan, were regularly briefed on IHL, as were military personnel at various military academies and security forces posted in the Sinai.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Media and other civil society circles in the Arab world were provided with background materials in Arabic on IHL and the ICRC, including the quarterly *Al-Insani* (*The Humanitarian*) magazine. The ICRC's Arabic-language website and publications directly contributed to better media coverage of humanitarian issues in the region. A newly launched regional "Best Humanitarian Story" competition ended in March, with the first three prizes awarded to Palestinian, Syrian and Sudanese journalists.

In Egypt, contacts were reinforced with human rights associations and religious circles to enhance their knowledge and understanding of IHL and the ICRC.

Work continued to promote the teaching of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools of the region. Training and evaluation missions were carried out from Cairo in several Arab countries, focusing only on countries with the best chance of integrating the programme and sustaining it autonomously within a two-year timeframe. A web-based virtual campus forum in Arabic was launched as an additional training tool.

In Egypt, teachers were taught to use a practical guide produced by the Education Ministry on teaching the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The ministry and the ICRC signed an agreement to complete the pilot phase of the programme and to turn it over to the ministry by 2010.

Representatives of 12 Egyptian law faculties and the ICRC discussed the status of IHL teaching in Egyptian universities and agreed on a plan of action to accelerate its integration into law curricula.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society staff and volunteers were given further training and material support by the ICRC in the fields of dissemination, tracing and communication. Close coordination with the International Federation continued, including in efforts to maximize Movement support to the Egyptian Red Crescent.

Following the movement of tens of thousands of people from Gaza into Egypt after the border wall was breached, the Egyptian Red Crescent, in particular its branch in northern Sinai, and the ICRC remained in constant contact in order to assess possible humanitarian needs. Coordination was also maintained with other Movement partners regarding the provision of humanitarian aid to the population in Gaza.

In late December, the Egyptian Red Crescent, the International Federation and the ICRC cooperated closely and drew up contingency plans to respond to possible cross-border emergency needs arising from the hostilities in the Gaza Strip and facilitated the transit of relief aid through Egypt for the Gazan population and the transfer of wounded from the Gaza Strip to Egypt.

Representatives of 14 Arab National Societies and of the secretariat of the Arab Organization of Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies participated in a meeting organized by the ICRC and the International Federation to position the Movement better as the leading humanitarian agency and to enhance coordination and complementarity.





# iran, islamic republic of

The ICRC has been in the Islamic Republic of Iran, with some interruptions, since 1977. It continues work to clarify the fate of POWs registered during the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war or identified through RCMs. It works to strengthen its partnership with the Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly in the fields of tracing, the promotion of IHL, the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and mine-risk education. The Iranian committee for the implementation of IHL is an important partner in this process. The ICRC maintains a logistical supply base in the Islamic Republic of Iran in support of ICRC operations in the region.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,087 |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,132 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 479   |
| General                             | -     |

► **2,697**

of which: Overheads **165**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>80%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

## PERSONNEL

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| <b>4</b>  | expatriates                                 |
| <b>46</b> | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- agreed on a joint cooperation framework with the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq aimed at resolving the fate of people from both sides still unaccounted for from the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war
- facilitated the repatriation of 241 sets of remains of Iranian and Iraqi combatants who died in that conflict, and assisted in efforts to identify them
- helped Iranian nationals and foreign refugees restore and/or maintain contact with family members detained/interned abroad, mainly in Iraq
- developed a strong partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs School of International Relations to promote knowledge and acceptance of IHL
- organized a first round-table on IHL for senior members of the Iranian armed forces
- reinforced its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society through a new cooperation agreement in the field of physical rehabilitation

## CONTEXT

In the first half of 2008, domestic debate continued to be dominated by the Islamic Republic of Iran's standoff with the international community over its nuclear programme, rising inflation and the government's controversial economic policies. As the year progressed, the focus of attention shifted to the presidential elections set for June 2009.

As President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad faced political and public criticism over certain foreign policy and economic issues, former president Mohammad Khatami announced that either he or ex-prime minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi intended to run for president.

Conservatives won more than two-thirds of seats in parliamentary elections held in March and April, in which many pro-reform candidates were barred from standing. The new parliament elected former chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani as its speaker.

In March, the UN Security Council imposed further sanctions on Tehran for allegedly not stopping uranium enrichment in compliance with Council demands. The United States of America and certain Western European countries accused the Islamic Republic of Iran of trying to develop atomic weapons, but Tehran repeatedly asserted that its nuclear programme was for energy purposes only.

The Iranian president visited Baghdad in March, the first such visit since the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war. This was followed by two visits to Tehran by the Iraqi prime minister, confirming a consolidation of relations between the two countries, which led to bilateral cooperation agreements on security and economic issues.

Thousands of Iranian and Iraqi families remained without news of relatives missing since the end of the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war.

Five Iranian diplomats remained in the custody of US forces in Iraq, where they had been arrested in January 2007.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |
|--|-------|
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>                                  |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>            |       |
| RCMs collected   | 130   |
| RCMs distributed   | 223   |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>    |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 36    |
| <i>of whom females</i>   | 11    |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>             | 14    |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 38    |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 29    |
| <i>of which for females</i>                                    | 7     |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>        | 11    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>  |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                    | 1     |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued              | 60    |

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC operational priorities focused on addressing the humanitarian consequences of the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war, promoting the ratification and national implementation of IHL, restoring family links, providing support to ICRC operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, and enhancing cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC convened a meeting in October between representatives of the Iranian and Iraqi governments, during which a joint memorandum of understanding was signed aimed at clarifying the fate of thousands of combatants and civilians on both sides still unaccounted for in connection with the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war. The memorandum established a clear framework for collecting information and sharing it between the two countries and for handing over human remains, with ICRC support. The ICRC also offered its forensic expertise to organizations involved in recovering and identifying human remains related to the same conflict.

Iranian families and foreign refugees were able to restore and/or maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad, mainly in Iraq, through the ICRC's tracing and RCM services, operated jointly with the Iranian Red Crescent.

Storage capacity was expanded at the ICRC logistics base in Kermanshah, a key supply base in the north-west of the country for ICRC operations in Iraq, and a quality-control system was put in place for the relief pipeline. The Islamic Republic of Iran also remained an important procurement centre for water and sanitation materials used in ICRC operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and countries in Africa.

Mine-risk education activities were extended to local NGOs and the Public Welfare Organization, resulting in a pilot mine-risk education project in Kurdish villages in remote mine-contaminated regions.

A strong partnership was developed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs School of International Relations to promote knowledge and acceptance of IHL and its compatibility with Islamic law. A first round-table on IHL was organized for senior members of the

Iranian armed forces, marking a decisive step in establishing a systematic dialogue on the subject with the Iranian military.

New cooperation projects with the National Society took shape, including collaboration in the areas of international activities, physical rehabilitation, a women and war study and logistics, aided by mutual visits and the signing of memoranda of understanding.

## CIVILIANS

## Restoring family links

People in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including foreign refugees, mainly from Afghanistan and Iraq, were able to restore or maintain links with family members detained/interned abroad (mainly in Afghanistan, Iraq and the US Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba) through the ICRC's tracing and RCM services, operated jointly with the Iranian Red Crescent.

- ▶ 130 RCMs collected from and 223 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 36 people (11 females; 14 minors at the time of disappearance); 38 people located; 29 people (7 females; 11 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document
- ▶ 1 official document relayed between family members

## Tracing persons unaccounted for from the Iran–Iraq war

Several technical meetings were held with Iranian authorities in preparation for a consultation meeting between the Iranian and Iraqi governments, which took place under ICRC auspices in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 21 February 2008. The consultation meeting led to the signing in Geneva in October of a memorandum of understanding between the Iranian and Iraqi governments and the ICRC establishing a clear framework for collecting information and sharing it between the two countries and for handing over human remains, with ICRC support.

Iranian organizations involved in the recovery and identification of human remains related to the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war were assisted in acquiring DNA identification technology and holding the first of a series of training workshops on forensic issues.

In November, the remains of 241 Iranian and Iraqi soldiers were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The remains of 41 Iranian soldiers, 10 of whom were identified, and of 200 Iraqis, 23 of whom were identified, were handed over to the respective authorities at the Shalamjah border crossing near Basra in the presence of ICRC delegates acting as neutral intermediaries on both sides of the border. The bodies of the Iranian soldiers were transferred to a specialized forensics centre in Tehran to be identified and returned to their families.

The cross-checking of UNHCR and ICRC databases of refugees and former Iraqi POWs in the Islamic Republic of Iran led to a reduction in the number of Iraqi POWs unaccounted for.

### Mine-risk education

Various organizations contacted the ICRC for technical, material and financial support in conducting mine-risk education activities in remote areas.

A local NGO (Pishgaman Maaf) in Sanandaj took part in mine-risk education training sessions, organized in coordination with the Iranian Red Crescent. The NGO subsequently implemented a pilot project in 10 villages. The ICRC was reviewing a proposal from the NGO to participate in an expansion of the project in 2009.

Another NGO that marked some of the dangerous mine-contaminated areas in Kermanshah province, in coordination with the army, also benefited from ICRC support.

A partnership was developed with the Welfare Organization of the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security in relation to its mine-risk education programme. Provincial managers were updated on the programme, with ICRC support, and a training session was held for mine-risk education trainers in Ilam province. In addition, an agreement between the ICRC and the Welfare Organization, whereby the ICRC would provide support to the programme in Ilam province, was discussed. The Welfare Organization was to represent the Islamic Republic of Iran at a seminar on weapon contamination to be held in Cambodia in January 2009.

A study financed by the ICRC to determine the quality of the lives of mine victims in Iran was finalized by the Janbazan Medical and Engineering Research Centre. The findings were to be published in both English and Farsi.

## AUTHORITIES

Representatives of various Iranian ministries on the national IHL committee and the ICRC held talks in Geneva on issues of mutual humanitarian concern in June. The School of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was increasingly involved in helping the ICRC organize seminars on IHL.

Iranian legal experts translated the ICRC's study on customary IHL into Farsi, and the translation was published in November.

A book in Farsi containing speeches made at a conference on Islam and IHL organized in Qom in 2006 by the Institute of Theological Studies and the ICRC was released in Tehran and Qom. Compiled by the conference secretariat, with the support of the national IHL committee and the ICRC, it aimed to illustrate the common ground between Islam and IHL. In addition, the IHL committee and the ICRC agreed to translate into Farsi an ICRC publication

entitled *Elements of War Crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*.

Iranian legislators continued to work on a draft law on war crimes for adoption at national level, while the research phase of a study on the compatibility of Iranian law with IHL was completed by the national IHL committee with ICRC support.

Dialogue was pursued with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with a view to concluding a headquarters agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

A first round-table with officers of the Iranian armed forces was held in May at the secretariat of the Expediency Council in Tehran to promote the integration of IHL into military training, doctrine and operations. Ten representatives of the Ministry of Defence, the Guardians of the Revolution, the army and the General and Command Staff, as well as an ICRC legal adviser and members of the Qom conference secretariat, participated.

High-ranking members of the Iranian armed forces took part in the second Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, organized jointly by the Swiss army and the ICRC in Switzerland, and in a course on the law of war at the Partnership for Peace Training Centre in Ankara, Turkey (see *Ankara*).

A new ICRC publication, *Integrating the law*, was translated into Farsi for distribution in military circles.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The national IHL committee and the ICRC pursued joint efforts to spread knowledge of IHL and of the ICRC's mandate and activities among key segments of Iranian civil society. A dissemination agreement signed by the Islamic Commission on Human Rights and the ICRC reinforced these efforts.

Promoting the introduction of the basic principles of IHL in school curricula and the teaching of IHL in Iranian universities remained a priority. To this end, Iranian students were invited to participate in various moot court competitions and events.

Numerous workshops and seminars on IHL were held in conjunction with the School of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the national IHL committee, the University of Tehran, the National Society, Iranian NGOs and the Irish Centre for Human Rights.

The University of Tehran and the Imam Sadegh University in Tehran organized events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May.

A regional seminar on the role of women in helping to restore peace in the region was organized in Tehran by the Institute for Protecting Refugee Women and Children, the National Society, the municipality of Tehran and the ICRC.

National media coverage of ICRC activities increased significantly as a result of updates provided for the first time by the delegation in Farsi.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The ICRC continued to develop its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent, particularly in the fields of restoring family links and mine-risk education.

A new agreement was signed with the National Society on cooperation in the field of physical rehabilitation.

In cooperation with the national IHL committee, provincial Red Crescent branches appointed focal points for the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and IHL, and their staff and volunteers attended a workshop on these subjects. The National Society's Applied Science Institute established a committee to promote the basic principles of IHL and Islamic law related to warfare and held several workshops on these subjects for Red Crescent directors and staff.



#### EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 25,520 |
| Assistance                          | 64,257 |
| Prevention                          | 4,676  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,072  |
| General                             | -      |

► **95,526**

of which: Overheads **5,829**

#### IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>89%</b> |
|---------------------------|------------|

#### PERSONNEL

|  |
|--|
| <b>75</b> expatriates                                  |
| <b>441</b> national staff (daily workers not included) |

#### KEY POINTS

##### In 2008, the ICRC:

- enhanced its ability to assist and protect the victims of the armed conflict in Iraq, primarily by expanding its presence inside the country
- followed up the cases of more than 45,700 people detained/interned by the multinational forces, the Iraqi central authorities and the Kurdish Regional Government in Iraq
- enabled 20,550 people in the custody of the multinational forces to receive family visits or to exchange news with their families, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent Society
- rapidly provided life-saving medical and surgical supplies to 77 hospitals responding to mass-casualty emergencies
- carried out 33 rehabilitation projects in hospitals and 24 in primary health care centres across Iraq, while completing construction of a new physical rehabilitation centre in Falluja (Anbar province)
- provided more than 2.5 million IDPs and vulnerable residents with improved access to water and sanitation facilities, around 309,000 people with food, and around 259,000 people with household essentials

The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980. In the current context, priority is given to protection activities, with a particular focus on persons detained/interned by the multinational forces in Iraq and by the Iraqi authorities, and to providing the civilian population affected by the armed conflict with emergency assistance, either directly, or through partners, including the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, whenever possible. Assistance activities include the provision of emergency relief, support to hospitals, emergency repair work on health, water and sanitation infrastructure and restoring family links.

## CONTEXT

The armed conflict in Iraq was marked by fluctuating levels of violence throughout the year. Overall security conditions improved, although certain areas, particularly in some northern regions, were far less secure than others as 2008 ended.

Insurgent attacks in the provinces of Diyala, Ninewa and Salah al-Din intensified in March. A major military offensive by government and multinational forces in Basra and other southern areas the same month preceded a seven-week crackdown on the Mehdi army stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad before a truce was agreed in mid-May. Government and multinational forces then began operations against armed groups in Mosul before moving into Diyala, reportedly the last al-Qaeda stronghold in Iraq.

In Baghdad and central Iraq, insurgents increasingly targeted multinational troops, Iraqi security forces, members of Awakening Councils and political figures, while attacks against civilians in public places decreased. In Kirkuk, longstanding ethnic tensions rose between Kurdish and Turkmen inhabitants and escalated between the Kurdish regional government and the central government over the deployment of Kurdish Peshmerga forces in disputed areas.

Early in the year, Turkish forces launched air strikes and a ground incursion into northern Iraq targeting Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) positions. Iranian shelling of Kurdish militant bases in Iraq's Qandil mountains caused small-scale population displacement.

On 27 November, the Iraqi parliament approved a Status of Forces Agreement between Iraq and the United States of America providing for the withdrawal of all US forces from Iraq by the end of 2011. By year-end, the multinational forces had handed over control of 13 of Iraq's 18 provinces to the Iraqi security forces.

Campaigning gathered momentum for provincial elections set for 31 January 2009, seen as a key test of Iraq's stability. Iraqi authorities were hopeful the elections would open the political process to more groups and further erode support for extremist networks.

Unemployment and poverty levels remained high, and much of the population was still reliant on government food rations to cover immediate needs. However, many families entitled to benefit from the public food distribution



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total   |   | Total                | Women     | Children     |
|---|---------|---|----------------------|-----------|--------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |         | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                      |           |              |
| Detainees visited <sup>1</sup>  | 45,739  | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                      |           |              |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 4,955   | Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 309,289   | 25% 49%      |
| of whom females   | 36      | Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 259,078   | 25% 50%      |
| of whom minors  | 161     | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 89,950    | 25% 50%      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 140     | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 2,576,648 | 30% 50%      |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 44      | <i>Health</i>   |                      |           |              |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |         | Health centres supported                              | <i>Structures</i>    | 26        |              |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |         | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                      |           |              |
| RCMs collected  | 162,398 | Hospitals supported                                   | <i>Structures</i>    | 77        |              |
| RCMs distributed  | 148,594 | Admissions <sup>2</sup>                               | <i>Patients</i>      | 5,438     |              |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |         | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                      |           |              |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 270     | Patients receiving services                           | <i>Patients</i>      | 29,422    | 5,014 10,186 |
| of whom females   | 23      | Prostheses delivered                                  | <i>Units</i>         | 2,863     | 353 111      |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                           | 15      | Orthoses delivered                                    | <i>Units</i>         | 9,864     | 1,118 7,027  |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 178     |   |                      |           |              |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 3,363   |   |                      |           |              |
| of which for females  | 47      |   |                      |           |              |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance                      | 139     |   |                      |           |              |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |         |   |                      |           |              |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 286     |   |                      |           |              |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                     | 872     |   |                      |           |              |

1. All detainees known through notifications by the authorities and followed up by the ICRC

2. Includes only the weapon-wounded reported by the ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data

system were unable to do so for various administrative and other reasons. Water, sewerage and electrical power infrastructure remained vastly inadequate to meet the needs of the population.

## ICRC ACTION

As security conditions improved, the ICRC significantly expanded its geographical presence and humanitarian response capacity in Iraq. Closer contacts developed with the parties to the conflict enabled the ICRC to access certain areas that had previously been off-limits owing to the insecurity, enabling a better response to the needs of a maximum number of people affected by the armed conflict.

ICRC staff continued to be based in Baghdad, Basra, Dohuk, Erbil, Najaf and Sulaymaniyah, while others carried out regular missions to Iraq from Amman, Jordan. An ICRC presence was also extended to the provinces of Anbar, Diyala and Salah al-Din. A new office was opened in Khanaqin, close to the Iraq-Iran border, while a residence/office established in Baghdad facilitated a more regular presence of international staff there.

Regular visits were made to thousands of people in the custody of the multinational forces and the Kurdish regional authorities and increasingly to people in detention centres run by the central authorities. The ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent Society enabled them to receive visits from and exchange news with their families.

The ICRC's economic security strategy in Iraq shifted focus from the IDP community as a whole to IDPs who had been displaced within their home provinces after November 2006, thus complementing WFP distributions to IDPs who had fled to regions outside their provinces of origin. Particularly needy people in the north of

the country benefited from new livelihood-support and income-generating projects. Thousands of families ruined by the severe drought that affected northern regions started to receive emergency relief combined with livelihood support in October.

Scores of hospitals were regularly provided with emergency medical and surgical supplies to help them cope with mass-casualty emergencies, while many hospitals and primary health care centres were rehabilitated to enable them to function properly. A new physical rehabilitation centre was constructed in Falluja (Anbar province), and support was maintained to eight other such centres countrywide.

More than 2.5 million people benefited from improved water treatment/distribution facilities and sewage pumping stations following rehabilitation work by the ICRC.

In October, the governments of Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the ICRC agreed on a joint framework aimed at clarifying the fate of combatants and civilians on both sides still unaccounted for in connection with the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war.

ICRC activities were coordinated with those of UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations operating in the country in order to avoid duplication or gaps in relief aid.

## CIVILIANS

### Promoting respect for IHL

Security constraints continued to hamper sustained dialogue with the parties to the conflict and direct monitoring of potential conflict-related violations of IHL. However, the ICRC reported certain breaches of IHL to the parties concerned, on the basis of information

on alleged abuses collected during interviews with detainees, other direct victims or witnesses. The ICRC publicly voiced its concern about the humanitarian situation and violations of IHL in Iraq.

### Assisting IDPs, host communities and other vulnerable groups

The general decrease in violence affecting Iraq in 2008 enabled ICRC delegates to supervise directly many economic security activities in previously inaccessible areas. It also allowed delegates to make first-hand assessments of civilians' needs and to tailor ICRC activities accordingly. However, some regions remained inaccessible for security reasons.

Together with the Ministry of Displacement and Migration, the ICRC concentrated on helping IDPs who had been displaced within their home provinces between February 2006 and December 2007, rather than on those displaced prior to that date, who generally had had more time to resettle and develop coping mechanisms. In parallel, IDPs who had settled outside their provinces of origin received assistance from WFP.

Livelihood-support projects were implemented to address the increasingly chronic economic security problems facing the general population as a result of declining income-generating opportunities. Carried out in a first phase in northern Iraq, these projects aimed to help the most vulnerable communities, including IDPs and physically disabled people, increase their income and become self-sufficient.

Thousands of families ruined by the severe drought that affected northern Iraq in particular started to receive ICRC emergency relief combined with livelihood support in October.

- 309,289 people (58,321 households), including 177,164 IDPs (30,503 households) and, with the help of a local NGO, 550 households headed by widows, received food
- 259,078 people (49,092 households), including 201,866 IDPs (34,180 households), received essential household items
- 89,950 people (14,596 households), including 58,734 drought-affected residents (9,789 households) and 324 physically disabled patients, benefited from livelihood-support projects

### Improving water supply and sanitation facilities

Areas not covered by the authorities' maintenance and reconstruction plans and regions with large numbers of IDPs benefited from ICRC projects to upgrade water and sanitation facilities. In regions suffering an acute lack of basic infrastructure, new projects were initiated. During military operations in Baghdad, IDPs in Sadr City were assured of access to water trucked in by the ICRC, albeit with some interruptions owing to the insecurity.

- 2,568,648 people, including 245,000 IDPs, benefited from over 190 water/sanitation projects and the rehabilitation of health centres, including:
  - 288,173 people thanks to activities in response to acute emergencies, such as water trucking
  - 1,243,625 people thanks to projects aimed at preventing acute emergencies, such as the rehabilitation of community water services or health centres
  - 1,036,850 people thanks to comprehensive projects, such as the refurbishment and rehabilitation of water treatment plants or the installation of new water systems

### Supporting primary health care

Primary health care centres in isolated regions with a high proportion of IDPs were rehabilitated and/or received medical supplies and equipment either on a regular or ad hoc basis.

- 24 primary health care centres countrywide, with a total capacity to receive nearly 3,500 patients daily, rehabilitated
- 26 primary health care centres (catchment population: 170,000) received medical supplies and equipment

Medico-Legal Institutes (MLIs) received further support to help in the identification and storage of human remains and the training of Iraqi DNA practitioners. MLIs and hospital mortuaries were refurbished or supplied with mortuary fridges, as needed.

### Restoring family links and clarifying the fate of missing persons

The Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-committee dealing with cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War held four meetings chaired by the ICRC. Ten cases were resolved, bringing to 337 the number of cases clarified. The ICRC facilitated the exhumation and repatriation to Iraq of the remains of 63 Iraqis who had been buried in Saudi Arabia during the conflict and the handover of the remains of 18 of them to their families (see *Kuwait*).

Technical meetings were held with Iraqi authorities in preparation for the consultation meeting between the Iranian and Iraqi governments regarding people unaccounted for from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war. The consultation meeting took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 19 to 21 February 2008 under ICRC auspices. In June, the Iraqi Ministry of Human Rights and the ICRC agreed on a bilateral working process to address this issue. These steps led to the signing in Geneva in October of a memorandum of understanding between the Iranian and Iraqi governments and the ICRC establishing a clear framework for collecting information and sharing it between the two countries and for handing over human remains, with ICRC support. Within this framework, the remains of 200 Iraqi and 41 Iranian soldiers were repatriated in November (see *Islamic Republic of Iran*).

In cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent, the ICRC offered RCM services to the civilian population, mainly to restore links with family members in the custody of the multinational forces. In order to speed up the distribution of RCMs to Red Crescent branches, an electronic distribution system was established. Various other family-links services were also provided to the population.

- 73,606 RCMs collected from and 66,362 RCMs distributed to civilians, mainly to the families of detainees/internees, with the assistance of the National Society
- new tracing requests registered for 270 people (23 females; 15 minors at the time of disappearance); 178 people located; 3,363 cases (47 females; 139 minors at the time of disappearance) still being handled
- 67,806 calls received from families to the ICRC helpline, mainly concerned with locating detained/interned family members and sending RCMs
- 9,433 names of people, either with their present whereabouts or with requests for information on their whereabouts, published on the ICRC website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org)
- 8 foreigners repatriated, 4 people reunited with their families

- ▶ 41 human remains repatriated from Iraq to Iran and 200 repatriated from Iran to Iraq
- ▶ 286 people issued with an ICRC travel document
- ▶ 585 official documents relayed between family members

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Internment facilities controlled by the multinational forces in Iraq

Thousands of people in the custody of the multinational forces, including those held in temporary internment facilities, continued to receive ICRC visits. Findings and recommendations regarding their treatment and living conditions were shared confidentially with the detaining authorities.

With the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement between Iraq and the United States of America, the right of the latter to intern people in Iraq ended on 31 December 2008. In anticipation of the agreement, the ICRC began at an early stage to share its recommendations with the Iraqi and US authorities regarding any handover to the Iraqi authorities or release of internees held by US forces, in particular with respect to their rights and safety.

- ▶ 33,233 detainees/internees known to the ICRC through notification by the authorities followed up, mainly in Camp Bucca and Camp Cropper
- ▶ 3,430 detainees/internees visited and monitored individually (21 females; 150 minors; 230 foreign nationals), of whom 2,577 newly registered (11 females; 114 minors; 70 foreign nationals), during 20 visits to 10 places of detention

### Detention facilities under the authority of the Kurdish regional government

Detainees were visited in detention centres run by the Kurdish regional government. Prison medical staff attended a five-day workshop aimed at improving health care for inmates. Detaining and judicial authorities attended two ICRC legal workshops as a first step to improving the authorities' knowledge of and respect for the basic judicial rights of detainees.

- ▶ 2,963 detainees visited, 1,114 of whom monitored individually (10 females; 10 minors), including 480 newly registered (6 females; 7 minors), during 99 visits to 26 places of detention
- ▶ 2 detention centres (265 inmates) equipped with family visits areas

### Detention facilities under the authority of the Iraqi central government

In the second half of the year, the ICRC's access to detainees in prisons under the responsibility of the central authorities was expanded. Following visits, which took place according to standard working procedures, the ongoing constructive dialogue was further developed, in particular with the Ministries of Defence, Interior and Justice, on ensuring that the treatment and living conditions of detainees complied with international norms.

- ▶ 9,543 detainees visited, 411 of them monitored individually (5 females; 1 minors), including 269 newly registered (5 females; 1 minors), during 21 visits to 8 places of detention in Baghdad, Basra, Ramadi and northern Iraq

### Family news

Families were able to exchange news via RCMs, the "salamat plus" short message relay system, and a telephone helpline.

- ▶ 20,550 detainees visited by their families with ICRC support
- ▶ 88,792 RCMs collected from and 82,232 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 748 "salamat" messages relayed from detainees to their families
- ▶ 5 released detainees voluntarily transferred to their homes and 29 voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin under ICRC auspices, as were the remains of a person who died in detention
- ▶ 872 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families, enabling them to qualify for social welfare benefits

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Assistance to hospitals

The number of weapon-wounded remained high, and medical facilities continued to be overstretched.

The emergency medical services of 77 hospitals in all 18 provinces received ICRC support to boost their capacities to cope with mass-casualty situations and epidemics (e.g. diarrhoea and cholera), and in several cases just to enable them to continue functioning. Support took the form of medical and surgical supplies and equipment, training, and the provision of essential electro-mechanical spare parts to ensure the functioning of hospital water and sanitation systems. Medical supplies were usually delivered to hospitals within 72 hours of mass-casualty emergencies.

The occupational therapy programme of the al-Rashad Psychiatric Hospital in Baghdad continued to receive ICRC technical and material support.

Doctors and nurses working in the emergency services and surgical wards of two hospitals in Najaf and Sulaymaniyah were set to upgrade their skills after plans for a training programme, run by the ICRC in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, were finalized.

- ▶ 5,438 weapon-wounded admitted to the 22 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data
- ▶ 33 hospitals (7,735 beds) had improved water and sanitation and/or electrical supply following repair/rehabilitation projects
- ▶ 5 hospitals in Baghdad benefited from a daily emergency water-trucking operation
- ▶ 9 blood banks maintained their capacities to process blood through the ad hoc receipt of blood bags, plasma substitute and intravenous drips
- ▶ 83 Iraqi medical professionals attended ICRC seminars on war surgery, emergency room trauma management and advanced first aid

### Assistance to the physically disabled

The number of disabled people continued to rise. The eight physical rehabilitation centres supported by the ICRC and the ICRC's centre in Erbil were the only structures providing such services in the country.

Three ICRC-supported crutch production units in Baghdad, Basra and Erbil significantly increased their output. Ongoing training programmes improved the technical skills of prosthetic/orthotic staff, physiotherapists and wheelchair technicians. Ideas on how to improve physical rehabilitation services in Iraq were shared during a nationwide workshop facilitated by the ICRC.

- 29,422 patients (5,014 women and 10,186 children) received services at 9 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 1,845 new patients (273 women and 112 children) fitted with prostheses and 8,267 (1,032 women and 5,628 children) with orthoses
- 2,863 prostheses (353 for women, 111 for children and 450 for mine victims), 9,864 orthoses (1,118 for women, 7,027 for children and 76 for mine victims), 2,631 crutches and 70 wheelchairs delivered
- 2 centres in Basra and Baghdad rehabilitated; 1 new centre (500 bed capacity) constructed and equipped in Falluja

## AUTHORITIES

In May, the government of Iraq and the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement, which further enhanced the ICRC's ability to operate in the country.

Several meetings between the Ministry of Human Rights and the ICRC led to progress in efforts to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for from the Iran-Iraq war (see *Civilians*).

Key members of the Iraqi parliament's Human Rights Committee attended a workshop on the importance of ensuring respect for IHL. Two Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives participated in the 7th meeting of Arab governmental IHL experts in Rabat, Morocco (see *Tunis*). The ministry subsequently sent a memorandum to the Council of Ministers recommending the establishment of a national IHL committee in Iraq. In July, the ICRC received a letter from the ministry requesting support in preparing a draft law to establish the committee.

Relations with local authorities were developed, aimed at spreading knowledge and acceptance of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. For example, in the region controlled by the Kurdish regional authorities, justice representatives, prison directors, and police and security service officers participated in eight seminars on judicial guarantees.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Networking with various parties to the conflict continued, with the aim of broadening acceptance of the ICRC and improving access to victims.

A dialogue with senior Iraqi armed and police force officials was initiated with a view to promoting the integration of IHL and applicable human rights standards into their doctrine, training and operations. In support of this process, senior officials of the Ministry of Interior and the Iraqi police force attended a seminar in Amman (see *Jordan*) on the laws applicable to war and law enforcement, while Iraqi army personnel attended an IHL course in San Remo. Iraqi army and police officers also attended presentations on IHL and basic humanitarian norms.

Access to and relations with the different weapon bearers in Iraq improved, resulting in greater acceptance of the ICRC's mandate and activities in general.

Access to US forces was facilitated through the briefing of US troops on the ICRC and its mandate prior to their deployment to Iraq (see *Washington*). Coalition forces in Baghdad and Basra were given presentations on the ICRC's mandate and activities. The ICRC also opened a dialogue on IHL and human rights issues with the Association of Private Security Companies in Iraq.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Media outlets covered ICRC reports highlighting the continuing humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Iraq, based on regular briefings for journalists on ICRC activities. Amman-based media covering Iraq attended a workshop on explosive remnants of war and Iraqi journalists in Basra attended a workshop on IHL.

Religious and tribal leaders received regular information about ICRC activities. Relations with NGOs as potential operational partners on the ground developed.

Academic institutions and circles in Iraq and the ICRC pursued work to promote the teaching of IHL in Iraqi universities. Two Iraqi law lecturers participated in the 5th annual Arabic course on IHL for academic circles in Tunis, Tunisia, and an academic association to promote IHL teaching was established and approved officially by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In close coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC lent its support to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society in its efforts to re-establish a sound statutory base in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

Operational cooperation with the National Society continued in the field of restoring family links (see *Civilians*). The Iraqi Red Crescent participated in a regional workshop on strengthening the worldwide family-links network held in Doha, Qatar (see *Kuwait*).





# israel, the occupied and autonomous territories

The ICRC has been present in Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It strives to ensure respect for IHL, in particular its provisions relative to the protection of civilians living under occupation. It monitors the treatment and living conditions of detainees held by the Israeli and Palestinian authorities and provides assistance to the Palestinian population. As the lead agency for the Movement in this context, the ICRC coordinates the work of its Movement partners and supports the activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 19,292 |
| Assistance                          | 37,390 |
| Prevention                          | 3,503  |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,955  |
| General                             | -      |

► **62,140**

of which: Overheads 3,793

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 91% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| 83  | expatriates                                 |
| 256 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- actively sought compliance by Israel with its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation
- visited 22,085 Palestinian detainees held in Israel, as well as 93 foreign detainees and 4,316 people detained by the Palestinian Authority and Hamas, sharing its findings and recommendations regarding their treatment and living conditions confidentially with the detaining authorities
- assisted 43,135 impoverished people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank through livelihood-support projects, 16,608 through distributions of essential household items and 18,891 through distributions of food, mostly in Hebron Old City
- provided extensive assistance to the Palestine Red Crescent emergency medical services and medical and surgical supplies and equipment to Palestinian hospitals, particularly in the Gaza Strip
- improved access to clean drinking water for 181,000 people in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
- launched an emergency operation to respond to urgent needs arising from the upsurge of hostilities in the Gaza Strip at the end of the year

## CONTEXT

The political situation in Israel remained unstable throughout 2008. Accused of corruption, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was forced to resign in September. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni replaced him as leader of the Kadima party but was unable to form a new coalition government, precipitating early parliamentary elections scheduled for February 2009.

Indirect negotiations between Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic, mediated by Turkey, were put on hold, reportedly pending the transition to a new administration in the United States of America in January 2009.

Israel and Hamas agreed to a six-month ceasefire, which took effect on 19 June. The Egyptian-brokered truce was never fully observed as rocket and mortar attacks on towns in southern Israel and Israeli military strikes against the Gaza Strip continued. Israel maintained its tight blockade of the Gaza Strip. It allowed only very limited imports of commercial and humanitarian goods into the territory and, in the last two months of the year, also prevented the entry of NGOs, journalists and diplomats. Living conditions in the Gaza Strip sharply deteriorated as a result of this near total closure of the territory by Israel since Hamas took control there in June 2007.

On 27 December, Israel launched an intensive air offensive on the Gaza Strip, with the stated aim of halting rocket and mortar fire into southern Israel. The attacks, which resulted in heavy Palestinian casualties, population displacement and widespread damage to public infrastructure and private property, were continuing as the year ended.

In the West Bank, everyday life and livelihoods continued to be constrained by frequent military incursions, arrests, mobility restrictions, Israeli settlement growth and the construction of the security barrier.

The political split between the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the *de facto* authorities in the Gaza Strip deepened, although there were no major outbreaks of armed violence between the two sides as in 2007. In both the Gaza Strip and West Bank, security forces tightened their control and arrested political opponents.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |   | Total                       | Women   | Children |
|---|--------|---|-----------------------------|---------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |        | <b>CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b> |                             |         |          |
| Detainees visited <sup>1</sup>  | 26,494 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>           |                             |         |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 9,274  | Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 18,891  | 26% 47%  |
| of whom females   | 125    | Essential household items                             | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 19,433  | 24% 44%  |
| of whom minors  | 716    | Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives    | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 43,135  | 26% 47%  |
| Number of visits carried out  | 731    | Water, sanitation and habitat projects                | <i>Beneficiaries</i>        | 181,000 | 49% 47%  |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 119    | <i>Health</i>   |                             |         |          |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |        | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                               |                             |         |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |        | Hospitals supported                                   | <i>Structures</i>           | 27      |          |
| RCMs collected  | 9,053  | Admissions  | <i>Patients</i>             | 252,591 |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 10,399 | Operations  | <i>Operations performed</i> | 66,676  |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |        | <i>Physical rehabilitation</i>                        |                             |         |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 25     | Patients receiving services                           | <i>Patients</i>             | 1,474   | 126 741  |
| of whom females   | 5      | Prostheses delivered                                  | <i>Units</i>                | 71      | 12 1     |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                           | 6      | Orthoses delivered                                    | <i>Units</i>                | 313     | 13 260   |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 10     |   |                             |         |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 23     |   |                             |         |          |
| of which for females  | 6      |   |                             |         |          |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance                      | 5      |   |                             |         |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |        |   |                             |         |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                           | 3      |   |                             |         |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                     | 14,298 |   |                             |         |          |

1. All detainees known through the authorities' notifications and followed up by the ICRC

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC repeatedly reminded Israel of its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation. The humanitarian consequences of certain of its policies and the impact of military operations were regularly taken up with the Israeli authorities. The ICRC publicly expressed its concern about the multiple humanitarian consequences of the closure of the Gaza Strip.

Representations were also made to the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian armed groups, in particular concerning the need to respect civilians – both Israelis and Palestinians – as well as medical facilities and personnel.

Regular visits were made by the ICRC to Palestinians detained by Israel to monitor their treatment and living conditions. With ICRC support, detainees exchanged news with and received visits from family members, although families in the Gaza Strip were prevented by Israel from making such visits. The ICRC also visited people held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip and by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. Following all visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with the relevant detaining authorities. Efforts to gain access to the Israeli soldier captured in June 2006 and held by Hamas remained unsuccessful.

Palestinians suffering the worst effects of the occupation benefited from ICRC distributions of food and essential household items, as well as cash-for-work and income-generating projects. Hospital infrastructure and water systems in the Gaza Strip were rehabilitated, and water supply was improved in poorly served West Bank communities.

The Palestinian health sector received increased support in the form of medical and surgical supplies and equipment to enable

public hospitals, particularly in the Gaza Strip, to continue providing life-saving treatment to the wounded and sick, while technical and material assistance in post-surgical rehabilitation and physiotherapy helped to address the needs of amputees in the territory.

From the start of the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip on 27 December, the ICRC mounted an emergency operation to respond to the most pressing humanitarian needs, in close collaboration with the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

The ICRC continued to raise awareness among diplomatic and media circles of humanitarian issues affecting the population of the occupied Golan, including water management and the dangers posed by anti-personnel mines. It also assumed its role as a neutral intermediary between Israel and Hezbollah, most significantly in a simultaneous repatriation operation. It pursued efforts to clarify the fate of people still unaccounted for from past conflicts in the region.

Both the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society, in particular their emergency medical services (EMS), continued to receive ICRC support to bolster or reinforce their operational capacities.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting the civilian population

On the basis of regular ICRC monitoring on the ground, Israel was repeatedly reminded by the ICRC of its obligations under IHL towards the Palestinian population. More than 1,600 representations were made to the Israeli authorities regarding the adverse impact of certain Israeli policies and practices on the civilian population, in particular regarding mobility restrictions, settlement expansion, settler violence, the construction of the West

Bank barrier and the impact of military operations. The ICRC publicly expressed its concern about the multiple humanitarian consequences of the closure of the Gaza Strip.

Written representations on the need to respect medical facilities and personnel were submitted to Hamas and the Palestinian Authority and to Hamas regarding the conduct of law enforcement operations by its security forces in the Gaza Strip. Repeated representations were also made to the Palestinian authorities and armed groups concerning the need to respect Israeli civilians, especially in light of increased rocket and mortar attacks against Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip.

### Emergency assistance

Vulnerable groups and impoverished communities in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank benefited from various forms of economic security assistance. For example:

- ▶ some 1,560 people (230 households) whose homes had been destroyed or damaged received ad hoc food assistance, emergency shelter and essential household items
- ▶ some 6,500 people (1,000 households) affected by military operations or other emergencies received ad hoc food assistance and essential household items
- ▶ some 11,000 people (1,600 households) in Hebron Old City received monthly food parcels and quarterly distributions of hygiene items
- ▶ 43,135 people (6,774 households) benefited from livelihood-support programmes, including 25,180 individuals (3,793 households) in the Gaza Strip and 17,955 individuals (2,981 households) in the West Bank; these programmes included the allocation of 49,460 man-days of paid work (33,440 in the West Bank and 16,020 in the Gaza Strip) to rehabilitate community infrastructure such as roads, agricultural land, drainage systems and schools

Communities, in particular in the Gaza Strip, continued to benefit from ICRC support to meet immediate needs for safe water and adequate sanitation and, in some cases, the development of long-term solutions. For example, in the Gaza Strip, patients in seven hospitals benefited from the emergency rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities. Work was ongoing:

- ▶ in the Gaza Strip to rehabilitate sewage evacuation and treatment facilities in Khan Yunis and to connect people in Rafah town to a proper waste water treatment facility
- ▶ in the West Bank to construct a comprehensive water supply system in a cluster of 11 villages

In total, some 181,000 people benefited from water and sanitation projects.

### Restoring family links

Travel to the Syrian Arab Republic by people living in the occupied Golan, as well as movements within and between locations in the Palestinian territories, remained subject to Israeli restrictions.

- ▶ travel for 696 people, including students, pilgrims, 1 bride and 12 family members wishing to attend the funeral of a relative, between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic facilitated (see *Syrian Arab Republic*)
- ▶ 4,294 RCMs collected from and 4,724 RCMs distributed to civilians

- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 25 people (5 females; 6 minors at the time of disappearance); 10 people located; 23 people (6 females; 5 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 75 official documents relayed between family members in the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic and between Lebanese nationals in Israel and their families in Lebanon
- ▶ 12 visually impaired Palestinian children studying in the West Bank and a blind woman regularly visited family members in the Gaza Strip under ICRC auspices
- ▶ 3 ICRC travel documents issued to irregular migrants in Israel to facilitate their repatriation

### Clarifying the fate of missing persons

Work to clarify the fate of five Israelis missing from past conflicts in the region continued. Representations were made to the Israeli authorities on behalf of 157 Palestinian families awaiting the return of the remains of deceased relatives.

During two simultaneous repatriation operations carried out under ICRC auspices on 1 June and 16 July 2008 respectively, Israel handed over 5 Lebanese detainees and the remains of 197 mostly Lebanese people and Hezbollah handed over the bodies of 2 Israeli soldiers and several sets of remains of unidentified Israelis.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Israel and the occupied territories

More than 22,000 detainees in Israeli prisons, interrogation centres, provisional detention centres and police stations received regular visits from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard working procedures, as well as family visits organized by the ICRC. Among those visited were administrative detainees, Lebanese captured in 2006, foreign detainees from countries that had no diplomatic relations with Israel, and illegal migrants, mainly from sub-Saharan Africa. Delegates assessed their treatment and detention conditions and submitted confidential reports on the findings and recommendations to the relevant Israeli authorities.

Detainees from the Gaza Strip and their families, prevented by Israel from visiting their detained relatives since July 2007, were frequently visited by ICRC delegates, who acted as relays for the exchange of family news. Special attention was also paid to particularly vulnerable detainees, such as minors, women and irregular migrants. In coordination with UNHCR and other relevant organizations, the ICRC offered its services to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of detained irregular migrants, as required.

- ▶ 22,178 detainees visited, of whom 6,959 monitored individually (110 females; 627 minors), including 4,073 newly registered (38 females; 533 minors), during 391 visits to 44 Israeli places of detention
- ▶ 4,628 RCMs collected from and 5,646 RCMs distributed to detainees and 4,662 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative or to pass on family news
- ▶ 6,958 detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC support: an average of 6,100 detainees visited each month by family members living in the West Bank, involving 176,191 transfers of family members during 3,319 trips to 27 Israeli prisons
- ▶ 1,875 official documents and 738 sets of personal belongings relayed between Palestinian detainees and their families

- 13,897 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families
- 1,220 detainees received specific assistance, such as monthly allowances and sets of clothes
- 552 medical items provided to detainees

### The autonomous Palestinian territories

Detainees in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank continued to receive regular visits from ICRC delegates, who shared their observations and recommendations with the Palestinian detaining authorities concerned, in particular regarding detainees' treatment and respect for their judicial guarantees. Efforts to visit the Israeli soldier captured in June 2006 and held by Hamas and to enable him to communicate with his family remained unsuccessful.

- 4,316 detainees visited, of whom 2,315 monitored individually (15 females; 89 minors) and 2,024 newly registered (9 females; 80 minors), during 340 visits to 75 places of detention
- 131 RCMs collected from and 29 RCMs distributed to detainees and 1,397 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- 1,605 detainees received ad hoc medical assistance, hygiene kits, and recreational and educational materials

### WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC made hundreds of visits to hospitals to monitor access by patients and staff, available medical stocks, the use of ICRC-donated drugs and consumables, and the impact of the financial crisis and movement restrictions on essential hospital activities. Based on its findings, the ICRC provided the Ministry of Health with medical supplies for delivery to public hospitals in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Following an assessment of equipment needs in the emergency rooms and surgical units of government-run hospitals, particularly in the Gaza Strip, donations of urgently needed equipment commenced in September.

In the 23 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- 252,591 patients admitted: of whom 3,772 weapon-wounded, 64,248 other surgical cases, and 98,098 medical and 86,473 gynaecological/obstetric patients
- 66,676 surgical operations performed
- 540,211 outpatients given consultations, including 448,702 attending surgical or medical consultations and 91,509 attending gynaecological/obstetric consultations

The operating costs of the Palestine Red Crescent EMS (e.g. related to the running of a call centre, spare parts, fuel, staff salaries), which transported 75,544 patients in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, were almost entirely funded by the ICRC. This funding aimed to ensure maintenance of the ambulance fleet, effective management practices and the preparation of an advanced paramedic-level course for first-aiders.

The Israeli authorities were urged to allow patients in the Palestinian territories access to appropriate treatment in Israel or elsewhere when needed. Patients' access to medical treatment in Israel or elsewhere and ambulance movements between the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the West Bank, were facilitated by the ICRC in its capacity as a neutral intermediary.

- 5,788 ambulatory patients and 329 ambulance cases evacuated from the Gaza Strip

Presentations on promoting respect for the medical mission were given to 1,395 health staff in 60 hospitals in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Fifty-five Gaza-based doctors, nurses and physiotherapists attended a three-day war-surgery seminar, and medical staff in all hospitals received medical books to keep their professional knowledge up to date.

The Artificial Limbs and Polio Centre in Gaza received material and training support to enable it to produce mobility aids.

- 1,474 patients (including 126 women and 741 children) received services at the centre
- 63 new patients (including 12 women and 1 child) fitted with prostheses and 289 (including 13 women and 239 children) fitted with orthoses
- 71 prostheses (including 12 for women and 1 for a child), 313 orthoses (including 13 for women and 260 for children), 8 crutches and 8 wheelchairs delivered

From the start of the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip on 27 December, the ICRC supported the Palestine Red Crescent and Ministry of Health emergency services in the evacuation of the wounded to hospitals and the collection of dead bodies. This support comprised both material assistance and measures to protect the medical mission. The ICRC also stepped up its support to the eight Ministry of Health hospitals and to a number of private hospitals in the Gaza Strip.

### AUTHORITIES

Israel was urged to ensure that the basic needs of the civilian population in the occupied territories were met, in accordance with its obligations under IHL as the occupying power. Various Palestinian bodies were reminded of the importance of adhering to the basic principles of IHL.

Representatives of the Palestinian Foreign Affairs and Interior ministries attended regional meetings on IHL.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

To promote respect for IHL and gain support for the ICRC:

- Israeli military and security force personnel attended numerous sessions on the provisions of IHL related to Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories
- Palestinian security personnel and armed groups in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank attended sessions on how IHL protects civilians, detainees, and medical personnel and facilities

To contribute to IHL teaching within the armed and security forces:

- 10 Palestinian Authority security officials attended a workshop on IHL/human rights law teaching methodologies at the Palestinian Academy for Security Sciences in Jericho
- an Israel Defense Force officer participated in the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations, co-organized by the ICRC and the Swiss Army in Switzerland

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness of IHL among the media and civil society

Information regularly provided to the media through newsletters, press releases, briefings, IHL sessions and field trips for journalists contributed to better coverage of the ICRC's main humanitarian concerns in the Israeli-Palestinian context.

A joint campaign by the Palestine Red Crescent, the Ministry of Health and the ICRC raised awareness mainly among students and medical personnel of the protection due to the medical mission.

Other highlights:

- ▶ 15 Israeli, Palestinian and foreign journalists attended a workshop on IHL and war crimes
- ▶ religious leaders, members of Islamic charities, various political parties and major Palestinian NGOs attended 111 sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ 7 Palestinian scholars of Islam attended a workshop on IHL and sharia law in Amman, Jordan

### Promoting IHL in schools and universities

Some 270 schools in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank continued to teach the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. A revised agreement was signed between all programme partners, defining their respective roles. Students, teachers and Palestinian Education Ministry officials attended the annual summer camp forum on the programme.

Cooperation with Israeli and Palestinian universities continued regarding the teaching of IHL, and the ICRC organized regular lectures and workshops on IHL for academics and students.

- ▶ 2 Israeli and 2 Palestinian students attended an IHL course in Warsaw, Poland, and 2 Palestinian law professors attended a regional seminar on IHL in Tunis, Tunisia
- ▶ Israeli academic, legal and NGO representatives attended a three-day conference on IHL, co-organized by the Minerva Center for Human Rights and the ICRC at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and academics and legal experts from Israel and abroad attended a workshop on the "Restriction of Liberty of Terror Suspects", co-organized with the Israel Democracy Institute
- ▶ 30 students and their coaches from 10 Israeli academic institutions participated in the second edition of a national IHL competition, and an ICRC-sponsored Israeli team took part in an international moot court competition

to coordinated action within a coherent overall security framework. Logistical support was provided to enable other components of the Movement to deliver and distribute aid in the Palestinian territories.

### With the support of the ICRC, the Palestine Red Crescent:

- ▶ ran its EMS (see *Wounded and sick*)
- ▶ established regular Movement contingency planning meetings addressing various risk scenarios and revised joint emergency response procedures
- ▶ equipped the emergency operating rooms of the Hebron and Ramallah branches
- ▶ delivered assistance to 315 families in the Gaza Strip affected by flooding
- ▶ conducted 27 dissemination workshops for over 900 staff, 7 volunteers, local health providers and Palestinian police and security forces
- ▶ produced mine-awareness and other promotional materials for presentations at summer youth camps

### With the support of the ICRC, the Magen David Adom:

- ▶ continued to operate its EMS and established 3 new EMS posts in Arab-Israeli communities
- ▶ processed 93 tracing requests from within Israel and 44 from abroad and established and trained a volunteer family-links network
- ▶ trained instructors to teach the Movement's Fundamental Principles
- ▶ trained 900 volunteers in first aid and emergency response and over 1,500 in first-responder techniques
- ▶ organized an international volunteer youth exchange with 7 National Societies, focusing on the global food crisis
- ▶ exchanged technical expertise in first aid with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society

From the start of the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip on 27 December, the ICRC stepped up its support to the Palestine Red Crescent, notably to coordinate the movement of and at times escort its ambulances evacuating the wounded, dead bodies and stranded civilians.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The monitoring of the 2005 agreement between the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent was facilitated by the ICRC.

The Palestine Red Crescent worked closely with the ICRC in the implementation of various programmes benefiting the Palestinian population (see *Wounded and sick*).

National Societies working internationally supported the Palestine Red Crescent, in accordance with agreements with the ICRC and an operational alliance established by the International Federation. Monthly Movement meetings, chaired by the ICRC, contributed





# jordan

The ICRC has been present in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Its work there largely consists of visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, providing tracing and RCM services to enable civilians and foreign detainees to restore family links, and promoting IHL throughout Jordanian society, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support to ICRC relief operations in the region.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,711 |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,458 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 216   |
| General                             | 71    |

► **4,456**

of which: Overheads **272**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | <b>106%</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|

## PERSONNEL

**23** expatriates

**134** national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- following visits to people held in places of detention, shared with the detaining authorities its findings and recommendations on detainees' treatment and living conditions
- facilitated the transfer by ambulance of patients and the bodies of deceased Palestinians between Jordan and the West Bank
- restored and/or maintained contact between families in Jordan and their relatives detained/interned in Jordan and abroad
- assisted Iranian refugees stranded in a strip of no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders since they fled Iraq in 2005
- cooperated with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society in the fields of mine-risk education, IHL promotion and tracing
- remained a key logistical and administrative hub for ICRC operations in the region, in particular Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Yemen

## CONTEXT

The government formed following parliamentary elections in November 2007 continued to focus on reforms to reduce unemployment and poverty exacerbated by rising prices of food and other basic commodities.

Security remained a key concern of the kingdom, and laws were passed limiting the number of officially recognized political groupings and restricting the right of assembly in public places to three people at any one time.

In August, King Abdullah became the first Arab leader to visit Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, urging other countries in the region to help the Iraqi government restore peace and stability to that country.

Rioting in April at the al-Muaqar prison, south-east of Amman, left three inmates dead and scores more injured. The riots were triggered by alleged poor detention conditions and the introduction of a revised method of detainee classification.

A new system for regulating the visa process for Iraqis wishing to enter the country was introduced. A study commissioned by the Jordanian authorities estimated the number of Iraqi refugees in the country at between 450,000 and 500,000.

Almost 200 Iranian refugees remained stranded in a strip of no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders, where they had been since they fled Iraq in 2005.



## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |   | Total         | Women | Children |
|---|-------|---|---------------|-------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>   |       | <b>CIVILIANS</b>                            |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited   | 8,715 | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i> |               |       |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 269   | Essential household items                   | Beneficiaries | 194   | 31%      |
| of whom females   | 1     |   |               |       | 21%      |
| Number of visits carried out  | 69    |   |               |       |          |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 13    |   |               |       |          |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| RCMs collected  | 604   |   |               |       |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 797   |   |               |       |          |
| People reunited with their families   | 1     |   |               |       |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered  | 4     |   |               |       |          |
| of whom females   | 1     |   |               |       |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)   | 2     |   |               |       |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)  | 18    |   |               |       |          |
| <i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i> |       |   |               |       |          |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC   | 6     |   |               |       |          |
| UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2008  | 1     |   |               |       |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |   |               |       |          |
| People to whom travel documents were issued   | 97    |   |               |       |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued   | 15    |   |               |       |          |

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC operations in Jordan continued to focus on monitoring the treatment and living conditions of detainees, restoring family links disrupted by past and current conflicts in the region, facilitating the transfer of medical cases between Jordan and the West Bank and assisting the resettlement of refugees.

The ICRC reinforced its teams visiting people held in places of detention to enable better follow-up of issues such as respect for judicial guarantees. It acted as an important link between women imprisoned for their own protection from so-called honour crimes and women's organizations working to create safe environments for their transition back into society. Two confidential reports summarizing the findings and recommendations of ICRC visits to the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) detention and investigation centre and Correction and Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs), along with more than 30 other confidential recommendations made bilaterally, provided the basis for an in-depth dialogue with the detaining authorities at various levels on ways to enhance the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

People in Jordan were able to restore and/or maintain contact with family members and to exchange official documents with them through the ICRC's family-links service. They included a small group of Iranian refugees stranded in a strip of no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders, who also received basic material assistance and for whom the ICRC organized medical evacuations on a number of occasions.

Refugees without valid identity papers were issued with ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

Additional steps were taken to promote the integration of IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula, and the theoretical and operational training of the armed and security forces.

The Jordan Red Crescent received further support in the fields of tracing, mine-risk education and dissemination.

The ICRC in Jordan remained a key logistical and administrative hub for ICRC operations in the region, in particular Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Yemen, as well as for ICRC operations in Georgia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. Amman also continued to be the main training centre for ICRC delegations working in other areas of the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus.

## CIVILIANS

## Assisting and protecting the civilian population

In coordination with the Jordanian authorities, UNHCR and other organizations concerned, the ICRC endeavoured to find a permanent resettlement solution for a group of 194 Iranian Kurds who had been blocked in a makeshift camp in a strip of no-man's-land between Jordan and Iraq after fleeing Iraq in 2005.

Members of the group were able to restore contact with their families by means of the ICRC tracing and RCM services. This helped to provide much-needed psychological support to a population that had been cut off from all direct family contact for more than three years. Until November 2008, the group also benefited from ICRC emergency relief assistance in the form of hygiene kits, water trucked in three times a week and water purification tablets, after which UNHCR took over the caseload. On six occasions, the ICRC organized medical evacuations from the camp to the Jordan Red Crescent hospital in Amman.

At the request of UNHCR and/or the embassies concerned, recognized refugees received ICRC travel documents to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

People in Jordan who had lost touch with family members in neighbouring countries continued to approach the ICRC for assistance in locating and contacting them. A total of 3,989 people sought such assistance in 2008, mostly regarding missing relatives presumed to be detained/interned or located in Iraq or the Palestinian territories.

As a result of recurrent closures of the Gaza Strip, a number of Palestinians who had travelled from the territory to Jordan seeking emergency medical treatment were left stranded. Their return home was facilitated by the ICRC.

- 564 RCMs collected from and 774 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 2 from unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 4 people (1 female); 2 people located; 18 people still being sought
- 1 person reunited with his family
- 97 people issued with an ICRC travel document
- 11 official documents relayed between family members

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC carried out regular visits, according to its standard working procedures, to people held in detention centres run by the GID and the Public Security Directorate (PSD) to monitor their treatment, living conditions and access to appropriate medical care. Particular attention was paid to security detainees and women detainees and respect for judicial guarantees. Visits were also made to foreigners held at the Residence and Border Department of the PSD, where the ICRC continued to follow up individual detainees previously registered at the GID central detention facility. The ICRC sought to ensure that foreign detainees fearing persecution in their home countries, including Iraqis awaiting deportation, benefited from the principle of non-refoulement.

Confidential reports based on the observations made by ICRC delegates during visits in 2006 and 2007 to detainees held in the GID detention and investigation centre and CRCs were submitted to the detaining authorities in February and August 2008 respectively. In addition, 31 confidential oral and written recommendations were shared bilaterally with the authorities at various levels during the year. These representations provided the ICRC with an opportunity to engage in an in-depth dialogue with the detaining authorities on ways to enhance the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

With regard to the fate of women deprived of their freedom for their own protection, the ICRC dealt with the relevant authorities and with women's organizations working to find durable solutions outside of detention for the women concerned. In 2008, the cases of 18 women held in detention for their own protection were referred to women's organizations for that purpose.

Three detainees kept in isolated detention without trial for several years were released following repeated ICRC representations to the authorities concerned regarding their cases.

Representatives of the Ministries of Health and Social Affairs and the PSD attended a round-table on health in detention organized by the ICRC, during which they confirmed that steps were being taken to ensure the provision of appropriate medical care in CRCs.

To help improve the physical and mental well-being of detainees, the ICRC donated sports and other recreational equipment to 10 CRCs holding some 7,500 inmates.

Detainees in Jordan visited by the ICRC were able to communicate with family members through the RCM network. Families in Jordan were also able to send parcels via the ICRC to their detained/interned relatives in Iraq.

- 8,715 detainees visited, of whom 269 monitored individually (1 female) and 166 newly registered, during 69 visits to 13 places of detention
- 40 RCMs collected from and 23 RCMs distributed to detainees and 489 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- 15 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The transfer by ambulance of patients and the bodies of deceased Palestinians between Jordan and the West Bank continued to be facilitated by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Jordan and Palestine Red Crescent Societies.

As of August 2008, responsibility for these transfers was fully assumed by the Jordan and Palestine Red Crescent Societies, requiring no more ICRC involvement.

- 185 patients and 41 bodies of deceased Palestinians transferred between Jordan and the West Bank

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities continued to receive ICRC assistance in drafting legislation pertaining to IHL instruments. ICRC input was included in a draft law on the Rome Statute, which was under review at the Foreign Ministry, and a draft law amending the Jordan Red Crescent Law to incorporate provisions on the protection of the emblem, which was approved by parliament on 21 November. In addition, a draft national law banning anti-personnel mines, also formulated with ICRC support, was approved by parliament and came into effect on 1 April.

A number of key government officials were briefed on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, not yet signed by Jordan, and government officials and members of the national IHL committee attended various regional meetings on IHL organized by the League of Arab States and the ICRC.

- 25 civilian judges and 10 representatives of other governmental institutions given presentations on IHL and the ICRC
- students at the Judicial Institute of Jordan attended a seminar on IHL organized by the national IHL committee
- national IHL committee members participated in a round-table on IHL implementation
- 90 administrative governors attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) took steps to introduce IHL systematically in military teaching and training programmes. Several meetings were held with high-ranking JAF, GID, PSD and *gendarmierie* officers aimed at moving the process forward.

- ▶ 2,749 military officers of various nationalities given presentations on IHL/ICRC
- ▶ 28 instructors of the Jordan-based Palestinian Liberation Army attended a six-day course on IHL
- ▶ 1 JAF battalion briefed on humanitarian principles/ICRC prior to its deployment on a peacekeeping mission
- ▶ 650 officers and other ranks of the newly created Palestinian National Security Forces deployed in West Bank towns briefed on international human rights law and humanitarian principles applicable to law enforcement activities and on the ICRC
- ▶ 699 Jordanian police, *gendarmierie* and GID officers introduced to ICRC protection procedures and IHL/human rights norms

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Networking with community leaders, think-tanks, political parties, human rights/research centres and professional associations was reinforced to broaden their knowledge and understanding of IHL and ICRC activities. In one session, professional associations were briefed by the ICRC on the situation in the Gaza Strip, providing the organization with an opportunity to explain the principle of neutral and independent humanitarian action.

National media gave regular coverage to ICRC activities based on information provided via press releases and events organized for them.

Various government departments and key civil society sectors, including the media, received copies of the ICRC's Arabic-language quarterly *Al-Insani* (*The Humanitarian*).

By year-end, 14 of Jordan's 15 faculties of law had integrated IHL into their curricula, 5 of them for the first time. Dozens of deans, lecturers and students from various Jordanian universities attended events on IHL and the importance of including the subject in law curricula, co-organized by the national IHL committee and the ICRC. These included a round-table at Al al-Bayt University on IHL and Islam and the inclusion of IHL in sharia faculties.

At the same time, 74 schools were teaching the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for a fourth consecutive year. In all, 42 school principals and 4 teachers participated in a workshop on the programme, and 94 teachers, supervisors and representatives of the Ministry of Education attended a programme evaluation session.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society continued to receive training, material and financial support from the ICRC to help strengthen its capacities in the fields of dissemination, first aid, tracing and mine-risk education.

Full responsibility for ambulance services between Jordan and the West Bank was handed over by the ICRC to the Jordan and Palestine Red Crescent Societies (see *Wounded and sick*).

With ICRC support:

- ▶ 5 Bedouin families given the means to store clean water
- ▶ dissemination sessions on the Movement organized for 13,000 students
- ▶ 206 mine-risk education awareness sessions conducted for 11,149 people to reduce mine accidents in contaminated areas
- ▶ 20 volunteers trained in first aid
- ▶ 250 students provided with school bags
- ▶ 20 unemployed young men trained in mobile phone maintenance

## Regional logistics support

The ICRC in Jordan remained a key logistical and administrative hub for ICRC operations in the region, in particular Iraq, Lebanon, the Palestinian territories and Yemen. Logistical support was also given to ICRC operations in Georgia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe. The regional logistic centre expanded its warehousing space from 4,000 to 6,000 sq metres to accommodate the increased storage requirements for the region.

Amman also continued to be the main training centre for ICRC delegations working in other areas of the Middle East, the Balkans and the Caucasus.



# Lebanon

The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since 1967. It gives priority to providing protection and assistance to civilians affected by armed conflict, in close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society. It seeks compliance with IHL by the government and all political parties and armed groups present in the country. The ICRC visits detainees held by the Lebanese authorities to monitor their living conditions and treatment. Restoring and maintaining links for people separated from their families is also an ICRC priority.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 1,810 |
| Assistance                          | 4,509 |
| Prevention                          | 1,336 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 2,798 |
| General                             | -     |

► **10,452**

of which: Overheads 638

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 87% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 17 | expatriates                                 |
| 42 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- following visits to people detained in various places of detention, shared with the detaining authorities its findings and recommendations on detainees' treatment and living conditions
- boosted the capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross ambulance and first-aid services to respond to emergency needs arising from recurrent outbreaks of violence in the country
- implemented projects to replace, repair or develop water and sanitation infrastructure serving 1 million people, including rehabilitation of the main water supply of the Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp
- acting as a neutral intermediary between Israel and Hezbollah, repatriated 5 Lebanese detainees and 197 human remains from Israel to Lebanon and handed over the remains of 2 Israeli soldiers to the Israeli authorities
- provided the 5 hospitals run by the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Lebanon with staff training and medical equipment to improve health services for the more than 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon
- stepped up networking activities with political actors, weapon bearers and members of civil society to promote respect for IHL, particularly its provisions to protect civilians and medical services during armed conflict

## CONTEXT

In May, Lebanon's rival factions agreed on a power-sharing formula within a new government of national unity, raising hopes of an end to the protracted political crisis that had brought government institutions to a near standstill and led to some of Lebanon's worst internal violence in decades. The parties also agreed on the reform of an electoral law to regulate parliamentary elections scheduled for 2009. The composition of the new government, announced in July, gave the opposition sufficient representation to veto policy decisions.

Prior to the power-sharing agreement, pro-government and Hezbollah-led opposition groups clashed for a week in May in west Beirut, the central mountains and the north of the country. At least 65 people were reported to have been killed and 300 wounded. The violence subsided after the government reversed decisions to dismiss Beirut airport's security chief and to call into question the legitimacy of Hezbollah's communications network. Sporadic violence and sectarian clashes persisted in and around the northern city of Tripoli, reportedly killing at least 25 people and wounding 100 others, and causing the displacement of thousands of residents. In August and September, two bomb attacks targeting Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) reportedly killed 23 people and wounded 25 others, mainly soldiers, in the same region.

Within hours of the signing of the agreement, opposition supporters dismantled a protest camp set up outside the prime minister's office that had virtually shut down central Beirut since December 2006. Army chief of staff Michel Suleiman was elected president, a position that had remained vacant since November 2007 when Emile Lahoud's term ended and parliamentarians could not agree on a candidate to replace him.

Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic agreed in August to establish full diplomatic relations. The decision was announced at a meeting between Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and Lebanese president Michel Suleiman during the first official visit to Damascus by a Lebanese head of State since Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon in 2005.

The armed conflict in Gaza prompted large demonstrations and marches in solidarity with the Palestinian population in the streets of Beirut and elsewhere in the country, raising fears of a possible spillover of the violence into Lebanon.

Lebanon continued to host some 400,000 Palestinian refugees living in 12 camps across the country.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total   |   | Total                | Women     | Children |
|---|---|---|----------------------|-----------|----------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b> |   | <b>CIVILIANS</b>                            |                      |           |          |
| Detainees visited   | 6,104   | <i>Economic security, water and habitat</i> |                      |           |          |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                          | 393   | Food  | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 14,657    | 20% 60%  |
|   |   | Essential household items                   | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 20,901    | 20% 56%  |
|   | <i>of whom females</i>                                  | Water, sanitation and habitat projects      | <i>Beneficiaries</i> | 1,033,478 | 20% 60%  |
|   | <i>of whom minors</i>                                   |   |                      |           |          |
| Number of visits carried out  | 136   | <i>Health</i>                               |                      |           |          |
| Number of places of detention visited                                 | 21  | Health centres supported                    | <i>Structures</i>    | 27        |          |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |   | <b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>                     |                      |           |          |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                   |   | Hospitals supported                         | <i>Structures</i>    | 25        |          |
| RCMs collected  | 299   |   |                      |           |          |
| RCMs distributed  | 300   |   |                      |           |          |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>           |   |   |                      |           |          |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                | 23  |   |                      |           |          |
|   | <i>of whom females</i>                                  |   |                      |           |          |
|   | <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>      |   |                      |           |          |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                     | 10  |   |                      |           |          |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)        | 24  |   |                      |           |          |
|   | <i>of which for females</i>                             |   |                      |           |          |
|   | <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i> |   |                      |           |          |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |   |   |                      |           |          |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                     | 25  |   |                      |           |          |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to respond to humanitarian needs stemming from past conflicts and recurrent outbreaks of armed violence in Lebanon and to monitor respect for IHL, particularly its provisions to protect the safety of civilians and the unhindered access of humanitarian assistance to the victims.

ICRC access to individuals and parties involved in armed violence underlined the importance of comprehensive networking. Contacts with Sunni Islamist groups, for example, enabled the ICRC to introduce them to its mandate and activities, thereby contributing to improving acceptance of and support for its humanitarian work.

A confidential ICRC report on the conduct of hostilities during the 2007 conflict in the Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp was submitted to senior members of the LAF. A process was initiated with the authorities to identify the dead and trace people who went missing during that conflict.

After several months of negotiations with the Lebanese detaining authorities, the ICRC was able to visit security detainees held in an interrogation centre, in accordance with its standard visiting procedures.

The ICRC also acted as a neutral intermediary between Israel and Hezbollah, most significantly in a simultaneous repatriation operation.

The ICRC fully rehabilitated the main water network of the Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp, severely damaged during the fighting in 2007, restoring a clean water supply to 12,500 camp residents. It also completed a number of projects to repair water facilities damaged during the July–August 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israeli forces. In addition, the water authorities, whose capacities had been impaired by the hostilities, received further support in repairing, maintaining and developing water infrastructure nationwide.

Several hospitals were supplied with surgical materials to help them cope with sudden influxes of casualties arising from the sporadic violence during 2008. The Lebanese Red Cross ambulance and first-aid services received extensive technical, financial and institutional support to boost their capacities to respond to emergencies.

A two-year ICRC programme to upgrade medical facilities available to the Palestinian population in Lebanon was initiated in January, when the five hospitals run by the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Lebanon began to receive training and material support. The programme was undertaken after an in-depth survey in 2007 found that health services available to Lebanon's Palestinian refugee population were vastly insufficient.

Charitable institutions, mainly orphanages and homes for the elderly, were provided with food and household essentials from ICRC stockpiles of emergency supplies.

Through the RCM network, Lebanese and Palestinian families in Lebanon, as well as detainees visited by the ICRC, were able to maintain contact and exchange official documents with relatives in Lebanon or abroad, mainly in Israel.

## CIVILIANS

## Protecting the civilian population

The ICRC reviewed compliance by the parties to the conflict in Nahr el-Bared in 2007 with their obligations under IHL. A confidential report on the findings was submitted to the LAF in January 2008. The LAF responded to the report in writing in May 2008, showing its willingness to open a dialogue with the ICRC.

Following the outbreak of violence in Beirut between pro-government and opposition supporters in May, the ICRC called on the parties involved to ensure respect for the civilian population



and the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian workers and medical personnel to the victims. Allegations of violations of IHL were documented and taken up with those concerned. An attempt to make similar representations to the parties involved in armed hostilities in Tripoli in June was unsuccessful owing to the lack of identifiable chains of command among the fighting parties.

### Assisting the civilian population

In order to retain a capacity to respond rapidly to emergencies, the ICRC kept stockpiles of food and household items in Beirut and Tyre to cover the needs of 4,000 households (20,000 individuals) for approximately one to two weeks before the establishment of a regular relief pipeline. Some of the supplies that had been in storage since 2006 were donated to charitable institutions running orphanages and homes for the elderly to ensure usage before their expiry dates.

- 14,657 people (2,932 households) received food
- 19,589 people (3,918 households) received essential household items

### Ensuring access to clean drinking water

Nearly all water facilities countrywide damaged or destroyed during the 2006 conflict with Israel had been rehabilitated or replaced. However, in some regions, water shortages remained frequent, water quality was poor owing to pollution from untreated sewage, and basic infrastructure was insufficient or non-existent. The water authorities continued to lack sufficient funding and qualified manpower to manage water supply systems to meet the needs of the population.

ICRC activities therefore focused on the development and maintenance of existing water supply infrastructure, as well as on emergency repairs to systems that had collapsed or were about to do so. Operators in a number of water plants received maintenance training. This work helped to stabilize or improve access to safe drinking water, particularly in rural areas where water facilities were inadequate or non-existent, and included the drilling of wells, the extension of water distribution networks and the installation of new pumps, generators and chlorination systems.

In addition, the rehabilitation of the main water network of the Nahr el-Bared camp, severely damaged during the fighting in 2007, was completed.

- 1,033,478 people benefited from water system rehabilitation or construction projects, including:
  - some 390,000 people in the southern and central Bekaa region from the rehabilitation of 4 major pumping stations, the construction of a reservoir, the drilling of new boreholes, and pump repairs
  - some 221,000 people in the Bekaa region and southern Lebanon from the repair or upgrade of 20 water supply systems
  - some 308,000 people from the installation of 11 chlorination systems to improve water quality
  - some 12,500 Palestinian refugees from the rehabilitation of the main water supply system in the Nahr el-Bared camp

### Restoring family links

Families in Lebanon were able to restore or maintain contact and exchange official documents with relatives detained or residing abroad, mainly in Israel, through the ICRC tracing and RCM services. A number of families in Lebanon and abroad requested the

ICRC's assistance in tracing a family member missing as a result of the 2007 conflict in the Nahr el-Bared camp. The authorities expressed willingness to help resolve these cases, and the LAF provided answers on the fate of six of the missing persons. For other cases, the authorities invited the families to undergo DNA tests to help identify and recover the remains of their relatives, on which basis two further cases were resolved.

Hundreds of families in Lebanon remained without news of relatives missing as a result of the 1975–90 civil war. Given the ongoing political instability in Lebanon and the sensitivity of the issue, no substantive progress was made in this respect.

- 145 RCMs collected from and 176 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 23 people (1 female; 5 minors at the time of disappearance); 10 people located; 24 people (1 female; 4 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 9 official documents relayed between family members

### Repatriation operations between Israel and Lebanon

During two simultaneous repatriation operations carried out under ICRC auspices on 1 June and 16 July 2008 respectively, Israel handed over 5 Lebanese detainees and 197 human remains, while Hezbollah handed over the bodies of 2 Israeli soldiers and several sets of unidentified remains of Israelis. At the request of both sides, an ICRC forensic doctor performed an on-the-spot preliminary identification of the bodies of the two Israeli soldiers using their dental records. At the same time, the ICRC gave Hezbollah data it had collected several years previously to help with the identification of the human remains returned from Israel. In several other operations, the ICRC repatriated from Israel 9 Lebanese civilians and the remains of 3 Lebanese civilians who had died in Israel.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Security detainees, many of whom were arrested in connection with the conflict in the Nahr el-Bared camp, received ICRC visits, conducted in accordance with its standard working procedures, to assess their treatment and living conditions. Dialogue with the authorities led to improved ICRC access to one interrogation centre through which security detainees transited. Meanwhile, dialogue was ongoing to obtain ICRC access to all persons held in all places of detention in Lebanon, in compliance with the agreement concluded with the Lebanese authorities in 2007.

Following visits, delegates' findings were discussed confidentially with the authorities concerned. Two confidential reports on the treatment of security detainees during interrogation were submitted to the LAF and the Internal Security Forces (ISF) in June and August 2008 respectively.

The living conditions of security detainees awaiting trial in Roumieh prison, the largest detention facility in the country, improved after the ICRC, at the authorities' request, replaced the malfunctioning main control board of the prison's electrical system to prevent the collapse of its power supply.

Improvements in living conditions were also observed in seven decentralized detention facilities following visits by ICRC delegates and their subsequent recommendations to the detaining authorities. To address the problem of severe overcrowding in one prison, the authorities and the ICRC worked on a project to install bunk

beds in the cells to increase the living space available to the inmates. By year-end, the authorities had agreed on the type of bunk beds and an installation plan for early 2009, which was expected to increase the space per detainee by about 40%.

Women detainees – mostly irregular migrants with no direct family support – had difficulty obtaining essential hygiene items. The ICRC distributed hygiene items to all of them in sufficient quantities to cover their needs for four to six months. It also raised the issue with the detaining authorities concerned.

Family links between detainees and their families, including foreign and security detainees, were maintained through the RCM network.

Regular meetings were held with Hezbollah representatives to request ICRC access to the two Israeli soldiers captured in July 2006 until their deaths became public during the repatriation operations between Israel and Hezbollah in July 2008.

- ▶ 6,104 detainees visited, of whom 393 monitored individually (4 females; 10 minors) and 156 newly registered (3 females; 8 minors), during 136 visits to 21 places of detention
- ▶ 154 RCMs collected from and 124 RCMs distributed to detainees and 559 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative
- ▶ 1 detainee visited by his relatives with ICRC support
- ▶ 25 detention certificates issued to former and current detainees or their families
- ▶ 1,312 detainees received hygiene items

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Boosting the emergency response capacities of health services

The Lebanese Red Cross Emergency Medical Services (EMS) played an essential role in evacuating and treating the wounded from bomb blasts in Beirut in January, as well as during the unrest in May in Beirut and later in the year in various other locations.

In all, 25 hospitals, 27 primary health care centres and 4 first-aid posts treating people wounded in the violence in May and during recurrent clashes in the north and in the Ein el-Helwe Palestinian refugee camp received medical supplies, including surgical materials, to help them cope with the sudden influx of casualties.

Sixty-four Lebanese and Palestinian general surgeons from 34 hospitals around the country had the opportunity to share their experiences and enhance their professional skills during two war-surgery seminars organized by the university hospital of Beirut and the ICRC.

### Improving medical services for the Palestinian population

A two-year ICRC programme to upgrade the quality of care in five hospitals run by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society for the Palestinian population in Lebanon started in January 2008.

Donations of medical equipment and educational materials were delivered to the hospitals as part of the programme. From March onwards, nurses and emergency room staff in all five hospitals and in two nursing schools received training from ICRC health professionals, mainly in general nursing, neo-natal care, operating room nursing and emergency medicine.

In addition, the hospital in the Rachidiyeh Palestinian refugee camp was completely rehabilitated and upgraded by the ICRC.

## AUTHORITIES

Political tensions affected government functioning, impeding progress on the implementation of IHL treaties. However, two representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice attended the fifth regional seminar on IHL in Tunis in May (see *Tunis*).

As part of its activities to promote IHL, the ICRC gave a presentation during a regional conference on the Cluster Munitions Convention for government representatives from Arab States, co-organized in Beirut in November by the Lebanese and Norwegian governments. Lebanon signed the Convention in December.

Contacts were developed with leaders of the main Lebanese political groups and with popular committees in Palestinian refugee camps to increase their knowledge of the ICRC and IHL. Information sessions on these topics were also held for the Islamic Health Society, affiliated to Hezbollah (310 participants in 5 sessions) and for the Islamic Risala Scouts of the Amal Movement (400 participants in 4 sessions).

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

LAF officers and soldiers, members of ISF staff and senior officers of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) deployed throughout the country attended presentations on IHL.

Other weapon bearers, including Palestinian factions inside refugee camps, were approached with a view to organizing presentations for them on IHL and the ICRC.

- ▶ an average of 3,000 LAF and 700 ISF officers attended monthly presentations on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ 40 LAF libraries supplied with sets of books on IHL
- ▶ 45 Fatah members in the Beddawi Palestinian refugee camp attended presentations on the ICRC and basic IHL principles
- ▶ 170 UNIFIL officers, including 20 from the Chinese contingent, briefed on the ICRC mission in Lebanon

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The public was kept abreast of ICRC activities and IHL-related issues through the organization of various events and a regular flow of information provided by the ICRC. Several Lebanese television stations broadcast an ICRC documentary on cluster munitions produced in relation to the adoption of the Cluster Munitions Convention. The neutral intermediary role played by the ICRC between Israel and Hezbollah during the repatriation of detainees and human remains received extensive national and international coverage.

A photo exhibition marking the ICRC's 40-year presence in Lebanon toured the country and another on the victims of cluster munitions was displayed at Beirut international airport for 10 days.

Well-established relations between the ICRC and the main university law faculties boosted the inclusion of IHL in law curricula.

- around 70 State school teachers, including 4 from UNRWA, were trained in the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- 17 local journalists attended an ICRC round-table on the protection of journalists under IHL
- 9 Salafist leaders from the Al Nour social association and 40 members of a Palestinian NGO attended presentations on the ICRC and IHL
- 4 law students participated in the Jean Pictet IHL competition held in Geneva, Switzerland
- 120 students took part in 2 dissemination sessions on the ICRC conducted in 2 universities

With ICRC support:

- the National Society's EMS headquarters in Beirut and 3 EMS stations renovated
- 4,276 EMS volunteers given basic training during 105 courses, 40 EMS staff given computer training and 85 first-aiders attended refresher courses
- EMS received oxygen kits, road safety kits, VHF equipment for vehicles and stations, and a year's supply of consumables
- 38 drivers trained to use 16 customized and fully equipped ambulances donated by the ICRC
- ambulance fleet redesigned to improve visual recognition and thus enhance the protection of medical teams on the ground
- National Society and Palestine Red Crescent volunteers attended workshops on emergency needs assessments
- 3,200 copies of a book on the Movement and its objectives produced and distributed in schools throughout Lebanon

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

ICRC cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross centred on strengthening the National Society's emergency response capacity, in accordance with a five-year strategy defined on the basis of the findings of an in-depth ICRC needs assessment. It included the renewal and standardization of the ambulance fleet, the establishment of a training strategy and an all-inclusive volunteer and human-resource management strategy to reduce response time, thus ensuring more effective life-saving care.

Along with the International Federation and in line with Movement strategy, the ICRC continued to help strengthen the National Society's logistics department, in the framework of its emergency preparedness plan, and to support its internal reform process.

Components of the Movement operating in Lebanon met regularly to share information and ensure coordination of programmes.



# syrian arab republic

The ICRC has been present in the Syrian Arab Republic since 1967. It acts as a neutral intermediary regarding issues of humanitarian concern for the Syrian inhabitants of the part of the Golan occupied by Israel. It facilitates travel of certain categories of people, such as students and pilgrims, between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic, and maintains links between family members separated as a result of the conflict with Israel. Its work to spread knowledge of IHL in government, military, academic and media circles, and its close cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, are other priorities. The ICRC also strives to gain access to people detained in the Syrian Arab Republic to monitor their treatment and living conditions.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 208   |
| Assistance                          | 1,294 |
| Prevention                          | 501   |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 538   |
| General                             | -     |

► **2,541**

of which: Overheads 155

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 88% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4 | expatriates                                 |
| 8 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- equipped 29 schools in Damascus with water systems for 28,000 Iraqi and Syrian pupils
- drilled 10 deep boreholes as part of a project to improve water supply in a neighbourhood of Damascus for around 500,000 Iraqi and Syrian residents
- facilitated contacts between inhabitants of the occupied Golan and their families in the Syrian Arab Republic and travel between the two locations by students and pilgrims
- helped people in the Syrian Arab Republic locate and re-establish contact with family members detained/interned abroad, mainly in Iraq
- repatriated 14 Syrian nationals following their release from detention in Iraq
- assisted the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in drafting, adopting and publicizing a first-aid manual, which included elements of first aid in armed conflict, and in setting up a national first-aid training camp

## CONTEXT

The Syrian Arab Republic and Israel held indirect peace talks mediated by Turkey in 2008, the first negotiations between the two sides in eight years. The talks were suspended by both sides later in the year, reportedly pending the outcome of general elections in Israel scheduled for February 2009.

For the first time since both countries gained independence from France in 1943 and 1946 respectively, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic agreed to establish full diplomatic relations. The decision was announced in August at a meeting between Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and Lebanese president Michel Suleiman during the first official visit to Damascus by a Lebanese head of State since Syrian troops withdrew from Lebanon in 2005.

In other developments, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic exchanged ambassadors for the first time in almost 30 years, following their agreement in 2006 to restore diplomatic ties. Damascus hosted the annual League of Arab States summit in May and a four-way summit with France, Qatar and Turkey held in September in a bid to boost Middle East peace efforts.

In June, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors visited al-Kibar, a remote site in the north-eastern desert region bombed by Israeli warplanes in September 2007. The IAEA's purpose was to investigate allegations that the facility was a covert nuclear reactor nearing completion. Tensions rose between the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States when US helicopters from Iraq attacked a building in a Syrian border village in October, reportedly killing at least 9 people and wounding 14 others.

On 27 September, 17 people were killed and another 14 wounded when a car bomb exploded in the suburbs of Damascus. The Syrian government blamed Islamist militants.

Twelve prominent Syrian dissidents were sentenced to 2.5 years in prison each for allegedly "inciting sectarian strife". The convicted activists were all members of the so-called Damascus Declaration, a group calling for major democratic change in the Syrian Arab Republic.

As the security situation improved in several parts of Iraq, a limited number of Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic returned home. Several hundred thousand other Iraqi refugees remained in the country, most of them in Damascus.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |
|--|-------|
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>                                  |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>            |       |
| RCMs collected   | 521   |
| RCMs distributed   | 546   |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>    |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 3     |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 2     |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 65    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>  |       |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                    | 137   |

|  | Total         | Women   | Children |     |
|--|---------------|---------|----------|-----|
| CIVILIANS                              |               |         |          |     |
| Economic security, water and habitat   |               |         |          |     |
| Water, sanitation and habitat projects | Beneficiaries | 505.000 | 50%      | 30% |

The Syrian president announced a 25% pay rise in May for public sector workers to offset the effects of rising prices of food and other basic commodities.

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC action in the Syrian Arab Republic focused on: providing assistance and protection to Syrian nationals living in the occupied Golan; serving the tracing needs of Syrian families and Iraqi refugees arising from the armed conflict in neighbouring Iraq; strengthening the capacity of the National Society to respond to emergencies; and improving water supply in two suburbs of Damascus housing large numbers of Iraqi refugees.

The first phase of the water project – installing water supply systems in all 29 State schools in two suburbs of Damascus – ensured the provision of clean drinking water for some 28,000 school-children, many of whom were from Iraqi refugee families. The second phase of the project, the drilling of 10 deep boreholes, was part of a comprehensive scheme to boost water supply in the same Damascus suburbs for several hundred thousand residents, about one-third of whom were Iraqi refugees.

The ICRC facilitated travel for students and pilgrims in the occupied Golan who wished to pursue their studies or carry out their religious duties in the Syrian Arab Republic. It also enabled betrothed couples living on opposite sides of the demarcation line to get married in the separation zone (Kuneitra).

Demand remained steady for ICRC tracing and RCM services, which sought to help Syrian nationals and Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic locate and re-establish contact with family members detained/interned or unaccounted for abroad, mainly in Iraq. The services also enabled Palestinian refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic to restore and maintain contact with relatives imprisoned in Israel.

In close cooperation with the Syrian authorities, UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries, the ICRC issued travel documents to Iraqi and other refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries.

In accordance with a core element of its mandate, the ICRC continued to promote the integration of IHL into national legislation and into theoretical and practical military instruction at all levels of the Syrian armed and security forces.

The ICRC further developed its partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, focusing mainly on strengthening its capacity in the fields of emergency preparedness, first aid, the Safer Access approach, and internal and external communication.

## CIVILIANS

### Improving water supply in Damascus districts hosting Iraqi refugees

At the end of 2007, the ICRC initiated a project to improve water supply in areas of Damascus hosting large numbers of Iraqi refugees. The decision to undertake the project was made after an in-depth field assessment, conducted in close cooperation with the rural water authority and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, found that the existing water supply was vastly insufficient in both quantity and quality.

Schools in the Damascus suburbs of Jeremana and Saida Zeinab, where large numbers of Iraqi refugees had settled, were the first beneficiaries of the ICRC project. Work on this phase began in January and was completed in May, when responsibility for maintenance of the water facilities installed in the schools was handed over to the National Society.

The second phase of the project aimed to improve the quality and increase the quantity of water available to the resident population of the same two Damascus suburbs. Ten boreholes, 200 to 350 metres deep, were drilled and equipped with pumps, generators and chlorination mechanisms. The water supply of several hundred thousand Jeremana and Saida Zeinab residents (about one-third of whom were Iraqi refugees) thus increased by up to 45%. In addition to helping to prevent potential water-related health hazards, the project was expected to reduce residents' reliance on an irregular and costly supply of water sold by private vendors. The official ceremony marking completion of the project took place in Damascus on 27 November. The improved water supply was especially timely and appreciated in light of the unforeseen drought that affected the region during the summer months.

- 505,000 people benefited from water/sanitation/habitat projects, including 29 State schools with 28,000 pupils (one-third Iraqis) equipped with clean drinking water facilities

### Protection services for the population of the occupied Golan

Family members cut off from one another for decades by the separation zone between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic



were able to maintain minimum contact through the ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary with the authorities concerned.

Visits by Syrians living in the occupied Golan to family members who had fled to the Syrian Arab Republic when the region was occupied by Israeli forces in 1967 could not resume despite numerous diplomatic efforts to this end by the ICRC. Such visits had not been allowed by the Israeli authorities since 1992.

Travel to the Syrian Arab Republic for academic or religious purposes by students and pilgrims living in the occupied Golan, as well as their return home, was facilitated by the ICRC, in coordination with the UN Disengagement Observer Force and the Israeli and Syrian authorities. Similarly, betrothed couples living on opposite sides of the demarcation line were able to wed under ICRC auspices in the separation zone (Kuneitra).

Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic continued to rely on the ICRC to convey official papers, such as power of attorney documents and birth, death and marriage certificates, back and forth between them. Such documents often enabled the recipients to qualify for pensions or to settle personal issues such as inheritance or property rights.

Refugees accepted for resettlement in third countries, primarily Iraqi and stateless persons, were issued with ICRC travel documents in coordination with the Syrian authorities, embassies of destination countries and organizations such as UNHCR.

Fourteen Syrian nationals were voluntarily repatriated under ICRC auspices after being released from internment in Iraq. They were flown to Damascus by ICRC air transport in four separate repatriation operations. The body of a Syrian national killed by Israeli forces while crossing the demarcation line without authorization was also repatriated by the ICRC.

- ▶ travel for 696 students and pilgrims between the occupied Golan and the Syrian Arab Republic facilitated
- ▶ 1 wedding took place under ICRC auspices in the separation zone (Kuneitra)

### Restoring family links

Through the ICRC's tracing and RCM services, a number of families in the Syrian Arab Republic were able to locate and re-establish contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad, mainly in Iraq, or previously unaccounted for. However, information on family members presumed to have died or to be in the custody of the central authorities in Iraq was limited owing to the security situation in that country, which made it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to locate, gain access to and identify the people concerned.

- ▶ 14 Syrian nationals released from detention in Iraq and the body of 1 Syrian national who died in detention in Iraq repatriated
- ▶ 521 RCMs collected from and 546 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ phone contact facilitated for 2 families with relatives held in the US facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Cuba
- ▶ 35 family parcels collected from families and sent to Iraq for distribution to their detained/interned relatives
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 3 people; 2 people located; 65 people still being sought
- ▶ 137 people issued with an ICRC travel document
- ▶ 168 official documents relayed between family members

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

No reply had been received from the Syrian authorities by the end of the year regarding the ICRC's offer of services, made in 2006 to visit people deprived of their freedom in the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with its mandate.

## AUTHORITIES

The national IHL committee, the ICRC's main partner in efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL instruments, was not active in 2008.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Work to integrate IHL into theoretical and practical military training progressed. Several senior ICRC-trained officers had acquired sufficient knowledge of IHL to teach the subject to the rank and file autonomously. The ICRC was invited to participate in a 10-day course on IHL issues organized by the Syrian armed forces' Directorate of Training.

Thirty high-ranking police and security force officers participated in a three-day seminar, organized by the Interior Ministry and the ICRC, to discuss issues such as the treatment of detainees and law enforcement measures.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Syrian and international media based in the Syrian Arab Republic were kept abreast of the ICRC's activities through press releases, interviews and briefings.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent received further ICRC support to develop additional capacity and resources in the fields of emergency preparedness, first aid, the Safer Access approach, and internal and external communication.

With ICRC support, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent:

- ▶ drafted a new first-aid training manual and printed 1,500 copies for distribution to its 14 branches
- ▶ set up a national first-aid training camp and conducted first-aid training sessions for 65 volunteers
- ▶ drafted a manual on the proper use of its logo and produced 10,000 calendars, 3,000 mugs, 100 flags and 3,000 key rings to promote the National Society's new logo and website
- ▶ trained volunteers from all 14 branches to use the website
- ▶ trained volunteers in the Safer Access approach, especially aspects related to weapon contamination in armed conflict
- ▶ paid the salaries of 2 teachers conducting literacy courses in juvenile detention centres and of 1 legal adviser to a juvenile detention centre, and donated 1,200 blankets to juvenile detention centres
- ▶ acquired radio equipment and new signs for National Society offices, hospitals and dispensaries

# yemen



The ICRC has been working in Yemen since the outbreak of the civil war in 1962. It works with the Yemen Red Crescent Society to assist the civilian population affected by the hostilities in north Yemen. It seeks to resume visits to detainees in accordance with its standard procedures. It promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation and its introduction into school and university curricula and into the training programmes of the armed and police forces. Assistance is provided to physical rehabilitation centres for the disabled. ICRC tracing activities enable refugees to restore family links and Yemeni nationals to locate and contact relatives detained/interned abroad.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |        |
|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Protection                          | 1,434  |
| Assistance                          | 10,383 |
| Prevention                          | 788    |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 733    |
| General                             | -      |

► **13,338**

of which: Overheads 812

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 94% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 15 | expatriates                                 |
| 55 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- provided food to some 52,800 IDPs, directly affected by the armed conflict in northern parts of Yemen
- together with the Yemen Red Crescent Society, set up and managed 6 IDP camps in Sa'ada city, providing shelter and basic assistance to some 15,000 IDPs
- together with the Yemen Red Crescent, deployed 3 new mobile medical clinics in conflict-affected areas of Sa'ada province not covered by government medical services
- rehabilitated water supply systems serving more than 30,000 people in Dahyan, Sa'ada and 6 rural areas
- facilitated telephone contact between families in Yemen and their relatives detained/interned at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station (Cuba) and Bagram Air Base (Afghanistan)

## CONTEXT

Fighting between government forces and followers of the Zaidi "Believing Youth" movement spread from the volatile northern province of Sa'ada to the neighbouring provinces of Amran and Al-Jouf. The armed conflict exacted a heavy toll in terms of lost lives and livelihoods, population displacement and the destruction of civilian houses, farms, and vital public health and water infrastructure.

By the end of May, armed clashes had intensified, despite a peace deal brokered by the Qatari government on 1 February aimed at implementing an earlier ceasefire agreement, also mediated by Qatar, signed by the two sides in June 2007.

An estimated 100,000 people were displaced by the fighting. Around one-third of them took refuge in Sa'ada city with resident families or in six IDP camps set up by the Yemen Red Crescent Society and the ICRC. Others were taken in by relatives or host families in northern areas. Many IDPs feared to return to their homes. Those who did return often found their houses destroyed, damaged or looted.

Fighting decreased at the end of July when President Ali Abdullah Saleh announced "the end of the war". A government-appointed mediation and reconstruction committee reported that more than 6,000 houses, 1,200 farms and 312 public facilities had been damaged or destroyed and announced a reconstruction and compensation programme.

In the south, the government faced mounting social unrest over rising food prices and its alleged failure to implement an amnesty proclaimed following the 1994 civil war granting former southern soldiers reinstatement in the armed forces and better pensions. The unrest culminated in clashes between troops and demonstrators in April and the formation of the secessionist "Provisional Council for the Liberation of the South" in November.

Bomb attacks against police, official, diplomatic, foreign-business and tourism targets occurred in March and April. In September, an attack on the US embassy in Sana'a killed 18 people, including six assailants. The authorities announced that they had arrested or killed several members of groups allegedly associated with al-Qaeda held responsible for the attacks.

A steady flow of refugees and migrants continued to enter Yemen, mostly from Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa, further straining the State budget in a country where unemployment and poverty levels remained the highest in the Arabian Peninsula.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|  | Total |  | Total                | Women   | Children |        |
|--|-------|--|----------------------|---------|----------|--------|
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS   |       | CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM |                      |         |          |        |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications                   |       | Economic security, water and habitat           |                      |         |          |        |
| RCMs collected   | 3,170 | Food   | Beneficiaries        | 52,816  | 27%      | 55%    |
| RCMs distributed   | 3,100 | Essential household items                      | Beneficiaries        | 57,879  | 27%      | 55%    |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons           |       | Water, sanitation and habitat projects         | Beneficiaries        | 126,962 | 55%      | 40%    |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered         | 30    | Health   |                      |         |          |        |
| of whom females  | 12    | Health centres supported                       | Structures           | 11      |          |        |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                    | 5     | Consultations                                  | Patients             | 56,876  |          |        |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)              | 32    | of which curative                              | Patients             |         | 7,398    | 15,870 |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people) | 79    | of which ante/post-natal                       | Patients             |         | 43       | 0      |
| of which for females   | 28    | Immunizations                                  | Doses                | 776     |          |        |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance               | 17    | WOUNDED AND SICK                               |                      |         |          |        |
|  |       | Hospitals supported                            | Structures           | 2       |          |        |
|  |       | Admissions                                     | Patients             | 74      | 10       | 12     |
|  |       | Operations                                     | Operations performed | 81      |          |        |
|  |       | Physical rehabilitation                        |                      |         |          |        |
|  |       | Patients receiving services                    | Patients             | 7,652   | 1,730    | 3,717  |
|  |       | Prostheses delivered                           | Units                | 1,216   | 314      | 472    |
|  |       | Orthoses delivered                             | Units                | 3,967   | 781      | 2,181  |

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC regularly urged the fighting parties to take all necessary measures to ensure the protection of non-combatants and to respect medical services.

In response to increased needs for humanitarian assistance resulting from the fighting in the north of the country, the ICRC launched a budget extension appeal in May. Thousands of families uprooted by the fighting received food, shelter, household essentials, water and basic medical assistance in relief operations conducted jointly by the Yemen Red Crescent and the ICRC. Particular attention was paid to areas where severe food shortages had been registered.

Water systems damaged or destroyed during the fighting in various rural locations outside Sa'ada city were rehabilitated, replaced or equipped with pumps, reducing reliance on water-trucking. Water and sanitation services were provided in six IDP camps in Sa'ada city, where the ICRC also supplied drugs, disposables and fuel to mobile health clinics operated by the Yemen Red Crescent. An ICRC field surgical team was sent to assist surgeons in the camps and to operate on the wounded elsewhere in the province.

Activities outside Sa'ada city were temporarily suspended in May owing to insecurity and access restrictions, obliging certain water projects and deliveries of medicines to primary health care posts to be put on hold. The restrictions also prevented the ICRC surgical team from reaching Dahyan to operate on weapon-wounded patients, and disrupted plans to provide services to the physically disabled in the area. ICRC technical, training and material support was nevertheless maintained to three physical rehabilitation centres in other parts of the country.

As of September, following the end of hostilities and related restrictions on movement, the ICRC and the Yemen Red Crescent were progressively able to reach conflict-affected areas in Amran, Al-Jouf and Sa'ada provinces. Together, they distributed food and household essentials to returnees and resident families according

to assessed needs. Three new mobile health clinics were set up in areas without medical coverage. Plans to fit amputees with artificial limbs and other physically disabled patients with mobility devices in hitherto inaccessible areas were also reactivated.

In conjunction with the Yemen Red Crescent, the ICRC maintained its support to a programme providing literacy courses and vocational training for women in prison.

Demand remained steady for the ICRC tracing and RCM services enabling refugees in Yemen to stay in touch with their families in their home countries and enabling Yemeni nationals to re-establish and maintain links with family members detained/interned abroad.

Programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, armed and security forces and civil society progressed.

Close coordination was maintained with Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors working on the ground, in particular in the conflict zone.

## CIVILIANS

## Protecting the civilian population

Alleged violations of IHL by the parties to the conflict were documented and taken up with the parties concerned. Such violations included the destruction of civilian houses and mosques, looting of schools and hospitals, and denying armed group sympathizers access to government health facilities.

## Assisting conflict victims

Working together, the Yemen Red Crescent and the ICRC responded to the emergency needs of thousands of families, including growing numbers of IDPs. Assistance activities, carried out in coordination with other humanitarian organizations, included the provision of food, shelter and household essentials and ensuring water supply and basic medical assistance.

### Emergency relief for IDPs and residents

The Yemen Red Crescent and the ICRC established and managed six IDP camps in Sa'ada city to accommodate the increasing influx of people fleeing the fighting. The IDP population in the camps rose from some 7,500 in April to more than 15,000 in July. By December, following the ceasefire, it had decreased to some 6,700, enabling the closure of two of the six camps. Camp inhabitants were provided with shelter, water, health services and essential household items. In June, to help overcome difficulties faced by WFP in maintaining food supply to the camps, the ICRC distributed one round of dry-food assistance.

Thousands of IDPs hosted by families in and around Sa'ada city received household essentials, while food was distributed to IDPs in northern areas where cases of severe malnutrition had been registered by the ICRC.

Following the ceasefire, relief operations were extended to returnees in the north whose houses had been damaged and assets looted, preventing them from resuming their normal livelihood activities. Initial food distributions from October to December covered the worst conflict-affected areas in Sa'ada province.

- 52,816 IDPs (7,709 households) received food
- 57,879 IDPs (7,736 households) received essential household items

### Providing health services

Nine mobile primary health care clinics run by the National Society with ICRC support were deployed in the IDP camps and in various parts of Sa'ada city where IDPs had settled. Complicated cases were swiftly referred to hospitals.

Health facilities in conflict-affected areas received regular supplies of basic medicines until May 2008 when deliveries were suspended owing to the fighting. Three new mobile clinics were deployed in November for resident and returnee populations in al-Abgoor, Mahdah and Sudan, areas lacking medical services where heavy fighting had occurred.

Five health centres were rehabilitated. For example, a government health centre in Amran province and one in al-Qataber, in the conflict area, which had been heavily damaged and looted during the conflict, were partially rehabilitated, supplied with medical materials and equipment, and reopened for basic health care services.

In 11 ICRC-supported health centres (average monthly catchment population: 32,000):

- 56,876 people given consultations, including 43 attending ante/post-natal consultations and 56,833 attending curative consultations
- 776 vaccine doses administered (including 379 to children aged five or under and 397 to women of childbearing age)
- 919 patients referred to a second level of care
- 83 health education sessions held

### Providing clean water and sanitation

The IDPs in the 6 camps in Sa'ada city were assured of a clean water supply through the trucking of 280,000 litres of water daily. They also benefited from the construction of 198 latrines and 8 septic tanks. Following the breakdown of Sa'ada's main pumping station, the ICRC donated two submersible pumps and repaired the main generator in order to ensure a regular supply of drinking water to the city's 85,000 inhabitants.

In Dahyan, more than 20,000 people enjoyed access to clean water after the ICRC, as an emergency measure, covered the costs of water pumping and operating the water network. Following the ceasefire, a semi-urban water project was initiated in Dahyan to install a pumping system, construct a 200 m<sup>3</sup> tank and rehabilitate the water network.

Six smaller rural water projects serving around 9,000 beneficiaries in al-Areda, al-Sari, al-Humeidan, al-Mazroh, al-Hadee, Sudan and north-west of Sa'ada city had neared completion by year-end.

In the Malaheet area, some 6,500 IDPs received household filters to purify contaminated water.

Training in water location and management techniques was given to water board staff in three provinces, and the National Society, with ICRC technical and material support, responded to emergency needs arising from severe flooding in Hadramout province.

- 126,962 people, including 25,392 IDPs, benefited from water and sanitation projects, including:
  - some 20,000 IDPs from water trucking

### Restoring family links

Refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from countries in the Horn of Africa, continued to rely on the ICRC's tracing and RCM network to locate and re-establish contact with family members in their home countries or abroad.

Families in Yemen were able to restore or maintain contact with relatives detained/interned in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba by the same means. Following ICRC visits to the Guantanamo Bay facility, families in Yemen received news from relatives held there, passed on in person by the delegates who had visited them. These contacts were further enhanced through ICRC-facilitated phone calls between the detainees/internees and their families, enabling them to speak to each other for the first time in seven years.

- 3,169 RCMs collected from and 3,100 RCMs distributed to civilians, including families of detainees/internees
- new tracing requests registered for 30 people (12 females; 5 minors at the time of disappearance); 32 people located; 79 people (28 females; 17 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- families of 78 detainees/internees held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and 6 held at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan had telephone contact with their detained/interned relatives
- 1 person issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The Yemeni authorities and the ICRC pursued discussions on ICRC access, according to its standard working procedures, to all detainees in Yemen, including those held in connection with the fight against "terrorism" and with the conflict in Sa'ada province. Although no agreement on access was reached, one detainee transferred from the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station was allowed to receive an ICRC visit.



At the authorities' request, hundreds of irregular migrants, mainly Ethiopian nationals, held in precarious conditions while awaiting deportation in a place of detention run by the Yemeni Ministry of Interior, received emergency assistance in a joint Yemen Red Crescent/ICRC operation. ICRC nutritional, medical and other emergency assistance contributed to ensuring that the detainees remained in good health.

The vocational training programme for female detainees in the fields of literacy, sewing, weaving and needlework, implemented by the Yemen Red Crescent with ICRC support, continued in nine central prisons and was extended to the Sa'ada central prison. Its aim was to break the isolation of female inmates, to provide them with educational opportunities to facilitate their reintegration after release from prison and to help improve their living conditions in detention through income generated from the sale of the merchandise produced. In Hodeida and Sana'a central prisons, where a number of young children accompanied their detained mothers, play-school programmes were initiated to meet their educational needs. Staff involved in the vocational training programme received additional training focused on adult education and dealing with detainees from a psychological perspective.

- ▶ more than 200 irregular migrants from the Horn of Africa awaiting deportation provided monthly with food, nutritional supplements, medical treatment and supplies, and hygiene materials
- ▶ 300 female detainees in 10 central prisons received vocational training, and play schools opened in 2 of the prisons

## WOUNDED AND SICK

In April, an ICRC field surgical team was dispatched to Sa'ada to bolster the limited surgical services there. Its aim was to help treat the growing numbers of weapon-wounded patients and ensure that all such patients had access to surgical treatment. However, one day after arriving in Dahyan, at that time a Believing Youth stronghold, the government withdrew its authorization for the surgical team to access the region. Thereafter, the team was confined to the al-Jumhuria government hospital in Sa'ada city and ceased operating there in June. Two war-surgery seminars, aimed at improving the capacity of medical staff to cope with mass-casualty emergencies, were postponed for security reasons linked to the renewed flare-up of the conflict.

Al-Jumhuria hospital was supplied with drugs to treat emergency medical cases, to help it cope with the influx of IDPs referred to the hospital.

In the 2 ICRC-supported hospitals that provided data:

- ▶ 74 weapon-wounded (including 10 women, 12 children, and 1 person injured by mines or explosive remnants of war) admitted
- ▶ 81 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 210 outpatients attended surgical consultations

Physical rehabilitation centres run by the Ministry of Health and Population in Sana'a, Mukalla and Aden and producing prostheses and various other orthopaedic appliances using ICRC polypropylene technology continued to receive ICRC technical training and material support.

An ICRC survey conducted in February confirmed that increasing numbers of people in the north were in need of physical rehabilitation services as a result of the fighting. The initially foreseen referral system providing for patients to be treated at the Sana'a physical rehabilitation centre was no longer adequate because of the security risks involved in travelling from the north to Sana'a. Therefore, an agreement between the Yemeni authorities and the ICRC was signed to set up units in medical facilities in Dahyan and Sa'ada to fit amputees with prostheses or orthoses produced in Sana'a.

- ▶ 7,652 patients (including 1,730 women and 3,717 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ 1,118 new patients (including 282 women and 435 children) fitted with prostheses and 3,494 (including 705 women and 1,866 children) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 1,216 prostheses (including 314 for women, 472 for children and 400 for mine victims), 3,967 orthoses (including 781 for women, 2,181 for children and 76 for mine victims), 401 crutches and 6 wheelchairs delivered
- ▶ 7 Yemeni technicians sponsored by the ICRC to attend training in India and 2 in Ethiopia

## AUTHORITIES

The authorities further needed to recognize the work of the ICRC as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization and to facilitate its access to conflict-affected areas, which was often disrupted. Several meetings with the Yemeni authorities offered the ICRC the opportunity to share information on its activities worldwide and in Yemen, to make its role better understood and to gain respect and mobilize support for its operations in the country. These efforts were complemented by various events encouraging the work of the national IHL committee to advance the national implementation of IHL instruments signed and ratified by Yemen.

The Yemeni prime minister issued a decree appointing two additional members to the national IHL committee, one representing the newly established Ministry of Human Rights and the other the Ministry of Higher Education.

Government representatives and members of the national IHL committee attended various regional meetings on IHL organized by the League of Arab States and the ICRC (see *Egypt*).

In April, 35 newly appointed senior diplomats studying at the Diplomatic Institute participated in a seminar on IHL, and a set of IHL reference books was donated to the institute. Seventeen representatives of the Ministries of Human Rights, Interior and Legal Affairs and of parliament attended a seminar on how to give presentations on IHL, which ended with a written and practical test of their skills in this field.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL had yet to become an integral part of military training and operational doctrine in Yemen. Achieving this goal was particularly important in light of the propensity to armed conflict in the north of the country.



The Moral Guidance Department of the Ministry of Defence renewed an agreement with the ICRC on the publication of ICRC and IHL-related articles in the monthly Yemeni armed forces' magazine *Al-Jaish*. In 2008, 12 issues of the magazine were produced and distributed to military personnel and to Yemeni embassies worldwide.

ICRC-trained Yemeni officers for the first time gave lectures on IHL to various Yemeni armed forces units and military institutes.

Police and central security force officers from across the country attended workshops on international standards regulating the use of force/firearms in times of peace and war.

To facilitate access to IHL resources, the Moral Guidance Department, military colleges and the Ministry of Interior's police academies received up-to-date publications on IHL and the ICRC.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Efforts to promote knowledge and acceptance of IHL and the ICRC were stepped up among key segments of civil society, such as the media, academic circles and tribal/religious leaders.

Networking and communication were developed with tribal and religious leaders in the conflict-affected governorates of Amran and Sa'ada to foster acceptance of the ICRC and its neutral and independent approach to humanitarian action. Contacts were reinforced with members of the media, who were kept abreast of ICRC activities and concerns.

The Ministry of Education implemented the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in a number of schools for the fourth successive year. The programme was extended as a pilot scheme to 10 new schools by ministerial decree, bringing the overall number of schools involved to 64.

To provide law lecturers and students with IHL documentation and teaching aids, the universities in Al-Eman, Al-Ahqaf and Sana'a each received standard sets of IHL reference books.

- 25 education specialists produced a draft of an Exploring Humanitarian Law manual to be submitted to the Education Ministry for approval
- 32 teachers from schools newly involved in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme attended a five-day training course
- 32 sheikhs attended a two-day ICRC workshop on humanitarian protection under sharia law and IHL

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Yemen Red Crescent was highly active, carrying out joint emergency relief operations with the ICRC in conflicted-affected areas of northern Yemen (see *Civilians*).

The ICRC concentrated on strengthening the capacity of the National Society's Sa'ada branch, which remained its primary partner in carrying out relief operations for victims of the conflict. To that end, 23 Sa'ada branch volunteers and 3 representatives from National Society headquarters in Sana'a attended a six-day training course on how to assess and respond to emergency economic security needs. Further training was also given to National Society personnel in the fields of communication, IHL, the Safer Access approach and restoring family links.

Cooperation was intensified with the Amran branch and an assessment of its capacity-building needs was ongoing.

The Aden branch celebrated World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) by conducting information sessions on IHL and the Movement and mobilizing volunteers to clean up the shores of Aden, activities that received coverage in several local newspapers.

Regular Movement coordination meetings between the Yemen Red Crescent, the ICRC, the International Federation, and National Societies active in Yemen took place at leadership and technical levels.



# kuwait (regional)

The ICRC has been in Kuwait since the outbreak of the 1990–1991 Gulf War. Its presence in the region is linked to humanitarian issues still outstanding from that war and those arising from the current armed conflict in Iraq, as well as to work relating to people deprived of their freedom in the GCC member States. In addition, the ICRC focuses on promoting IHL and its own role as a neutral and independent humanitarian organization working in areas of armed conflict and other situations of internal violence. Reinforcing cooperation with the National Red Crescent Societies of the region is another priority.

## COVERING

Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), namely Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 811   |
| Assistance                          | -     |
| Prevention                          | 1,023 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 340   |
| General                             | 282   |

► **2,456**

of which: Overheads 150

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 91% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 4  | expatriates                                 |
| 19 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- chaired one meeting of the Tripartite Commission and three meetings of its Technical Sub-committee set up to address the issue of persons unaccounted for in connection with the 1990–91 Gulf War
- visited detainees in Kuwait and Qatar to monitor their treatment and living conditions, extending access in Kuwait to security detainees
- restored contact between families in GCC countries and their relatives either detained/interned abroad or present in countries affected by armed conflict, in coordination with the region's National Societies
- welcomed the meeting hosted by the Qatar Red Crescent Society of representatives of 13 Arab and Asian National Societies to discuss ways of strengthening the Movement's worldwide family links network
- worked with National Societies in GCC countries to coordinate assistance activities in conflict areas and to enlist their support for ICRC operations in terms of staff secondment and financing
- actively promoted the introduction of IHL in national legislation, university education and the training programmes of national armed forces in the region

## CONTEXT

GCC countries remained concerned about the ongoing violence in Iraq and the potential impact of the withdrawal from Iraq of multinational coalition troops on the future stability of that country and the wider region. Another concern was the continuing standoff between the Islamic Republic of Iran and certain members of the international community over the country's nuclear programme.

In April, Kuwait hosted a ministerial conference on Iraq attended by representatives of neighbouring countries, the G8 bloc, the five UN Security Council permanent members, the League of Arab States and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. At the conference, the Iraqi prime minister urged participants to help stabilize his country by honouring pledges made previously to waive its foreign debt. Kuwait and the UAE appointed ambassadors to Baghdad.

Qatar played a prominent intermediary role in defusing the protracted political crisis in Lebanon by brokering an agreement that led to a consensus between rival Lebanese factions on a candidate for president and a power-sharing formula for a national unity government (see *Lebanon*).

Early parliamentary elections were held in Kuwait in May after the Emir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah dissolved the National Assembly following constant clashes between the government and parliament over various issues. Conservative Islamists fared well, winning more than half of the 50 seats. The emir reappointed Sheikh Nasser Mohammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah as prime minister. However, further ructions between the cabinet and the new parliament prompted the resignation of the prime minister and his government. The emir again asked Sheikh Nasser to form a new cabinet, but this had not yet been done by year-end.

Saudi Arabia's importance in the region and beyond was illustrated by its engagement in an inter-faith dialogue, a revival of its 2002 Middle East peace initiative and its anticipated role in dealing with the global financial crisis.

GCC member countries were directly affected by the global economic downturn and falling oil prices, resulting in the downsizing or suspension of a number of infrastructure development and other projects.

The 29th annual GCC summit took place in Oman on 29 December, focusing primarily on regional security and economic integration among GCC countries.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total |
|---|-------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup></b> |       |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                      | 58    |
| Number of visits carried out  | 5     |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 3     |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |       |
| <i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>                               |       |
| RCMs collected  | 197   |
| RCMs distributed  | 497   |
| <i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>                       |       |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                            | 17    |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                                 | 6     |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)                    | 554   |
| of which for females  | 19    |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance                                  | 46    |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |       |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                                 | 711   |

1. Kuwait and Qatar

## ICRC ACTION

Resolving humanitarian issues still outstanding from the 1990–91 Gulf War and others arising from the regional consequences of the conflict in Iraq and the global fight against “terrorism” remained top priorities for the ICRC in the region in 2008.

ICRC activities related to the 1990–91 Gulf War continued to focus mainly on helping clarify the fate of people still missing from that conflict, in order to relieve the anxiety of their families. One meeting of the Tripartite Commission and three meetings of its Technical Sub-committee, set up to bring together representatives of the States concerned to address this issue, were held in Kuwait under the chairmanship of the ICRC.

Further visits were made to people deprived of their freedom in Kuwait and Qatar to assess their treatment and material conditions of detention, and the ICRC continued to explore the possibility of offering its services on behalf of detainees and the detaining authorities in other countries of the region. The government of Kuwait and the ICRC finalized an agreement granting the ICRC access to security detainees. The issue of ICRC access to Saudi nationals detained by the Saudi authorities after their transfer from the US Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba was discussed again with the Saudi Ministry of Interior, so far without tangible results.

As in past years, families in GCC countries were able to locate and re-establish contact with their relatives detained/interned abroad or present in countries affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence where communications remained unreliable. In December, the Qatar Red Crescent Society, with ICRC support, hosted a meeting of representatives of 13 Arab and Asian National Societies in Doha to discuss how to strengthen the worldwide Movement network to restore family links.

The regional delegation continued to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula, and the teaching and training programmes of national armed forces in the region. A particular effort was made to expand or reinforce networking with officials, religious and opinion leaders and the

media in GCC countries to gain increased acceptance of and support for the ICRC's mandate and humanitarian activities worldwide.

Work with National Societies in GCC countries to enhance operational cooperation in the provision of assistance to victims of armed conflict was another priority for the regional delegation. For the second consecutive year, a surgical team from the Qatari Red Crescent was seconded to the ICRC to work in Mogadishu, Somalia.

## CIVILIANS

## Restoring family links

Families in the region continued to require assistance to trace and restore or maintain contact with family members detained/interned abroad or located in countries disrupted by armed conflict or other situations of violence. Many of the requests concerned family members held in detention facilities in Iraq and in Guantanamo Bay.

Cooperation with State authorities and Red Crescent Societies of the region was reinforced to ensure that RCMs were collected and distributed with minimum delay (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

- 196 RCMs collected from and 494 RCMs distributed to civilians
- new tracing requests registered for 17 people; 6 people located; 554 people (including 19 females and 46 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 18 phone calls facilitated between internees held in US custody in Guantanamo Bay and their families in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE

## Tracing missing persons from the 1990–91 Gulf War

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-committee dealing with cases of persons missing from the 1990–91 Gulf War. The Commission met once in 2008. The Technical Sub-committee held three meetings, and a decision was taken to increase their number to six annually.

Satellite imagery was analysed in a bid to locate potential new burial sites in Iraq, but none were found. During the year, no exhumation operations took place in Iraq. It was hoped that the improved security situation there would enable field missions to take place in 2009, provided that primary witnesses could be contacted to pinpoint burial locations.

The ICRC facilitated the exhumation and repatriation to Iraq via Kuwait of the remains of 63 Iraqis who had been buried in Saudi Arabia during the conflict and the handover of the remains of 18 of them to their families.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Kuwait, regular ICRC visits, conducted according to the organization's standard working procedures, were made to Iraqi nationals, stateless persons and Palestinians held in the central prison for men and in the deportation centre. Dialogue was successfully concluded with the Kuwaiti government to extend the scope of ICRC visits to Kuwaiti and foreign security detainees.

A follow-up visit was made to people held at the central prison in Doha since their conviction in connection with the failed coup attempt in 1996.

In both Kuwait and Qatar, the findings and recommendations of ICRC delegates made during visits to detainees were shared confidentially with the authorities concerned.

Eight Iraqi detainees released from Kuwait's central prison and transferred to the deportation centre in February returned to Iraq in September after being interviewed by ICRC delegates to ensure they were returning to their home country of their own free will.

Former detainees, in particular Iraqi POWs previously held in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia who had been visited and registered by the ICRC in the past, were issued with certificates of detention on request. In many cases, this entitled recipients to receive State allowances.

The issue of gaining access to Saudi nationals detained by the Saudi authorities after their transfer from US custody in Guantanamo Bay was further discussed with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior in Jeddah. No visits had yet taken place by year-end.

- ▶ in Kuwait, 29 detainees visited and monitored individually, of whom 2 newly registered, during 4 visits to 2 places of detention
- ▶ in Qatar, 29 detainees visited and monitored individually during 1 visit to 1 place of detention
- ▶ 1 RCM collected from and 3 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 711 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## AUTHORITIES

Government officials, members of national IHL committees, parliamentarians and representatives of judicial institutes remained key audiences for ICRC efforts to promote GCC countries' accession to and implementation of IHL instruments. Governments in the region were encouraged in particular to ratify the newly adopted Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Representatives of governments, armed forces and national IHL committees attended various regional seminars on IHL implementation organized by the League of Arab States and the ICRC.

Bahrain and Qatar were encouraged to set up national IHL committees, following their establishment in the four other GCC countries.

Training sessions on IHL were organized for:

- ▶ dozens of Arab magistrates from numerous Arab countries at the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies and at the Institute of Training and Judicial Studies in the UAE
- ▶ 80 representatives of 26 government institutions, NGOs, the media and business circles at the Qatar-based Judicial and Legal Studies Centre
- ▶ 25 magistrates at the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute in Bahrain
- ▶ 80 Bahraini parliamentarians and representatives of various Arab organizations at the Bahrain Institute for Political Development
- ▶ 28 diplomats from 18 Arab countries at the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research in Abu Dhabi
- ▶ 35 Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry staff and national IHL committee members, who were briefed on the International Criminal Court and the importance of ratifying the Rome Statute

The Kuwaiti IHL committee requested and received an Arabic version of an ICRC study on the use and protection of the emblem.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

ICRC-trained military officers in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE continued to receive ICRC support to boost the effectiveness of their IHL training programmes. At the request of the new heads of military training in Bahrain and Oman, train-the-trainer courses were organized instead of the refresher courses initially planned, with the objective of strengthening their teams of national IHL trainers.

High-ranking officers at the Kuwait Command and Staff College often deployed with multinational forces in conflict regions were briefed on ways to implement IHL and on relations between the ICRC and weapon bearers in armed conflicts in general.

- ▶ 2 officers from Oman and Qatar invited to participate in the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations held in Switzerland
- ▶ 25 officers of the Omani armed forces participated in a one-day seminar on IHL
- ▶ 60 officers of the Bahraini and Omani armed forces attended a train-the-trainer course on IHL in coordination with the concerned training directorates
- ▶ high-ranking legal officers of the Qatari armed forces and the ICRC agreed on a resumption of joint dissemination activities in 2009

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Contacts with religious and opinion leaders in GCC countries were intensified to increase understanding of the independent, neutral and impartial nature of the ICRC's humanitarian mandate and activities worldwide. Work also continued to promote the teaching

of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools and the inclusion of IHL in university law curricula.

The Arab and international media based in GCC countries reported often on ICRC activities and humanitarian issues, drawing on regular ICRC information materials and briefings. Media representatives were invited to participate in several workshops on IHL to help them report more accurately on humanitarian issues in conflict situations and better understand the relationship between the media and the ICRC.

The issue of mine victims in the region was a propelling factor in the decision of three senior editors from Bahrain, Kuwait and the UAE to participate in a workshop on dealing with the problem of mines and explosive remnants of war organized by the ICRC in Amman (see *Jordan*).

- 40 representatives of various charities and humanitarian institutions attended a workshop on IHL in Dubai, co-organized with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- 10 senior Kuwaiti newspaper editors and 15 Omani journalists attended IHL training workshops
- 8 university lecturers from GCC countries attended the 5th regional course on IHL for academic circles held in Tunisia (see *Tunisia*)
- 210 students at the University of Kuwait attended 5 lectures on IHL and ICRC activities in contexts of armed conflict
- representatives of Qatar's National Office for Combating Human Trafficking briefed on the ICRC's role and activities

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Representatives of National Societies in the region and the ICRC met in Kuwait to exchange field experiences and to discuss how to work together more closely, bolstered by an improved mutual understanding with respect to relief operations for conflict victims. Joint initiatives increased, in particular with the Qatari Red Crescent in Gaza and Somalia.

The Qatari Red Crescent, with ICRC support, hosted a meeting of representatives of 13 Arab and Asian National Societies to discuss how to strengthen the worldwide Movement network to restore family links. The meeting recognized the need to improve the response to issues concerning restoring family links, e.g. between families scattered between Asian and GCC countries, and to have an adequate structure for this purpose within each National Society.

A first meeting of GCC National Society communication experts was hosted by the Bahrain Red Crescent Society to discuss Movement communication challenges and priorities, including the Movement campaigns to mark the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Solferino and the 60th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions in 2009.

Representatives of various Arab National Societies were briefed on the ICRC and the emblem at their second meeting of young volunteers held in Kuwait.

The Red Crescent Society of the UAE invited the ICRC to discuss possible joint cooperation on a TV channel dedicated to humanitarian issues to be launched in 2009, which would include IHL training for media personnel.

Widely read magazines produced by National Societies in the region actively promoted awareness of IHL through numerous reports on humanitarian issues in contexts where the ICRC was operational.

The ICRC participated in the 36th General Assembly of the Organization of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies held in Tunis (see *Tunis*).





# tunis (regional)

The regional delegation based in Tunis, which has been operating since 1987, regularly visits people deprived of their freedom in Mauritania and Tunisia to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. Acting as a neutral intermediary, it is also involved in efforts to resolve issues of humanitarian concern arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It works to promote implementation of IHL by the authorities and its integration into school and university curricula and into training programmes for the armed forces. National Societies and the media in the region are essential partners in this process.

## COVERING

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Protection                          | 2,664 |
| Assistance                          | 726   |
| Prevention                          | 1,230 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 366   |
| General                             | -     |

► **4,986**

of which: Overheads 304

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 92% |
|---------------------------|-----|

## PERSONNEL

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 16 | expatriates                                 |
| 27 | national staff (daily workers not included) |

## KEY POINTS

### In 2008, the ICRC:

- shared with the detaining authorities its findings and recommendations following visits to people deprived of their freedom in Mauritania and Tunisia
- organized the first phone contacts between people in US custody at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan and their families living in the region
- acting as a neutral intermediary, pursued dialogue with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front regarding the creation of a mechanism to resolve the fate of persons still unaccounted for from the Western Sahara conflict
- engaged in an extensive dialogue with influential religious figures in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia on humanitarian principles common to IHL and Islamic law
- strengthened dialogue and cooperation with the region's National Societies, in particular in the fields of tracing and the promotion of IHL
- officially launched the production and fitting of prosthetic/orthotic appliances at the new physical rehabilitation centre in Rabouni (south-western Algeria) for disabled Sahrawis

## CONTEXT

Security forces throughout the region remained on high alert following acts of violence carried out by radical Islamic groups, confrontations between armed groups and security forces in Mauritania and the reported dismantlement of extremist Islamic networks in Mauritania and Morocco. The self-styled Al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb, previously known as the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, claimed responsibility for most of the attacks. An undisclosed number of arrests were made in various countries of the region as they sought to contain Islamist radicalism. People arrested included eight al-Qaeda suspects alleged to have been involved in the killing of four French tourists in Mauritania and in an attack on the Israeli embassy in the country's capital, Nouakchott.

In August, a group of high-ranking army and security force officers deposed and arrested the president of Mauritania and established a High State Council to run the country. As a consequence of the coup, some donors suspended aid programmes in the country.

The final status of Western Sahara remained a contentious issue after four rounds of negotiations in New York, a new UN resolution extending the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) by one year until 30 April 2009, and the departure without immediate replacement of the UN special envoy. Mines and unexploded remnants of war (ERW) scattered throughout the region affected by the 1975–91 conflict continued to represent a danger. The fate of numerous civilians who went missing during that period, as well as that of others who fought in the conflict, remained unknown.

Sharp price increases for food, oil and other commodities were a major concern of countries in the region for most of the year. Mauritania was particularly adversely affected owing to recurrent and prolonged droughts that damaged crops and reduced food production, pushing up staple prices even further.

Countries in the Maghreb continued to be the preferred transit routes of many sub-Saharan nationals and others seeking irregular entry to Europe. Tighter controls on irregular immigration into Europe led to an increase in the number of would-be migrants who sought to settle in countries in North Africa. In Mauritania, several thousand refugees who fled the country in the late 1980s and early 1990s returned home in the framework of a tripartite agreement between Mauritania, Senegal and UNHCR.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | Total  |                                      | Total    | Women | Children |   |
|---|--------|--------------------------------------|----------|-------|----------|---|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) <sup>1</sup> |        | WOUNDED AND SICK                     |          |       |          |   |
| Detainees visited   | 21,376 | Physical rehabilitation <sup>2</sup> |          |       |          |   |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually                                | 657    | Patients receiving services          | Patients | 50    | 11       | 1 |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 3      | Prostheses delivered                 | Units    | 18    | 1        |   |
| <i>of whom minors</i>   | 1      | Orthoses delivered                   | Units    | 2     | 1        | 1 |
| Number of visits carried out  | 75     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| Number of places of detention visited                                       | 47     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS  |        |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications                                |        |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| RCMs collected  | 284    |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| RCMs distributed  | 448    |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons                        |        |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                      | 60     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| <i>of whom females</i>  | 21     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| <i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>                          | 5      |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)                           | 7      |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2008 (people)              | 667    |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| <i>of which for females</i>   | 52     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| <i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>                     | 24     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED  |        |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                 | 50     |                                      |          |       |          |   |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                           | 2      |                                      |          |       |          |   |

1. Mauritania and Tunisia

2. Physical rehabilitation centre in Rabouni (south-western Algeria) for disabled Sahrawis

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC action in the region focused on visits to people deprived of their freedom in Mauritania and Tunisia and on addressing humanitarian issues stemming from the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict.

During visits to places of detention, the ICRC paid particular attention to detainees' treatment during the entire length of their detention, starting from the time of arrest, and to their general living conditions. It also maintained a dialogue with the detaining authorities on issues such as detainees' access to medical care.

The ICRC continued to act as a neutral intermediary between Morocco and the Polisario Front in efforts to clarify the fate of both civilians and combatants unaccounted for in connection with the Western Sahara conflict. The immediate aim of the talks was to establish a mechanism agreed to by both sides to speed up the process of resolving these cases in order to relieve the anguish of the families concerned.

As in past years, people in the region were able, through the RCM network, to restore or maintain contact with family members detained/interned in Afghanistan, Iraq and the US Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Production started at a new ICRC prosthetic/orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre set up in 2007 close to the Sahrawi refugee camps in south-western Algeria to fit mine victims and other disabled people among the refugee population with mobility appliances produced with the ICRC's polypropylene technology.

Particular importance was attached to developing relations and cooperation with key sectors of civil society in the region, such as the media, NGOs, professional organizations and religious institutions, as a means of promoting IHL and increasing understanding of and support for the ICRC's mandate and activities. The active promotion of IHL in countries covered by the regional delegation also involved a sustained dialogue with civilian and military authorities, national implementation bodies and universities.

In close coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC lent its support to Red Crescent Societies in the region, with a focus on developing their activities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles, in particular in the fields of tracing and IHL promotion.

## CIVILIANS

Families in North Africa continued to rely on ICRC tracing and RCM services to restore contact with close relatives detained/interned abroad or present in countries where armed conflict or other situations of violence had made communications difficult.

People deprived of their freedom at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba or Baghram Air Base in Afghanistan and their families living in North Africa were for the first time able to have direct contact by telephone, with ICRC support.

The ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, maintained dialogue with the relevant authorities on both sides to encourage them to take the steps necessary to clarify the fate of combatants and civilians still missing from the time of the Western Sahara conflict. The parties were urged to create a mechanism to exchange information on cases of missing persons, to address cases not yet dealt with and,

with ICRC support, to inform the families concerned of the outcome of their efforts. Morocco appointed the Consultative Council on Human Rights (CCDH) to address the issue of missing persons from the Western Sahara conflict.

In the region:

- ▶ 237 RCMs collected from and 418 RCMs distributed to civilians
- ▶ 24 calls facilitated between family members in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia and their relatives detained/interned abroad
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 60 people (21 females; 5 minors at the time of disappearance); 7 people located; 667 people (52 females; 24 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 50 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People deprived of their freedom in Mauritania and Tunisia received regular visits from ICRC delegates, in accordance with the organization's standard working procedures and with agreements signed with the respective authorities in 2005. Emphasis was placed on visits to people convicted of acts endangering State security, as well as to particularly vulnerable groups such as foreign detainees, minors, destitute detainees and people sentenced to death. Following the visits, confidential oral and written reports on detainees' treatment and living conditions were made to the detaining authorities.

In Tunisia, the Ministry of Justice and the ICRC started to analyse jointly the causes of prison overcrowding in order to find viable alternatives in the framework of the long-term development of the penitentiary and penal systems. On the ICRC's recommendation, the Mauritanian detention authorities addressed specialized medical care needs (dental and dermatological) in Nouakchott prison, which housed almost 70% of the country's total detainee population. A Mauritanian NGO was provided by the ICRC with the necessary materials to ensure dental care in prison and with hygiene articles to distribute to detainees during visits.

### Mauritania

- ▶ 1,106 detainees visited, of whom 48 monitored individually (2 females) and 43 newly registered (2 females), during 35 visits to 16 places of detention
- ▶ 14 RCMs collected from and 13 RCMs distributed to detainees; 45 phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of an interned relative

### Tunisia

- ▶ 20,270 detainees visited, of whom 609 monitored individually (1 female; 1 minor) and 406 newly registered (1 female; 1 minor), during 40 visits to 31 places of detention
- ▶ 33 RCMs collected from and 17 RCMs distributed to detainees; 1 phone call made to 1 family to inform them of the whereabouts of an interned relative
- ▶ 2 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The production of prostheses was officially launched on 15 May at the new ICRC prosthetic/orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre set up in 2007 close to the Sahrawi refugee camps in south-western Algeria. Nine locally hired prosthetic/orthotic technicians and physiotherapists started training with an ICRC team with a view to ensuring the centre's future sustainability.

The aim of establishing the centre in Algeria's Tindouf region was to significantly lower the cost of limb-fitting for disabled patients, who no longer had to travel to Algiers or even abroad for such services, and to reduce the turnaround time for repairs to mobility aids. The centre had the capacity to produce 80 to 100 prostheses a year, as well as orthoses, crutches and wheelchairs, and provided limb-fitting and physiotherapy services, catering as a priority to the needs of the estimated 450 Sahrawis residing in refugee camps who had been maimed by mines or ERW.

- ▶ 50 patients (including 11 women and 1 child) received services at 1 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre
- ▶ 11 new patients (including 1 woman) fitted with prostheses and 2 (1 woman and 1 child) fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 18 prostheses (including 1 for a woman and 17 for mine victims), 2 orthoses (1 for a woman and 1 for a child), 4 crutches and 1 wheelchair delivered

## AUTHORITIES

Morocco co-organized with the League of Arab States and the ICRC the 7th meeting of governmental IHL experts and representatives of national IHL committees from 17 Arab States. The main themes addressed were the challenges facing humanitarian action, IHL-related developments, steps taken by Arab States to implement IHL, and difficulties encountered by national IHL committees. A regional plan of action was adopted for 2008, with a focus on the harmonization of national legislation with IHL, adherence to IHL treaties, and the promotion of IHL in academic, diplomatic, parliamentary and military circles.

The Moroccan IHL committee and the ICRC organized a third session on the role of lawmakers in IHL implementation for members of the justice commissions of the two chambers of parliament, and Foreign Ministry officials attended a presentation on IHL.

Tunisia hosted the 5th regional course on IHL and human rights law for 41 senior government officials from 16 Arab countries, organized by the Arab League's Centre for Legal and Judiciary Studies, the Tunisian Ministry of Justice and the ICRC. The final phase of an ICRC-assisted IHL training programme for Tunisian lawmakers initiated in 2006 was completed with the creation of a core group of six national experts on IHL.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Activities aimed at making IHL an integral part of the theoretical and practical instruction programmes of the armed forces were pursued in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Tunisia.

### Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

- 22 military judges participated in a three-day workshop on IHL
- 23 senior military officers took part in a three-day seminar on IHL prior to being deployed on an international peacekeeping mission
- 21 military officers attended a three-day seminar on IHL
- 22 police officers attended a five-day workshop on the provisions of IHL/human rights law applicable to law enforcement
- 21 military instructors attended a refresher course on IHL and 11 instructors trained to teach the subject
- cadets at various military academies briefed on IHL
- IHL libraries donated to the armed forces' IHL committee

### Tunisia

- 14 military judges attended a three-day IHL course
- military officers attended a seminar on IHL prior to being deployed on an international peacekeeping mission
- 94 military officers, including 11 from other African countries, attended presentations on IHL at the Chief of Staff College
- 27 military instructors trained to teach IHL

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Networking was reinforced with influential members of civil society, including Islamic scholars, human rights organizations, professional, cultural and youth associations, and the media to enlist their support in the promotion and implementation of IHL and for ICRC activities.

In Mauritania, a round-table bringing together 33 Islamic ulemas and religious leaders was held on the theme of the protection of victims of armed conflict under Islamic law and IHL. In Morocco, for the third year running, the Al-Qarawiyyine University and the ICRC organized a two-day seminar for students on the protection of human dignity in armed conflict. The same theme was the subject of a study day at the Tetouan branch of Al-Qarawiyyine University.

The Moroccan IHL committee, with ICRC support and for the first time in cooperation with the CCDH, briefed a number of Moroccan NGOs on IHL.

In April, following a training session in March, the Moroccan Ministry of Education started a new round of pilot-testing of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools, with a view to the swift integration of the programme into curricula. Some 150 schoolchildren exhibited their work and performed plays and pieces of music on the Movement, IHL and specific humanitarian issues, such as child soldiers, at school clubs set up to promote the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

Media outlets in North Africa were briefed on ICRC action in the region and made increasing use of information published on the ICRC's Arabic-language website. Articles by Libyan, Moroccan and Tunisian intellectuals and journalists published in the ICRC's *Al-Insani* magazine were broadcast on Tunis radio stations.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region received further support from the ICRC, in cooperation with the International Federation, in developing their capacities to carry out tracing activities and to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles. In Nouakchott, a forum aimed at strengthening the strategic dialogue between Movement partners present in Mauritania was re-established.

A cooperation agreement signed by the Moroccan Red Crescent and the ICRC in 2007 on the modernization of the National Society's IHL documentation centre in Rabat and the establishment of similar centres in other cities in the country led to the opening of a centre in the Fes branch.







# MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS



## PROTECTION FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | WORLD   | AFRICA  | ASIA &<br>THE PACIFIC | EUROPE &<br>THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST &<br>NORTH AFRICA |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>   |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>All categories/all statuses</b>  |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| Detainees visited   | 494,540 | 125,994 | 173,510               | 74,901                   | 120,135                       |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually  | 35,892  | 4,519   | 9,460                 | 6,101                    | 15,812                        |
| Detainees newly registered in 2008  | 21,046  | 2,871   | 5,211                 | 2,598                    | 10,366                        |
| Detainees released  | 40,127  | 2,169   | 3,720                 | 1,262                    | 32,976                        |
| Number of visits carried out  | 6,236   | 2,036   | 1,928                 | 1,092                    | 1,180                         |
| Number of places of detention visited   | 2,387   | 977     | 615                   | 527                      | 268                           |
| Number of detainees who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme                 | 32,735  | 129     | 2,797                 | 2,300                    | 27,509                        |
| <b>Female detainees <sup>1</sup></b>  |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| Female detainees visited and monitored individually                                       | 1,124   | 173     | 409                   | 371                      | 171                           |
| Female detainees newly registered in 2008   | 752     | 132     | 328                   | 215                      | 77                            |
| Female detainees released   | 630     | 136     | 211                   | 89                       | 194                           |
| Number of detained females who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme          | 157     | -       | 146                   | 11                       | -                             |
| <b>Minors</b>   |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| Detained minors visited and monitored individually  | 1,490   | 288     | 262                   | 52                       | 888                           |
| Detained minors newly registered in 2008  | 1,244   | 258     | 200                   | 42                       | 744                           |
| Detained minors released  | 1,910   | 201     | 167                   | 5                        | 1,537                         |
| Number of detained minors who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme           | 132     | 1       | 88                    | -                        | 43                            |
| <b>International armed conflicts (Third Geneva Convention)</b>                            |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| Prisoners of war (POWs) visited   | 231     | 24      | -                     | 206                      | 1                             |
| POWs newly registered in 2008   | 30      | 22      | -                     | 8                        | -                             |
| POWs released   | 27      | 2       | -                     | 25                       | -                             |
| of whom repatriated or transferred by/via the ICRC  | 3       | -       | -                     | 3                        | -                             |
| Number of visits carried out  | 37      | 7       | -                     | 29                       | 1                             |
| Number of places visited  | 14      | 4       | -                     | 9                        | 1                             |
| <b>International armed conflicts (Fourth Geneva Convention)</b>                           |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited   | 7,008   | -       | -                     | 94                       | 6,914                         |
| CIs and others newly registered in 2008   | 4,103   | -       | -                     | 93                       | 4,010                         |
| CIs and others released   | 12,519  | -       | -                     | 93                       | 12,426                        |
| of whom repatriated or transferred by/via the ICRC  | 3       | -       | -                     | 2                        | 1                             |
| Number of visits carried out  | 393     | -       | -                     | 23                       | 370                           |
| Number of places visited  | 47      | -       | -                     | 5                        | 42                            |
| <b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>   |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>  |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| RCMs collected  | 345,634 | 138,046 | 24,287                | 6,267                    | 177,034                       |
| of which from detainees   | 116,201 | 3,986   | 13,885                | 4,536                    | 93,794                        |
| of which from unaccompanied minors/separated children                                     | 1,416   | 1,414   | -                     | -                        | 2                             |
| of which from civilians   | 228,017 | 132,646 | 10,402                | 1,731                    | 83,238                        |
| RCMs distributed  | 321,444 | 128,619 | 23,100                | 4,485                    | 165,240                       |
| of which to detainees   | 101,833 | 2,769   | 8,265                 | 2,711                    | 88,088                        |
| of which to unaccompanied minors/separated children                                       | 1,050   | 1,050   | -                     | -                        | -                             |
| of which to civilians   | 218,561 | 124,800 | 14,835                | 1,774                    | 77,152                        |
| RCMs not distributed (back to sender)   | 34,647  | 13,652  | 300                   | 91                       | 20,604                        |
| <b>Other means of family contact</b>  |         |         |                       |                          |                               |
| Telephone calls facilitated between family members (by cellular or satellite phone)       | 3,958   | 576     | 3,069                 | 277                      | 36                            |
| Telephone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative | 12,740  | 581     | 3,011                 | 1,247                    | 7,901                         |
| Names published in the media  | 36,089  | 34,861  | 1,228                 | -                        | -                             |
| Names published on the ICRC website   | 88,587  | 63,048  | 1,227                 | 14,879                   | 9,433                         |

|   | WORLD   | AFRICA | ASIA &<br>THE PACIFIC | EUROPE &<br>THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST &<br>NORTH AFRICA |
|---|---------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>                          |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| People reunited with their families   | 880     | 630    | 4                     | 241                      | 5                             |
| Civilians transferred   | 1,529   | 64     | -                     | 101                      | 1,364                         |
| Human remains transferred   | 1,103   | -      | 1,050                 | 12                       | 41                            |
| Civilians repatriated   | 1,632   | 1,616  | -                     | -                        | 16                            |
| Human remains repatriated   | 453     | -      | 1                     | -                        | 452                           |
| <b>Tracing requests</b>   |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered                      | 9,552   | 4,378  | 2,809                 | 1,849                    | 516                           |
| who were females  | 2,860   | 1,965  | 281                   | 522                      | 92                            |
| who were minors at the time of disappearance                                | 2,379   | 1,803  | 374                   | 143                      | 59                            |
| Tracing requests closed positively (person located)                         | 6,072   | 2,508  | 1,163                 | 2,096                    | 305                           |
| Tracing requests closed negatively (person not located)                     | 25,993  | 24,735 | 391                   | 418                      | 449                           |
| Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2008                    | 48,018  | 6,001  | 16,791                | 20,353                   | 4,873                         |
| of which for females  | 5,725   | 2,323  | 1,058                 | 2,160                    | 184                           |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance                            | 5,150   | 1,991  | 1,833                 | 1,073                    | 253                           |
| <b>Missing persons <sup>2</sup></b>   |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Cases of missing persons newly opened                                       | 1,470   | 141    | 854                   | 475                      | -                             |
| who were females  | 77      | -      | 32                    | 45                       | -                             |
| who were minors when reported missing                                       | 110     | 3      | 76                    | 31                       | -                             |
| Cases of missing persons closed positively                                  | 1,316   | 89     | 241                   | 973                      | 13                            |
| Cases of missing persons closed negatively                                  | 355     | 6      | 38                    | 311                      | -                             |
| Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December 2008            | 37,724  | 161    | 15,356                | 20,069                   | 2,138                         |
| of whom females   | 2,983   | -      | 861                   | 2,083                    | 39                            |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance                                 | 2,525   | -      | 1,436                 | 1,023                    | 66                            |
| <b>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs)</b>             |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered   | 2,003   | 1,976  | 21                    | -                        | 6                             |
| by the ICRC and/or the National Society                                     | 1,984   | 1,975  | 9                     | -                        | -                             |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families <sup>4</sup>                          | 1,252   | 1,227  | 17                    | 7                        | 1                             |
| by the ICRC and/or the National Society                                     | 818     | 813    | 3                     | 2                        | -                             |
| UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2008                      | 2,017   | 1,998  | 15                    | -                        | 4                             |
| <b>Unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers <sup>3</sup></b>                |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Demobilized child soldiers newly registered                                 | 347     | 335    | 12                    | -                        | -                             |
| by the ICRC and/or the National Society                                     | 335     | 335    | -                     | -                        | -                             |
| Demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families <sup>4</sup>        | 176     | 159    | 17                    | -                        | -                             |
| by the ICRC and/or the National Society                                     | 112     | 109    | 3                     | -                        | -                             |
| Cases of demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December 2008 | 240     | 235    | 5                     | -                        | -                             |
| <b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>   |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| People to whom travel documents were issued                                 | 3,285   | 466    | 1,234                 | 194                      | 1,391                         |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued                           | 18,358  | 331    | 1,049                 | 995                      | 15,983                        |
| Other attestations issued   | 639     | 13     | 118                   | 359                      | 149                           |
| Documents transmitted/transferred   | 3,660   | 112    | 13                    | 70                       | 3,465                         |
| <b>PERSONS SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD</b>                         |         |        |                       |                          |                               |
| People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices                               | 983,147 | 38,106 | 50,594                | 39,244                   | 855,203                       |

1. Includes female minors; the term "women", used in previous reports, also included female minors

2. Figures for missing persons are included in the figures for tracing requests above

3. Figures for unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers are included in the figures for unaccompanied minors and separated children above

4. Figures for unaccompanied minors and separated children and unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families are included in the figure *People reunited with their families* above

## PROTECTION FIGURES AND INDICATORS – EXPLANATIONS

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

#### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

##### **Detainees visited**

During the period under consideration, the number of detainees visited, whether monitored individually or otherwise. It includes detainees seen and registered for the first time, and those registered previously and visited again, or not visited, but still of ICRC concern, and groups having received aid collectively without being registered individually.

##### **Detainees visited and monitored individually**

The number of detainees visited and monitored individually, i.e. those seen for the first time and registered, and those registered previously and visited again, during the period under consideration.

##### **Detainees newly registered in 2008**

The number of detainees visited for the first time since their arrest and registered during the period under consideration.

##### **Detainees released**

The number of detainees released as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of visits carried out**

Number of visits made, including those to places found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of places of detention visited**

The number of places of detention visited, including places that were found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of detainees who benefited from the ICRC's family-visits programme**

The number of detainees who were visited by a relative via an ICRC-organized or -financed visit during the period under consideration.

#### INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS (THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION)

##### **Prisoners of war (POWs) visited**

The number of POWs visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **POWs newly registered in 2008**

The number of POWs visited for the first time since capture, and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **POWs released during 2008**

The number of POWs released during the period under consideration.

##### **POWs repatriated by/via the ICRC**

The number of POWs released and repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of visits carried out**

The number of visits to POWs carried out during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of places visited**

The number of places holding or having held POWs visited during the period under consideration.

#### INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICTS (FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION)

##### **Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited**

The number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **CIs and others newly registered in 2008**

The number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited for the first time since the start of their internment and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **CIs and others released**

The number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were released as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of visits carried out**

The number of visits carried out to places holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of places visited**

The number of places holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention visited during the period under consideration.

### RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

#### RED CROSS MESSAGES (RCMs)

##### **RCMs collected**

The number of RCMs collected, regardless of the destination of the RCM, during the period under consideration.

##### **RCMs distributed**

The number of RCMs distributed, regardless of the origin of the RCM, during the period under consideration.

##### **RCMs not distributed and sent back to sender**

The number of RCMs that were impossible to distribute – either because the addressee could not be located or because the addressee refused to accept the RCM (for whatever reason) – and sent back to sender during the period under consideration.



## OTHER MEANS OF FAMILY CONTACT

### Telephone calls facilitated between family members (by cellular or satellite phone)

The number of calls between family members facilitated by the ICRC, which provided the means of communication.

### Telephone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative

The number of calls made by the ICRC to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative.

### Names published in the media

The number of names of people sought by their relatives or providing information about themselves for their relatives published in the media (e.g. newspaper or radio broadcast).

### Names published on the ICRC website

The number of names of people sought by their relatives or providing information about themselves for their relatives published on the ICRC website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org).

## REUNIFICATIONS, TRANSFERS AND REPATRIATIONS

### People reunited with their families

The number of people reunited with their families under the auspices of the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### Civilians transferred/human remains transferred

The number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, or human remains transferred by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### Civilians repatriated/human remains repatriated

The number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, or human remains repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

## TRACING REQUESTS<sup>1</sup>

### People for whom a tracing request was newly registered

The number of people for whom a tracing request was initiated during the period under consideration – e.g. because there had been no news of them, or because they were not located by RCM, were being sought by their families, or were presumed to have been arrested and/or detained – and whom the ICRC is going to take steps to locate or clarify their fate.

### Tracing requests closed positively

The number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and who were located or whose fate was established (closed positively) during the period under consideration.

### Tracing requests closed negatively

The number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and who were not located or whose fate was not established and for whom the ICRC exhausted its tracing possibilities (closed negatively) during the period under consideration.

### Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December

The number of people for whom tracing requests were still open and pending at the end of the period under consideration.

## MISSING PERSONS<sup>2</sup>

### Cases of missing persons newly opened

The number of people for whom a missing person file was opened during the period under consideration.

### Cases of missing persons closed positively

The number of people whose case was resolved (closed positively), i.e. people who were located or confirmed deceased, during the period under consideration.

### Cases of missing persons closed negatively

The number of people whose cases were not resolved, and for whom the ICRC decided not to pursue enquiries (closed negatively), during the period under consideration.

### Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December

The number of people whose cases were still open (pending) at the end of the period under consideration.

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (UAMs)<sup>3</sup>/SEPARATED CHILDREN (SCs)<sup>4</sup>/DEMobilized CHILD SOLDIERS

### UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers newly registered

The number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers registered by the ICRC, the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or by another organization during the period under consideration, and whose data are centralized by the ICRC.

### UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families

The number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families by the ICRC, the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or by another organization during the period under consideration.

### Cases of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December

The number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers whose cases were opened but who had not yet been reunited by the ICRC, the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or by another organization during the period under consideration; these include cases concerning children whose parents were being sought, or those concerning children whose parents had been found but with whom they had not yet been reunited.

1. All cases of people whose fate is not known either to their families or the ICRC and for whom the ICRC is going to undertake some kind of action to clarify their fate or to confirm their alleged fate; these can include allegations of arrest and co-detention, and tracing requests collected following unsuccessful attempts to restore family links by other means
2. Figures for missing persons are included in the figures for tracing requests
3. A child under 18 or under the legal age of majority separated from both parents and from all other relatives and not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so
4. A child under 18 or under the legal age of majority separated from both parents or from his/her previous legal caregiver but accompanied by another adult relative

## DOCUMENTS ISSUED

### People to whom travel documents were issued

The number of beneficiaries of travel documents issued by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### People to whom a detention attestation was issued

The number of people who received a certificate testifying to their detention, according to ICRC records of visits, during the period under consideration.

### Other attestations issued

The number of attestations – not related to detention – issued during the period under consideration.

### Documents transmitted/transferred

The number of documents – e.g. passport, power of attorney, death certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and ICRC certificates such as house destruction certificates, tracing requests (other than detention certificates) – forwarded or transmitted during the period under consideration.

## PEOPLE SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD

### People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices

The number of people who contacted an ICRC office in the field, either in person or by telephone, during the period under consideration.

## ASSISTANCE FIGURES AND INDICATORS

|   | WORLD <sup>1</sup> | AFRICA    | ASIA &<br>THE PACIFIC | EUROPE &<br>THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST &<br>NORTH AFRICA |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ECONOMIC SECURITY (Number of beneficiaries)</b>                |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)</b>                     |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Essential household items   | 454,757            | 122,882   | 187,090               | 51,376                   | 93,409                        |
| Food  | 776,972            | 286,137   | 294,855               | 30,307                   | 165,673                       |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 1,574,017          | 1,339,951 | 94,059                | 6,922                    | 133,085                       |
| <b>Internally displaced people</b>                                |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Essential household items   | 2,759,172          | 1,806,556 | 563,948               | 128,729                  | 259,939                       |
| Food  | 2,010,057          | 1,040,375 | 649,352               | 90,350                   | 229,980                       |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 780,607            | 689,454   | 10,118                | 81,035                   | -                             |
| <b>Detainees</b>  |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Essential household items   | 101,188            | 56,754    | 32,608                | 7,689                    | 4,137                         |
| Food  | 4,599              | 4,599     | -                     | -                        | -                             |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 559                | 559       | -                     | -                        | -                             |
| <b>Total all target populations</b>                               |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Essential household items   | 3,315,117          | 1,986,192 | 783,646               | 187,794                  | 357,485                       |
| Food  | 2,791,628          | 1,331,111 | 944,207               | 120,657                  | 395,653                       |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 2,355,183          | 2,029,964 | 104,177               | 87,957                   | 133,085                       |
| <b>WATER AND HABITAT (Number of beneficiaries)</b>                |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)</b>                     |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Water and habitat structures                                      | 12,568,671         | 7,255,008 | 547,011               | 1,126,956                | 3,639,696                     |
| <b>Internally displaced people</b>                                |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Water and habitat structures                                      | 2,282,381          | 1,277,801 | 206,436               | 22,752                   | 775,392                       |
| <b>Detainees</b>  |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Water and habitat structures                                      | 184,949            | 123,548   | 49,998                | 11,138                   | 265                           |
| <b>Wounded and sick</b>   |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Water and habitat structures (number of beds)                     | 15,988             | 3,686     | 4,487                 | 80                       | 7,735                         |
| <b>Total projects all target populations</b>                      |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Water and habitat structures (number of beneficiaries)            | 15,036,001         | 8,656,357 | 803,445               | 1,160,846                | 4,415,353                     |
| Water and habitat structures (number of beds)                     | 15,988             | 3,686     | 4,487                 | 80                       | 7,735                         |

1. Sum of available data, which may not always reflect the full extent of ICRC operations

|   | WORLD <sup>1</sup> | AFRICA    | ASIA &<br>THE PACIFIC | EUROPE &<br>THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST &<br>NORTH AFRICA |
|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>COMMUNITY HEALTH (Number of beneficiaries)</b>                             |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>Health centres supported</b>   |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of health centres supported  | 379                | 177       | 18                    | 120                      | 64                            |
| Monthly average of health centres supported                                   | 210                | 137       | 14                    | 45                       | 14                            |
| Estimated population covered by these health centres (monthly average)        | 3,151,288          | 1,818,593 | 1,102,271             | 39,329                   | 191,095                       |
| <b>Activities</b>   |                    |           |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of ante/post-natal consultations (total)                               | 179,593            | 163,885   | 6,440                 | 9,225                    | 43                            |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 12,610             | 6,607     | -                     | 6,003                    | -                             |
| Age ≥ 15  | 166,983            | 157,278   | 6,440                 | 3,222                    | 43                            |
| Number of immunization activities (total)                                     | 772,172            | 684,742   | 85,547                | 1,107                    | 776                           |
| Age ≤ 5   | 643,966            | 576,262   | 66,948                | 377                      | 379                           |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 21,568             | 20,986    | -                     | 582                      | -                             |
| Age ≥ 15  | 106,638            | 87,494    | 18,599                | 148                      | 397                           |
| Of which: number of polio immunizations (total)                               | 352,472            | 322,819   | 28,961                | 378                      | 314                           |
| Age ≤ 5   | 333,345            | 304,144   | 28,961                | 240                      | -                             |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 16,332             | 16,194    | -                     | 138                      | -                             |
| Age ≥ 15  | 2,795              | 2,481     | -                     | -                        | 314                           |
| Number of curative consultations (total)                                      | 1,226,271          | 1,032,661 | 112,500               | 24,277                   | 56,833                        |
| Age ≤ 5   | 339,158            | 274,943   | 46,787                | 1,558                    | 15,870                        |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 167,899            | 152,379   | 13,525                | 1,995                    | -                             |
| Age ≥ 15  | 719,214            | 605,339   | 52,188                | 20,724                   | 40,963                        |
| Of which: number of females attending curative consultations (total)          | 638,726            | 552,622   | 65,114                | 10,965                   | 10,025                        |
| Age ≤ 5   | 155,216            | 126,094   | 25,661                | 834                      | 2,627                         |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 79,598             | 70,191    | 8,204                 | 1,203                    | -                             |
| Age ≥ 15  | 403,912            | 356,337   | 31,249                | 8,928                    | 7,398                         |
| Number of health education sessions held (total)                              | 16,083             | 12,061    | 3,867                 | 72                       | 83                            |
| Number of cases referred from first- to second-line health facilities (total) | 14,424             | 12,529    | 875                   | 101                      | 919                           |
| Age ≤ 5   | 3,078              | 2,651     | -                     | 6                        | 421                           |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 1,413              | 1,394     | -                     | 19                       | -                             |
| Age ≥ 15  | 9,933              | 8,484     | 875                   | 76                       | 498                           |
| Of which: number of gynaecological/obstetric cases referred (total)           | 3,064              | 3,045     | 3                     | 16                       | 0                             |
| 5 < Age < 15  | 348                | 345       |                       | 3                        |                               |
| Age ≥ 15  | 2,716              | 2,700     | 3                     | 13                       |                               |

1. Sum of available data, which may not always reflect the full extent of ICRC operations

|  | WORLD <sup>1</sup> | AFRICA | ASIA &<br>THE PACIFIC | EUROPE &<br>THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST &<br>NORTH AFRICA |
|--|--------------------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>HOSPITAL SUPPORT <sup>2</sup></b>   |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>Hospitals supported</b>   |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of supported hospitals that provided statistics   | 123                | 42     | 21                    | 13                       | 47                            |
| Number of supported hospitals that did not provide statistics  | 161                | 27     | 48                    | 2                        | 84                            |
| Monthly average of supported hospitals that provided statistics  | 64                 | 22     | 13                    | 3                        | 26                            |
| Monthly average of supported hospitals that did not provide statistics                                   | 40                 | 12     | 10                    | 2                        | 16                            |
| <b>Activities</b>  |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| <b>Inpatient surgical activities</b>   |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of weapon-wounded admitted (total)  | 19,386             | 4,541  | 5,206                 | 355                      | 9,284                         |
| Women  | 1,186              | 700    | 400                   | 86                       | -                             |
| Men  | 7,864              | 3,429  | 4,168                 | 267                      | -                             |
| Girls < 15 years   | 317                | 169    | 147                   | 1                        | -                             |
| Boys < 15 years  | 735                | 243    | 491                   | 1                        | -                             |
| Of which: number of patients admitted with injuries caused by mines or explosive remnants of war (total) | 587                | 16     | 471                   | 98                       | 2                             |
| Women  | 59                 | 3      | 21                    | 35                       | -                             |
| Men  | 423                | 10     | 351                   | 62                       | -                             |
| Girls < 15 years   | 16                 | 1      | 14                    | 1                        | -                             |
| Boys < 15 years  | 87                 | 2      | 85                    | -                        | -                             |
| Number of non-weapon-wounded surgical cases admitted   | 101,191            | 8,576  | 24,660                | 3,707                    | 64,248                        |
| Women  | 10,013             | 3,326  | 5,431                 | 1,256                    | -                             |
| Men  | 16,669             | 3,867  | 11,052                | 1,750                    | -                             |
| Girls < 15 years   | 3,807              | 526    | 2,994                 | 287                      | -                             |
| Boys < 15 years  | 6,454              | 857    | 5,183                 | 414                      | -                             |
| Number of operations performed   | 108,410            | 15,431 | 22,955                | 3,267                    | 66,757                        |
| <b>Inpatient medical activities</b>  |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of medical patients admitted (total)  | 146,589            | 31,598 | 14,316                | 2,577                    | 98,098                        |
| Women  | 11,191             | 7,554  | 3,025                 | 612                      | -                             |
| Men  | 9,152              | 5,906  | 2,670                 | 576                      | -                             |
| Girls 5 < Age < 15   | 5,373              | 2,850  | 2,256                 | 267                      | -                             |
| Boys 5 < Age < 15  | 4,960              | 2,766  | 1,910                 | 284                      | -                             |
| Girls ≤ 5 years  | 9,453              | 7,166  | 1,884                 | 403                      | -                             |
| Boys ≤ 5 years   | 8,362              | 5,356  | 2,571                 | 435                      | -                             |
| <b>Inpatient gynaecological/obstetric activities</b>   |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of gynaecological/obstetric patients admitted (total)   | 116,240            | 17,758 | 9,482                 | 2,527                    | 86,473                        |
| Women  | 29,545             | 17,542 | 9,482                 | 2,521                    | -                             |
| Girls < 15 years   | 222                | 216    | -                     | 6                        | -                             |
| <b>Outpatient activities, including specialized clinics</b>  |                    |        |                       |                          |                               |
| Number of surgical outpatients treated (total)   | 363,861            | 15,524 | 98,348                | -                        | 249,989                       |
| Women  | 24,953             | 4,610  | 20,343                | -                        | -                             |
| Men  | 47,060             | 6,142  | 40,918                | -                        | -                             |
| Girls 5 < Age < 15   | 10,454             | 1,438  | 9,016                 | -                        | -                             |
| Boys 5 < Age < 15  | 17,596             | 1,644  | 15,952                | -                        | -                             |
| Girls ≤ 5 years  | 5,862              | 808    | 5,054                 | -                        | -                             |
| Boys ≤ 5 years   | 7,947              | 882    | 7,065                 | -                        | -                             |

1. Sum of available data, which may not always reflect the full extent of ICRC operations

2. Breakdown of women/men/children not available for hospital support in the Middle East and North Africa



|  | WORLD <sup>1</sup> | AFRICA         | ASIA & THE PACIFIC | EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA |
|--|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Number of medical outpatients treated (total)</b>                           | <b>444,589</b>     | <b>121,487</b> | <b>124,179</b>     | <b>-</b>              | <b>198,923</b>             |
| Women  | 61,000             | 34,982         | 26,018             | -                     | -                          |
| Men  | 47,830             | 27,260         | 20,570             | -                     | -                          |
| Girls 5 < Age < 15   | 34,906             | 12,361         | 22,545             | -                     | -                          |
| Boys 5 < Age < 15  | 32,139             | 10,801         | 21,338             | -                     | -                          |
| Girls ≤ 5 years  | 34,983             | 20,005         | 14,978             | -                     | -                          |
| Boys ≤ 5 years   | 34,808             | 16,078         | 18,730             | -                     | -                          |
| <b>Number of gynaecological/obstetric outpatients treated (total)</b>          | <b>118,551</b>     | <b>12,223</b>  | <b>14,819</b>      | <b>-</b>              | <b>91,509</b>              |
| Women  | 26,801             | 11,990         | 14,811             | -                     | -                          |
| Girls 5 < Age < 15   | 241                | 233            | 8                  | -                     | -                          |
| <b>First-aid activities</b>  |                    |                |                    |                       |                            |
| <b>First-aid posts supported</b>   |                    |                |                    |                       |                            |
| Number of supported first-aid posts that provided statistics                   | 11                 | 8              | 1                  | -                     | 2                          |
| Number of supported first-aid posts that did not provide statistics            | 4                  | -              | 4                  | -                     | -                          |
| Monthly average of supported first-aid posts that provided statistics          | 6                  | 6              | -                  | -                     | -                          |
| Monthly average of supported first-aid posts that did not provide statistics   | -                  | -              | -                  | -                     | -                          |
| <b>Number of wounded treated in the first-aid posts (total)</b>                | <b>7,985</b>       | <b>7,985</b>   | <b>-</b>           | <b>-</b>              | <b>-</b>                   |
| Women  | 1,237              | 1,237          | -                  | -                     | -                          |
| Men  | 4,684              | 4,684          | -                  | -                     | -                          |
| Girls < 15 years   | 790                | 790            | -                  | -                     | -                          |
| Boys < 15 years  | 1,274              | 1,274          | -                  | -                     | -                          |
| <b>PHYSICAL REHABILITATION</b>   |                    |                |                    |                       |                            |
| <b>Number of physical rehabilitation centres supported (total)</b>             | <b>82</b>          | <b>30</b>      | <b>23</b>          | <b>11</b>             | <b>18</b>                  |
| <b>Activities</b>  |                    |                |                    |                       |                            |
| <b>Number of patients receiving services from the centres (total)</b>          | <b>167,968</b>     | <b>18,902</b>  | <b>92,028</b>      | <b>18,399</b>         | <b>38,639</b>              |
| Women  | 28,872             | 4,254          | 13,593             | 4,137                 | 6,888                      |
| Men  | 93,371             | 10,449         | 59,577             | 6,251                 | 17,094                     |
| Girls < 15 years   | 19,330             | 1,779          | 7,393              | 3,911                 | 6,247                      |
| Boys < 15 years  | 26,395             | 2,420          | 11,465             | 4,100                 | 8,410                      |
| <b>Number of amputees receiving services from the centres (total)</b>          | <b>65,524</b>      | <b>6,104</b>   | <b>33,232</b>      | <b>6,645</b>          | <b>19,543</b>              |
| Women  | 8,921              | 1,111          | 2,553              | 1,551                 | 3,706                      |
| Men  | 50,139             | 4,622          | 29,880             | 3,220                 | 12,417                     |
| Girls < 15 years   | 2,838              | 160            | 316                | 845                   | 1,517                      |
| Boys < 15 years  | 3,626              | 211            | 483                | 1,029                 | 1,903                      |
| <b>Number of new patients fitted with prostheses (new to the ICRC) (total)</b> | <b>9,781</b>       | <b>2,096</b>   | <b>3,895</b>       | <b>746</b>            | <b>3,044</b>               |
| Women  | 1,535              | 391            | 409                | 167                   | 568                        |
| Men  | 7,351              | 1,572          | 3,321              | 530                   | 1,928                      |
| Girls < 15 years   | 375                | 63             | 61                 | 23                    | 228                        |
| Boys < 15 years  | 520                | 70             | 104                | 26                    | 320                        |

1. Sum of available data, which may not always reflect the full extent of ICRC operations

|   | WORLD <sup>1</sup> | AFRICA        | ASIA &<br>THE PACIFIC | EUROPE &<br>THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST &<br>NORTH AFRICA |
|---|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Number of prostheses delivered (total)</b>                             | <b>20,817</b>      | <b>4,465</b>  | <b>10,128</b>         | <b>2,052</b>             | <b>4,172</b>                  |
| Women   | 2,734              | 731           | 914                   | 409                      | 680                           |
| Men   | 16,655             | 3,428         | 8,862                 | 1,457                    | 2,908                         |
| Girls < 15 years  | 581                | 135           | 130                   | 70                       | 246                           |
| Boys < 15 years   | 847                | 171           | 222                   | 116                      | 338                           |
| <b>Of which: number of prostheses delivered to mine victims (total)</b>   | <b>8,326</b>       | <b>1,288</b>  | <b>5,827</b>          | <b>344</b>               | <b>867</b>                    |
| Women   | 604                | 156           | 298                   | 23                       | 127                           |
| Men   | 7,404              | 1,066         | 5,465                 | 313                      | 560                           |
| Girls < 15 years  | 113                | 22            | 16                    | 3                        | 72                            |
| Boys < 15 years   | 205                | 44            | 48                    | 5                        | 108                           |
| <b>Number of non-amputees receiving services from the centres (total)</b> | <b>102,447</b>     | <b>12,801</b> | <b>58,796</b>         | <b>11,754</b>            | <b>19,096</b>                 |
| Women   | 19,952             | 3,141         | 11,040                | 2,586                    | 3,185                         |
| Men   | 43,231             | 5,829         | 29,695                | 3,031                    | 4,676                         |
| Girls < 15 years  | 16,492             | 1,619         | 7,077                 | 3,066                    | 4,730                         |
| Boys < 15 years   | 22,772             | 2,212         | 10,984                | 3,071                    | 6,505                         |
| <b>Number of new patients fitted with orthoses (new to the ICRC)</b>      | <b>24,817</b>      | <b>3,118</b>  | <b>6,198</b>          | <b>3,412</b>             | <b>12,089</b>                 |
| Women   | 4,362              | 888           | 1,170                 | 546                      | 1,758                         |
| Men   | 6,881              | 1,113         | 2,454                 | 729                      | 2,585                         |
| Girls < 15 years  | 6,114              | 456           | 1,104                 | 1,153                    | 3,401                         |
| Boys < 15 years   | 7,460              | 661           | 1,470                 | 984                      | 4,345                         |
| <b>Number of orthoses delivered (total)</b>                               | <b>39,667</b>      | <b>4,806</b>  | <b>13,994</b>         | <b>6,668</b>             | <b>14,199</b>                 |
| Women   | 6,422              | 1,236         | 2,026                 | 1,237                    | 1,923                         |
| Men   | 11,149             | 1,662         | 5,050                 | 1,649                    | 2,788                         |
| Girls < 15 years  | 9,836              | 773           | 2,937                 | 1,896                    | 4,230                         |
| Boys < 15 years   | 12,260             | 1,135         | 3,981                 | 1,886                    | 5,258                         |
| <b>Of which: number of orthoses delivered to mine victims (total)</b>     | <b>562</b>         | <b>208</b>    | <b>184</b>            | <b>18</b>                | <b>152</b>                    |
| Women   | 82                 | 40            | 16                    | 4                        | 22                            |
| Men   | 383                | 135           | 160                   | 6                        | 82                            |
| Girls < 15 years  | 42                 | 19            | 2                     | 2                        | 19                            |
| Boys < 15 years   | 55                 | 14            | 6                     | 6                        | 29                            |
| <b>Crutches and sticks delivered (total units)</b>                        | <b>35,088</b>      | <b>13,968</b> | <b>17,280</b>         | <b>792</b>               | <b>3,048</b>                  |
| Women   | 4,186              | 1,638         | 2,134                 | 119                      | 295                           |
| Men   | 28,068             | 11,046        | 13,753                | 633                      | 2,636                         |
| Girls < 15 years  | 974                | 490           | 430                   | 18                       | 36                            |
| Boys < 15 years   | 1,860              | 794           | 963                   | 22                       | 81                            |
| <b>Wheelchairs delivered (total)</b>                                      | <b>2,503</b>       | <b>804</b>    | <b>1,589</b>          | <b>25</b>                | <b>85</b>                     |
| Women   | 507                | 143           | 345                   | 7                        | 12                            |
| Men   | 1,552              | 497           | 970                   | 15                       | 70                            |
| Girls < 15 years  | 145                | 69            | 73                    | 2                        | 1                             |
| Boys < 15 years   | 299                | 95            | 201                   | 1                        | 2                             |
| <b>Components delivered to non-ICRC projects</b>                          |                    |               |                       |                          |                               |
| Artificial feet   | -                  | -             | -                     | -                        | -                             |
| Artificial knees  | 1,051              | -             | 1,051                 | -                        | -                             |
| Alignment systems   | 3,155              | -             | 3,155                 | -                        | -                             |
| Orthotic knee joints (pairs)  | 983                | -             | 983                   | -                        | -                             |

1. Sum of available data, which may not always reflect the full extent of ICRC operations

## ASSISTANCE FIGURES AND INDICATORS – EXPLANATIONS

### Women

Females aged 15 and above.

### Men

Males aged 15 and above.

### Girls

Females under the age of 15.

### Boys

Males under the age of 15.

## ECONOMIC SECURITY PROGRAMMES

### Beneficiaries

One beneficiary is one person who has benefited from economic security support at least once over the course of the year. A person who has benefited from economic security support several times is counted only once.

### Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)

This population group includes residents, returnees and internally displaced people who cannot be clearly identified as such – for example, those living with friends or relatives.

In general these are people living in rural areas and/or areas which are difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure.

### Internally displaced people

This population group includes only internally displaced people clearly identified as such – for example, those staying in camps.

### Essential household items

Per population group, the number of beneficiaries who have benefited from one or more essential household commodity over the course of the year. The main commodities distributed in 2008 were tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, hygiene kits, soaps, jerrycans and mosquito nets.

### Food

Per population group, the number of beneficiaries who have benefited from one or more food commodity over the course of the year. The main commodities distributed in 2008 were rice, wheat flour, maize, beans and oil.

### Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives

Per population group, the number of beneficiaries who have benefited from one or more agricultural/veterinary inputs (e.g. fertilizer, animal vaccines, seed, tools), micro-economic projects (e.g. carpentry, welding, food processing, trade) or cash over the course of the year.

NB. Figures for food, essential household items and agricultural/veterinary and micro-economic initiatives cannot be cumulated as some groups benefited from two or three types of aid.

## WATER AND HABITAT PROGRAMMES

### Beneficiaries

One beneficiary is one person who has benefited from a water and habitat project at least once over the course of the year. A person who has benefited from a project several times is counted only once.

For recurrent projects like water trucking or regular supply of material (chlorine, spare parts, etc.), beneficiaries are counted only once.

### Civilians (residents, returnees, etc.)

This population group includes residents, returnees and internally displaced people who cannot be clearly identified as such – for example, those living with friends or relatives.

In general these are people living in rural areas and/or areas which are difficult to reach owing to insecurity and/or lack of infrastructure.

### Internally displaced people

This population group includes only internally displaced people clearly identified as such – for example, those staying in camps.

### Detainees

The figures shown represent the total capacity of the structures supported.

### Wounded and sick

The figures shown represent the number of beds in the structures supported.

### Water and habitat structures for all population groups

This comprises the following types of project: wells, boreholes, springs, dams and water treatment plants built or repaired; latrines, septic tanks and sewage plants built or repaired; vector control activities; and in-house rehabilitation support.

### Water and habitat structures for civilians and internally displaced people

In addition, this comprises the following types of project: temporary settlements (shelter) and site planning.

### Water and habitat structures for detainees

This comprises the following types of project: rehabilitation of prisons or detention centres, especially kitchen facilities.

### Water and habitat structures for wounded and sick

This comprises the following types of project: hospitals, health centres and physical rehabilitation centres built or repaired.

## HEALTH SERVICES

### COMMUNITY HEALTH/BASIC HEALTH CARE – RESIDENTS AND THE DISPLACED

#### Monthly average of health centres supported

The number of first-line health facilities supported on average, per month, during the year.

#### Number of health centres supported

The total number of health centres regularly supported in 2008.

#### Activities

Beneficiaries are registered according to the service they receive (ante/post-natal consultation, immunization, curative consultation).

#### Number of immunization activities

The number of doses administered during the year.

#### Number of polio immunizations

This number is included in the total number of immunization activities.

### HOSPITAL SUPPORT – WOUNDED AND SICK

#### Monthly average of hospitals supported

The number of second-line health facilities supported on average, per month, during the year.

#### Number of hospitals supported

Total number of hospitals regularly supported in 2008.

#### Inpatient activities

Beneficiaries are registered according to the service they receive (surgical, medical, gynaecological/obstetric).

#### Outpatient activities

Total number of outpatients treated without any distinction being made between diagnoses.

#### Number of patients admitted with injuries caused by mines or explosive remnants of war

This number is included in the total number of weapon-wounded admitted.

#### Number of operations performed

The number of operations performed on weapon-wounded and non-weapon-wounded patients.

## PHYSICAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES

### Number of patients receiving services at the centres

All patients, amputees and non-amputees, who received services at the centres during the year – both new and former patients who came for new devices, repairs (prostheses, wheelchairs, walking aids) or for physiotherapy.

### Number of amputees receiving services at the centres

All amputees who received services at the centres during the year – both new and former amputee patients who came for new devices, repairs (prostheses, wheelchairs, walking aids) or for physiotherapy.

### Number of new patients fitted with prostheses (new to the ICRC)

All new patients who received prostheses within the year – both those fitted for the first time and patients who had previously received prostheses from a centre not assisted by the ICRC.

### Total number of prostheses delivered

The total number of prostheses delivered during the year.

### Number of prostheses delivered to mine victims

The total number of prostheses delivered specifically for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war during the year.

### Number of non-amputees receiving services at the centres

All non-amputees who received services at the centres during the year – both new and former non-amputee patients who came for new devices, repairs (orthoses, wheelchairs, walking aids) or for physiotherapy.

### Number of new patients fitted with orthoses (new to the ICRC)

All new patients who received orthoses within the year – both those for the first time and patients who had previously received orthoses from a centre not assisted by the ICRC.

### Total number of orthoses delivered

The total number of orthoses delivered within the year.

### Number of orthoses delivered to mine victims

The total number of orthoses delivered specifically for victims of mines and explosive remnants of war during the year.

### Crutches and sticks delivered (units)

The total number of crutches and sticks (units, not pairs) delivered during the year.

### Wheelchairs delivered

The total number of wheelchairs delivered during the year.

### Components delivered to non-ICRC projects

This relates exclusively to Afghanistan and Cambodia where the ICRC continues to manufacture components that are given to other organizations.

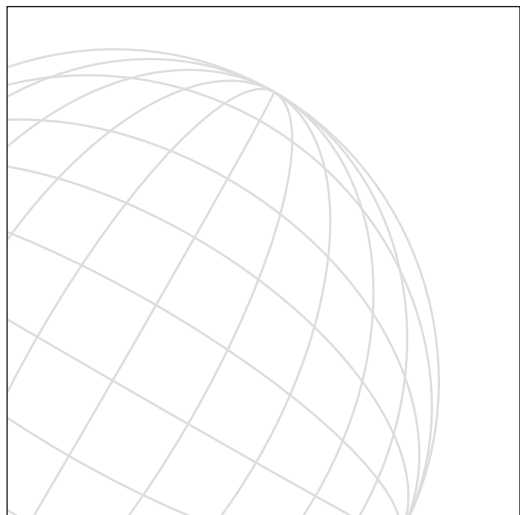




# **FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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# the financial year 2008

The 2008 financial exercise was marked by two wars which drew intense media attention – the short-lived conflict in Georgia in August and the launch at year-end of an Israeli air offensive on the Gaza Strip. Those events, combined with a significant escalation of armed conflict or other situations of violence in several other contexts, resulted in the ICRC issuing 14 budget extensions in order to meet the most pressing needs of the victims. Overall, 2008 was a year of financial consolidation, which allowed the ICRC to absorb most of the negative balance brought forward from 2007. During the second half of the year, turmoil in the financial markets contributed to extreme volatility in the currency markets. While this situation had a significant financial impact on the ICRC, it did not directly affect operational capacities in the field because of the ICRC's policy of using its reserves to cover the effects of foreign exchange-rate fluctuations. Amid significant global economic upheaval, the ICRC focused on ensuring that the funds provided by its donors would not in any way be at risk. By applying the Security, Liquidity, Yield, or SLY, principle to managing its treasury, the ICRC ensured that its funds were both secure and readily available for its operations, even though this meant lower levels of or no yield. The ICRC reassessed counterparty risks and reduced its exposure accordingly.

## EMERGENCY APPEALS

The initial budget of KCHF 932,551 increased by KCHF 147,178 (15%) as a result of budget extensions related to the outbreak or escalation of conflict or other situations of violence in areas covered by ICRC delegations in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, and its regional delegations based in Dakar, Harare, Moscow and Nairobi.

Total field expenditure amounted to KCHF 990,624, compared with KCHF 840,225 in 2007, representing a 95.1% implementation rate. Contributions to the field budget reached KCHF 997,763.

## HEADQUARTERS APPEAL

The significant level of field activities required increased support services from headquarters in 2008, resulting in a level of expenditure of KCHF 167,086, which was an implementation rate of 100.8%. The Directorate confirmed its four-year budget framework,

agreed in 2007, of some KCHF 160,000 (cost of living fluctuations not included), so significant increases are not to be expected until 2010. The challenge will therefore be to balance headquarters resources with strong and consistent field support.

## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

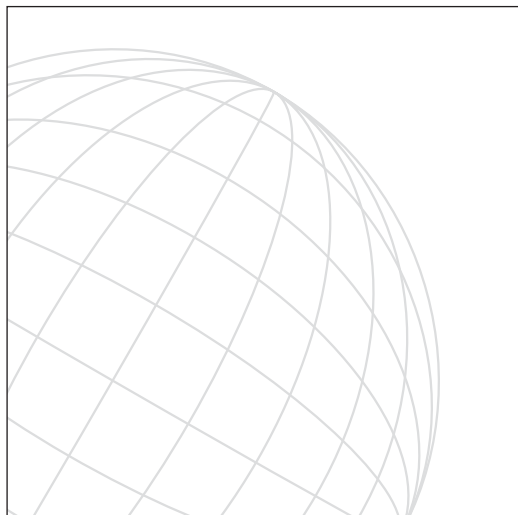
The most significant changes include the extension of the consolidation perimeter to include four additional Funds (Augusta Fund, Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, Maurice de Madre French Fund and Paul Reuter Fund) and an improved adherence to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) with regard to employee benefit disclosure to ensure further transparency in ICRC financial statements. After consolidation of the operational results of field and headquarters financial structures and of the Augusta, Clare Benedict, Florence Nightingale Medal, Maurice de Madre, Omar El Mukhtar and Paul Reuter Funds, the Special Fund for the Disabled and the Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross, there is an overall surplus for operating activities of KCHF 28,096, compared with a surplus of KCHF 71,451 in 2007. The consolidated results reflect the consequences of significant losses on foreign exchange-rate operations due to financial market volatility. Those losses arose because of the time lag – and consequent change in exchange rates – between the acknowledgement of funding pledges and the payments. None of the losses were due to speculative activities. Regarding field funding, the sum of temporary deficits of operations is KCHF -1,495, compared with KCHF -32,843 in 2007.

As per new Swiss legal requirements with regard to internal control systems, the external auditors have confirmed unreservedly the existence of such a system at the ICRC.

## BALANCE SHEET

The main driver behind the changes in the balance sheet between 2007 and 2008 remains long-term donor commitments. Better predictability and shorter payment terms have also improved the asset side.

Unrestricted reserves increased by KCHF 16,565 to enable the ICRC to deal with its future risks and commitments.



# consolidated financial statements of the ICRC 2008

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**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008**

(in KCHF)

| ASSETS                                    | Notes | 2008           | 2007           |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>                     |       |                |                |
| Cash and short-term deposits              | 7     | 343,993        | 328,663        |
| Investments                               | 8     | 64,713         | 69,314         |
| Derivative financial instruments          | 36    | 691            | 595            |
| Accounts receivable                       | 9     | 118,889        | 166,047        |
| Prepayments                               | 10    | 12,221         | 9,883          |
| Inventories                               | 11    | 32,516         | 36,139         |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>               |       | <b>573,023</b> | <b>610,641</b> |
| <b>Non-current Assets</b>                 |       |                |                |
| Property, plant and equipment             | 12    | 113,134        | 94,818         |
| Intangible assets                         | 13    | 13,977         | 11,469         |
| Long-term receivables                     | 14    | 37,987         | 72,612         |
| Other financial assets                    | 15    | 1,480          | 1,423          |
| <b>Total Non-current Assets</b>           |       | <b>166,578</b> | <b>180,322</b> |
| <b>Total ASSETS</b>                       |       | <b>739,601</b> | <b>790,963</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>           |       |                |                |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>                |       |                |                |
| Accounts payable                          | 16    | 36,479         | 37,910         |
| Interest-bearing loans and borrowings     | 17    | 11,103         | 11,473         |
| Other financial liabilities               | 18    | 4              | 26             |
| Provisions                                | 19    | 667            | 435            |
| Employee benefit liabilities              | 20    | 25,958         | 22,547         |
| Accrued expenses and deferred income      | 22    | 84,941         | 139,903        |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>          |       | <b>159,152</b> | <b>212,294</b> |
| <b>Non-current Liabilities</b>            |       |                |                |
| Interest-bearing loans and borrowings     | 17    | 8,132          | 8,341          |
| Employee benefit liabilities              | 21    | 52,570         | 43,947         |
| Deferred income                           | 22    | 38,197         | 72,927         |
| <b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>      |       | <b>98,899</b>  | <b>125,215</b> |
| <b>Total LIABILITIES</b>                  |       | <b>258,051</b> | <b>337,509</b> |
| <b>Restricted Reserves</b>                |       |                |                |
| Total funds and foundations               |       | 27,742         | 27,530         |
| Total funding of field operations         | 24    | 16,705         | 5,386          |
| <b>Total Restricted Reserves</b>          |       | <b>44,447</b>  | <b>32,916</b>  |
| <b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>              |       |                |                |
| Total reserves designated by the Assembly | 25    | 422,703        | 406,138        |
| Total other unrestricted reserves         | 26    | 14,400         | 14,400         |
| <b>Total Unrestricted Reserves</b>        |       | <b>437,103</b> | <b>420,538</b> |
| <b>Total RESERVES</b>                     |       | <b>481,550</b> | <b>453,454</b> |
| <b>Total LIABILITIES and RESERVES</b>     |       | <b>739,601</b> | <b>790,963</b> |

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

(in KCHF)

|  | Notes | 2008       | 2007      |
|--|-------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</b>                               | 27    | 1,146,503  | 1,007,326 |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>                             | 28    |            |           |
| Staff-related costs                                      | 21/30 | -488,840   | -471,207  |
| Mission costs  |       | -56,757    | -53,496   |
| Rentals  |       | -113,953   | -91,111   |
| Subcontracted maintenance                                |       | -39,359    | -34,309   |
| Purchase of goods and materials                          |       | -297,225   | -201,987  |
| General expenditure                                      | 28    | -86,738    | -77,338   |
| Depreciation   |       | -20,017    | -19,254   |
| <b>Total OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>                       |       | -1,102,889 | -948,702  |
| <b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>     |       | 43,614     | 58,624    |
| <b>OTHER INCOME</b>                                      |       |            |           |
| Contributed assets                                       |       | 732        | 140       |
| Financial income   | 32    | 3,341      | 8,436     |
| Other  | 33    | 15,292     | 16,935    |
| <b>Total OTHER INCOME</b>                                |       | 19,365     | 25,511    |
| <b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>                                 |       |            |           |
| Foreign exchange losses, net                             | 32    | -27,252    | -5,919    |
| Other  | 33    | -7,631     | -6,765    |
| <b>Total OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>                           |       | -34,883    | -12,684   |
| <b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) OF NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b> |       | -15,518    | 12,827    |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>                    |       | 28,096     | 71,451    |
| <b>ALLOCATION OF SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>      |       |            |           |
| Allocation to reserves, net                              |       | -27,884    | -69,482   |
| Allocation to funds and foundations                      |       | -212       | -1,969    |
| <b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER ALLOCATIONS</b>  |       | 0          | 0         |



**CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

(in KCHF)

| <b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>                  | <b>Notes</b> | <b>2008</b>    | <b>2007</b>    |
|--|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year                               |              | 28,096         | 71,451         |
| Adjustment to reconcile surplus/(deficit) to net cash flows  |              |                |                |
| <b>Non-cash</b>  |              |                |                |
| Depreciation and impairment of property, plant and equipment |              | 16,819         | 17,368         |
| Amortization and impairment of intangible assets             |              | 2,615          | 1,994          |
| Provision on inventories                                     |              | 661            | 165            |
| Movement in provisions, receivables and specific risks       |              | -75            | -1,581         |
| Interest income  | 32           | -10,018        | -9,198         |
| Finance costs  | 32           | 340            | 351            |
| Losses on securities, net                                    | 32           | 6,677          | 761            |
| Gains from disposal of fixed assets, net                     |              | -4,186         | -5,797         |
| Contributed assets (gifted)                                  |              | -732           | -140           |
| <b>Working Capital Adjustments</b>                           |              |                |                |
| Accounts receivable and prepayments                          |              | 80,793         | 72,241         |
| Inventories  |              | 1,557          | -14,882        |
| Other assets   |              | -57            | -31            |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses                        |              | -89,740        | -29,905        |
| Employee benefit liabilities                                 |              | 12,035         | 6,232          |
| <b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>                    |              | <b>44,785</b>  | <b>109,029</b> |
| <b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>                  |              |                |                |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment                    |              | -35,123        | -15,658        |
| Purchase of intangible assets                                |              | -5,123         | -4,817         |
| Purchase of securities                                       |              | -24,051        | -26,363        |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment          |              | 4,906          | 6,269          |
| Proceeds from sale of securities                             |              | 21,975         | 26,741         |
| Interest received  | 32           | 7,582          | 6,886          |
| Income from securities, net                                  | 32           | 1,298          | 1,365          |
| <b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</b>                 |              | <b>-28,536</b> | <b>-5,577</b>  |
| <b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>                  |              |                |                |
| Interest paid  | 32           | -340           | -351           |
| Repayment unsecured loan and lease obligation                | 17           | -568           | -589           |
| <b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>                    |              | <b>-908</b>    | <b>-940</b>    |
| <b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>             |              | <b>15,341</b>  | <b>102,512</b> |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January</b>                |              | <b>338,690</b> | <b>226,949</b> |
| <b>Effect of foreign exchange-rate changes</b>               |              | <b>-10,932</b> | <b>-1,703</b>  |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>              | <b>7</b>     | <b>343,099</b> | <b>327,758</b> |

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008**

(in KCHF)

|  | Restricted               |                          | Unrestricted                     |                                   | Result<br>for the<br>year | Total   |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
|  | Funds and<br>foundations | Funding of<br>operations | Designated<br>by the<br>Assembly | Other<br>unrestricted<br>reserves |                           |         |
| Notes  | 23                       | 24                       | 25                               | 26                                |                           |         |
| Balance at 31 December 2006 (as reported)                            | 19,790                   | -21,976                  | 364,018                          | 14,400                            |                           |         |
| Restatement  | 5,771                    |                          |                                  |                                   |                           |         |
| Balance at 31 December 2006 (as restated)                            | 25,561                   | -21,976                  | 364,018                          | 14,400                            | -                         | 382,003 |
| Net surplus/(deficit) for the year                                   |                          |                          |                                  |                                   | 71,451                    | 71,451  |
| <b>Balance before transfers to/from reserves</b>                     | 25,561                   | -21,976                  | 364,018                          | 14,400                            | 71,451                    | 453,454 |
| Allocation of surplus/(deficit) of funds and foundation              | 1,969                    |                          |                                  |                                   | -1,969                    | -       |
| Decrease of field operations with temporary deficit financing        |                          | 26,849                   |                                  |                                   | -26,849                   | -       |
| Increase in donors' restricted contributions for specific operations |                          | 513                      |                                  |                                   | -513                      | -       |
| Use of reserves designated by the Assembly                           |                          |                          | -20,271                          |                                   | 20,271                    | -       |
| Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly                    |                          |                          | 62,391                           |                                   | -62,391                   | -       |
| <b>Total movement, net</b>   | <b>1,969</b>             | <b>27,362</b>            | <b>42,120</b>                    |                                   | <b>-71,451</b>            |         |
| Balance at 31 December 2007  | 27,530                   | 5,386                    | 406,138                          | 14,400                            |                           | 453,454 |
| Net surplus/(deficit) for the year                                   |                          |                          |                                  |                                   | 28,096                    |         |
| <b>Balance before transfers to/from reserves</b>                     |                          |                          |                                  |                                   |                           |         |
| Allocation of results of funds and foundations                       | 212                      |                          |                                  |                                   | -212                      |         |
| Decrease of field operations with temporary deficit financing        |                          | 31,348                   |                                  |                                   | -31,348                   |         |
| Decrease in donors' restricted contributions for specific operations |                          | -20,029                  |                                  |                                   | 20,029                    |         |
| Use of reserves designated by the Assembly                           |                          |                          | -39,450                          |                                   | 39,450                    |         |
| Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly                    |                          |                          | 56,015                           |                                   | -56,015                   |         |
| <b>Total movement, net</b>   | <b>212</b>               | <b>11,319</b>            | <b>16,565</b>                    | <b>-</b>                          | <b>-28,096</b>            |         |
| Balance at 31 December 2008  | 27,742                   | 16,705                   | 422,703                          | 14,400                            |                           | 481,550 |

## NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008 (in KCHF)

### 1. ACTIVITIES

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.

It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. A humanitarian non-profit organization domiciled in Switzerland, it was granted United Nations observer status in October 1990. Under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code, it has the legal form of an association. Its registered office is:

19, avenue de la Paix  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland

The ICRC's principal tasks are to:

- ▶ visit prisoners of war and civilian detainees
- ▶ search for missing persons
- ▶ transmit messages between family members separated by conflict
- ▶ reunite dispersed families
- ▶ provide food, water and medical assistance to civilians without access to these basic necessities
- ▶ spread knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL)
- ▶ monitor compliance with IHL
- ▶ draw attention to violations of and contribute to the development of IHL
- ▶ enhance the capacity of National Societies to fulfil their responsibilities as Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions providing humanitarian services in their respective countries

The consolidated financial statements of the ICRC for the year ended 31 December 2008 cover the activities of Geneva headquarters, all ICRC delegations, six funds and two foundations. They were approved by the Directorate on 31 March 2009 for issue to the Assembly Council on 2 April 2009 and for approval by the Assembly on 23 April 2009.

### 2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The consolidated financial statements are presented in Swiss francs, which is the organization's functional and presentation currency. They are prepared using the historical cost convention, except as concerns financial securities and derivative financial instruments which are stated at their fair value. All values are rounded to the nearest thousand (KCHF) except when otherwise indicated.

### Statement of compliance

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in compliance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and with interpretations issued by the IASB Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC), and are presented in accordance with the ICRC's Statutes.

Currently, the IFRS do not contain specific guidelines for non-profit organizations and non-governmental organizations concerning the accounting treatment and the presentation of the consolidated financial statements. Where the IFRS are silent or do not give guidance on how to treat transactions specific to the not-for-profit sector, accounting policies have been based on the general IFRS principles, as detailed in the IASB Framework for the Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements.

### Basis of consolidation

#### SPECIAL FUNDS AND FOUNDATIONS

The funds and foundations listed below are controlled by the ICRC and their financial statements included in the consolidated financial statements. Intra-group balances and transactions, and any unrealized gains from such transactions, are eliminated when the consolidated financial statements are prepared. The financial statements of the funds and foundations are prepared for the same reporting period as the ICRC, using consistent accounting policies.

Control exists when the ICRC has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity. The financial statements of the funds and foundations are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Funds and foundations:

- ▶ Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross
- ▶ Special Fund for the Disabled
- ▶ Clare R. Benedict Fund
- ▶ Omar El Mukhtar Fund
- ▶ Augusta Fund
- ▶ Florence Nightingale Medal Fund
- ▶ French Fund Maurice de Madre
- ▶ Paul Reuter Fund

The general purpose of the funds and foundation is to help finance the ICRC's humanitarian work.

### 3. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICY AND DISCLOSURES

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year except as outlined below.

- ▶ The four funds (Augusta Fund, Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, French Fund Maurice de Madre and Paul Reuter Fund) have been included in the 2008 consolidated financial statements, as this more accurately reflects their financial relationship with the ICRC. They had been disclosed as related parties in 2007 but this change had no material effect on the 2007 financial position or performance.

(in KCHF)

#### IFRS AND IFRIC INTERPRETATIONS

The ICRC adopted the following new and amended IFRS and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) interpretations during the year. Adoption of these revised standards and interpretations did not have any effect on the financial performance or position of the ICRC.

#### IFRIC 11 IFRS 2 GROUP AND TREASURY SHARE TRANSACTIONS

This interpretation requires arrangements whereby an employee is granted rights to an entity's equity instruments to be accounted for as an equity-settled scheme, even if the entity buys the instruments from another party, or the shareholders provide the equity instruments needed. As the ICRC does not issue equity instruments, the interpretation therefore had no impact on its financial position or performance.

#### IFRIC 12 SERVICE CONCESSION ARRANGEMENTS

This interpretation applies to service concession operators and explains how to account for the obligations undertaken and rights received in service concession arrangements. The ICRC is not an operator and therefore the interpretation had no impact on its financial position or performance.

#### IFRIC 14 IAS 19 THE LIMIT ON A DEFINED BENEFIT ASSET, MINIMUM FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND THEIR INTERACTION

This interpretation provides guidance on how to assess the limit on the amount of surplus in a defined benefit scheme that can be recognized as an asset under IAS 19 Employee Benefits. The ICRC expects this interpretation to have no impact on its financial position or performance, as the estimated minimum employer's funding contributions of the funded plan exceed the plan's net service cost.

## 4. FUTURE CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### AMENDMENTS TO IFRS 1 FIRST-TIME ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL REPORTING STANDARDS AND IAS 27

#### CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

These amendments were issued in May 2008 and become effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009.

The amendments to IFRS 1 relate to opening IFRS financial statements. The amendment to IAS 27 requires all dividends from a subsidiary, jointly controlled entity or associate to be recognized in the income statement in the separate financial statement. The amendments to the standards will have no impact on the consolidated financial statements of the ICRC.

#### IFRS 2 SHARE-BASED PAYMENT (REVISED)

The IASB issued an amendment to IFRS 2 in January 2008, which becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009. The amendment clarifies the definition of a vesting condition and prescribes the treatment for an award that is effectively cancelled. As the ICRC does not incur any share-based payments, the standard will have no impact.

#### IFRS 3R BUSINESS COMBINATIONS AND IAS 27R CONSOLIDATED AND SEPARATE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The revised standards were issued in January 2008 and become effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 July 2009. IFRS 3R introduces a number of changes in the accounting for business combinations occurring after this date that will have an impact on the amount of goodwill recognized, the reported results in the period that

an acquisition occurs, and future reported results. The amendments to the standards will have no impact on the financial position or performance of the ICRC, as the ICRC is not engaged in any acquisitions.

#### IFRS 8 OPERATING SEGMENTS

A revised version of IFRS 8 Operating Segments was issued in November 2006 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009. The standard requires identification of operating segments on the basis of internal reports that are regularly reviewed by the entity's financial decision-makers. Although the standard is not applicable, the ICRC is still evaluating the effect of this standard and whether it should nonetheless be applied, but expects that its adoption will have no impact on the organization's financial performance if implemented in 2009.

#### IAS 1 REVISED PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The revised standard was issued in September 2007 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009. The standard separates owner and non-owner changes in equity. The statement of changes in equity will include only details of transactions with owners, with non-owner changes in equity presented as a single line. In addition, the Standard introduces the statement of comprehensive income: it presents all items of recognized income and expense, either in one single statement, or in two linked statements. The ICRC is evaluating whether it will have one or two statements.

#### IAS 23 BORROWING COSTS

A revised version of IAS 23 Borrowing Costs was issued in March 2007 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009. The standard has been revised to require capitalization of borrowing costs when such costs relate to a qualifying asset. A qualifying asset is one that necessarily takes a substantial period of time to get ready for its intended use or sale. As the ICRC does not incur specific borrowing costs for such qualifying assets, the standard will have no impact.

### IAS 32 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: PRESENTATION AND IAS 1 PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – PUTTABLE

#### FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS ARISING ON LIQUIDATION

These amendments were issued in February 2008 and become effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009. The revisions provide a limited scope exception for puttable instruments to be classified as equity if they fulfil a number of specified features. The amendments to the standards will have no impact on the financial position or performance of the ICRC, as the ICRC has not issued such instruments.

#### IAS 39 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS: RECOGNITION AND MEASUREMENT – ELIGIBLE HEDGED ITEMS

These amendments to IAS 39 were issued in August 2008 and become effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 July 2009. The amendment addresses the designation of a one-sided risk in a hedged item, and the designation of inflation as a hedged risk or portion in particular situations. The ICRC has concluded that the amendment will have no impact on the financial position or performance of the ICRC, as the ICRC has not entered into any such hedges.

#### IMPROVEMENTS TO IFRSs

In May 2008 the Board issued amendments to its standards, primarily with a view to removing inconsistencies and clarifying wording. The ICRC will apply the appropriate amendments to the consolidated financial statements from 1 January 2009 onwards.

(in KCHF)

#### IFRIC 13 CUSTOMER LOYALTY PROGRAMMES

IFRIC Interpretation 13 was issued in June 2007 and becomes effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 July 2008. This interpretation requires customer loyalty award credits to be accounted for as a separate component of the sales transaction in which they are granted and therefore part of the fair value of the consideration received is allocated to the award credits and deferred over the period that the award credits are fulfilled. The ICRC operates no such scheme, and the interpretation will therefore have no impact on its financial statements.

#### IFRIC 15 AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF REAL ESTATE

IFRIC Interpretation 15 was issued in July 2008 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 January 2009. It clarifies when and how revenue and related expenses from the sale of a real estate unit should be recognized if an agreement between a developer and a buyer is reached before the construction of the real estate is completed. IFRIC 15 will not have an impact on the consolidated financial statement because the ICRC does not conduct such activity.

#### IFRIC 16 HEDGES OF A NET INVESTMENT IN A FOREIGN OPERATION

IFRIC Interpretation 16 was issued in July 2008 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 October 2008. IFRIC 16 provides guidance on the accounting for a hedge of a net investment. As the ICRC does not hold investments in foreign operations, the interpretation will have no impact on its financial statements.

#### IFRIC 17 DISTRIBUTIONS OF NON-CASH ASSETS TO OWNERS

IFRIC Interpretation 17 was issued in October 2008 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 July 2009. IFRIC 17 provides guidance on the treatment of distributing assets other than cash to owners. As the ICRC does not effectively have owners equity, the interpretation will have no impact on its financial statements.

#### IFRIC 18 TRANSFERS OF ASSETS FROM CUSTOMERS

IFRIC Interpretation 18 was issued in October 2008 and becomes effective for financial years beginning on or after 1 July 2009. IFRIC 18 provides guidance on how to treat the transfer of assets that provide access to utility networks. IFRIC 18 has no impact on the ICRC financial statements.

## 5. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires management to make judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities, and the disclosure of contingent liabilities, at the reporting date. However, uncertainty about these assumptions and estimates can result in outcomes that could require a material adjustment to the carrying amount of the asset or liability affected in the future.

### Judgements

In the process of applying the ICRC's accounting policies, management has made the following judgements, apart from those involving estimations, which have the most significant effect on the amounts recognized in the financial statements.

#### FUNDS

The ICRC has applied the Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC) Interpretation No.12 and assessed the relationship it has with certain funds. Taking into consideration the activities,

decision-making processes, benefits and related risks associated with the funds, the ICRC concluded that in substance the funds should be consolidated into the financial statements (see Note 3).

#### STOCK HELD ON BEHALF OF BENEFICIARIES

In various delegations certain inventories are held on behalf of beneficiaries for operational reasons and are recorded as expenses during the financial year. At year-end, management estimates whether the inventories will be consumed by the beneficiaries they were intended for; if the amounts are material and the recipient uncertain, then the goods are recorded as "inventory". Any re-distribution of goods expensed in previous years is recorded as "adjustments of operations" in Other income. (see Note 33)

### Estimates and assumptions

The key assumptions concerning the future and other crucial sources of estimation uncertainty at the balance sheet date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

#### IMPAIRMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

The ICRC assesses whether there are any indicators of impairment for all non-financial assets at each reporting date. Intangibles with indefinite life are tested for impairment annually and at other times when such indicators exist. Other non-financial assets are tested for impairment when there are indicators that the carrying amounts may not be recoverable. Further details are given in Note 12.

#### PENSION AND OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The ICRC operates three defined benefit pension plans; the pension plan, the early-retirement plan and the delegation employee end-of-service plan. The cost of the respective plans is determined using actuarial valuations. The actuarial valuations involve making assumptions about discount rates, expected rates of return on assets, future salary increases, mortality rates, employee rotation and future pension increases. Given the long-term nature of these plans, such estimates are subject to significant uncertainty. Further details are given in Note 21.

#### FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS

The ICRC incurs expenditure which may not be fully funded by contributions pledged or received at year-end, or receives contributions that are earmarked for future expenditure. At year-end, management estimates expected future funding to cover the expenditure incurred. Changes in estimates could result in the need to re-assess the relevant reserves in accordance with the policy set out in Note 24.

#### PROVISION FOR OPERATIONAL CLAIMS

As discussed in Note 19, legal proceedings covering a range of matters are pending or threatened in various jurisdictions against the ICRC. The organization records provisions for pending litigation when it determines that an unfavourable outcome is probable and the amount of losses can be reasonably estimated. Given the inherent uncertain nature of litigation, the ultimate outcome or actual cost of settlement may vary materially from estimates.

#### ALLOWANCES FOR DOUBTFUL ACCOUNTS

The ICRC maintains allowances for doubtful accounts in respect of estimated losses resulting from the inability of donors to make required payments. Additional allowances may be required in the



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future if the donors' financial situation were to deteriorate, resulting in an impairment of their ability to make payments. Management specifically analyses accounts receivable, historical trends and current economic trends when assessing the adequacy of the allowance for doubtful accounts (see Note 9).

#### INVENTORY-RELATED ALLOWANCES

The ICRC periodically reviews its inventory for excess, obsolescence and declines in market value below cost, and records an allowance against the inventory balance for any such declines. These reviews require management to estimate future demand for stock items. Possible changes in these estimates could result in revisions to the valuation of inventory in future periods (see Note 11).

## 6. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### 6.1 Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in currencies other than Swiss francs are converted into Swiss francs at rates which approximate the actual rates at the transaction date. At the balance sheet date, monetary assets (including securities) and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are converted into Swiss francs at the rate of exchange at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies that are stated at historical cost are translated at the foreign exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Realized and unrealized exchange differences are reported as income and expenditure.

The principal rates of exchange are shown below.

|     | Closing rate of exchange |        | Average rate of exchange |        |
|-----|--------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
|     | 2008                     | 2007   | 2008                     | 2007   |
| USD | 1.0555                   | 1.1270 | 1.0789                   | 1.2039 |
| EUR | 1.4885                   | 1.6570 | 1.5929                   | 1.6417 |
| GBP | 1.5266                   | 2.2495 | 2.0307                   | 2.4062 |

### 6.2 Cash and short-term deposits

The ICRC considers cash on hand, amounts due from banks and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less to be "cash and cash equivalents".

Bank borrowings that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the ICRC's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

### 6.3 Investments

Investments are recorded as financial assets at fair value through profit and loss and classified as current assets, with any resultant gains or losses recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. As the ICRC's securities are managed externally on a portfolio basis, all income from securities is disclosed net. Securities are recognized and de-recognized on the trade date that the portfolio manager, on behalf of the ICRC, commits to purchase or sell the investments.

The fair value of listed securities is their quoted bid price at the balance sheet date. Financial income consists principally of interest and net realized and unrealized gains on changes in fair value. Interest income is recognized on an accruals basis, taking into account the effective yield of the asset.

### 6.4 Accounts receivable

Receivables are stated at their cost net of an allowance on outstanding amounts to cover the risk on non-payment (see Note 9).

The main positions of the receivables are recognized for:

- ▶ *pledges*: at the moment of a written confirmation, except pledges falling due after five years, which are considered as contingent assets only and are not recognized owing to uncertainties associated with their receipt (see Note 37);
- ▶ *re-invoiced costs*: at the moment when (i) the service or basic expenditure is fulfilled or (ii) ownership of the asset is transferred.

The allowance is made based upon a specific review of all significant outstanding positions. For those positions not specifically reviewed, it is made at differing rates, using the age of the receivable and applying allowance rates based on past experience.

Accounts receivable after the date of the statement of financial position are discounted to estimate their present value at this same date.

### 6.5 Inventories

*Inventories held at the headquarters and at the principal regional distribution centre* in Nairobi are considered as uncommitted inventories and are recorded at cost. The cost of inventories includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition.

Expenditure is recognized at the moment such inventory is delivered or consumed; obsolete inventories are written off.

*Inventories held on behalf of beneficiaries at other locations* are considered as committed and are included in expenditure owing to the nature of ICRC operations.

The cost of inventories of perishable goods is based on the "first-expired first-out" principle.

The cost of other inventories is based on the "first-in first-out" principle, except where goods have been specifically earmarked, in which case they are used first and their costs therefore specifically identified.

### 6.6 Property, plant and equipment

Assets are measured at their historical costs and are capitalized (i) when they are used for the ICRC and (ii) when the following limits are reached for individual asset amounts:

- ▶ land and buildings all
- ▶ equipment and vehicles KCHF 10
- ▶ software KCHF 100<sup>1</sup>

(1) Licences for commercial software are considered as fully expensed during the year.

Contributed assets are accounted for using the same principles as for purchased assets (see Note 6.12).

#### SUBSEQUENT EXPENDITURE

Subsequent expenditure is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property and equipment.

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All other expenditure is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an expense as incurred.

#### DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is calculated on the “straight line” method so as to depreciate the initial cost over the item’s estimated useful life, which is as follows:

|                             | Useful life   |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Buildings – Switzerland     | 70 years      |
| Buildings – other countries | 3 to 10 years |
| Fixed installations         | 10 years      |
| Equipment and vehicles      | 5 to 8 years  |
| Hardware                    | 3 years       |

Land is not depreciated.

### 6.7 Intangible assets

Intangible assets acquired separately are measured on initial recognition at cost. Following initial recognition, intangible assets are carried at cost less any accumulated amortization and any accumulated impairment losses except for assets with indefinite useful lives (refer below). Internally generated intangible assets are not capitalized as the criteria of recognition under IAS 38.57 (f) cannot be reliably measured; expenditure is therefore reflected in income and expenditure in the year in which the expenditure is incurred.

The useful lives of intangible assets are assessed to be either finite or indefinite.

*Intangible assets with finite useful lives* are amortized over the useful economic life and assessed for impairment whenever there is an indication that the intangible asset may be impaired. The amortization period and the amortization method for an intangible asset with a finite useful life are reviewed at least at each financial year-end. Changes in the expected useful life or the expected pattern of consumption of future economic benefits embodied in the asset are accounted for by changing the amortization period or method, as appropriate, and are treated as changes in accounting estimates. The amortization expense on intangible assets with finite lives is recognized in income and expenditure as a depreciation expense.

The useful life for software is five years.

*Intangible assets with indefinite useful lives* are tested for impairment annually. Such intangibles are not amortized. The useful life of an intangible asset with an indefinite life is reviewed annually to determine whether indefinite life assessment continues to be supportable. If not, the change in the useful life assessment from indefinite to finite is made on a prospective basis.

The ICRC has obtained licences for the red crystal emblem which have been granted for a period of 10 years by the relevant government agencies, with the option to renew at the end of this period. Those licences are consequently assessed as having an indefinite useful life.

### 6.8 Impairment of assets

The carrying amounts of the ICRC’s assets are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any indication exists, the asset’s recoverable amount is estimated (see Notes 12 and 13).

An impairment loss is then recognized whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as “General expenditure”. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the asset’s carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized.

### 6.9 Provisions

A provision is recognized in the balance sheet when the ICRC has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of assets will be required to settle the obligation, and the obligation can be measured reliably.

If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flow so as to reflect current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

### 6.10 Financial liabilities

Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing loans are stated at amortized cost with any difference between cost and redemption value being recognized in the statement of income and expenditure over the period of the loan on an effective interest basis.

### 6.11 Reserves

Reserves are classified as either restricted or unrestricted reserves.

#### a) Restricted reserves

These represent expenditures in the field which have not been financed by contributions or the cumulative excess of income from earmarked voluntary contributions over expenditure on stipulated field operations. Restricted reserves include the following:

#### FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS

##### *Field operations with temporary deficit financing*

This position relates to expenditures in the field which have not been financed by contributions received or pledged at 31 December 2008.

##### *Donors’ restricted contributions*

Some contributions received by the ICRC are earmarked for specific usage. At the end of the financial year, any such funds which have not yet been spent are recorded under this heading. In cases where the funds cannot be used, the ICRC either obtains agreement for a reallocation of those funds for a different usage or reimburses them to the donor, in which case they are recognized as liability before the effective payment takes place.

#### b) Unrestricted reserves

These are not subject to any legal or third-party restriction and can be applied as the ICRC Assembly sees fit. Unrestricted reserves may be designated for specific purposes to meet future obligations or risks.

#### RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE ASSEMBLY

##### *Future operations reserves*

This position contains the reserves for operational funding. The ideal amount of these reserves is estimated at two and a half months of the headquarters and field operational cash, kind and service expenditure over the last five years (see Note 25).

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#### *Operational risks reserves*

This concerns reserves relating to insurance coverage and to potential litigation.

#### *Assets reserves*

The ICRC sets aside funds for capital expenditure on real estate and equipment, in order to be able to make investments that are essential for its operations regardless of short-term financial fluctuations.

#### *Financial risks reserves*

This covers the risks of exchange rate variations and price fluctuations in securities.

#### *Human resources reserves*

These reserves are set aside to cover future payments to management and staff under agreements for early retirement.

#### *Specific projects reserves*

Allocations for specific projects to be undertaken are made in anticipation of the events taking place, such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and studies concerning the red cross emblem.

#### OTHER UNRESTRICTED RESERVES

##### *General reserves*

These reserves are the accumulation of excess funds set aside with no specific reservation or restriction.

##### *Retained surplus at beginning of year*

These reserves are the balance of surplus income from previous years that is not allocated to any specific reserves.

## 6.12 Income

### CONTRIBUTIONS

*Contributions in cash* are recognized on receipt of a written confirmation of donation from the donors, except revenue relating to future years, which is recorded on the balance sheet as deferred income. If the receivable is greater than five years, it is not recognized as deferred income but is disclosed in the financial statements as a contingent asset (see Note 37).

*Contributions* that are based on contracts for specific projects (e.g. European Union, USAID, projects delegated to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) are recognized as the expenditure is incurred.

The following contributions are recognized upon receipt of the cash:

- ▶ contributions from private sources, associations and companies
- ▶ legacies
- ▶ gifts

*Contributions in kind* (goods or interest) and *in services* (in the form of staff, means of transport or rent) are recognized on the date of receipt of the goods or service and are reported as equal contributions and expenses in the income and expenditure statement.

*Contributions in kind for fixed assets* are recorded at fair value under "Other income". Depreciation of such assets is included in operational expenditure in the same manner as for purchased fixed assets.

The *value of contributions in kind* is determined by the donor's indication of the value of the goods, including the cost of transport to the final destination. The fair value may not be exceeded.

The *value of service contributions* in the form of staff is estimated by determining the real cost that would have been incurred had the contribution not been made. In the case of staff seconded to the ICRC, the estimated value consists of the salary plus the social security and insurance contributions paid by the ICRC for the position concerned. From this value, all personnel costs paid by the ICRC directly to the persons concerned or their employer have been deducted to give the value of service recorded.

### EARMARKING

Cash contributions restricted by donors for no other than for general ICRC field operations are considered as *non-earmarked*.

Cash contributions to a given region, country or programme (worldwide) are seen as *loosely earmarked*.

Contributions (in cash or in kind) to the programme or sub-programme of a country or project are *tightly earmarked*.

The table below shows the overall framework for the earmarking of cash contributions for the field budgets.

| Level of earmarking | Range/restrictions                                     | Example  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| None                | overall ICRC field budget                              | ICRC operations worldwide                          |
| Region              | one of the four regions                                | ICRC operations in Africa                          |
| Programme           | one of the four programmes                             | ICRC prevention activities worldwide               |
| Programme/region    | one of the four programmes for one of the four regions | ICRC protection activities in Asia and the Pacific |
| Operation           | one of the worldwide delegations                       | ICRC activities in Colombia                        |

Donors' restricted contributions that exceed specific expenditure within the accounting year are carried forward to the following year (see Note 6.11).

In cases where the ICRC is overfinanced because of earmarked contributions for a specific operation, the donor is asked if the contribution can be allocated to another operation or be carried forward to the following year. In case of overfinancing, the donor may also ask for a reimbursement of the donation.

## 6.13 Financial income and expenditure

Net financial income (see Note 32) comprises interest payable on borrowings, interest receivable on funds invested, securities income, foreign exchange gains and losses, and gains and losses on hedging instruments.

Interest income is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the asset.

## 6.14 Pensions and other post-employment benefits

The ICRC operates three post-employment defined benefit plans and one defined contribution plan, all of which are administered separately. The cost of providing benefits under the defined benefit plans is determined separately for each plan using the projected unit credit actuarial valuation method.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognized as income or expense when the net cumulative unrecognized actuarial gains and losses

(in KCHF)

for each individual plan at the end of the previous reporting period exceeded 10% of the higher of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of plan assets at that date. These gains or losses are recognized over the expected average remaining working lives of the employees participating in the plans.

The past service cost is recognized as an expense on a "straight line" basis over the average period until the benefits become vested. If the benefits are already vested immediately following the introduction of, or changes to, a pension plan, past service cost is recognized immediately.

The defined benefit asset or liability comprises the present value of the defined benefit obligation less past service cost not yet recognized and less the fair value of plan assets out of which the obligations are to be settled directly less any unrecognized net actuarial losses plus gains. The value of any asset is restricted to the sum of any past service cost not yet recognized and the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in the future contributions to the plan and any unrecognized actuarial losses.

#### a) The pension plan

The defined benefit pension plan covers all headquarters contracted staff. Pension obligations are met by an independent fund which is held in a single, separate legal entity governed by Swiss law and can neither be withdrawn or used as collateral by the employer. This independent fund is funded through payments as determined by periodic actuarial calculations in accordance with Swiss law. The assets of the funds are managed as one within the separate legal entity.

#### b) The early-retirement plan

The ICRC has a plan that offers all staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva the possibility to take early retirement at 57 instead of 62. Future financial commitments arising from early retirement benefits are borne by the ICRC. The plan covers the period from the date of the ICRC retirement up to the date of Swiss legal retirement for those employees who have accepted early retirement and presently benefit from it. The plan is unfunded but allocations made towards the cost of future early retirements are included in the human resources reserves.

#### c) The delegation employee end-of-service plan

The ICRC has agreed to provide post-employment benefits to delegation employees in accordance with the legislation of the countries concerned and the local collective staff agreements. The benefits are based on one month of compensation for every year of service up to a maximum of 12 months, except in countries where local legislation requires otherwise. The present value of future financial commitments due for end-of-service indemnities (e.g. end of employment, retirement, severance pay) are borne by the ICRC. The plan is unfunded and therefore the fair value of plan assets is nil. As there is only a lump sum benefit at the end of service, there are no pensioners.

#### d) Avenir Foundation

The Avenir Foundation was established for the benefit of staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva under an open-ended contract. Its purpose is to facilitate ongoing training, to facilitate career moves and to improve retirement benefits. The ICRC pays fixed contributions determined by the duration of employment into individual staff accounts with the Foundation.

### 6.15 Expenditure

#### OPERATING LEASE PAYMENTS

Payments made under operating leases are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure on a "straight line" basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an integral part of the total lease payments made.

### 6.16 Contingent assets

The ICRC views pledges falling due after five years as probably being receivable; given its operating environment, however, receipt is not virtually certain as defined in IAS 37. Consequently, management has considered these receivables as contingent assets and they have not been accounted for in the balance sheet as at 31 December 2008 (see Note 37).

### 6.17 Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability is a possible obligation that arises from past events and whose existence will be confirmed only on the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events that are not wholly within the control of the ICRC. It may also be a present obligation that arises from past events but in respect of which an outflow of economic benefit is not probable or which cannot be measured with sufficient reliability. Such contingent liabilities are recorded under Note 38.

### 6.18 Derivative financial instruments

The ICRC uses derivative financial instruments such as forward currency contracts to hedge the risks associated with foreign currency fluctuations. Such derivative financial instruments are initially recognized at fair value on the date on which a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at fair value. Derivatives are carried as assets when the fair value is positive and as liabilities when the fair value is negative.

Any gains or losses arising from changes in fair value on derivatives during the year that do not qualify for hedge accounting are taken directly to profit or loss.

The fair value of forward currency contracts is calculated by reference to current forward exchange rates for contracts with similar maturity profiles.

### 6.19 Restatements and reclassifications

The consolidation of the four funds (Augusta Fund, Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, French Fund Maurice de Madre and Paul Reuter Fund) has required an addition to the opening balance of the "Consolidated statement of changes in reserves" of KCHF 5,771 and investments (see Note 8). The changes are not material.

(in KCHF)

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS PROVIDE A BREAKDOWN OF THE MAIN ITEMS ON THE BALANCE SHEET, THE STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT AND THE STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES.

## 7. CASH AND SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS

| (in KCHF)                           | 2008           | 2007           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash at banks and on hand           | 57,235         | 97,238         |
| Short-term deposits                 | 286,758        | 231,425        |
| <b>Cash and short-term deposits</b> | <b>343,993</b> | <b>328,663</b> |

Cash at banks earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Short-term deposits are made for varying periods of between one day and three months, depending on the immediate cash requirements of the ICRC, and earn interest at the respective short-term deposit rates.

At 31 December 2008, the ICRC had available KCHF 85,000 (2007: KCHF 85,000) of undrawn committed borrowing facilities in respect of which all prior conditions had been met.

For the purpose of the consolidated cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprised the following at 31 December:

| (in KCHF)                        | 2008           | 2007           |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash at banks and on hand        | 57,235         | 97,238         |
| Short-term deposits              | 286,758        | 231,425        |
| Bank overdrafts                  | -894           | -905           |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents</b> | <b>343,099</b> | <b>327,758</b> |

## 8. INVESTMENTS

| (in KCHF)                  | 2008          | 2007          |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Debt and equity securities | 61,858        | 65,960        |
| Deposits                   | 2,855         | 3,354         |
| <b>Total investments</b>   | <b>64,713</b> | <b>69,314</b> |

Deposits included in investments have an original maturity of over three months.

## 9. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

| (in KCHF)   | 2008           | 2007           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Pledges (see also Note 37)  | 112,237        | 159,420        |
| Re-invoiced costs commercial  | 1,275          | 1,047          |
| National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds | 1,100          | 1,438          |
| Withholding taxes   | 3,999          | 3,542          |
| Other income receivable   | 1,138          | 1,800          |
| Allowance for accounts receivable   | -860           | -1,200         |
| <b>Total accounts receivable</b>  | <b>118,889</b> | <b>166,047</b> |

There are no standard payment terms for pledges as payment terms are defined in each donor contract.

Re-invoiced costs commercial, National Societies, and foundation and funds are based on 60-day credit terms.

Withholding taxes are receivable with varying time delays due to the respective recovery processes in the countries in which the amounts have been claimed.

Interest income on short-term deposits is due within three months of the balance sheet date.

The nominal value of pledges in foreign currencies has been revalued as at 31 December 2008 with the following unrealized gains or (losses).

|       | 2008    | 2007   |
|-------|---------|--------|
| USD   | -138    | -2,162 |
| EUR   | -4,851  | 521    |
| GBP   | -26,426 | -5,470 |
| Other | -998    | 62     |



(in KCHF)

As at 31 December, the ageing analysis of trade receivable is as follows:

| (in KCHF) | Neither past due nor impaired |         | Past due but not impaired |            |            |             |            |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
|           | Total                         |         | < 30 days                 | 31–60 days | 61–90 days | 91–120 days | > 120 days |
| 2007      | 161,905                       | 157,933 | 50                        | 48         | 11         | 39          | 3,824      |
| 2008      | 114,613                       | 113,328 | 227                       | 21         | 67         | 25          | 945        |

Movements in the provision for individual impairment of receivables were as follows:

| (in KCHF)           | Total |
|---------------------|-------|
| At 1 January 2007   | 2,600 |
| Charge for the year | -785  |
| Utilized            | -615  |
| At 31 December 2007 | 1,200 |
| Charge for the year | 19    |
| Utilized            | -359  |
| At 31 December 2008 | 860   |

## 11. INVENTORIES

| (in KCHF)                             | 2008          | 2007          |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Breakdown by category of goods</b> |               |               |
| Relief                                | 9,182         | 14,515        |
| Medical and physical rehabilitation   | 15,266        | 13,853        |
| Water and habitat                     | 3,448         | 2,852         |
| Other                                 | 4,981         | 5,162         |
| Allowance for inventory               | -361          | -243          |
| <b>Total inventories</b>              | <b>32,516</b> | <b>36,139</b> |

## 10. PREPAYMENTS

| (in KCHF)                                   | 2008          | 2007         |
|---|---------------|--------------|
| Prepaid expenses                            | 8,357         | 6,364        |
| Social security and insurance contributions | 263           | 207          |
| Advance payments to suppliers               | 90            | 131          |
| Advance payments to employees               | 3,511         | 3,181        |
| <b>Total prepayments</b>                    | <b>12,221</b> | <b>9,883</b> |

All inventories comprise finished goods. Stock recorded in inventory and held on behalf of beneficiaries amounts to KCHF nil (2007: KCHF 10,853). Inventory written off and charged to expenses is KCHF 543 (2007: KCHF 189).

(in KCHF)

**12. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT**

| (in KCHF)   | Land and buildings | Equipment and vehicles | Total 2008 property and equipment |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Historical acquisition costs</b>                   |                    |                        |                                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2008                             | 91,260             | 112,248                | 203,508                           |
| Additions   | 16,883             | 18,972                 | 35,855                            |
| Disposals   |                    | -12,387                | -12,387                           |
| Balance at 31 December 2008                           | 108,143            | 118,833                | 226,976                           |
| <b>Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments</b> |                    |                        |                                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2008                             | -34,228            | -74,462                | -108,690                          |
| Depreciation charge for the year                      | -3,132             | -13,687                | -16,819                           |
| Disposals   | -                  | 11,667                 | 11,667                            |
| Balance at 31 December 2008                           | -37,360            | -76,482                | -113,842                          |
| Net book value as at 31 December 2008                 | 70,783             | 42,351                 | 113,134                           |

| (in KCHF)   | Land and buildings | Equipment and vehicles | Total 2007 property and equipment |
|---|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Historical acquisition costs</b>                   |                    |                        |                                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2007                             | 85,651             | 122,323                | 207,974                           |
| Additions   | 5,609              | 10,330                 | 15,939                            |
| Disposals   | -                  | -20,405                | -20,405                           |
| Balance at 31 December 2007                           | 91,260             | 112,248                | 203,508                           |
| <b>Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments</b> |                    |                        |                                   |
| Balance at 1 January 2007                             | -31,598            | -79,516                | -111,114                          |
| Depreciation charge for the year                      | -2,630             | -14,712                | -17,342                           |
| Disposals   | -                  | 19,766                 | 19,766                            |
| Balance at 31 December 2007                           | -34,228            | -74,462                | -108,690                          |
| Net book value as at 31 December 2007                 | 57,032             | 37,786                 | 94,818                            |

**a) Work in progress**

At 31 December 2008, assets include work in progress comprising KCHF 13,463 for construction and renovation of buildings (2007: KCHF 4,591) and KCHF 2,081 for equipment (2007: KCHF 824).

**b) Impairment losses**

An assessment of the value attributed to assets caused the ICRC to write down the carrying amount by KCHF nil (2007: KCHF nil).

**c) Finance leases**

Net equipment held under finance leases amounted to KCHF nil at 31 December 2008 (2007: KCHF 360).

**d) Security: mortgage on property**

As at 31 December 2008, the headquarters building No.3 is subject to two mortgage notes of KCHF 7,050 each to secure the interest-bearing mortgage loan (see Note 17).

**e) Insurance value**

The buildings owned and utilized by the ICRC have a total insurance cover of KCHF 123,279 (2007: KCHF 120,245). The buildings owned by the ICRC have an insurance value of KCHF 81,580 (2007: KCHF 80,128).

(in KCHF)

### 13. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

| (in KCHF)   | Software | Red crystal emblem | Total 2008 Intangibles |
|---|----------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Historical acquisition costs</b>                   |          |                    |                        |
| Balance at 1 January 2008                             | 35,583   | 354                | 35,937                 |
| Additions   | 5,072    | 51                 | 5,123                  |
| Disposals   | -4,092   | -                  | -4,092                 |
| Balance at 31 December 2008                           | 36,563   | 405                | 36,968                 |
| <b>Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments</b> |          |                    |                        |
| Balance at 1 January 2008                             | -24,468  | -                  | -24,468                |
| Depreciation charge for the year                      | -2,615   | -                  | -2,615                 |
| Disposals   | 4,092    | -                  | 4,092                  |
| Balance at 31 December 2008                           | -22,991  | -                  | -22,991                |
| Net book value as at 31 December 2008                 | 13,572   | 405                | 13,977                 |

| (in KCHF)   | Software | Red crystal emblem | Total 2007 Intangibles |
|---|----------|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Historical acquisition costs</b>                   |          |                    |                        |
| Balance at 1 January 2007                             | 31,120   | -                  | 31,120                 |
| Additions   | 4,463    | 354                | 4,817                  |
| Disposals   | -        | -                  | -                      |
| Balance at 31 December 2007                           | 35,583   | 354                | 35,937                 |
| <b>Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments</b> |          |                    |                        |
| Balance at 1 January 2007                             | -22,474  | -                  | -22,474                |
| Depreciation charge for the year                      | -1,691   | -                  | -1,691                 |
| Disposals   | -303     | -                  | -303                   |
| Balance at 31 December 2007                           | -24,468  | -                  | -24,468                |
| Net book value as at 31 December 2007                 | 11,115   | 354                | 11,469                 |

The computer software was purchased from third parties and has a finite life.

#### a) Work in progress

At 31 December 2008, intangible assets include work in progress comprising KCHF 5,392 for software in development acquired externally (2007: KCHF 7,026).

#### b) Impairment, useful life

The carrying amount of the intangible assets was tested for impairment with no subsequent adjustment required for 2008 (2007: KCHF nil). The useful life of "intangible assets with indefinite life" was reviewed and no adjustment required.

### 14. LONG-TERM RECEIVABLES

Accounts receivable schedule

| (in KCHF)                   | 2008   | 2007   |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|
| Deferred income             | 37,987 | 72,612 |
| Total long-term receivables | 37,987 | 72,612 |

| (in KCHF)       | One year | 2–5 years |
|-----------------|----------|-----------|
| Deferred income | 55,172   | 37,987    |

### 15. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

| (in KCHF)          | 2008  | 2007  |
|--------------------|-------|-------|
| Guarantee deposits | 1,480 | 1,418 |
| Financial assets   | -     | 5     |
| Total other assets | 1,480 | 1,423 |

(in KCHF)

**16. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

| (in KCHF)   | 2008          | 2007          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Governments   | -             | 15            |
| National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds | 577           | 1,394         |
| Suppliers   | 7,953         | 12,070        |
| Social security and insurance contributions   | 23,755        | 22,039        |
| Salaries due to employees   | 1,681         | 2,280         |
| Sundry items  | 2,513         | 112           |
| <b>Total accounts payable</b>   | <b>36,479</b> | <b>37,910</b> |

Terms and conditions of the above financial liabilities:

- ▶ governments, National Societies, organizations, foundations, funds, suppliers, social security and insurance contributions are non-interest bearing and are normally settled on 30-day terms
- ▶ salaries due to employees are paid on demand
- ▶ sundry items are non-interest bearing and have an average term of six months

**17. INTEREST-BEARING LOANS AND BORROWINGS**

| <b>Current (in KCHF)</b>                             | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>   |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Bank overdrafts                                      | 894           | 905           |
| Interest-bearing loan                                | 10,000        | 10,000        |
| Current portion of non-current financial liabilities | 209           | 568           |
| <b>Total current financial liabilities</b>           | <b>11,103</b> | <b>11,473</b> |

The interest-bearing loan of KCHF 10,000 (2007: KCHF 10,000) has been contracted until 30 June 2016 but repayment can be demanded with six months' notice; the loan has therefore been classified as current. It is secured by a mortgage on a building at the headquarters in Geneva (see Note 12(d)). The interest rate is 3.35% and the interest amounted to KCHF 335 in 2008 (2007: KCHF 335).

| <b>Non-current (in KCHF)</b>                   | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2007</b>  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Loans</b>                                   |              |              |
| Unsecured loan                                 | 8,341        | 8,549        |
| <b>Financial Leases</b>                        |              |              |
| Lease obligation                               | -            | 360          |
| <b>Total loans and financial leases</b>        | <b>8,341</b> | <b>8,909</b> |
| Current portion                                | -209         | -568         |
| <b>Total non-current financial liabilities</b> | <b>8,132</b> | <b>8,341</b> |

| <b>Terms and loan repayment schedule</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>within 1 year</b> | <b>2-5 years</b> | <b>more than 5 years</b> |
|--|--------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Unsecured loan                           |              |                      |                  |                          |
| KCHF – granted at 0%                     | 8,341        | 208                  | 835              | 7,298                    |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>8,341</b> | <b>208</b>           | <b>835</b>       | <b>7,298</b>             |

The unsecured loan (initially KCHF 9,800) is interest free, reimbursable over 47 years and was granted for the training centre in Ecogia-Geneva, Switzerland. Notional interest for a contributed service of KCHF 277 (2007: KCHF 265) has been recorded as expenditure and as income at 3.24% (2007: 3.03%).

The fair value of non-current financial liabilities amounts to KCHF 5,080 (2007: KCHF 4,565).

**18. OTHER FINANCIAL LIABILITIES**

| (in KCHF)                                | 2008     | 2007      |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Forward currency contracts (see Note 36) | 4        | 26        |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>4</b> | <b>26</b> |

**19. PROVISIONS**

| <b>Current provisions for specific risks (in KCHF)</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Balance at 1 January                                   | 435         | 642         |
| Allocations during the year                            | 667         | 435         |
| Use of provisions during the year                      | -435        | -642        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>667</b>  | <b>435</b>  |

The balance represents operational claims on the ICRC not yet settled.

**Non-current provisions**

In 2008, there were no long-term provisions (2007: nil).

**20. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES**

| <b>Current employee benefit liabilities (in KCHF)</b> | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Staff vacation accruals                               | 25,958        | 22,547        |
| <b>Total current employee benefit liabilities</b>     | <b>25,958</b> | <b>22,547</b> |

**21. PENSION AND OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT PLANS**

| (in KCHF)   | 2008          | 2007          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Early retirement                                      | 16,691        | 10,711        |
| End-of-service benefits                               | 35,879        | 33,236        |
| <b>Total non-current employee benefit liabilities</b> | <b>52,570</b> | <b>43,947</b> |

The ICRC operates three defined benefit pension plans and a defined contribution plan: a pension plan for all headquarters contracted staff, an early-retirement plan that offers all staff the possibility to take early retirement at 57 instead of 62, an end-of-service plan for delegation employees and a plan to facilitate training, promote career moves and improve retirement benefits.

The tables on the next page summarize the components of net benefit expense recognized in the income statement and the funded status and amounts recognized in the balance sheet for the respective plans.

(in KCHF)

| Components of pension expense<br>(in KCHF)         | Pension       | Early<br>retirement | End-of-<br>service | 2008<br>Total | 2007<br>Total |
|--|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Current service cost                               | 21,218        | 3,202               | 5,389              | 29,809        | 32,276        |
| Interest cost                                      | 26,391        | 338                 | 1,231              | 27,960        | 22,481        |
| Expected return on plan assets                     | -40,682       | -                   | -                  | -40,682       | -40,725       |
| Actuarial (gain)/loss recognized in current year   | 99,099        | -                   | -                  | 99,099        | -44,886       |
| Change in excess funding not capitalized           | -72,433       | -                   | -                  | -72,433       | 72,432        |
| Expense for pension plan                           | -             | -                   | -                  | -             | -             |
| <b>Expenses recognized in the income statement</b> | <b>33,593</b> | <b>3,540</b>        | <b>6,620</b>       | <b>43,753</b> | <b>41,578</b> |

| Changes in the funded status during the year<br>(including unfunded plans) (in KCHF) | Pension        | Early<br>retirement | End-of-<br>service | 2008<br>Total  | 2007<br>Total  |
|--|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Funded status 1 January  | -72,432        | 10,711              | 33,236             | -28,485        | 37,773         |
| Current service cost   | 21,218         | 3,202               | 5,389              | 29,809         | 32,276         |
| Interest cost  | 26,391         | 338                 | 1,231              | 27,960         | 22,481         |
| Allocation from reserves   | -              | 4,282               | -                  | 4,282          | 3,455          |
| Expected return on plan assets   | -40,682        | -                   | -                  | -40,682        | -40,725        |
| Employer's contributions   | -33,593        | -                   | -                  | -33,593        | -32,398        |
| Benefits paid (unfunded plans only)  | -              | -1,842              | -4,909             | -6,751         | -6,461         |
| Experience (gain)/loss on plan assets  | 199,986        | -                   | -                  | 199,986        | 38,302         |
| Experience (gain)/loss on obligation   | 36,725         | -                   | 932                | 37,657         | -16,057        |
| Liability (gain)/loss due to assumption changes                                      | 18,442         | -                   | -                  | 18,442         | -67,131        |
| <b>Funded status as at 31 December</b>   | <b>156,055</b> | <b>16,691</b>       | <b>35,879</b>      | <b>208,625</b> | <b>-28,485</b> |
| Benefits paid (funded plans only)  | 33,224         | -                   | -                  | 33,224         | 35,624         |
| Employees' contributions   | 16,968         | -                   | -                  | 16,968         | 16,199         |

The ICRC expects to contribute KCHF 34,432 (2007: KCHF 42,000) to its defined benefit pension plan, and KCHF 5,105 to the end-of-service plan in 2009.

The overall expected rate of return on assets is determined on the basis of the market expectations prevailing on that date, applicable to the period over which the obligation is to be settled.

| Amounts recognized in the balance<br>sheet are determined as follows: (in KCHF) | Pension  | Early<br>retirement | End-of-<br>service | 2008<br>Total | 2007<br>Total |
|---|----------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Present value of obligations  | 854,122  | 16,691              | 35,879             | 906,692       | 811,549       |
| Fair value of plan assets   | -698,068 | -                   | -                  | -698,068      | -840,034      |
| Unrecognized actuarial gains (losses)   | -156,054 | -                   | -                  | -156,054      | -             |
| IAS 19.58b limitation   | -        | -                   | -                  | -             | 72,432        |
| <b>Liability (asset) recognized in balance sheet</b>                            | <b>0</b> | <b>16,691</b>       | <b>35,879</b>      | <b>52,570</b> | <b>43,947</b> |

| The percentage of total pension plan assets invested in each major asset category<br>at 31 December was: | 2008<br>%    | 2007<br>%    |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Equity securities  | 35.6         | 42.4         |
| Bonds  | 40.3         | 39.0         |
| Real estate  | 17.9         | 15.6         |
| Other  | 6.2          | 3.0          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>100.0</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

| Actual return on plan assets<br>(in KCHF) | Pension         | Early<br>retirement | End-of-<br>service | 2008<br>Total   | 2007<br>Total |
|---|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Expected return on plan assets            | 40,682          | -                   | -                  | 40,682          | 40,725        |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) on plan assets      | -199,986        | -                   | -                  | -199,986        | -38,302       |
| <b>Actual return on plan assets</b>       | <b>-159,304</b> | <b>-</b>            | <b>-</b>           | <b>-159,304</b> | <b>2,423</b>  |



(in KCHF)

| The principal actuarial assumptions used were as follows: | Pension | Early retirement | End-of-service |
|---|---------|------------------|----------------|
| Discount rate   | 3.30 %  | 1.54 %           | 4.0 %          |
| Expected return on plan assets                            | 4.90 %  | -                | -              |
| Future salary increase                                    | 2.50 %  |                  | 4.0 %          |
| Future pension increase                                   | 0.00 %  | 1.07 %           | -              |
| Employee rotation   | 21.0 %  | -                | -              |

End-of-service plan: These rates have been expressed as a range that reflects the various material financial environments (countries) for which the obligation has been calculated. Rates for mortality, disability, normal retirement and withdrawal vary depending on each country and the nature of ICRC operations. These variations do not have a material impact on the calculations.

Avenir Foundation: In 2008, contributions to the Avenir Foundation amounted to KCHF 10,013 (2007: KCHF 9,716), and the Foundation paid out KCHF 6,584 (2007: KCHF 4,946) for training purposes, professional integration outside the ICRC and early retirement.

## 22. ACCRUED EXPENSES AND DEFERRED INCOME

| (in KCHF)   | 2008          | 2007           |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Accrued expenses  | 20,106        | 12,842         |
| National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds | 364           | 470            |
| Deferred income   | 64,471        | 126,591        |
| <b>Total accrued expenses and deferred income</b>                                   | <b>84,941</b> | <b>139,903</b> |
| <b>Non-current deferred income (in KCHF)</b>  | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>    |
| Deferred income   | 38,197        | 72,927         |
| <b>Total non-current deferred income</b>  | <b>38,197</b> | <b>72,927</b>  |

## 23. FUNDS AND FOUNDATIONS

The following balances have been included in the consolidated financial statements from the funds and foundations.

| (in KCHF)  | 2008   | 2007   |
|--|--------|--------|
| Cash and bank accounts                           | 4,368  | 1,872  |
| Securities                                       | 23,898 | 19,225 |
| Accounts receivable and accrued interest         | 371    | 1,669  |
| Deferred income                                  | 4,572  | 4,230  |
| Contributions                                    | 7,851  | 6,503  |
| Operational expenditure                          | 5,090  | 4,649  |
| Financial income (net securities gains/(losses)) | -2,188 | 193    |
| Other expenditure                                | 361    | 78     |

## 24. FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS

### a) Field operations with temporary deficit financing

| (in KCHF)                  | 2008          | 2007           |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Loosely earmarked balances | -1,495        | -32,843        |
| Tightly earmarked balances | -             | -              |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>-1,495</b> | <b>-32,843</b> |

Field operations are classified as “deficit financing” as soon as contributions do not cover expenditure.

### b) Donors' restricted contributions

| (in KCHF)                                | 2008          | 2007          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Loosely earmarked balances               | 17,268        | 35,593        |
| Tightly earmarked balances               | 932           | 2,636         |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>18,200</b> | <b>38,229</b> |
| <b>Total funding of field operations</b> | <b>16,705</b> | <b>5,386</b>  |

In 2008, there was no reimbursement of contributions received in previous years (2007: nil).

(in KCHF)

**25. RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE ASSEMBLY**

| (in KCHF)                      | Future operations | Operational risks | Assets replacement | Financial risks | Human resources | Specific projects | Total   |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|
| Balance as at 31 December 2006 | 169,990           | 27,036            | 138,353            | 15,294          | 11,205          | 2,140             | 364,018 |
| Use/release during 2007        |                   | -1,188            | -338               | -6,367          | -10,980         | -1,398            | -20,271 |
| Allocations 2007               | 21,302            | 3,654             | 21,937             | 5,936           | 8,555           | 1,007             | 62,391  |
| Balance as at 31 December 2007 | 191,292           | 29,502            | 159,952            | 14,863          | 8,780           | 1,749             | 406,138 |
| Use/release during 2008        | -                 | -1,108            | -1,572             | -31,031         | -5,291          | -448              | -39,450 |
| Allocations 2008               | -                 | 2,080             | 4,548              | 32,883          | 15,725          | 779               | 56,015  |
| Balance as at 31 December 2008 | 191,292           | 30,474            | 162,928            | 16,715          | 19,214          | 2,080             | 422,703 |

The future operations reserve is intended for situations with insufficient operational funding, which is estimated at an average of 2.5 months of expenditure in cash, kind and services (including overheads) over the previous five years, including both at head-quarters and in the field. The theoretical level is KCHF 206,259 (in 2007: KCHF 195,032).

**26. OTHER UNRESTRICTED RESERVES**

| (in KCHF)                             | 2008          | 2007          |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| General reserves                      | 12,500        | 12,500        |
| Retained surplus at beginning of year | 1,900         | 1,900         |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>14,400</b> | <b>14,400</b> |

See also Note 6.11 (b).

**27. CONTRIBUTIONS**

| (in KCHF)                   | 2008             | 2007             |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Governments                 | 916,638          | 805,043          |
| European Commission         | 129,147          | 111,283          |
| International organizations | 4,131            | 2,051            |
| Supranational organizations | 60               | 500              |
| National Societies          | 52,985           | 61,306           |
| Public sources              | 7,697            | 4,735            |
| Private sources             | 35,845           | 22,408           |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>1,146,503</b> | <b>1,007,326</b> |

(in KCHF)

## 28. OPERATING EXPENDITURE BY CASH, KIND AND SERVICES

| Operating expenditure (in KCHF) | Cash            | Kind          | Services       | Total 2008      | Total 2007      |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Field</b>                    |                 |               |                |                 |                 |
| Staff-related costs             | -355,618        |               | -11,070        | -366,688        | -354,619        |
| Mission costs                   | -51,414         |               |                | -51,414         | -48,593         |
| Rentals                         | -108,458        |               | -184           | -108,642        | -88,038         |
| Subcontracted maintenance       | -36,840         |               |                | -36,840         | -31,959         |
| Purchase of goods and materials | -285,129        | -9,005        |                | -294,134        | -198,383        |
| General expenditure             | -63,470         |               |                | -63,470         | -57,274         |
| Depreciation                    | -14,112         |               |                | -14,112         | -14,637         |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>-915,041</b> | <b>-9,005</b> | <b>-11,254</b> | <b>-935,300</b> | <b>-793,503</b> |

| Operating expenditure (in KCHF)     | Cash              | Kind          | Services       | Total 2008        | Total 2007      |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Headquarters</b>                 |                   |               |                |                   |                 |
| Staff-related costs                 | -121,881          |               | -271           | -122,152          | -116,588        |
| Mission costs                       | -5,343            |               |                | -5,343            | -4,903          |
| Rentals                             | -2,056            |               | -3,255         | -5,311            | -3,073          |
| Subcontracted maintenance           | -2,519            |               |                | -2,519            | -2,350          |
| Purchase of goods and materials     | -3,091            |               |                | -3,091            | -3,604          |
| General expenditure                 | -22,991           |               | -277           | -23,268           | -20,064         |
| Depreciation                        | -5,905            |               |                | -5,905            | -4,617          |
| <b>Total</b>                        | <b>-163,786</b>   | <b>-</b>      | <b>-3,803</b>  | <b>-167,589</b>   | <b>-155,199</b> |
| <b>Total field and headquarters</b> | <b>-1,078,827</b> | <b>-9,005</b> | <b>-15,057</b> | <b>-1,102,889</b> | <b>-948,702</b> |

## 29. HEADQUARTERS OVERHEAD INCOME, FIELD OVERHEAD EXPENDITURE AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

As a contribution to the costs of headquarters' support for operations in the field, an additional 6.5% is added to the budget of each operation for cash and service movements. Headquarters' support includes services essential for an operation's success, such as human resources, finance, logistics, information technology and other support, as noted under c) below. The following analysis reconciles the audited consolidated financial statements with the management financial results of the Emergency Appeals.

- a) The reconciliation of **headquarters overhead income** results in the following breakdown over the past two years:

| 2008 (in KCHF)                                  | Notes | Headquarters   | Field          | Total            |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Contributions                                   | 27    |                |                | 1,146,503        |
| Less funds and foundations                      | 23    |                |                | -7,851           |
| ICRC contributions                              |       | 140,889        | 997,763        | 1,138,652        |
| Internal allocation from field budget           |       | 59,911         | -              | 59,911           |
| <b>Total income related to Emergency Appeal</b> |       | <b>200,800</b> | <b>997,763</b> | <b>1,198,563</b> |

|   |    |                |                |                  |
|---|----|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <b>2007</b>                                     |    |                |                |                  |
| Contributions                                   | 27 |                |                | 1,007,326        |
| Less funds and foundations                      | 23 |                |                | -6,503           |
| ICRC contributions                              |    | 137,527        | 863,296        | 1,000,823        |
| Internal allocation from field budget           |    | 51,026         | -              | 51,026           |
| <b>Total income related to Emergency Appeal</b> |    | <b>188,553</b> | <b>863,296</b> | <b>1,051,849</b> |

(in KCHF)

b) The reconciliation of **field overhead expenditure** is as follows:

| 2008 (in KCHF)                                       | Notes | Headquarters    | Field           | Total             |
|--|-------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Operational expenditure                              | 28    | -167,589        | -935,300        | -1,102,889        |
| Internal allocation to headquarters budget           |       |                 | -59,911         | -59,911           |
| <b>Total expenditure related to Emergency Appeal</b> |       | <b>-167,589</b> | <b>-995,211</b> | <b>-1,162,800</b> |

## 2007

|  |    |                 |                 |                 |
|--|----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Operational expenditure                              | 28 | -155,199        | -793,503        | -948,702        |
| Internal allocation to headquarters budget           |    |                 | -51,026         | -51,026         |
| <b>Total expenditure related to Emergency Appeal</b> |    | <b>-155,199</b> | <b>-844,529</b> | <b>-999,728</b> |

## c) Administrative costs

The following cost centres at headquarters are classified as administrative rather than direct programme-oriented operating expenditure:

- ▶ the president's office, the directorate and management control
- ▶ finance and administration
- ▶ human resources
- ▶ fundraising
- ▶ information systems and archives

Their total cost amounts to KCHF 97,817 (2007: KCHF 89,988), which represents 8.91% (2007: 9.53%) of overall operational expenditure.

## 30. STAFF-RELATED COSTS AND FIGURES

| (in KCHF)                            | 2008           | 2007           |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages and salaries                   | 369,739        | 356,375        |
| Social insurance and social benefits | 63,500         | 63,918         |
| Contributed services                 | 11,848         | 9,336          |
| Pension costs                        | 43,753         | 41,578         |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>488,840</b> | <b>471,207</b> |

The average number of positions/employees during 2008 (2007) was:

*in the field:*

- ▶ 1,347 (2007: 1,441) expatriate staff, including 124 (2007: 72) seconded by National Societies
- ▶ 9,778 (2007: 9,694) locally recruited employees under ICRC contract
- ▶ 1,446 (2007: 1,307) local daily workers

*at headquarters:*

- ▶ 862 (2007: 886) staff, including 5 (2007: 7) seconded by National Societies, which represents
- ▶ 760 (2007: 756) full-time positions

## 31. LEASES

### a) Operating leases as lessee

The ICRC leases warehouses, delegation buildings and means of transport under operating leases. The leases may typically run for a period of up to 10 years, with an option to renew after that date. Lease payments are increased annually to reflect market rentals.

During the current year, CHF 110 million was recognized as rental expense in the statement of income and expenditure with respect to operating leases (2007: CHF 89 million), as follows:

| (in KCHF)              | 2008           | 2007          |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Premises and equipment | 36,717         | 36,788        |
| Transport              | 73,797         | 52,870        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>110,514</b> | <b>89,658</b> |

| (in KCHF)   | 2008         | 2007         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows: |              |              |
| - within 12 months  | 2,945        | 3,735        |
| - within 1 to 5 years   | 3,301        | 3,558        |
| - over 5 years  | 315          | 187          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>6,561</b> | <b>7,480</b> |

### b) Operating leases as lessor

In 2008, KCHF 414 (2007: KCHF 574) was recognized as income in the statement of income and expenditure in respect of subleases. These leases principally relate to vehicle parking at headquarters and ad hoc field facilities that are short-term in nature.

### c) Finance leases as lessee

The ICRC has no finance lease obligations.

(in KCHF)

**32. FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSE**

| (in KCHF)                                   | 2008           | 2007          |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| <b>Securities at fair value</b>             |                |               |
| Gains/(losses) on securities                | -6,677         | -762          |
| Securities' income, net                     | 1,298          | 1,365         |
| <b>Total net income on securities</b>       | <b>-5,379</b>  | <b>603</b>    |
| Interest income                             | 8,720          | 7,833         |
| <b>Financial income</b>                     | <b>3,341</b>   | <b>8,436</b>  |
| Interest expense <sup>(1)</sup>             | -340           | -351          |
| <b>Total financial income, net</b>          | <b>3,001</b>   | <b>8,085</b>  |
| <b>Foreign exchange gains (losses), net</b> | <b>-27,252</b> | <b>-5,919</b> |

(1) Interest expense is classified within operating expenditure consistent with the requirements of agreements with donors.

**33. OTHER INCOME AND OTHER EXPENDITURE**

| (in KCHF)                                     | 2008          | 2007          |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Decrease in allowance for accounts receivable | 340           | 1,400         |
| Decrease in allowance for specific risks      | -             | -             |
| Decrease in allowance for obsolete stock      | -             | 24            |
| Revaluation of fixed assets                   | -             | -             |
| Re-invoiced costs                             | 5,127         | 5,444         |
| Income arising from prior period              | 2,955         | 1,328         |
| Other   | 6,179         | 8,230         |
| Adjustments of operations                     | 691           | 509           |
| <b>Total other income</b>                     | <b>15,292</b> | <b>16,935</b> |

| (in KCHF)                                | 2008          | 2007          |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Increase in allowance for specific risks | -400          | -184          |
| Increase in allowance for obsolete stock | -118          | -             |
| Expenditure arising from prior period    | -178          | -472          |
| Other                                    | -6,935        | -6,109        |
| <b>Total other expenditure</b>           | <b>-7,631</b> | <b>-6,765</b> |

Adjustments of operations concern prior period charges relating mainly to the transfer of goods and revised estimates of accruals, and do not relate to current field operations.

**34. TAXES**

The ICRC (but not its staff) is exempt from taxes in Switzerland and most countries in which its delegations are based.

**35. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

The ICRC's principal financial liabilities, other than derivatives, comprise bank loans and overdrafts, accounts payables, accrued expenses and other financial liabilities. The ICRC has various financial assets, such as cash and short-term deposits, accounts receivables, derivative financial instruments and other financial liabilities, which arise directly from its operations.

The ICRC also uses derivative financial instruments – forward foreign exchange contracts and swaps – to hedge its exposure to foreign exchange risks arising from significant pledged contributions denominated in a currency other than Swiss francs as soon as the balance sheet item is recognized as current income. The forward exchange contracts have maturities of less than one year after the balance sheet date. Where necessary the contracts are swapped at maturity. Neither cash flow nor fair value hedge accounting has been applied in 2008.

In accordance with its treasury policy, the ICRC does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

The main risks arising from the ICRC's financial instruments are foreign currency risk, cash flow interest-rate risk, credit risk and liquidity risk, which are summarized below.

**a) Foreign currency risk**

Exposure to fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates arises from transactions denominated in currencies other than the ICRC's functional currency, which is the Swiss franc. As a result of the foreign currency exposure, exchange-rate fluctuations have a significant impact on the income statement. The risk is that the consolidated financial statements for a particular period or as of a certain date may be affected by changes in the value of transactions executed in currencies other than the ICRC's measurement currency owing to currency fluctuations.

The ICRC also incurs foreign currency risk on pledged contributions that are denominated in a currency other than Swiss francs. The currencies giving rise to this risk are primarily the euro, the pound sterling and the US dollar.

The long-term receivables relate to deferred income and are principally denominated in pounds sterling. The foreign exchange exposure of this asset is economically hedged against the deferred income liability.

With respect to other monetary assets and liabilities held in currencies other than Swiss francs, the ICRC ensures that the net exposure is kept to an acceptable level, buying or selling foreign currencies at spot rates where necessary to address short-term needs.

The ICRC is not exposed to foreign exchange translation risks as all financial statements under consolidation are denominated in Swiss francs.



(in KCHF)

Most financial instruments are denominated in Swiss francs, except the following:

|                              |                | 2008   | 2007    |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------|
| Cash and cash equivalents    | euro           | 20,838 | 66,668  |
|                              | US dollar      | 13,528 | 12,599  |
| Accounts receivable          | euro           | 61,849 | 71,051  |
|                              | pound sterling | 52,151 | 112,921 |
|                              | US dollar      | 7,360  | 26,448  |
| Accounts payable             | euro           | 2,686  | 3,514   |
|                              | US dollar      | 600    | 1,574   |
| Accrued expenses             | euro           | 38     | 179     |
|                              | US dollar      | 5,553  | 2,032   |
| Other accounts (liabilities) | euro           | 41,958 | 77,191  |
|                              | pound sterling | 45,915 | 112,475 |
|                              | US dollar      | 635    | 29      |

The ICRC uses a value at risk (VAR) computation to estimate the potential annual loss in the fair value of its financial instruments.

The VAR estimates are made assuming normal market conditions, using a 95% confidence interval. The ICRC cannot predict the actual future movements of exchange rates, therefore the below VAR numbers neither represent actual losses nor consider the effects of favourable movements in underlying variables. Accordingly these VAR numbers may only be considered indicative of future movements to the extent the historic market patterns repeat in the future.

The VAR computation includes the ICRC foreign currency trade payables and receivables and bank account balances.

The estimated potential annual loss from the ICRC's foreign currency exposure is as follows:

| (in KCHF)  | 2008    | 2007 |
|--|---------|------|
| Instruments sensitive to foreign currency exchange rates | -15,695 | -    |

The ICRC adopted the VAR model for the first time in 2008, consequently figures for 2007 are not available.

#### b) Interest rate risk

The ICRC's exposure to the risk of changes in market interest rates relates primarily to the mortgage indicated in Note 17. The mortgage has a fixed rate of 3.35% up to 30 June 2016.

#### c) Credit risk

The ICRC has a treasury policy which focuses on security of cash and cash equivalents. Those are held in banks of high credit ranking, and there is no significant exposure to banks in risky countries. Faced with the current financial crisis, the ICRC has expanded the number of bank counterparties, limited the exposure to any one bank and used a facility with the Swiss National Bank to maximize security. The treasury policy is approved by the governing bodies and supervised by a Treasury Committee composed of the director of Resources and Operational Support, the head of Finance, the head of Accounting and the treasurer.

The receivables are mostly with governments with high credit ratings, where credit risk is low.

Investments are allowed only in liquid securities and only with counterparties that have a high credit rating.

Other positions are not material, or are covered by provisions.

At the balance sheet date, there were no significant concentrations of credit risk. The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset, including the derivative financial instruments, in the balance sheet.

#### d) Liquidity risk

The ICRC's objective is to strike a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility by maintaining sufficient funds as cash in hand, on-demand deposits or short-term deposits with maturities of three months or less to meet short-term liabilities.

The ICRC has liquidity risk associated with foreign exchange forward cover. Funds in the appropriate foreign currency are retained to settle the forward contracts when they come due, or the contract is swapped forward until sufficient foreign currency is available.

#### Capital management

By its nature the ICRC does not have "capital", rather it views the reserves as a proxy for capital in terms of IAS 1. The primary objective of ICRC reserves management is to maintain a healthy asset-to-reserves ratio (2008 1.5:1; 2007 1.7:1) and ensure liquidity for the discharge of its international mandate. Interest-bearing loans and borrowings, which is debt requiring servicing costs, are kept to a minimum. The target and position of the future operations reserves are indicated in Note 25.

## 36. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

### Fair value

Fair value estimates are made at a specific point in time, based on market conditions and information about the financial instrument. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties and matters of significant judgement and therefore cannot be determined with precision. Changes in assumptions could significantly affect estimates.

The fair value of cash and short-term deposits, accounts receivable, accrued expenses, other financial assets, accounts payable, and interest-bearing loans and borrowings are not materially different from the carrying amounts. The fair value of long-term receivables and deferred income are lower than their carrying value, as a result of discount effects.

The fair value of investments is reported in Note 8 and the unsecured loan in Note 17.

Derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. Where a derivative financial instrument is used to hedge economically the foreign exchange exposure of a recognized monetary asset or liability, any gains or losses on the hedging instrument are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure, and consequently hedge accounting does not need to be applied. Further, accounts receivable are not hedged against accounts payable.

The fair value of forward exchange contracts is their market price at the balance sheet date. At year-end, the following positions were open:

| Forward foreign exchange contracts<br>(in KCHF) | 2008    | 2007    |
|---|---------|---------|
| Purchase of foreign currencies                  | 1,778   | 35,578  |
| Sale of foreign currencies                      | -13,914 | -70,251 |

The net result of marking forward exchange contracts to market at the balance sheet date was an income of KCHF 118 (2007: KCHF 799).

The fair value of the financial instruments held at 31 December 2008 does not differ from the carrying amounts shown in the balance sheet.

## 37. CONTINGENT ASSETS

In 2008, pledges amounting to KCHF 2,400 (2007: KCHF 2,600) fell due after five years and were considered as contingent assets.

## 38. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The ICRC has operational claims that are principally legal in nature, with the definitive amount and exact timing of each being subject to various legal proceedings in the country in which they have been issued. Those items that management considers will probably be paid have been recorded as provisions (see Note 19), and the balance deemed to be contingent liabilities amounting to KCHF 9,684 (2007: KCHF 9,409).

The ICRC receives pledges from certain donors that are contingent on expenditure being incurred on specific earmarking and with final payment being subject to acceptable financial reporting.

## 39. CAPITAL AND CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS

### Capital commitments

Capital expenditures of KCHF 19,001 (2007: KCHF 14,337) have been approved but not provided for in these consolidated financial statements.

### Contractual commitments

Open purchase orders of KCHF 29,380 (2007: KCHF 20,948) have been issued to third parties but not provided for in these consolidated financial statements.

## 40. RELATED PARTIES

### a) Identity of related parties

Key management personnel are persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the ICRC. Related parties are the directors and senior management as well as close members of their families or households.

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC.

The ICRC has a conflict-of-interest policy whereby members of the Assembly, the directors, and senior management must advise the Assembly or the Human Resources Department of any direct or indirect interest in any transaction or relationship with the ICRC and are disqualified from participation in discussions and decisions regarding any action affecting their individual, professional, or business interests.

### b) Transactions with related parties

There were no transactions with key management personnel except those described under c) below. With the exception of the president and the permanent vice-president, none of the other members of the Assembly, or any person related to them, received any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

### c) Remuneration

The salaries and benefits of the ICRC's president, permanent vice-president, six directors and head of Internal Audit are set by the Remuneration Commission. Their total remuneration amounted to KCHF 3,342 (2007: KCHF 3,115), including employer expenses for social insurance and social benefits. They received no other salaries or benefits (e.g. fringe benefits, loans).

| Related party remuneration<br>(in KCHF) | Total<br>2008 | Total<br>2007 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Short-term employee benefits            | 2,701         | 2,580         |
| Post-employment benefits                | 601           | 500           |
| Other long-term benefits                | 40            | 35            |
| <b>Total remuneration</b>               | <b>3,342</b>  | <b>3,115</b>  |

The non-permanent members of the Assembly, or persons related or connected by business to them, did not receive any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

## 41. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

On 30 January 2009 the ICRC repaid the mortgage loan of KCHF 10,000 which would reduce the current interest bearing loan liability and cash assets. No other events occurred between 31 December 2008 and the approval of the consolidated financial statements by the Assembly Council on 2 April 2009 that would require modification of or disclosure in the consolidated financial statements.



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To the Assembly of  
The International Committee of the Red Cross

Lancy, 2 April 2009

### Independent Auditor's report

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of the International Committee of the Red Cross (consolidated balance sheet, consolidated statement of income and expenditure, consolidated cash flow statement, consolidated statement of changes in reserves and notes) on pages 395 to 420 for the year ended 31 December 2008.

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Directorate and Assembly. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, comply with Swiss law, and the organisation's Statutes.

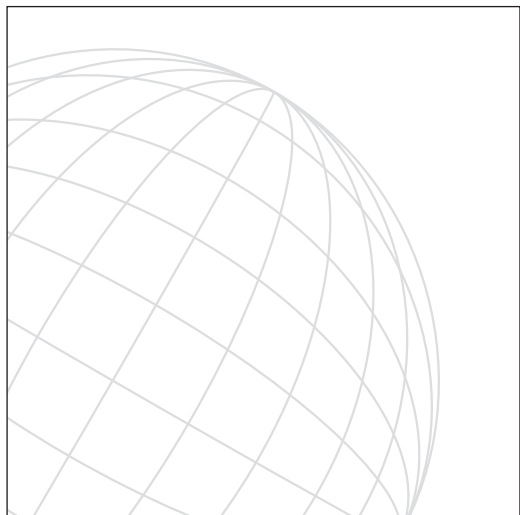
Ernst & Young Ltd

Mark Hawkins  
Licensed audit expert  
(Auditor in charge)

Thomas Madoery  
Licensed audit expert







# financial and statistical tables

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# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RELATED TO THE 2008 EMERGENCY AND HEADQUARTERS APPEALS

(in KCHF)

|  | BUDGET              |                |                   | EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME<br>(Cash, kind and services) |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
|--|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---|
|  | 2008 Initial budget | Amendments     | 2008 Final budget | Protection  | Assistance     | Prevention     | Cooperation with National Societies | General       | 2008 Total expenditure | Overheads (already included in the total expenditure) |
| <b>1. EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</b>  |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Africa   | 378,827             | 104,969        | <b>483,796</b>    | 61,785  | 324,477        | 39,212         | 38,461                              | 2             | <b>463,937</b>         | 28,042  |
| Asia and the Pacific   | 165,981             | 22,911         | <b>188,892</b>    | 34,122  | 111,907        | 20,577         | 19,877                              | -             | <b>186,483</b>         | 11,197  |
| Europe and the Americas  | 128,292             | 16,646         | <b>144,938</b>    | 29,494  | 54,306         | 41,054         | 13,797                              | 119           | <b>138,770</b>         | 8,382   |
| Middle East and North Africa   | 215,045             | 8,521          | <b>223,565</b>    | 56,803  | 118,648        | 16,925         | 8,704                               | 353           | <b>201,433</b>         | 12,290  |
| Contingency  | 44,407              | - 5,869        | <b>38,538</b>     |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| <b>TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</b>   | <b>932,551</b>      | <b>147,178</b> | <b>1,079,730</b>  | <b>182,204</b>  | <b>609,339</b> | <b>117,768</b> | <b>80,840</b>                       | <b>473</b>    | <b>990,624</b>         | <b>59,911</b>   |
| <b>2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL</b>  |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Headquarters general   |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| <b>2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</b>  |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Africa   | 22,591              | 530            | <b>23,121</b>     | 3,971   | 10,806         | 1,525          | 826                                 | 4,985         | <b>22,113</b>          |   |
| Asia and the Pacific   | 13,106              | 318            | <b>13,424</b>     | 2,196   | 6,459          | 1,059          | 163                                 | 3,051         | <b>12,928</b>          |   |
| Europe and the Americas  | 14,433              | 244            | <b>14,678</b>     | 1,253   | 4,390          | 2,089          | 327                                 | 3,831         | <b>11,890</b>          |   |
| Middle East and North Africa   | 10,429              | 177            | <b>10,605</b>     | 1,855   | 5,202          | 1,022          | 163                                 | 1,827         | <b>10,070</b>          |   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>   |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| <b>FIELD SUPPORT</b>   | <b>60,560</b>       | <b>1,268</b>   | <b>61,828</b>     | <b>9,275</b>  | <b>26,858</b>  | <b>5,695</b>   | <b>1,479</b>                        | <b>13,694</b> | <b>57,002</b>          |   |
| <b>2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>   |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Assembly, Presidency and Management Control  | 4,137               | 106            | <b>4,243</b>      | -   | -              | 116            | -                                   | 3,671         | <b>3,787</b>           |   |
| Directorate  | 13,063              | 356            | <b>13,419</b>     | 195   | 288            | 471            | -                                   | 20,838        | <b>21,792</b>          |   |
| Operations   | 39,758              | 812            | <b>40,570</b>     | 5,787   | 13,092         | 882            | 1,412                               | 16,323        | <b>37,495</b>          |   |
| Law, Policy and Cooperation within the Movement  | 21,063              | 858            | <b>21,920</b>     | -   | -              | 11,197         | 3,651                               | 7,055         | <b>21,904</b>          |   |
| Communication  | 22,879              | 913            | <b>23,792</b>     | -   | -              | 13,921         | 889                                 | 10,297        | <b>25,107</b>          |   |
| <b>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>   |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| <b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>  | <b>100,900</b>      | <b>3,045</b>   | <b>103,945</b>    | <b>5,982</b>  | <b>13,379</b>  | <b>26,587</b>  | <b>5,953</b>                        | <b>58,183</b> | <b>110,084</b>         |   |
| <b>TOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>  | <b>161,460</b>      | <b>4,313</b>   | <b>165,773</b>    | <b>15,257</b>   | <b>40,238</b>  | <b>32,282</b>  | <b>7,432</b>                        | <b>71,877</b> | <b>167,086</b>         |   |
| <b>3. TOTAL FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDS</b>  |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     | <b>5,648</b>  | <b>5,648</b>           |   |
| <b>4. OPERATING ACTIVITIES-RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b><br>(according to page 397 – Consolidated statement of income and expenditure) |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Total ICRC income and expenditure  |                     |                |                   | 197,462   | 649,576        | 150,050        | 88,271                              | 77,998        | <b>1,163,357</b>       | 59,911  |
| Deduction of field non-operating income  |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Deduction of headquarters non-operating income   |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     |               |                        |   |
| Deduction of overheads   |                     |                |                   | - 11,119  | - 36,643       | - 7,188        | - 4,932                             | - 29          | <b>- 59,911</b>        | - 59,911  |
| Deduction of cross-charging (foundations and funds)  |                     |                |                   |   |                |                |                                     | - 558         | <b>- 558</b>           |   |
| <b>TOTAL ICRC OPERATING ACTIVITIES-RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b>   |                     |                |                   | <b>186,342</b>  | <b>612,933</b> | <b>142,863</b> | <b>83,339</b>                       | <b>77,411</b> | <b>1,102,889</b>       | -   |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

| INCOME<br>(Cash, kind and services) |                           |           |                    |                        |                   |  | FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS<br>(Balances brought forward) |  |                           |                                       |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Cash contributions                  | Cash non-operating income | Overheads | Kind contributions | Services contributions | 2008 Total income |  | 2007 Donors' restricted contributions brought forward     | 2007 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward | Adjustments and transfers | 2008 Donors' restricted contributions | 2008 Field operations with temporary deficit financing |  |  |
| 454,847                             | 1,169                     |           | 4,477              | 5,221                  | 465,715           |  | 22,728  | - 8,643  | 143                       | 17,004                                | - 998  | <b>1. EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</b>  |  |
| 181,446                             | 1,017                     |           | 3,025              | 3,495                  | 188,984           |  | 6,728   | - 8,689  | 198                       | 737                                   |  | Africa   |  |
| 142,683                             | 276                       |           | 1,436              | 1,144                  | 145,540           |  | 362   | - 6,882  | 42                        | 291                                   |  | Asia and the Pacific   |  |
| 198,400                             | 1,060                     |           | 67                 | 1,424                  | 200,951           |  | 8,374   | - 8,630  | 309                       | 66                                    | - 497  | Europe and the Americas  |  |
|                                     |                           |           | 96                 |                        | 96                |  |   |  |                           | 96                                    |  | Middle East and North Africa   |  |
| 977,377                             | 3,522                     | -         | 9,101              | 11,284                 | 1,001,285         |  | 38,191  | - 32,843   | 691                       | 18,195                                | - 1,495  | Contingency  |  |
|                                     |                           |           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</b>                                       |  |
| 135,676                             | 9,813                     | 59,911    | 13                 | 3,532                  | 208,945           |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL</b>  |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Headquarters general   |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</b>  |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Africa   |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Asia and the Pacific   |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Europe and the Americas  |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Middle East and North Africa   |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>   |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>FIELD SUPPORT</b>   |  |
| -                                   | -                         |           | -                  | -                      | -                 |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>                                     |  |
| 1,277                               | 416                       |           | 12                 | -                      | 1,705             |  |   |  | 2                         |                                       |  | Assembly, Presidency and Management Control                                  |  |
| 67                                  | 14                        |           | -                  | 176                    | 256               |  | 38  |  | 3                         |                                       |  | Directorate  |  |
| 41                                  | -                         |           | -                  | 96                     | 137               |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Operations   |  |
| -                                   | 56                        |           | -                  | -                      | 56                |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Law, Policy and Cooperation within the Movement                              |  |
| 1,385                               | 485                       |           | 12                 | 271                    | 2,153             |  | 38  | -  | -                         | 4                                     | -  | Communication  |  |
| 137,061                             | 10,299                    | 59,911    | 25                 | 3,803                  | 211,098           |  | 38  | -  | -                         | 4                                     | -  | <b>SUBTOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>   |  |
| 8,408                               |                           |           |                    |                        | 8,408             |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>  |  |
|                                     |                           |           |                    |                        |                   |  | 38  | -  | -                         | 4                                     | -  | <b>TOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>  |  |
|                                     |                           |           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>3. TOTAL FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDS</b>  |  |
| 1,122,847                           | 13,821                    | 59,911    | 9,126              | 15,087                 | 1,220,792         |  | 38,229  | - 32,843   | 691                       | 18,199                                | - 1,495  | <b>4. OPERATING ACTIVITIES-RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b>         |  |
| - 3,522                             |                           |           |                    |                        | - 3,522           |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Total ICRC income and expenditure  |  |
| - 10,299                            |                           |           |                    |                        | - 10,299          |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Deduction of field non-operating income                                      |  |
| - 59,911                            |                           |           |                    |                        | - 59,911          |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Deduction of headquarters non-operating income                               |  |
| - 558                               |                           |           |                    |                        | - 558             |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Deduction of overheads   |  |
|                                     |                           |           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Deduction of cross-charging (foundations and funds)                          |  |
| 1,122,290                           | -                         | -         | 9,126              | 15,087                 | 1,146,503         |  | 38,229  | - 32,843   | 691                       | 18,199                                | - 1,495  | <b>TOTAL ICRC OPERATING ACTIVITIES-RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b> |  |

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2008 EMERGENCY APPEALS

(in KCHF)

|                                   | BUDGET              |                |                   | EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME<br>(Cash, kind and services) |                |               |                                     |          |                        |   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|---|
|                                   | 2008 Initial budget | Amendments     | 2008 Final budget | Protection  | Assistance     | Prevention    | Cooperation with National Societies | General  | 2008 Total expenditure | Overheads (already included in the total expenditure) |
| <b>Africa</b>                     |                     |                |                   |   |                |               |                                     |          |                        |   |
| Angola                            | 6,526               | -              | <b>6,526</b>      | 3,181   | 696            | 982           | 394                                 | -        | <b>5,254</b>           | 321   |
| Burundi                           | 8,448               | -              | <b>8,448</b>      | 2,429   | 3,537          | 1,003         | 655                                 | -        | <b>7,625</b>           | 463   |
| Central African Republic          | 15,837              | -              | <b>15,837</b>     | 1,948   | 8,499          | 1,466         | 1,021                               | -        | <b>12,934</b>          | 768   |
| Chad                              | 27,947              | -              | <b>27,947</b>     | 5,868   | 17,611         | 1,972         | 1,153                               | -        | <b>26,605</b>          | 1,557   |
| Congo                             | 3,774               | -              | <b>3,774</b>      | 535   | 278            | 1,463         | 471                                 | -        | <b>2,748</b>           | 168   |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the | 37,082              | 8,726          | <b>45,808</b>     | 10,059  | 32,390         | 3,478         | 3,906                               | -        | <b>49,832</b>          | 2,869   |
| Eritrea                           | 10,837              | -              | <b>10,837</b>     | 1,961   | 7,034          | 519           | 113                                 | -        | <b>9,626</b>           | 588   |
| Ethiopia                          | 15,783              | -              | <b>15,783</b>     | 2,772   | 6,181          | 1,783         | 1,138                               | -        | <b>11,874</b>          | 725   |
| Guinea                            | 7,642               | -              | <b>7,642</b>      | 1,449   | 2,777          | 1,298         | 1,474                               | -        | <b>6,997</b>           | 421   |
| Liberia                           | 16,948              | -              | <b>16,948</b>     | 2,379   | 9,553          | 1,392         | 2,124                               | -        | <b>15,447</b>          | 943   |
| Rwanda                            | 8,758               | -              | <b>8,758</b>      | 3,383   | 2,443          | 541           | 644                                 | -        | <b>7,011</b>           | 428   |
| Sierra Leone                      | 3,953               | -              | <b>3,953</b>      | 998   | -              | 600           | 1,402                               | -        | <b>3,000</b>           | 183   |
| Somalia                           | 30,194              | 55,028         | <b>85,223</b>     | 266   | 100,144        | 662           | 1,198                               | -        | <b>102,271</b>         | 6,242   |
| Sudan                             | 106,431             | 19,882         | <b>126,313</b>    | 13,280  | 82,892         | 7,502         | 6,236                               | -        | <b>109,911</b>         | 6,708   |
| Uganda                            | 23,168              | -              | <b>23,168</b>     | 1,412   | 15,780         | 1,286         | 1,832                               | -        | <b>20,310</b>          | 1,240   |
| Abidjan (regional)                | 20,637              | -              | <b>20,637</b>     | 2,951   | 10,130         | 2,713         | 2,814                               | 2        | <b>18,610</b>          | 1,136   |
| Abuja (regional)                  | 3,830               | -              | <b>3,830</b>      | 124   | -              | 2,284         | 1,350                               | -        | <b>3,758</b>           | 229   |
| Dakar (regional)                  | 8,165               | 4,417          | <b>12,582</b>     | 1,188   | 5,669          | 2,118         | 2,158                               | -        | <b>11,134</b>          | 680   |
| Harare (regional)                 | 6,385               | 1,926          | <b>8,312</b>      | 1,012   | 4,413          | 1,026         | 1,102                               | -        | <b>7,554</b>           | 461   |
| Nairobi (regional)                | 9,161               | 14,989         | <b>24,150</b>     | 3,079   | 14,328         | 2,558         | 4,869                               | -        | <b>24,833</b>          | 1,512   |
| Pretoria (regional)               | 4,533               | -              | <b>4,533</b>      | 1,032   | 121            | 1,425         | 1,484                               | -        | <b>4,061</b>           | 248   |
| Yaoundé (regional)                | 2,786               | -              | <b>2,786</b>      | 480   | -              | 1,139         | 924                                 | -        | <b>2,543</b>           | 155   |
| <b>Total Africa</b>               | <b>378,827</b>      | <b>104,969</b> | <b>483,796</b>    | <b>61,785</b>   | <b>324,477</b> | <b>39,212</b> | <b>38,461</b>                       | <b>2</b> | <b>463,937</b>         | <b>28,042</b>   |
| <b>Asia and the Pacific</b>       |                     |                |                   |   |                |               |                                     |          |                        |   |
| Afghanistan                       | 60,268              | 5,448          | <b>65,716</b>     | 6,836   | 53,156         | 2,704         | 7,116                               | -        | <b>69,812</b>          | 4,250   |
| Myanmar                           | 2,792               | 3,942          | <b>6,734</b>      | 2,178   | 3,439          | 601           | 416                                 | -        | <b>6,634</b>           | 400   |
| Nepal                             | 9,262               | -              | <b>9,262</b>      | 1,922   | 3,236          | 1,068         | 1,125                               | -        | <b>7,352</b>           | 449   |
| Pakistan                          | 16,618              | 8,997          | <b>25,615</b>     | 4,319   | 17,280         | 1,828         | 1,442                               | -        | <b>24,868</b>          | 1,518   |
| Philippines                       | 7,627               | 4,524          | <b>12,151</b>     | 2,371   | 7,246          | 1,427         | 1,086                               | -        | <b>12,131</b>          | 740   |
| Sri Lanka                         | 26,733              | -              | <b>26,733</b>     | 6,865   | 19,729         | 2,007         | 1,513                               | -        | <b>30,114</b>          | 1,670   |
| Bangkok (regional)                | 9,040               | -              | <b>9,040</b>      | 2,575   | 2,472          | 1,529         | 1,132                               | -        | <b>7,708</b>           | 470   |
| Beijing (regional)                | 7,352               | -              | <b>7,352</b>      | 140   | 2,367          | 2,842         | 1,002                               | -        | <b>6,351</b>           | 388   |
| Jakarta (regional)                | 10,504              | -              | <b>10,504</b>     | 2,862   | 2,256          | 1,572         | 1,779                               | -        | <b>8,469</b>           | 517   |
| Kuala Lumpur (regional)           | 1,945               | -              | <b>1,945</b>      | 245   | -              | 1,083         | 273                                 | -        | <b>1,601</b>           | 98  |
| New Delhi (regional)              | 9,972               | -              | <b>9,972</b>      | 3,316   | 727            | 2,521         | 1,828                               | -        | <b>8,392</b>           | 512   |
| Suva (regional)                   | 3,867               | -              | <b>3,867</b>      | 492   | -              | 1,395         | 1,164                               | -        | <b>3,051</b>           | 186   |
| <b>Total Asia and the Pacific</b> | <b>165,981</b>      | <b>22,911</b>  | <b>188,892</b>    | <b>34,122</b>   | <b>111,907</b> | <b>20,577</b> | <b>19,877</b>                       | <b>-</b> | <b>186,483</b>         | <b>11,197</b>   |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

| INCOME<br>(Cash, kind and services) |                    |                           |                    |                        |                   | FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS<br>(Balances brought forward) |   |  |                           |                                       |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
|                                     | Cash contributions | Cash non-operating income | Kind contributions | Services contributions | 2008 Total income |   | 2007 Donors' restricted contributions brought forward | 2007 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward | Adjustments and transfers | 2008 Donors' restricted contributions | 2008 Field operations with temporary deficit financing |
|                                     |                    |                           |                    |                        |                   |   |   |  |                           |                                       | <b>Africa</b>  |
|                                     | 4,916              | 275                       |                    | 63                     | <b>5,254</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Angola   |
|                                     | 7,542              | 10                        | 39                 | 34                     | <b>7,625</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Burundi  |
|                                     | 12,833             | 9                         | 349                | 40                     | <b>13,231</b>     |   |   |  | 297                       |                                       | Central African Republic                               |
|                                     | 25,123             | 13                        | 1,090              | 295                    | <b>26,521</b>     | 2,625   |   | 10   | 2,552                     |                                       | Chad   |
|                                     | 2,728              | 19                        |                    |                        | <b>2,748</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Congo  |
|                                     | 52,027             | 53                        | 2,833              | 350                    | <b>55,262</b>     |   | - 597   | 29   | 4,862                     |                                       | Congo, Democratic Republic of the                      |
|                                     | 9,432              | 4                         |                    | 190                    | <b>9,626</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Eritrea  |
|                                     | 11,601             | 131                       |                    | 142                    | <b>11,874</b>     |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Ethiopia   |
|                                     | 6,826              | 14                        | 98                 | 59                     | <b>6,997</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Guinea   |
|                                     | 15,151             | 66                        |                    | 230                    | <b>15,447</b>     |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Liberia  |
|                                     | 6,967              | 14                        |                    | 30                     | <b>7,011</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Rwanda   |
|                                     | 2,957              | 43                        |                    |                        | <b>3,000</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Sierra Leone   |
|                                     | 102,827            | 2                         | 5                  | 806                    | <b>103,640</b>    |   | - 2,401   | 33   |                           | - 998                                 | Somalia  |
|                                     | 96,580             | 316                       | 3                  | 2,173                  | <b>99,072</b>     | 20,104  |   | 29   | 9,294                     |                                       | Sudan  |
|                                     | 19,974             | 76                        | 0                  | 261                    | <b>20,310</b>     |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Uganda   |
|                                     | 19,343             | 9                         |                    | 377                    | <b>19,730</b>     |   | - 1,120   |  |                           |                                       | Abidjan (regional)                                     |
|                                     | 3,757              | 1                         |                    |                        | <b>3,758</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Abuja (regional)                                       |
|                                     | 11,116             | 7                         |                    | 10                     | <b>11,134</b>     |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Dakar (regional)                                       |
|                                     | 8,426              | 26                        | 4                  | 35                     | <b>8,491</b>      |   | - 937   |  |                           |                                       | Harare (regional)                                      |
|                                     | 26,637             | 50                        | 55                 | 125                    | <b>26,867</b>     |   | - 2,074   | 41   |                           |                                       | Nairobi (regional)                                     |
|                                     | 4,051              | 10                        |                    |                        | <b>4,061</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Pretoria (regional)                                    |
|                                     | 4,033              | 23                        |                    |                        | <b>4,056</b>      |   | - 1,513   |  |                           |                                       | Yaoundé (regional)                                     |
|                                     | <b>454,847</b>     | <b>1,169</b>              | <b>4,477</b>       | <b>5,221</b>           | <b>465,715</b>    | <b>22,728</b>   | <b>- 8,643</b>  | <b>143</b>   | <b>17,004</b>             | <b>- 998</b>                          | <b>Total Africa</b>                                    |
|                                     |                    |                           |                    |                        |                   |   |   |  |                           |                                       |  |
|                                     |                    |                           |                    |                        |                   |   |   |  |                           |                                       | <b>Asia and the Pacific</b>                            |
|                                     | 71,123             | 125                       | 184                | 1,639                  | <b>73,071</b>     |   | - 3,259   |  |                           |                                       | Afghanistan  |
|                                     | 6,276              | 388                       | 87                 | 73                     | <b>6,824</b>      |   |   | 7  | 197                       |                                       | Myanmar  |
|                                     | 8,107              | 4                         |                    | 33                     | <b>8,144</b>      |   | - 917   | 125  |                           |                                       | Nepal  |
|                                     | 27,550             | 113                       |                    | 664                    | <b>28,328</b>     |   | - 3,512   | 52   |                           |                                       | Pakistan   |
|                                     | 12,078             | 6                         |                    | 33                     | <b>12,117</b>     |   |   | 14   |                           |                                       | Philippines  |
|                                     | 21,153             | 144                       | 2,754              | 671                    | <b>24,722</b>     | 5,392   |   |  |                           |                                       | Sri Lanka  |
|                                     | 7,283              | 6                         |                    | 8                      | <b>7,297</b>      | 738   |   |  | 328                       |                                       | Bangkok (regional)                                     |
|                                     | 6,288              | 14                        |                    | 49                     | <b>6,351</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Beijing (regional)                                     |
|                                     | 8,030              | 175                       |                    | 161                    | <b>8,367</b>      | 102   |   |  |                           |                                       | Jakarta (regional)                                     |
|                                     | 1,507              | 1                         |                    | 93                     | <b>1,601</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Kuala Lumpur (regional)                                |
|                                     | 9,002              | 37                        |                    | 71                     | <b>9,109</b>      | 496   | - 1,000   |  | 213                       |                                       | New Delhi (regional)                                   |
|                                     | 3,048              | 4                         |                    |                        | <b>3,051</b>      |   |   |  |                           |                                       | Suva (regional)  |
|                                     | <b>181,446</b>     | <b>1,017</b>              | <b>3,025</b>       | <b>3,495</b>           | <b>188,984</b>    | <b>6,728</b>  | <b>- 8,689</b>  | <b>198</b>   | <b>737</b>                | <b>-</b>                              | <b>Total Asia and the Pacific</b>                      |



**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2008 EMERGENCY APPEALS (cont.)**

(in KCHF)

|   | <b>BUDGET</b>       |                |                   | <b>EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME</b><br>(Cash, kind and services) |                |                |                                     |            |                        |   |
|---|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|---|
|   | 2008 Initial budget | Amendments     | 2008 Final budget | Protection   | Assistance     | Prevention     | Cooperation with National Societies | General    | 2008 Total expenditure | Overheads (already included in the total expenditure) |
| <b>Europe and the Americas</b>                  |                     |                |                   |  |                |                |                                     |            |                        |   |
| Armenia   | 3,216               | -              | <b>3,216</b>      | 856  | 884            | 789            | 281                                 | -          | <b>2,810</b>           | 171   |
| Azerbaijan                                      | 6,837               | -              | <b>6,837</b>      | 2,539  | 1,933          | 1,374          | 373                                 | -          | <b>6,220</b>           | 380   |
| Georgia   | 6,410               | 15,149         | <b>21,558</b>     | 2,933  | 13,896         | 1,525          | 1,512                               | -          | <b>19,867</b>          | 1,125   |
| Budapest (regional)                             | 2,219               | -              | <b>2,219</b>      | 198  | -              | 1,468          | 493                                 | -          | <b>2,159</b>           | 132   |
| Kyiv (regional)                                 | 2,099               | -              | <b>2,099</b>      | 26   | -              | 1,280          | 478                                 | -          | <b>1,785</b>           | 109   |
| Moscow (regional)                               | 18,648              | 1,498          | <b>20,145</b>     | 2,755  | 6,455          | 5,519          | 1,730                               | -          | <b>16,458</b>          | 1,005   |
| Tashkent (regional)                             | 7,245               | -              | <b>7,245</b>      | 2,870  | 2,120          | 2,692          | 916                                 | -          | <b>8,598</b>           | 525   |
| Western Balkans (regional)                      | 10,919              | -              | <b>10,919</b>     | 4,022  | 759            | 2,951          | 2,485                               | -          | <b>10,217</b>          | 624   |
| Ankara  | 1,070               | -              | <b>1,070</b>      | 89   | -              | 546            | 170                                 | -          | <b>805</b>             | 49  |
| Brussels  | 3,117               | -              | <b>3,117</b>      | -  | -              | 2,510          | 158                                 | 119        | <b>2,787</b>           | 170   |
| International Tracing Service                   | 773                 | -              | <b>773</b>        | 568  | -              | 92             | -                                   | -          | <b>661</b>             | 40  |
| London  | 835                 | -              | <b>835</b>        | -  | -              | 559            | 87                                  | -          | <b>647</b>             | 39  |
| Paris   | 1,335               | -              | <b>1,335</b>      | 57   | -              | 1,123          | 59                                  | -          | <b>1,239</b>           | 76  |
|   |                     |                |                   |  |                |                |                                     |            |                        |   |
| Colombia  | 34,188              | -              | <b>34,188</b>     | 5,975  | 24,948         | 5,355          | 1,309                               | -          | <b>37,587</b>          | 2,294   |
| Haiti   | 5,604               | -              | <b>5,604</b>      | 1,408  | 2,912          | 739            | 630                                 | -          | <b>5,689</b>           | 347   |
| Buenos Aires (regional)                         | 3,494               | -              | <b>3,494</b>      | 768  | 39             | 1,834          | 1,000                               | -          | <b>3,641</b>           | 222   |
| Caracas (regional)                              | 2,259               | -              | <b>2,259</b>      | 214  | -              | 1,528          | 336                                 | -          | <b>2,078</b>           | 127   |
| Lima (regional)                                 | 4,282               | -              | <b>4,282</b>      | 1,203  | 358            | 1,620          | 494                                 | -          | <b>3,675</b>           | 224   |
| Mexico City (regional)                          | 5,512               | -              | <b>5,512</b>      | 1,046  | 1              | 2,361          | 652                                 | -          | <b>4,059</b>           | 248   |
| Washington (regional)                           | 6,180               | -              | <b>6,180</b>      | 1,965  | -              | 3,302          | 636                                 | -          | <b>5,903</b>           | 360   |
| New York  | 2,051               | -              | <b>2,051</b>      | -  | -              | 1,886          | -                                   | -          | <b>1,886</b>           | 115   |
| <b>Total Europe and the Americas</b>            | <b>128,292</b>      | <b>16,646</b>  | <b>144,938</b>    | <b>29,494</b>  | <b>54,306</b>  | <b>41,054</b>  | <b>13,797</b>                       | <b>119</b> | <b>138,770</b>         | <b>8,382</b>  |
| <b>Middle East and North Africa</b>             |                     |                |                   |  |                |                |                                     |            |                        |   |
| Algeria   | 1,861               | -              | <b>1,861</b>      | 1,016  | 88             | 509            | 132                                 | -          | <b>1,745</b>           | 107   |
| Egypt   | 1,403               | -              | <b>1,403</b>      | 251  | -              | 769            | 76                                  | -          | <b>1,095</b>           | 67  |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of                       | 3,358               | -              | <b>3,358</b>      | 1,087  | -              | 1,132          | 479                                 | -          | <b>2,697</b>           | 165   |
| Iraq  | 107,299             | -              | <b>107,299</b>    | 25,520   | 64,257         | 4,676          | 1,072                               | -          | <b>95,526</b>          | 5,829   |
| Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories | 68,162              | -              | <b>68,162</b>     | 19,292   | 37,390         | 3,503          | 1,955                               | -          | <b>62,140</b>          | 3,793   |
| Jordan  | 4,217               | -              | <b>4,217</b>      | 2,711  | -              | 1,458          | 216                                 | 71         | <b>4,456</b>           | 272   |
| Lebanon   | 11,983              | -              | <b>11,983</b>     | 1,810  | 4,509          | 1,336          | 2,798                               | -          | <b>10,452</b>          | 638   |
| Syrian Arab Republic                            | 2,903               | -              | <b>2,903</b>      | 208  | 1,294          | 501            | 538                                 | -          | <b>2,541</b>           | 155   |
| Yemen   | 5,735               | 8,521          | <b>14,256</b>     | 1,434  | 10,383         | 788            | 733                                 | -          | <b>13,338</b>          | 812   |
| Kuwait (regional)                               | 2,711               | -              | <b>2,711</b>      | 811  | -              | 1,023          | 340                                 | 282        | <b>2,456</b>           | 150   |
| Tunis (regional)                                | 5,414               | -              | <b>5,414</b>      | 2,664  | 726            | 1,230          | 366                                 | -          | <b>4,986</b>           | 304   |
| <b>Total Middle East and North Africa</b>       | <b>215,045</b>      | <b>8,521</b>   | <b>223,565</b>    | <b>56,803</b>  | <b>118,648</b> | <b>16,925</b>  | <b>8,704</b>                        | <b>353</b> | <b>201,433</b>         | <b>12,290</b>   |
| <b>Contingency</b>                              |                     |                |                   |  |                |                |                                     |            |                        |   |
| <b>Contingency</b>                              | <b>44,407</b>       | <b>- 5,869</b> | <b>38,538</b>     |  |                |                |                                     |            |                        |   |
| <b>TOTAL FIELD</b>                              | <b>932,551</b>      | <b>147,178</b> | <b>1,079,730</b>  | <b>182,204</b>   | <b>609,339</b> | <b>117,768</b> | <b>80,840</b>                       | <b>473</b> | <b>990,624</b>         | <b>59,911</b>   |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

| INCOME<br>(Cash, kind and services) |                           |                    |                        |                   |  | FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS<br>(Balances brought forward) |  |                           |                                       |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| Cash contributions                  | Cash non-operating income | Kind contributions | Services contributions | 2008 Total Income |  | 2007 Donors' restricted contributions brought forward     | 2007 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward | Adjustments and transfers | 2008 Donors' restricted contributions | 2008 Field operations with temporary deficit financing |   |
|                                     |                           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>Europe and the Americas</b>                  |
| 2,765                               | 4                         |                    | 41                     | <b>2,810</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Armenia   |
| 6,216                               | 4                         |                    |                        | <b>6,220</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Azerbaijan                                      |
| 17,963                              | 67                        | 1,436              | 402                    | <b>19,867</b>     |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Georgia   |
| 3,167                               | 5                         |                    |                        | <b>3,172</b>      |  | 362   | - 1,102  | 273                       |                                       |  | Budapest (regional)                             |
| 2,778                               | 14                        |                    |                        | <b>2,792</b>      |  |   | - 1,007  |                           |                                       |  | Kyiv (regional)                                 |
| 19,622                              | 14                        |                    | 25                     | <b>19,661</b>     |  |   | - 3,202  |                           |                                       |  | Moscow (regional)                               |
| 8,508                               | 71                        |                    | 19                     | <b>8,598</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Tashkent (regional)                             |
| 10,146                              | 14                        |                    | 57                     | <b>10,217</b>     |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Western Balkans (regional)                      |
| 805                                 | 0                         |                    |                        | <b>805</b>        |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Ankara  |
| 2,785                               | 2                         |                    |                        | <b>2,787</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Brussels  |
| 660                                 | 0                         |                    |                        | <b>661</b>        |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | International Tracing Service                   |
| 613                                 | 0                         |                    | 34                     | <b>647</b>        |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | London  |
| 1,239                               | 0                         |                    |                        | <b>1,239</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Paris   |
|                                     |                           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  |   |
| 38,603                              | 38                        |                    | 402                    | <b>39,044</b>     |  |   | - 1,481  | 42                        | 18                                    |  | Colombia  |
| 5,676                               | 2                         |                    | 101                    | <b>5,779</b>      |  |   | - 90   |                           |                                       |  | Haiti   |
| 3,628                               | 13                        |                    |                        | <b>3,641</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Buenos Aires (regional)                         |
| 2,077                               | 1                         |                    |                        | <b>2,078</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Caracas (regional)                              |
| 3,622                               | 23                        |                    | 30                     | <b>3,675</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Lima (regional)                                 |
| 4,025                               | 2                         |                    | 32                     | <b>4,059</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Mexico City (regional)                          |
| 5,901                               | 2                         |                    |                        | <b>5,903</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Washington (regional)                           |
| 1,886                               | 1                         |                    |                        | <b>1,886</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | New York  |
| <b>142,683</b>                      | <b>276</b>                | <b>1,436</b>       | <b>1,144</b>           | <b>145,540</b>    |  | <b>362</b>  | <b>- 6,882</b>   | <b>42</b>                 | <b>291</b>                            | <b>-</b>   | <b>Total Europe and the Americas</b>            |
|                                     |                           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  |   |
|                                     |                           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | <b>Middle East and North Africa</b>             |
| 1,739                               | 6                         |                    |                        | <b>1,745</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Algeria   |
| 1,095                               | 0                         |                    |                        | <b>1,095</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Egypt   |
| 2,654                               | 1                         |                    |                        | <b>2,655</b>      |  |   |  | 42                        |                                       |  | Iran, Islamic Republic of                       |
| 97,101                              | 460                       | 26                 | 133                    | <b>97,720</b>     |  |   | - 2,158  | 31                        | 66                                    |  | Iraq  |
|                                     |                           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories |
| 66,431                              | 322                       |                    | 819                    | <b>67,572</b>     |  |   | - 5,940  | 12                        | - 497                                 |  | Jordan  |
| 4,404                               | 37                        |                    | 15                     | <b>4,456</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  | Lebanon   |
| 1,701                               | 66                        |                    | 164                    | <b>1,931</b>      |  | 8,374   |  | 147                       |                                       |  | Syrian Arab Republic                            |
| 2,529                               | 1                         |                    |                        | <b>2,529</b>      |  |   |  | 12                        |                                       |  | Yemen   |
| 13,494                              | 162                       | 40                 | 111                    | <b>13,807</b>     |  |   | - 532  | 63                        |                                       |  | Kuwait (regional)                               |
| 2,454                               | 0                         |                    |                        | <b>2,454</b>      |  |   |  | 2                         |                                       |  | Tunis (regional)                                |
| 4,798                               | 5                         |                    | 182                    | <b>4,986</b>      |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  |   |
| <b>198,400</b>                      | <b>1,060</b>              | <b>67</b>          | <b>1,424</b>           | <b>200,951</b>    |  | <b>8,374</b>  | <b>- 8,630</b>   | <b>309</b>                | <b>66</b>                             | <b>- 497</b>   | <b>Total Middle East and North Africa</b>       |
|                                     |                           |                    |                        |                   |  |   |  |                           |                                       |  |   |
|                                     |                           | 96                 |                        | <b>96</b>         |  |   |  | 96                        |                                       |  | <b>Contingency</b>                              |
| <b>977,377</b>                      | <b>3,522</b>              | <b>9,101</b>       | <b>11,284</b>          | <b>1,001,285</b>  |  | <b>38,191</b>   | <b>- 32,843</b>  | <b>691</b>                | <b>18,195</b>                         | <b>- 1,495</b>   | <b>TOTAL FIELD</b>                              |

## CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2008

### SUMMARY OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS (in CHF)

|                                       | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash        | Total<br>kind    | Total<br>services | Subtotal             | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total       |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Governments                        | 129,291,465            | 778,049,220          | 628,856                             | 907,969,541          | 4,048,763        | 744,548           | 912,762,852          |                 | 912,762,852          |
| 2. European Commission <sup>(1)</sup> |                        | 129,147,192          |                                     | 129,147,192          |                  |                   | 129,147,192          |                 | 129,147,192          |
| 3. International organizations        |                        |                      |                                     |                      | 4,130,727        |                   | 4,130,727            |                 | 4,130,727            |
| 4. Supranational organizations        |                        | 52,000               |                                     | 52,000               | 8,098            |                   | 60,098               |                 | 60,098               |
| 5. National Societies                 | 5,921,585              | 35,012,281           | - 126,526                           | 40,807,340           | 869,165          | 10,798,942        | 52,475,447           |                 | 52,475,447           |
| 6. Public sources                     |                        | 4,485,828            | - 10,000                            | 4,475,828            |                  | 3,221,266         | 7,697,094            |                 | 7,697,094            |
| 7. Private sources                    | 1,204,523              | 30,784,838           | - 2,545                             | 31,986,816           | 69,090           | 322,383           | 32,378,289           | 732,291         | 33,110,580           |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                    | <b>136,417,573</b>     | <b>977,531,359</b>   | <b>489,785</b>                      | <b>1,114,438,718</b> | <b>9,125,844</b> | <b>15,087,139</b> | <b>1,138,651,701</b> | <b>732,291</b>  | <b>1,139,383,992</b> |

(1) Member of the Donor Support Group

#### Reconciliation between the consolidated contributions of the ICRC 2008 and the summary of the contributions to the ICRC (see above)

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| Total consolidated contributions of the ICRC (chapter B.0)   | 1,138,651,701        |
| Contributions received from funds and foundations of the ICRC  | 8,408,474            |
| Adjustment of the consolidated funds and foundations of the ICRC to the ICRC actions (Table 7 below) |                      |
| Foundation for the ICRC  | - 530,299            |
| Clare Benedict Fund  | - 19,276             |
| Omar el Mukhtar Fund   | - 8,034              |
| <b>Total contributions of the consolidated accounts of the ICRC</b>                                  | <b>1,146,502,566</b> |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

### 1. GOVERNMENTS (in CHF)

|                          | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal   | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Afghanistan              |                        |                      |                                     | -             |               | 137,885           | 137,885    |                 | 137,885        |
| Andorra                  | 30,000                 | 18,576               |                                     | 48,576        |               |                   | 48,576     |                 | 48,576         |
| Argentina                | 314,595                |                      |                                     | 314,595       |               |                   | 314,595    |                 | 314,595        |
| Armenia                  | 1,000                  |                      |                                     | 1,000         |               |                   | 1,000      |                 | 1,000          |
| Australia <sup>(1)</sup> | 1,929,000              | 21,022,680           |                                     | 22,951,680    |               |                   | 22,951,680 |                 | 22,951,680     |
| Austria                  | 1,051,445              | 952,660              |                                     | 2,004,105     |               |                   | 2,004,105  |                 | 2,004,105      |
| Azerbaijan               | 16,068                 |                      | - 6,785                             | 9,283         |               |                   | 9,283      |                 | 9,283          |
| Bahamas                  | 23,075                 |                      | 21,661                              | 44,736        |               |                   | 44,736     |                 | 44,736         |
| Barbados                 | 1,040                  |                      |                                     | 1,040         |               |                   | 1,040      |                 | 1,040          |
| Belgium <sup>(1)</sup>   | 1,226,250              | 12,646,530           |                                     | 13,872,780    |               |                   | 13,872,780 |                 | 13,872,780     |
| Benin                    |                        |                      | 6,181                               | 6,181         |               |                   | 6,181      |                 | 6,181          |
| Bhutan                   | 18,004                 |                      |                                     | 18,004        |               |                   | 18,004     |                 | 18,004         |
| Bolivia                  | 13,491                 |                      |                                     | 13,491        |               |                   | 13,491     |                 | 13,491         |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina   | 9,688                  |                      |                                     | 9,688         |               |                   | 9,688      |                 | 9,688          |
| Bulgaria                 | 32,500                 | 353,506              |                                     | 386,006       |               |                   | 386,006    |                 | 386,006        |
| Cambodia                 | 1,615                  |                      |                                     | 1,615         |               |                   | 1,615      |                 | 1,615          |
| Canada <sup>(1)</sup>    | 2,914,500              | 28,591,580           |                                     | 31,506,080    |               |                   | 31,506,080 |                 | 31,506,080     |
| Central African Republic |                        |                      |                                     |               | 900           |                   | 900        |                 | 900            |
| Chile                    | 41,900                 | 47,138               |                                     | 89,038        |               |                   | 89,038     |                 | 89,038         |
| China                    | 570,000                |                      |                                     | 570,000       |               |                   | 570,000    |                 | 570,000        |
| Colombia                 | 163,527                |                      |                                     | 163,527       |               |                   | 163,527    |                 | 163,527        |
| Costa Rica               | 25,209                 |                      |                                     | 25,209        |               |                   | 25,209     |                 | 25,209         |
| Croatia                  | 15,000                 | 242,010              | 15,000                              | 272,010       |               |                   | 272,010    |                 | 272,010        |
| Cyprus                   | 71,042                 |                      |                                     | 71,042        |               |                   | 71,042     |                 | 71,042         |
| Czech Republic           | 453,703                | 310,602              |                                     | 764,305       |               |                   | 764,305    |                 | 764,305        |
| Denmark <sup>(1)</sup>   | 4,443,760              | 10,135,159           |                                     | 14,578,919    |               | 606,663           | 15,185,582 |                 | 15,185,582     |
| Egypt                    | 142,085                |                      | 191,876                             | 333,961       |               |                   | 333,961    |                 | 333,961        |
| Estonia                  | 25,576                 | 22,080               |                                     | 47,655        |               |                   | 47,655     |                 | 47,655         |
| Finland <sup>(1)</sup>   | 1,569,700              | 9,933,859            | 15,388                              | 11,518,947    | 399,328       |                   | 11,918,276 |                 | 11,918,276     |
| France <sup>(1)</sup>    | 1,620,752              | 13,553,675           |                                     | 15,174,427    |               |                   | 15,174,427 |                 | 15,174,427     |
| Germany <sup>(1)</sup>   | 2,360,793              | 30,908,855           |                                     | 33,269,648    |               |                   | 33,269,648 |                 | 33,269,648     |
| Greece                   | 962,302                | 1,275,660            |                                     | 2,237,962     |               |                   | 2,237,962  |                 | 2,237,962      |
| Guyana                   | 1,341                  |                      |                                     | 1,341         |               |                   | 1,341      |                 | 1,341          |

**1. GOVERNMENTS (CONT.)** (in CHF)

|  | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash      | Total<br>kind    | Total<br>services | Subtotal           | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total     |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Haiti  | 3,229                  |                      | - 4,617                             | - 1,388            |                  |                   | - 1,388            |                 | - 1,388            |
| Holy See   | 5,243                  | 5,243                |                                     | 10,485             |                  |                   | 10,485             |                 | 10,485             |
| Hungary  | 204,061                |                      |                                     | 204,061            |                  |                   | 204,061            |                 | 204,061            |
| Iceland  |                        | 605,947              |                                     | 605,947            |                  |                   | 605,947            |                 | 605,947            |
| India  | 14,431                 |                      |                                     | 14,431             | 2,720,000        |                   | 2,734,431          |                 | 2,734,431          |
| Indonesia  | 50,000                 |                      |                                     | 50,000             |                  |                   | 50,000             |                 | 50,000             |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of  | 50,000                 |                      |                                     | 50,000             |                  |                   | 50,000             |                 | 50,000             |
| Ireland <sup>(1)</sup>   | 209,885                | 13,727,900           |                                     | 13,937,785         |                  |                   | 13,937,785         |                 | 13,937,785         |
| Israel   | 123,970                |                      |                                     | 123,970            |                  |                   | 123,970            |                 | 123,970            |
| Italy <sup>(1)</sup>   | 1,325,600              | 17,036,648           |                                     | 18,362,248         |                  |                   | 18,362,248         |                 | 18,362,248         |
| Jamaica  |                        |                      | 821                                 | 821                |                  |                   | 821                |                 | 821                |
| Japan <sup>(1)</sup>   | 762,272                | 14,785,000           |                                     | 15,547,272         |                  |                   | 15,547,272         |                 | 15,547,272         |
| Korea, Republic of   | 309,722                |                      |                                     | 309,722            |                  |                   | 309,722            |                 | 309,722            |
| Kyrgyzstan   | 526                    |                      |                                     | 526                |                  |                   | 526                |                 | 526                |
| Lebanon  |                        |                      | 32,464                              | 32,464             |                  |                   | 32,464             |                 | 32,464             |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya   |                        |                      | 190,014                             | 190,014            |                  |                   | 190,014            |                 | 190,014            |
| Liechtenstein  | 200,000                | 500,000              |                                     | 700,000            |                  |                   | 700,000            |                 | 700,000            |
| Luxembourg <sup>(1)</sup>  | 1,277,440              | 10,090,625           |                                     | 11,368,065         |                  |                   | 11,368,065         |                 | 11,368,065         |
| Macedonia, Former Yugoslav<br>Republic of                              | 9,233                  |                      |                                     | 9,233              |                  |                   | 9,233              |                 | 9,233              |
| Mauritius  | 17,761                 |                      |                                     | 17,761             |                  |                   | 17,761             |                 | 17,761             |
| Mexico   | 156,000                |                      |                                     | 156,000            |                  |                   | 156,000            |                 | 156,000            |
| Monaco   | 100,000                | 79,840               |                                     | 179,840            |                  |                   | 179,840            |                 | 179,840            |
| Montenegro   | 1,615                  |                      |                                     | 1,615              |                  |                   | 1,615              |                 | 1,615              |
| Morocco  | 63,817                 |                      |                                     | 63,817             |                  |                   | 63,817             |                 | 63,817             |
| Namibia  | 9,688                  |                      |                                     | 9,688              |                  |                   | 9,688              |                 | 9,688              |
| Netherlands <sup>(1)</sup>   | 6,213,750              | 59,771,402           | - 14,238                            | 65,970,914         |                  |                   | 65,970,914         |                 | 65,970,914         |
| New Zealand  | 307,520                | 3,523,305            |                                     | 3,830,825          |                  |                   | 3,830,825          |                 | 3,830,825          |
| Nicaragua  | 4,160                  |                      |                                     | 4,160              |                  |                   | 4,160              |                 | 4,160              |
| Norway <sup>(1)</sup>  | 2,344,644              | 39,891,503           |                                     | 42,236,147         | 928,535          |                   | 43,164,682         |                 | 43,164,682         |
| Oman   | 5,753                  |                      | 5,412                               | 11,164             |                  |                   | 11,164             |                 | 11,164             |
| Pakistan   | 14,243                 |                      |                                     | 14,243             |                  |                   | 14,243             |                 | 14,243             |
| Panama   | 22,902                 |                      | 2,450                               | 25,352             |                  |                   | 25,352             |                 | 25,352             |
| Philippines  | 22,322                 |                      |                                     | 22,322             |                  |                   | 22,322             |                 | 22,322             |
| Poland   | 765,000                | 244,020              |                                     | 1,009,020          |                  |                   | 1,009,020          |                 | 1,009,020          |
| Portugal   | 200,000                | 100,000              |                                     | 300,000            |                  |                   | 300,000            |                 | 300,000            |
| Qatar  | 52,550                 |                      |                                     | 52,550             |                  |                   | 52,550             |                 | 52,550             |
| Saint Lucia  | 1,615                  |                      |                                     | 1,615              |                  |                   | 1,615              |                 | 1,615              |
| San Marino   |                        |                      | 50,000                              | 50,000             |                  |                   | 50,000             |                 | 50,000             |
| Saudi Arabia   | 216,460                |                      |                                     | 216,460            |                  |                   | 216,460            |                 | 216,460            |
| Serbia   | 33,907                 |                      | 30,380                              | 64,287             |                  |                   | 64,287             |                 | 64,287             |
| Singapore  | 26,000                 | 26,000               |                                     | 52,000             |                  |                   | 52,000             |                 | 52,000             |
| Slovakia   | 35,000                 |                      |                                     | 35,000             |                  |                   | 35,000             |                 | 35,000             |
| Slovenia   | 19,101                 | 182,800              |                                     | 201,901            |                  |                   | 201,901            |                 | 201,901            |
| South Africa   | 182,250                |                      |                                     | 182,250            |                  |                   | 182,250            |                 | 182,250            |
| Spain <sup>(1)</sup>   | 1,098,790              | 21,410,128           |                                     | 22,508,918         |                  |                   | 22,508,918         |                 | 22,508,918         |
| Sweden <sup>(1)</sup>  | 6,156,605              | 72,987,637           |                                     | 79,144,242         |                  |                   | 79,144,242         |                 | 79,144,242         |
| Switzerland <sup>(1)</sup>   | 70,000,000             | 32,500,000           |                                     | 102,500,000        |                  |                   | 102,500,000        |                 | 102,500,000        |
| Tajikistan   | 659                    |                      |                                     | 659                |                  |                   | 659                |                 | 659                |
| Thailand   | 112,700                |                      |                                     | 112,700            |                  |                   | 112,700            |                 | 112,700            |
| Togo   | 1,876                  |                      |                                     | 1,876              |                  |                   | 1,876              |                 | 1,876              |
| Tunisia  | 8,467                  |                      |                                     | 8,467              |                  |                   | 8,467              |                 | 8,467              |
| Turkey   | 59,950                 |                      |                                     | 59,950             |                  |                   | 59,950             |                 | 59,950             |
| United Arab Emirates   | 49,665                 |                      |                                     | 49,665             |                  |                   | 49,665             |                 | 49,665             |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain<br>and Northern Ireland <sup>(1)</sup> | 1,349,700              | 137,711,163          |                                     | 139,060,863        |                  |                   | 139,060,863        |                 | 139,060,863        |
| United States of America <sup>(1)</sup>                                | 14,998,830             | 222,855,489          |                                     | 237,854,319        |                  |                   | 237,854,319        |                 | 237,854,319        |
| Uruguay  | 43,594                 |                      | 853                                 | 44,447             |                  |                   | 44,447             |                 | 44,447             |
| Venezuela  |                        |                      | 91,996                              | 91,996             |                  |                   | 91,996             |                 | 91,996             |
| <b>Total from governments</b>  | <b>129,291,465</b>     | <b>778,049,220</b>   | <b>628,856</b>                      | <b>907,969,541</b> | <b>4,048,763</b> | <b>744,548</b>    | <b>912,762,852</b> |                 | <b>912,762,852</b> |

(1) Member of the Donor Support Group

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**2. EUROPEAN COMMISSION** <sup>(1)</sup> (in CHF)

|   | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash      | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal           | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total     |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Directorate General Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) |                        | 127,324,492          |                                     | 127,324,492        |               |                   | 127,324,492        |                 | 127,324,492        |
| European Development Fund                   |                        | 1,822,700            |                                     | 1,822,700          |               |                   | 1,822,700          |                 | 1,822,700          |
| <b>Total from European Commission</b>       |                        | <b>129,147,192</b>   |                                     | <b>129,147,192</b> |               |                   | <b>129,147,192</b> |                 | <b>129,147,192</b> |

(1) Member of the Donor Support Group

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**3. INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** (in CHF)

|   | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash    | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal         | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total   |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| WFP   |                        |                      |                                     | 4,074,502        |               |                   | 4,074,502        |                 | 4,074,502        |
| Various UN                                    |                        |                      |                                     | 56,225           |               |                   | 56,225           |                 | 56,225           |
| <b>Total from international organizations</b> |                        |                      |                                     | <b>4,130,727</b> |               |                   | <b>4,130,727</b> |                 | <b>4,130,727</b> |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**4. SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** (in CHF)

|   | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal      | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| AG Fund                                       |                        | 52,000               |                                     | 52,000        |               |                   | 52,000        |                 | 52,000         |
| Various supranational organizations           |                        |                      |                                     |               | 8,098         |                   | 8,098         |                 | 8,098          |
| <b>Total from supranational organizations</b> |                        | <b>52,000</b>        |                                     | <b>52,000</b> | <b>8,098</b>  |                   | <b>60,098</b> |                 | <b>60,098</b>  |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**5. NATIONAL SOCIETIES** (in CHF)

|                                  | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal  | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Albania                          | 1,243                  |                      |                                     | 1,243         |               |                   | 1,243     |                 | 1,243          |
| Andorra                          | 1,255                  |                      |                                     | 1,255         |               |                   | 1,255     |                 | 1,255          |
| Area under Palestinian Authority | 796                    |                      |                                     | 796           |               |                   | 796       |                 | 796            |
| Argentina                        | 497                    |                      |                                     | 497           |               |                   | 497       |                 | 497            |
| Armenia                          | 107                    |                      | - 11                                | 96            |               |                   | 96        |                 | 96             |
| Australia                        | 355,794                |                      |                                     | 355,794       |               | 1,353,914         | 1,709,708 |                 | 1,709,708      |
| Austria                          | 86,462                 | 31,543               |                                     | 118,005       |               |                   | 118,005   |                 | 118,005        |
| Bangladesh                       | 1,600                  |                      |                                     | 1,600         |               |                   | 1,600     |                 | 1,600          |
| Barbados                         | 671                    |                      |                                     | 671           |               |                   | 671       |                 | 671            |
| Belgium                          | 108,190                | 181,032              | 16,570                              | 305,792       |               | 111,109           | 416,901   |                 | 416,901        |
| Belize                           | 728                    |                      |                                     | 728           |               |                   | 728       |                 | 728            |
| Bolivia                          | 1,000                  |                      |                                     | 1,000         |               |                   | 1,000     |                 | 1,000          |
| Bulgaria                         | 2,100                  | 5,000                |                                     | 7,100         |               |                   | 7,100     |                 | 7,100          |
| Burundi                          | 226                    |                      |                                     | 226           |               |                   | 226       |                 | 226            |
| Cambodia                         | 2,600                  |                      |                                     | 2,600         |               |                   | 2,600     |                 | 2,600          |
| Canada                           | 162,195                | 3,391,379            | - 30,780                            | 3,522,794     | 14,000        | 1,617,252         | 5,154,046 |                 | 5,154,046      |
| Cape Verde                       | 2,147                  |                      |                                     | 2,147         |               |                   | 2,147     |                 | 2,147          |
| Chile                            | 10,119                 |                      |                                     | 10,119        |               |                   | 10,119    |                 | 10,119         |
| China                            | 161,961                |                      |                                     | 161,961       |               |                   | 161,961   |                 | 161,961        |
| China/Hong Kong                  |                        | 63,963               |                                     | 63,963        |               |                   | 63,963    |                 | 63,963         |
| Cook Islands                     | 217                    |                      |                                     | 217           |               |                   | 217       |                 | 217            |
| Croatia                          | 3,956                  | 19                   |                                     | 3,975         |               |                   | 3,975     |                 | 3,975          |



## 5. NATIONAL SOCIETIES (CONT.) (in CHF)

|  | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash     | Total<br>kind  | Total<br>services | Subtotal          | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total    |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Czech Republic   | 16,162                 | 6,772                |                                     | 22,934            |                |                   | 22,934            |                 | 22,934            |
| Denmark  | 101,381                | 235,440              |                                     | 336,821           |                | 66,574            | 403,395           |                 | 403,395           |
| Dominica   | 188                    |                      |                                     | 188               |                |                   | 188               |                 | 188               |
| Egypt  | 13,337                 | 113,085              |                                     | 126,422           |                |                   | 126,422           |                 | 126,422           |
| Estonia  | 4,860                  | 242,843              |                                     | 247,703           |                |                   | 247,703           |                 | 247,703           |
| Ethiopia   |                        |                      | 5,932                               | 5,932             |                |                   | 5,932             |                 | 5,932             |
| Finland  | 101,042                | 1,131,086            | 8,564                               | 1,240,692         |                | 697,669           | 1,938,361         |                 | 1,938,361         |
| France   | 708,762                | 80                   |                                     | 708,842           | 107,556        | 39,582            | 855,980           |                 | 855,980           |
| Gambia   | 211                    |                      |                                     | 211               |                |                   | 211               |                 | 211               |
| Georgia  | 228                    |                      |                                     | 228               |                |                   | 228               |                 | 228               |
| Germany  | 791,155                | 1,046,352            |                                     | 1,837,507         |                | 145,088           | 1,982,594         |                 | 1,982,594         |
| Greece   | 50,000                 | 87,378               |                                     | 137,378           |                |                   | 137,378           |                 | 137,378           |
| Honduras   | 2,034                  |                      |                                     | 2,034             |                |                   | 2,034             |                 | 2,034             |
| Hungary  | 5,000                  |                      |                                     | 5,000             |                |                   | 5,000             |                 | 5,000             |
| Iceland  | 48,034                 | 684,931              |                                     | 732,965           |                | 52,577            | 785,542           |                 | 785,542           |
| Ireland  | 43,400                 | 392,839              |                                     | 436,239           |                | 693,370           | 1,129,609         |                 | 1,129,609         |
| Italy  | 327,000                | 64,833               |                                     | 391,833           | 184,274        |                   | 576,107           |                 | 576,107           |
| Japan  | 791,155                | 863,106              |                                     | 1,654,261         |                | 197,266           | 1,851,527         |                 | 1,851,527         |
| Jordan   | 1,130                  |                      | 1,119                               | 2,249             |                |                   | 2,249             |                 | 2,249             |
| Kenya  |                        |                      | 1,528                               | 1,528             |                |                   | 1,528             |                 | 1,528             |
| Korea, Republic of   | 377,720                |                      |                                     | 377,720           |                |                   | 377,720           |                 | 377,720           |
| Kyrgyzstan   | 113                    |                      |                                     | 113               |                |                   | 113               |                 | 113               |
| Lao People's<br>Democratic Republic                                    | 438                    |                      |                                     | 438               |                |                   | 438               |                 | 438               |
| Latvia   | 1,921                  |                      |                                     | 1,921             |                |                   | 1,921             |                 | 1,921             |
| Lebanon  | 3,617                  |                      |                                     | 3,617             |                |                   | 3,617             |                 | 3,617             |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya   | 3,520                  |                      |                                     | 3,520             |                |                   | 3,520             |                 | 3,520             |
| Liechtenstein  | 2,000                  | 242,711              |                                     | 244,711           |                |                   | 244,711           |                 | 244,711           |
| Lithuania  | 2,826                  | 107,611              |                                     | 110,437           |                |                   | 110,437           |                 | 110,437           |
| Luxembourg   | 13,125                 | 22,332               |                                     | 35,457            |                |                   | 35,457            |                 | 35,457            |
| Macedonia, Former Yugoslav<br>Republic of                              | 300                    |                      |                                     | 300               |                |                   | 300               |                 | 300               |
| Madagascar   | 452                    |                      |                                     | 452               |                |                   | 452               |                 | 452               |
| Malta  | 100                    |                      |                                     | 100               |                |                   | 100               |                 | 100               |
| Mexico   | 7,000                  |                      | 5,000                               | 12,000            |                |                   | 12,000            |                 | 12,000            |
| Micronesia, Federated States of  |                        |                      | 448                                 | 448               |                |                   | 448               |                 | 448               |
| Monaco   | 16,840                 | 31,580               |                                     | 48,420            |                |                   | 48,420            |                 | 48,420            |
| Mongolia   | 1,469                  |                      |                                     | 1,469             |                |                   | 1,469             |                 | 1,469             |
| Morocco  | 1,340                  |                      |                                     | 1,340             |                |                   | 1,340             |                 | 1,340             |
| Namibia  |                        |                      | 783                                 | 783               |                |                   | 783               |                 | 783               |
| Nepal  | 678                    |                      |                                     | 678               |                |                   | 678               |                 | 678               |
| Netherlands  | 257,803                | 3,328,140            |                                     | 3,585,943         |                | 311,606           | 3,897,549         |                 | 3,897,549         |
| New Zealand  | 48,486                 | 378,646              | - 137,001                           | 290,131           |                | 1,181,030         | 1,471,161         |                 | 1,471,161         |
| Norway   | 298,980                | 7,823,400            |                                     | 8,122,380         | 138,839        | 1,143,482         | 9,404,700         |                 | 9,404,700         |
| Pakistan   | 4,521                  |                      |                                     | 4,521             |                |                   | 4,521             |                 | 4,521             |
| Poland   |                        | 60                   |                                     | 60                |                |                   | 60                |                 | 60                |
| Portugal   |                        | 4,030                |                                     | 4,030             |                |                   | 4,030             |                 | 4,030             |
| Qatar  |                        | 445,405              |                                     | 445,405           |                | 656,474           | 1,101,879         |                 | 1,101,879         |
| Romania  | 5,877                  | 54                   |                                     | 5,931             |                |                   | 5,931             |                 | 5,931             |
| Russian Federation   |                        | 167                  |                                     | 167               |                |                   | 167               |                 | 167               |
| Seychelles   | 113                    |                      |                                     | 113               |                |                   | 113               |                 | 113               |
| Singapore  | 7,746                  |                      |                                     | 7,746             |                |                   | 7,746             |                 | 7,746             |
| Slovakia   | 7,799                  |                      |                                     | 7,799             |                |                   | 7,799             |                 | 7,799             |
| Spain  |                        | 315,875              |                                     | 315,875           |                | 5,398             | 321,273           |                 | 321,273           |
| Sudan  |                        |                      | 1,093                               | 1,093             |                |                   | 1,093             |                 | 1,093             |
| Suriname   | 1,921                  |                      |                                     | 1,921             |                |                   | 1,921             |                 | 1,921             |
| Sweden   | 249,881                | 4,221,837            |                                     | 4,471,718         |                | 1,087,331         | 5,559,049         |                 | 5,559,049         |
| Switzerland  | 146,251                | 57,519               |                                     | 203,770           | 326,016        |                   | 529,786           |                 | 529,786           |
| Thailand   | 29,047                 |                      |                                     | 29,047            |                |                   | 29,047            |                 | 29,047            |
| Tonga  |                        |                      | 229                                 | 229               |                |                   | 229               |                 | 229               |
| Tunisia  | 1,062                  |                      |                                     | 1,062             |                |                   | 1,062             |                 | 1,062             |
| United Arab Emirates   |                        | 129,180              |                                     | 129,180           |                |                   | 129,180           |                 | 129,180           |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain<br>and Northern Ireland <sup>(2)</sup> |                        | 8,153,241            |                                     | 8,153,241         | 11,048         | 1,285,565         | 9,449,854         |                 | 9,449,854         |
| United States of America   | 517,725                | 1,208,813            |                                     | 1,726,538         |                | 153,653           | 1,880,191         |                 | 1,880,191         |
| Uruguay  | 162                    |                      |                                     | 162               |                |                   | 162               |                 | 162               |
| Viet Nam   | 1,808                  |                      |                                     | 1,808             |                |                   | 1,808             |                 | 1,808             |
| International Federation of Red<br>Cross and Red Crescent Societies    |                        |                      |                                     |                   | 87,432         |                   | 87,432            |                 | 87,432            |
| <b>Total from National Societies</b>                                   | <b>5,921,585</b>       | <b>35,012,281</b>    | <b>- 126,526</b>                    | <b>40,807,340</b> | <b>869,165</b> | <b>10,798,942</b> | <b>52,475,447</b> |                 | <b>52,475,447</b> |

(2) Of which CHF 1,585,897 is the cash contribution from the Australian Red Cross for the Integrated Project in Gereida, Sudan.

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**6. PUBLIC SOURCES** (in CHF)

|                                  | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash    | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal         | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Basel – Landschaft, Canton of    |                        | 100,000              |                                     | 100,000          |               |                   | 100,000          |                 | 100,000          |
| Belgian Flanders Community       |                        | 474,578              |                                     | 474,578          |               |                   | 474,578          |                 | 474,578          |
| Bellinzona                       |                        | 5,000                |                                     | 5,000            |               |                   | 5,000            |                 | 5,000            |
| Fribourg, Canton of              |                        | 30,000               |                                     | 30,000           |               |                   | 30,000           |                 | 30,000           |
| Geneva, Canton of                |                        | 3,000,250            |                                     | 3,000,250        |               | 2,578,224         | 5,578,474        |                 | 5,578,474        |
| Geneva, City of                  |                        | 50,000               |                                     | 50,000           |               |                   | 50,000           |                 | 50,000           |
| Lausanne, City of                |                        | 10,000               | - 10,000                            |                  |               |                   |                  |                 |                  |
| Rothenburg                       |                        | 2,000                |                                     | 2,000            |               |                   | 2,000            |                 | 2,000            |
| Taiwan Red Cross Organisation    |                        | 563,500              |                                     | 563,500          |               |                   | 563,500          |                 | 563,500          |
| Valais, Canton of                |                        | 150,000              |                                     | 150,000          |               |                   | 150,000          |                 | 150,000          |
| Versoix                          |                        |                      |                                     |                  |               | 643,042           | 643,042          |                 | 643,042          |
| Wil, City of                     |                        | 500                  |                                     | 500              |               |                   | 500              |                 | 500              |
| Zurich, Canton of                |                        | 100,000              |                                     | 100,000          |               |                   | 100,000          |                 | 100,000          |
| <b>Total from public sources</b> |                        | <b>4,485,828</b>     | <b>- 10,000</b>                     | <b>4,475,828</b> |               | <b>3,221,266</b>  | <b>7,697,094</b> |                 | <b>7,697,094</b> |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

## 7. PRIVATE SOURCES (in CHF)

|  | Headquarters<br>Appeal | Emergency<br>Appeals | Adjustments<br>on previous<br>years | Total<br>cash     | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services | Subtotal          | Total<br>assets | Grand<br>total    |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| <b>Direct mail fundraising campaigns</b>                               |                        | 2,557,291            |                                     | 2,557,291         |               |                   | 2,557,291         |                 | 2,557,291         |
| <b>Online donations</b>  |                        | 413,965              |                                     | 413,965           |               |                   | 413,965           |                 | 413,965           |
| <b>Score for the Red Cross</b>   |                        | 138,450              |                                     | 138,450           |               |                   | 138,450           |                 | 138,450           |
| <b>Spontaneous donations from private Individuals</b>                  |                        | 4,289,086            | - 100                               | 4,288,986         |               |                   | 4,288,986         |                 | 4,288,986         |
| <b>Donations from foundations/funds</b>                                |                        |                      |                                     |                   |               |                   |                   |                 |                   |
| Alcoa Foundation   |                        | 50,301               |                                     | 50,301            |               |                   | 50,301            |                 | 50,301            |
| Clare Benedict Fund  |                        | 19,276               |                                     | 19,276            |               |                   | 19,276            |                 | 19,276            |
| Fondation des immeubles pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI) |                        |                      |                                     |                   |               | 276,984           | 276,984           |                 | 276,984           |
| Fondation Hans Wilsdorf <sup>(1)</sup>                                 | 500,000                |                      |                                     | 500,000           |               |                   | 500,000           |                 | 500,000           |
| Fondation Johan et Lucia Graessly                                      |                        | 100,000              |                                     | 100,000           |               |                   | 100,000           |                 | 100,000           |
| Odeon Foundation   |                        | 42,700               |                                     | 42,700            |               |                   | 42,700            |                 | 42,700            |
| Parthenon Trust  | 68,033 <sup>(2)</sup>  | 756,638              |                                     | 824,671           |               |                   | 824,671           |                 | 824,671           |
| RPH-Promotor Stiftung  |                        | 14,000               |                                     | 14,000            |               |                   | 14,000            |                 | 14,000            |
| The Link Foundation  |                        | 41,965               |                                     | 41,965            |               |                   | 41,965            |                 | 41,965            |
| Others and less than CHF 10,000  | 530,300                | 10,463,597           | - 2,445                             | 10,991,452        |               |                   | 10,991,452        |                 | 10,991,452        |
| <b>Total donations from foundations/funds</b>                          | <b>1,098,333</b>       | <b>11,488,477</b>    | <b>- 2,445</b>                      | <b>12,584,365</b> |               | <b>276,984</b>    | <b>12,861,349</b> |                 | <b>12,861,349</b> |
| <b>Legacies</b>  |                        | 6,156,264            |                                     | 6,156,264         |               |                   | 6,156,264         | 658,191         | 6,814,456         |
| <b>Donations from private companies</b>                                |                        |                      |                                     |                   |               |                   |                   |                 |                   |
| Pictet & Cie   |                        | 50,000               |                                     | 50,000            |               |                   | 50,000            |                 | 50,000            |
| Crédit Suisse <sup>(1)</sup>   |                        | 500,000              |                                     | 500,000           |               |                   | 500,000           |                 | 500,000           |
| Land Rover   |                        |                      |                                     |                   |               | 12,087            | 12,087            |                 | 12,087            |
| Swiss Reinsurance Company <sup>(1)</sup>                               |                        | 1,000,000            |                                     | 1,000,000         |               |                   | 1,000,000         |                 | 1,000,000         |
| Zurich Financial Services <sup>(1)</sup>                               |                        | 166,666              |                                     | 166,666           |               |                   | 166,666           |                 | 166,666           |
| Other private companies  |                        | 1,136,384            |                                     | 1,136,384         | 69,090        | 33,312            | 1,238,786         | 74,100          | 1,312,886         |
| <b>Total donations from private companies</b>                          |                        | <b>2,853,050</b>     |                                     | <b>2,853,050</b>  | <b>69,090</b> | <b>45,399</b>     | <b>2,967,539</b>  | <b>74,100</b>   | <b>3,041,639</b>  |
| <b>Donations from associations and service clubs</b>                   |                        |                      |                                     |                   |               |                   |                   |                 |                   |
| Comité International Olympique   |                        | 110,000              |                                     | 110,000           |               |                   | 110,000           |                 | 110,000           |
| MINE-EX Rotary Deutschland   |                        | 179,326              |                                     | 179,326           |               |                   | 179,326           |                 | 179,326           |
| MINE-EX Rotary Schweiz-Liechtenstein                                   |                        | 950,000              |                                     | 950,000           |               |                   | 950,000           |                 | 950,000           |
| Soroptimist International – Deutschland                                |                        | 4,068                |                                     | 4,068             |               |                   | 4,068             |                 | 4,068             |
| Soroptimist International – Switzerland                                |                        | 10,836               |                                     | 10,836            |               |                   | 10,836            |                 | 10,836            |
| UEFA   | 65,000                 | 530,427              |                                     | 595,427           |               |                   | 595,427           |                 | 595,427           |
| Other associations and service clubs                                   | 41,190                 | 103,598              |                                     | 144,788           |               |                   | 144,788           |                 | 144,788           |
| <b>Total donations from associations and service clubs</b>             | <b>106,190</b>         | <b>1,888,255</b>     |                                     | <b>1,994,445</b>  |               |                   | <b>1,994,445</b>  |                 | <b>1,994,445</b>  |
| <b>Various donors</b>  |                        | 1,000,000            |                                     | 1,000,000         |               |                   | 1,000,000         |                 | 1,000,000         |
| <b>Total from private sources</b>                                      | <b>1,204,523</b>       | <b>30,784,838</b>    | <b>- 2,545</b>                      | <b>31,986,816</b> | <b>69,090</b> | <b>322,383</b>    | <b>32,378,289</b> | <b>732,291</b>  | <b>33,110,580</b> |

(1) Member of the Corporate Support Group

(2) As a tribute to Professor Jacques Forster who completed his mandate as vice-president of the ICRC at the end of 2007, the Parthenon Trust pledged to support the ICRC's training programmes as they are crucial for maintaining the high standard of the organization's humanitarian activities. This generous contribution will support training programmes at the ICRC's staff training centre at Ecogia (Geneva) for a period of three years.

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES AND TO INTEGRATED PROJECTS (IPs) 2008** (in CHF)

|   | Donations in kind<br>(excluding IPs) |           | Donations in services<br>(excluding IPs) |            | Donations for IPs |          |           |           | Grand total   |                   | Number of<br>days of<br>employee<br>service |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|---|
|   | Headquarters                         | Field     | Headquarters                             | Field      | Kind              | Services | Cash      | Total IPs | Total<br>kind | Total<br>services |   |
| <b>NATIONAL SOCIETIES</b>   |                                      |           |  |            |                   |          |           |           |               |                   |   |
| Australia   |                                      |           |  | 1,171,216  |                   | 182,699  |           | 182,699   |               | 1,353,914         | 4,985                                       |
| Belgium   |                                      |           |  | 111,109    |                   |          |           |           |               | 111,109           | 1,440                                       |
| Canada  |                                      | 14,000    |  | 1,617,252  |                   |          |           |           | 14,000        | 1,617,252         | 6,719                                       |
| Denmark   |                                      |           |  | 66,574     |                   |          |           |           |               | 66,574            | 748   |
| Finland   |                                      |           |  | 697,669    |                   |          |           |           |               | 697,669           | 2,003                                       |
| France  |                                      | 107,556   |  | 39,582     |                   |          |           |           | 107,556       | 39,582            | 235   |
| Germany   |                                      |           |  | 145,088    |                   |          |           |           |               | 145,088           | 1,121                                       |
| Iceland   |                                      |           |  | 52,577     |                   |          |           |           |               | 52,577            | 148   |
| Ireland   |                                      |           | 121,961                                  | 571,409    |                   |          |           |           |               | 693,370           | 2,253                                       |
| Italy   |                                      | 184,274   |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 184,274       |                   |   |
| Japan   |                                      |           |  | 197,266    |                   |          |           |           |               | 197,266           | 552   |
| Netherlands   |                                      |           |  | 311,606    |                   |          |           |           |               | 311,606           | 2,004                                       |
| New Zealand   |                                      |           |  | 1,181,030  |                   |          |           |           |               | 1,181,030         | 3,674                                       |
| Norway  |                                      | 138,839   | 90,015                                   | 962,128    |                   | 91,339   | 4,064,050 | 4,155,389 | 138,839       | 1,143,482         | 3,030                                       |
| Qatar   |                                      |           |  | 656,474    |                   |          |           |           |               | 656,474           | 1,308                                       |
| Spain   |                                      |           |  | 5,398      |                   |          |           |           |               | 5,398             | 19  |
| Sweden  |                                      |           |  | 966,596    |                   | 120,735  | 1,110,723 | 1,231,458 |               | 1,087,331         | 3,516                                       |
| Switzerland   |                                      | 326,016   |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 326,016       |                   |   |
| United Kingdom<br>of Great Britain and<br>Northern Ireland <sup>(1)</sup> |                                      | 11,048    | 59,383                                   | 1,115,389  |                   | 110,793  | 3,543,192 | 3,653,985 | 11,048        | 1,285,565         | 10,785                                      |
| United States of America  |                                      |           |  | 153,653    |                   |          |           |           |               | 153,653           | 394   |
| International Federation<br>of Red Cross and<br>Red Crescent Societies    |                                      | 87,432    |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 87,432        |                   |   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   |                                      | 869,165   | 271,359                                  | 10,022,017 |                   | 505,566  | 8,717,965 | 9,223,531 | 869,165       | 10,798,942        | 44,934                                      |
| <b>GOVERNMENTS</b>  |                                      |           |  |            |                   |          |           |           |               |                   |   |
| Afghanistan   |                                      |           |  | 137,885    |                   |          |           |           |               | 137,885           |   |
| Central African Republic  |                                      | 900       |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 900           |                   |   |
| Denmark   |                                      |           |  | 606,663    |                   |          |           |           |               | 606,663           | 1,819                                       |
| Finland   |                                      | 399,328   |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 399,328       |                   |   |
| India   |                                      | 2,720,000 |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 2,720,000     |                   |   |
| Norway  |                                      | 928,535   |  |            |                   |          |           |           | 928,535       |                   |   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   |                                      | 4,048,763 |  | 744,548    |                   |          |           |           | 4,048,763     | 744,548           | 1,819                                       |

(1) Of which CHF 1,585,897 is the cash contribution from the Australian Red Cross for the Integrated Project in Gereida, Sudan.

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.

**CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES AND TO INTEGRATED PROJECTS (IPs) 2008 (CONT.)** (in CHF)

|  | Donations in kind<br>(excluding IPs) |                  | Donations in services<br>(excluding IPs) |                   | Donations for IPs |                |                  |                  | Grand total      |                   | Number of<br>days of<br>employee<br>service |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---|
|  | Headquarters                         | Field            | Headquarters                             | Field             | Kind              | Services       | Cash             | Total IPs        | Total<br>kind    | Total<br>services |   |
| <b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>                                     |                                      |                  |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  |                  |                   |   |
| WFP  |                                      | 4,074,502        |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 4,074,502        |                   |   |
| Various UN   |                                      | 56,225           |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 56,225           |                   |   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  |                                      | <b>4,130,727</b> |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | <b>4,130,727</b> |                   |   |
| <b>SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>                                     |                                      |                  |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  |                  |                   |   |
| Various supranational organizations                                    |                                      | 8,098            |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 8,098            |                   |   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  |                                      | <b>8,098</b>     |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | <b>8,098</b>     |                   |   |
| <b>PUBLIC SOURCES</b>  |                                      |                  |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  |                  |                   |   |
| Geneva, Canton of  |                                      |                  | 2,578,224                                |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 2,578,224        |                   |   |
| Versoix  |                                      |                  | 643,042                                  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 643,042          |                   |   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  |                                      |                  | <b>3,221,266</b>                         |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | <b>3,221,266</b> |                   |   |
| <b>PRIVATE SOURCES</b>   |                                      |                  |  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  |                  |                   |   |
| Fondation des immeubles pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI) |                                      |                  | 276,984                                  |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 276,984          |                   |   |
| Land Rover   |                                      |                  |  | 12,087            |                   |                |                  |                  |                  | 12,087            |   |
| Other private companies  | 24,514                               | 44,576           | 33,312                                   |                   |                   |                |                  |                  | 69,090           | 33,312            |   |
| <b>Subtotal</b>  | <b>24,514</b>                        | <b>44,576</b>    | <b>310,296</b>                           | <b>12,087</b>     |                   |                |                  |                  | <b>69,090</b>    | <b>322,383</b>    |   |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>   | <b>24,514</b>                        | <b>9,101,330</b> | <b>3,802,921</b>                         | <b>10,778,652</b> |                   | <b>505,566</b> | <b>8,717,965</b> | <b>9,223,531</b> | <b>9,125,844</b> | <b>15,087,139</b> | <b>46,753</b>                               |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding-off addition differences.



**COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS** (in KCHF)

|  | 2008           | 2007 <sup>1</sup><br>Restated | 2006 <sup>1</sup><br>Restated | 2005           | 2004            |
|--|----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>Balance sheet</b>                                 |                |                               |                               |                |                 |
| Current assets                                       | 573,023        | 610,641                       | 510,286                       | 486,287        | 332,265         |
| Non-current assets                                   | 166,578        | 180,322                       | 227,463                       | 93,668         | 88,132          |
| <b>Total assets</b>                                  | <b>739,601</b> | <b>790,963</b>                | <b>737,749</b>                | <b>579,955</b> | <b>420,397</b>  |
| Liabilities  | - 258,051      | - 337,509                     | - 361,517                     | - 207,126      | - 120,427       |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                              | <b>481,550</b> | <b>453,454</b>                | <b>376,232</b>                | <b>372,829</b> | <b>299,970</b>  |
| Funds and foundations                                | 27,742         | 27,530                        | 19,790                        | 14,462         | 11,987          |
| Funding of current operations                        | 16,705         | 5,386                         | -21,976                       | 22,998         | - 1,423         |
| Unrestricted reserves designated by the Assembly     | 422,703        | 406,138                       | 364,018                       | 320,969        | 275,006         |
| Other unrestricted reserves                          | 14,400         | 14,400                        | 14,400                        | 14,400         | 14,400          |
| <b>Total reserves</b>                                | <b>481,550</b> | <b>453,454</b>                | <b>376,232</b>                | <b>372,829</b> | <b>299,970</b>  |
| <b>Income and expenditure statement</b>              |                |                               |                               |                |                 |
| Contributions  | 1,146,503      | 1,007,326                     | 943,849                       | 959,652        | 757,757         |
| Operational expenditure                              | - 1,102,889    | - 948,702                     | - 964,124                     | - 910,731      | - 782,211       |
| <b>Operational result</b>                            | <b>43,614</b>  | <b>58,624</b>                 | <b>- 20,275</b>               | <b>48,921</b>  | <b>- 24,454</b> |
| Net result of non-operational activities             | - 15,518       | 12,827                        | 11,288                        | 23,938         | 9,035           |
| <b>Result for the year before transfers</b>          | <b>28,096</b>  | <b>71,451</b>                 | <b>- 8,987</b>                | <b>72,859</b>  | <b>- 15,419</b> |
| Administrative costs                                 | 97,817         | 89,988                        | 86,541                        | 84,446         | 85,034          |
| <b>Ratios</b>  |                |                               |                               |                |                 |
| Reserves in % of assets                              | 65.0%          | 57.0%                         | 51.0%                         | 64.3%          | 71.4%           |
| Administrative costs in % of operational expenditure | 8.9%           | 9.5%                          | 9.0%                          | 9.3%           | 10.9%           |

(1) Restated figures, not comparative to 2004–2005

## ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES FIGURES

The statistical data in the following tables can be summarized as follows.

### CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2008

All assistance supplies received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 2008. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistical means. The figures for assistance supplies purchases comprise all procurements carried out both with non-earmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of CHF 223,063,842 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Assistance supplies dispatched in 2008".

## ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2008

All assistance supplies received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December 2008.

### ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2008

All assistance supplies distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December 2008. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 2008 or taken from stock already constituted at the end of 2007.

### CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2008

(by donors and purchases, according to stock entry date)

| Donors   | Food             | Seed           | Blankets       | Tents         | Kitchen sets   | Clothes      | Other relief goods | Total relief *     | Water & habitat   | Medical **        | Grand total        |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|  | (Tonnes)         | (Tonnes)       | (Units)        | (Units)       | (Units)        | (Tonnes)     | (Tonnes)           | (CHF)              | (CHF)             | (CHF)             | (CHF)              |
| <b>National Societies</b>                            | <b>18.2</b>      |                |                | <b>2</b>      |                | <b>4.4</b>   | <b>79.5</b>        | <b>869,164</b>     |                   |                   | 869,164            |
| Canada   |                  |                |                |               |                |              | 4.6                | 14,000             |                   |                   | 14,000             |
| France   |                  |                |                |               |                |              | 19.6               | 107,556            |                   |                   | 107,556            |
| Italy  |                  |                |                |               |                | 4.4          |                    | 184,274            |                   |                   | 184,274            |
| Norway   | 18.2             |                |                | 2             |                |              |                    | 138,838            |                   |                   | 138,838            |
| Switzerland  |                  |                |                |               |                |              | 26.8               | 326,016            |                   |                   | 326,016            |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland |                  |                |                |               |                |              | 5.8                | 11,047             |                   |                   | 11,047             |
| International Federation                             |                  |                |                |               |                |              | 22.7               | 87,433             |                   |                   | 87,433             |
| <b>Governments</b>                                   | <b>1,480.0</b>   |                | <b>38,000</b>  | <b>16</b>     |                | <b>200.0</b> | <b>6.0</b>         | <b>3,481,405</b>   |                   | <b>566,458</b>    | <b>4,047,863</b>   |
| Finland  |                  |                | 38,000         |               |                |              | 6.0                | 399,327            |                   |                   | 399,327            |
| India  | 1,480.0          |                |                |               |                | 200.0        |                    | 2,720,000          |                   |                   | 2,720,000          |
| Norway   |                  |                |                | 16            |                |              |                    | 362,078            |                   | 566,458           | 928,536            |
| <b>Various donors</b>                                | <b>5,079.4</b>   |                | <b>7,000</b>   |               |                |              | <b>8.7</b>         | <b>4,171,550</b>   | <b>19,128</b>     | <b>7,056</b>      | <b>4,197,734</b>   |
| United Nations (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF)                  | 5,079.4          |                | 5,000          |               |                |              | 6.4                | 4,121,491          | 16,487            |                   | 4,137,978          |
| Other donors   |                  |                | 2,000          |               |                |              | 2.3                | 50,059             | 2,641             | 7,056             | 59,756             |
| <b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND</b>                   | <b>6,577.6</b>   |                | <b>45,000</b>  | <b>18</b>     |                | <b>204.4</b> | <b>94.2</b>        | <b>8,522,119</b>   | <b>19,128</b>     | <b>573,514</b>    | <b>9,114,761</b>   |
| ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked)                       | 105,757.5        | 6,791.4        | 838,837        | 10,987        | 183,862        | 688.9        | 16,715.3           | 155,530,586        | 19,679,310        | 28,836,099        | 204,045,995        |
| ICRC PURCHASES (cash for kind)                       | 8,564.4          |                | 13,114         |               | 635            | 6.3          | 382.2              | 7,101,349          |                   | 1,998,186         | 9,099,535          |
| ICRC PURCHASES (integrated projects)                 | 12.3             |                |                |               |                |              | 57.0               | 350,572            | 114,196           | 338,783           | 803,551            |
| <b>TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES</b>                          | <b>114,334.2</b> | <b>6,791.4</b> | <b>851,951</b> | <b>10,987</b> | <b>184,497</b> | <b>695.2</b> | <b>17,154.5</b>    | <b>162,982,507</b> | <b>19,793,506</b> | <b>31,173,068</b> | <b>213,949,081</b> |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                   | <b>120,911.8</b> | <b>6,791.4</b> | <b>896,951</b> | <b>11,005</b> | <b>184,497</b> | <b>899.6</b> | <b>17,248.7</b>    | <b>171,504,626</b> | <b>19,812,634</b> | <b>31,746,582</b> | <b>223,063,842</b> |

\* RELIEF includes food, seed, agricultural inputs and essential household items

\*\* MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items

**ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2008**

(by receiving context, according to stock entry date)

| Context                                | GIFTS IN KIND         |                             |                       | PURCHASES BY THE ICRC |                             |                       | TOTAL DISPATCHED      |                             |                       | Total              |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|  | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**<br>(CHF) | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**<br>(CHF) | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**<br>(CHF) |                    |
| <b>AFRICA</b>                          |                       | <b>17,387</b>               | <b>4,448,682</b>      | <b>7,395,629</b>      | <b>9,946,299</b>            | <b>102,601,438</b>    | <b>7,395,629</b>      | <b>9,963,686</b>            | <b>107,050,120</b>    | <b>124,409,435</b> |
| Angola                                 |                       |                             |                       | 109,308               |                             | 5,759                 | 109,308               |                             | 5,759                 | 115,067            |
| Burundi                                |                       |                             | 39,298                | 80,722                | 456,756                     | 159,568               | 80,722                | 456,756                     | 198,866               | 736,344            |
| Central African Republic               |                       | 17,387                      | 331,954               | 28,590                | 383,912                     | 1,020,754             | 28,590                | 401,299                     | 1,352,708             | 1,782,597          |
| Chad                                   |                       |                             | 1,090,887             | 501,915               | 345,388                     | 1,647,851             | 501,915               | 345,388                     | 2,738,738             | 3,586,041          |
| Comoros                                |                       |                             |                       | 18,224                | 1,171                       | 34,285                | 18,224                | 1,171                       | 34,285                | 53,680             |
| Congo                                  |                       |                             |                       | 21,164                | 7,129                       | 4,929                 | 21,164                | 7,129                       | 4,929                 | 33,222             |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the      |                       |                             | 2,833,113             | 1,183,260             | 1,256,471                   | 5,664,511             | 1,183,260             | 1,256,471                   | 8,497,624             | 10,937,355         |
| Côte d'Ivoire                          |                       |                             |                       | 257,391               | 853,511                     | 820,720               | 257,391               | 853,511                     | 820,720               | 1,931,622          |
| Djibouti                               |                       |                             |                       | 86                    |                             | 14,282                | 86                    |                             | 14,282                | 14,368             |
| Equatorial Guinea                      |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 438                   |                       |                             | 438                   | 438                |
| Eritrea                                |                       |                             |                       | 90,700                | 1,115,881                   | 459,130               | 90,700                | 1,115,881                   | 459,130               | 1,665,711          |
| Ethiopia                               |                       |                             |                       | 588,810               | 395,956                     | 198,966               | 588,810               | 395,956                     | 198,966               | 1,183,732          |
| Ghana                                  |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 146,186               |                       |                             | 146,186               | 146,186            |
| Guinea                                 |                       |                             | 98,418                | 97,466                | 412,935                     | 52,945                | 97,466                | 412,935                     | 151,363               | 661,764            |
| Guinea-Bissau                          |                       |                             |                       | 3,156                 | 38,777                      | 1,075,211             | 3,156                 | 38,777                      | 1,075,211             | 1,117,144          |
| Kenya                                  |                       |                             | 55,012                | 119,746               | 602,280                     | 6,656,487             | 119,746               | 602,280                     | 6,711,499             | 7,433,525          |
| Lesotho                                |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 957                   |                       |                             | 957                   | 957                |
| Liberia                                |                       |                             |                       | 263,358               | 468,230                     | 344,401               | 263,358               | 468,230                     | 344,401               | 1,075,989          |
| Madagascar                             |                       |                             |                       | 977                   | 3,128                       | 10,455                | 977                   | 3,128                       | 10,455                | 14,560             |
| Mali                                   |                       |                             |                       | 6,449                 |                             | 196,873               | 6,449                 |                             | 196,873               | 203,322            |
| Namibia                                |                       |                             |                       | 48                    |                             | 8,776                 | 48                    |                             | 8,776                 | 8,824              |
| Niger                                  |                       |                             |                       | 27,836                |                             | 75,628                | 27,836                |                             | 75,628                | 103,464            |
| Rwanda                                 |                       |                             |                       | 11,036                | 121,944                     | 326,192               | 11,036                | 121,944                     | 326,192               | 459,172            |
| Senegal                                |                       |                             |                       | 8,223                 | 140,784                     | 255,266               | 8,223                 | 140,784                     | 255,266               | 404,273            |
| Somalia                                |                       |                             |                       | 1,715,732             | 421,578                     | 55,025,851            | 1,715,732             | 421,578                     | 55,025,851            | 57,163,161         |
| South Africa                           |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 110,879               |                       |                             | 110,879               | 110,879            |
| Sudan                                  |                       |                             |                       | 1,245,266             | 1,550,193                   | 24,287,462            | 1,245,266             | 1,550,193                   | 24,287,462            | 27,082,921         |
| Tanzania, United Republic of           |                       |                             |                       |                       | 14,543                      | 14,625                |                       | 14,543                      | 14,625                | 29,168             |
| Togo                                   |                       |                             |                       | 756                   | 3,775                       | 84,015                | 756                   | 3,775                       | 84,015                | 88,546             |
| Uganda                                 |                       |                             |                       | 339,599               | 509,204                     | 3,776,475             | 339,599               | 509,204                     | 3,776,475             | 4,625,278          |
| Zimbabwe                               |                       |                             |                       | 675,811               | 842,753                     | 121,561               | 675,811               | 842,753                     | 121,561               | 1,640,125          |
| <b>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</b>          |                       |                             | <b>3,025,352</b>      | <b>8,939,049</b>      | <b>3,359,057</b>            | <b>25,535,664</b>     | <b>8,939,049</b>      | <b>3,359,057</b>            | <b>28,561,016</b>     | <b>40,859,122</b>  |
| Afghanistan                            |                       |                             | 184,334               | 5,930,987             | 578,847                     | 11,413,160            | 5,930,987             | 578,847                     | 11,597,494            | 18,107,328         |
| Cambodia                               |                       |                             |                       | 371,959               | 86,534                      | 140,919               | 371,959               | 86,534                      | 140,919               | 599,412            |
| China                                  |                       |                             |                       | 10,468                |                             |                       | 10,468                |                             |                       | 10,468             |
| Fiji                                   |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 8,064                 |                       |                             | 8,064                 | 8,064              |
| India                                  |                       |                             |                       | 81,520                |                             | 7,837                 | 81,520                |                             | 7,837                 | 89,357             |
| Indonesia                              |                       |                             |                       | 19,173                | 57,427                      | 266,129               | 19,173                | 57,427                      | 266,129               | 342,729            |
| Korea, Democratic People's Republic of |                       |                             |                       | 328,763               | 4,101                       | 19,675                | 328,763               | 4,101                       | 19,675                | 352,539            |
| Myanmar                                |                       |                             | 87,433                | 390,530               | 499,534                     | 497,159               | 390,530               | 499,534                     | 584,592               | 1,474,656          |
| Nepal                                  |                       |                             |                       | 25,221                | 16,808                      | 504,325               | 25,221                | 16,808                      | 504,325               | 546,354            |
| Pakistan                               |                       |                             |                       | 1,236,925             | 519,472                     | 5,665,746             | 1,236,925             | 519,472                     | 5,665,746             | 7,422,143          |
| Philippines                            |                       |                             |                       | 169,336               | 273,429                     | 3,561,334             | 169,336               | 273,429                     | 3,561,334             | 4,004,099          |
| Solomon Islands                        |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 536                   |                       |                             | 536                   | 536                |
| Sri Lanka                              |                       |                             | 2,753,585             | 374,167               | 1,318,200                   | 3,450,065             | 374,167               | 1,318,200                   | 6,203,650             | 7,896,017          |
| Thailand                               |                       |                             |                       |                       | 4,705                       | 346                   |                       | 4,705                       | 346                   | 5,051              |
| Timor-Leste                            |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 369                   |                       |                             | 369                   | 369                |

| Context  | GIFTS IN KIND         |                             |                       | PURCHASES BY THE ICRC |                             |                       | TOTAL DISPATCHED      |                             |                       | Total              |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|  | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**<br>(CHF) | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**<br>(CHF) | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**<br>(CHF) |                    |
| <b>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</b>                           | <b>566,458</b>        |                             | <b>869,732</b>        | <b>1,072,551</b>      | <b>1,800,446</b>            | <b>15,769,052</b>     | <b>1,639,009</b>      | <b>1,800,446</b>            | <b>16,638,784</b>     | <b>20,078,239</b>  |
| Armenia  |                       |                             |                       | 42,608                | 25,307                      | 28,628                | 42,608                | 25,307                      | 28,628                | 96,543             |
| Azerbaijan   |                       |                             |                       | 57,064                | 32,034                      | 27,838                | 57,064                | 32,034                      | 27,838                | 116,936            |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                     |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 2,861                 |                       |                             | 2,861                 | 2,861              |
| Georgia  | 566,458               |                             | 869,732               | 263,241               | 706,182                     | 2,357,544             | 829,699               | 706,182                     | 3,227,276             | 4,763,157          |
| Kyrgyzstan   |                       |                             |                       | 41,047                | 279,313                     | 202,121               | 41,047                | 279,313                     | 202,121               | 522,481            |
| Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of                     |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 1,033                 |                       |                             | 1,033                 | 1,033              |
| Russian Federation   |                       |                             |                       | 106,757               | 276,343                     | 1,559,733             | 106,757               | 276,343                     | 1,559,733             | 1,942,833          |
| Tajikistan   |                       |                             |                       | 44,066                | 794                         | 1,428                 | 44,066                | 794                         | 1,428                 | 46,288             |
| Uzbekistan   |                       |                             |                       | 725                   |                             |                       | 725                   |                             |                       | 725                |
| Chile  |                       |                             |                       | 676                   |                             | 416                   | 676                   |                             | 416                   | 1,092              |
| Colombia   |                       |                             |                       | 372,450               | 344,729                     | 11,345,987            | 372,450               | 344,729                     | 11,345,987            | 12,063,166         |
| Haiti  |                       |                             |                       | 135,751               | 135,744                     | 226,442               | 135,751               | 135,744                     | 226,442               | 497,937            |
| Mexico   |                       |                             |                       | 442                   |                             |                       | 442                   |                             |                       | 442                |
| Panama   |                       |                             |                       | 6,789                 |                             | 1,628                 | 6,789                 |                             | 1,628                 | 8,417              |
| Paraguay   |                       |                             |                       | 345                   |                             | 6,142                 | 345                   |                             | 6,142                 | 6,487              |
| Peru   |                       |                             |                       | 590                   |                             | 2,532                 | 590                   |                             | 2,532                 | 3,122              |
| United States of America                                   |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 3,561                 |                       |                             | 3,561                 | 3,561              |
| Venezuela  |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 1,158                 |                       |                             | 1,158                 | 1,158              |
| <b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</b>                      |                       |                             | <b>66,664</b>         | <b>13,765,839</b>     | <b>4,687,704</b>            | <b>19,076,353</b>     | <b>13,765,839</b>     | <b>4,687,704</b>            | <b>19,143,017</b>     | <b>37,596,560</b>  |
| Algeria  |                       |                             |                       | 10,637                |                             |                       | 10,637                |                             |                       | 10,637             |
| Iraq   |                       |                             | 26,244                | 6,848,356             | 2,032,343                   | 10,962,622            | 6,848,356             | 2,032,343                   | 10,988,866            | 19,869,565         |
| Israel (including the occupied and autonomous territories) |                       |                             |                       | 6,103,222             | 1,549,219                   | 3,516,763             | 6,103,222             | 1,549,219                   | 3,516,763             | 11,169,204         |
| Jordan   |                       |                             |                       |                       |                             | 18,874                |                       |                             | 18,874                | 18,874             |
| Lebanon  |                       |                             |                       | 293,608               | 200,868                     | 204,548               | 293,608               | 200,868                     | 204,548               | 699,024            |
| Mauritania   |                       |                             |                       | 1,229                 |                             | 2,658                 | 1,229                 |                             | 2,658                 | 3,887              |
| Western Sahara   |                       |                             |                       | 38,308                | 6,223                       | 5,618                 | 38,308                | 6,223                       | 5,618                 | 50,149             |
| Syrian Arab Republic                                       |                       |                             |                       | 24,369                | 510,024                     | 17,680                | 24,369                | 510,024                     | 17,680                | 552,073            |
| Yemen  |                       |                             | 40,420                | 446,110               | 389,027                     | 4,347,590             | 446,110               | 389,027                     | 4,388,010             | 5,223,147          |
| <b>REGIONAL STOCKS</b>                                     | <b>7,056</b>          | <b>1,741</b>                | <b>111,689</b>        |                       |                             |                       | <b>7,056</b>          | <b>1,741</b>                | <b>111,689</b>        | <b>120,486</b>     |
| Geneva and Nairobi (contributions in kind only)            | 7,056                 | 1,741                       | 111,689               |                       |                             |                       | 7,056                 | 1,741                       | 111,689               | 120,486            |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>   | <b>573,514</b>        | <b>19,128</b>               | <b>8,522,119</b>      | <b>31,173,068</b>     | <b>19,793,506</b>           | <b>162,982,507</b>    | <b>31,746,582</b>     | <b>19,812,634</b>           | <b>171,504,626</b>    | <b>223,063,842</b> |

\* MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items

\*\* RELIEF includes food, seed, agricultural inputs and essential household items

## ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2008

| Context                                | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**       |                 | Total<br>(CHF)     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|  |                       |                             | (CHF)              | (Tonnes)        |                    |
| <b>AFRICA</b>                          | <b>6,814,960</b>      | <b>9,507,901</b>            | <b>101,159,363</b> | <b>95,396.9</b> | <b>117,482,224</b> |
| Angola                                 | 109,308               |                             | 5,759              | 4.6             | 115,067            |
| Burkina Faso                           | 1,948                 |                             | 61,904             | 19.3            | 63,852             |
| Burundi                                | 64,311                | 436,624                     | 88,752             | 48.8            | 589,687            |
| Central African Republic               | 30,276                | 376,236                     | 1,526,787          | 463.1           | 1,933,299          |
| Chad                                   | 336,899               | 344,054                     | 1,868,111          | 2,011.1         | 2,549,064          |
| Comoros                                | 18,224                | 1,171                       | 34,285             | 7.9             | 53,680             |
| Congo                                  | 78,833                | 83,539                      | 35,623             | 11.3            | 197,995            |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of the      | 995,233               | 979,615                     | 5,839,556          | 5,146.4         | 7,814,404          |
| Côte d'Ivoire                          | 386,754               | 933,000                     | 873,973            | 782.5           | 2,193,727          |
| Djibouti                               | 86                    |                             | 14,282             | 4.3             | 14,368             |
| Equatorial Guinea                      |                       |                             | 438                | 0.1             | 438                |
| Eritrea                                | 128,365               | 1,200,303                   | 428,871            | 139.2           | 1,757,539          |
| Ethiopia                               | 534,617               | 450,747                     | 584,742            | 309.7           | 1,570,106          |
| Ghana                                  |                       |                             | 146,186            | 240.0           | 146,186            |
| Guinea                                 | 116,988               | 271,443                     | 193,286            | 42.0            | 581,717            |
| Guinea-Bissau                          | 3,156                 | 34,933                      | 1,084,291          | 917.9           | 1,122,380          |
| Kenya                                  | 119,746               | 633,414                     | 6,710,896          | 7,150.7         | 7,464,056          |
| Lesotho                                |                       |                             | 957                | 0.4             | 957                |
| Liberia                                | 337,386               | 745,857                     | 797,961            | 248.4           | 1,881,204          |
| Madagascar                             | 977                   | 3,128                       | 10,455             | 2.4             | 14,560             |
| Mali                                   | 6,449                 |                             | 238,442            | 183.0           | 244,891            |
| Namibia                                | 48                    |                             | 8,776              | 1.4             | 8,824              |
| Niger                                  | 28,811                |                             | 111,608            | 31.3            | 140,419            |
| Rwanda                                 | 817                   | 159,367                     | 253,214            | 227.4           | 413,398            |
| Senegal                                | 14,638                | 109,433                     | 218,564            | 177.7           | 342,635            |
| Sierra Leone                           |                       |                             | 23,759             | 6.1             | 23,759             |
| Somalia                                | 1,689,248             | 421,578                     | 55,025,865         | 44,413.0        | 57,136,691         |
| South Africa                           |                       |                             | 110,879            | 29.5            | 110,879            |
| Sudan                                  | 988,264               | 1,115,674                   | 21,069,903         | 30,130.6        | 23,173,841         |
| Tanzania, United Republic of           |                       | 14,543                      | 14,625             | 4.6             | 29,168             |
| Togo                                   | 2,039                 | 6,476                       | 190,260            | 59.6            | 198,775            |
| Uganda                                 | 377,871               | 364,783                     | 3,483,148          | 2,403.2         | 4,225,802          |
| Zimbabwe                               | 443,668               | 821,983                     | 103,205            | 179.4           | 1,368,856          |
| <b>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</b>          | <b>8,630,318</b>      | <b>3,098,213</b>            | <b>26,348,753</b>  | <b>19,676.1</b> | <b>38,077,284</b>  |
| Afghanistan                            | 5,846,262             | 705,353                     | 9,970,004          | 9,188.8         | 16,521,619         |
| Cambodia                               | 337,970               | 86,534                      | 140,919            | 165.3           | 565,423            |
| China                                  | 10,468                |                             |                    |                 | 10,468             |
| Fiji                                   |                       |                             | 8,064              | 1.2             | 8,064              |
| India                                  | 78,608                |                             | 7,837              | 3.2             | 86,445             |
| Indonesia                              | 34,182                | 95,672                      | 325,144            | 155.3           | 454,998            |
| Korea, Democratic People's Republic of | 276,648               | 4,101                       | 19,675             | 8.3             | 300,424            |
| Myanmar                                | 416,555               | 223,100                     | 564,396            | 198.6           | 1,204,051          |
| Nepal                                  | 104,554               | 17,757                      | 512,579            | 225.4           | 634,890            |
| Pakistan                               | 1,082,343             | 576,392                     | 5,378,330          | 3,047.6         | 7,037,065          |
| Philippines                            | 141,702               | 239,932                     | 3,211,397          | 2,934.3         | 3,593,031          |
| Solomon Islands                        |                       |                             | 536                | 0.1             | 536                |
| Sri Lanka                              | 282,931               | 1,144,667                   | 6,209,157          | 3,747.6         | 7,636,755          |
| Thailand                               |                       | 4,705                       | 346                | 0.4             | 5,051              |
| Timor-Leste                            | 18,095                |                             | 369                |                 | 18,464             |



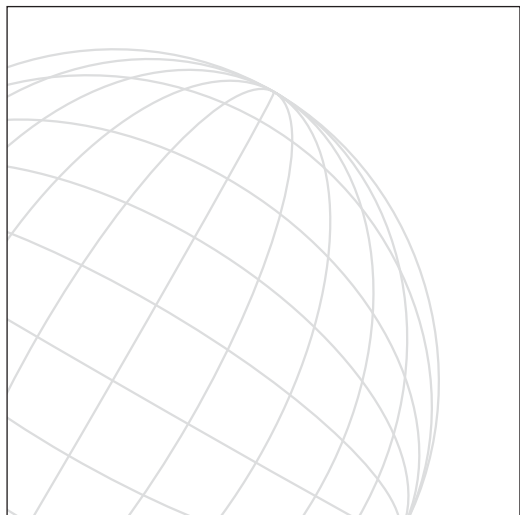
| Context  | Medical<br>*<br>(CHF) | Water &<br>habitat<br>(CHF) | Relief<br>**       |                  | Total<br>(CHF)     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|  |                       |                             | (CHF)              | (Tonnes)         |                    |
| <b>EUROPE &amp; THE AMERICAS</b>                           | <b>1,498,746</b>      | <b>1,477,951</b>            | <b>16,670,497</b>  | <b>7,922.8</b>   | <b>19,647,194</b>  |
| Armenia  | 34,967                | 25,307                      | 28,782             | 12.5             | 89,056             |
| Azerbaijan   | 52,965                | 32,034                      | 23,391             | 7.2              | 108,390            |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina                                     |                       |                             | 2,861              | 0.6              | 2,861              |
| Georgia  | 819,634               | 438,014                     | 3,474,209          | 2,258.2          | 4,731,857          |
| Kosovo <sup>1</sup>  |                       |                             | 86,667             | 40.5             | 86,667             |
| Kyrgyzstan   | 36,618                | 288,128                     | 199,643            | 56.7             | 524,389            |
| Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of                     |                       |                             | 1,033              | 0.2              | 1,033              |
| Russian Federation   | 86,822                | 310,441                     | 1,886,539          | 810.1            | 2,283,802          |
| Tajikistan   | 53,071                | 794                         | 1,428              | 1.4              | 55,293             |
| Uzbekistan   | 725                   |                             |                    |                  | 725                |
| Chile  | 676                   |                             | 416                | 0.2              | 1,092              |
| Colombia   | 367,810               | 344,458                     | 10,781,384         | 4,689.4          | 11,493,652         |
| Haiti  | 37,292                | 38,775                      | 169,123            | 41.1             | 245,190            |
| Mexico   | 442                   |                             |                    |                  | 442                |
| Panama   | 6,789                 |                             | 1,628              | 1.3              | 8,417              |
| Paraguay   | 345                   |                             | 6,142              | 1.8              | 6,487              |
| Peru   | 590                   |                             | 2,532              | 0.3              | 3,122              |
| United States of America                                   |                       |                             | 3,561              | 0.8              | 3,561              |
| Venezuela  |                       |                             | 1,158              | 0.5              | 1,158              |
| <b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</b>                      | <b>13,874,902</b>     | <b>4,167,700</b>            | <b>22,188,109</b>  | <b>19,664.2</b>  | <b>40,230,711</b>  |
| Algeria  | 10,637                |                             |                    |                  | 10,637             |
| Iraq   | 7,476,064             | 1,677,637                   | 14,782,747         | 11,781.8         | 23,936,448         |
| Israel (including the occupied and autonomous territories) | 5,696,434             | 1,545,854                   | 3,421,841          | 5,562.9          | 10,664,129         |
| Jordan   |                       |                             | 22,672             | 4.6              | 22,672             |
| Lebanon  | 260,794               | 209,394                     | 892,880            | 187.5            | 1,363,068          |
| Mauritania   | 1,229                 |                             | 2,658              | 1.2              | 3,887              |
| Western Sahara   | 38,308                | 6,223                       | 5,618              | 2.7              | 50,149             |
| Syrian Arab Republic                                       | 24,369                | 510,024                     | 17,680             | 2.1              | 552,073            |
| Yemen  | 367,067               | 218,568                     | 3,042,013          | 2,121.4          | 3,627,648          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>   | <b>30,818,926</b>     | <b>18,251,765</b>           | <b>166,366,722</b> | <b>142,660.0</b> | <b>215,437,413</b> |

(1) UN Security Council Resolution 1244

\* MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items

\*\* RELIEF includes food, seed, agricultural inputs and essential household items





# **funds and foundations**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Foundation for the International Committee<br>of the Red Cross ..... | 446 |
| Augusta Fund .....   | 448 |
| Florence Nightingale Medal Fund .....                                | 449 |
| Clare Benedict Fund .....  | 450 |
| Maurice de Madre French Fund .....                                   | 451 |
| Omar El Mukhtar Fund .....   | 452 |
| Paul Reuter Fund .....   | 453 |
| ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled .....                             | 454 |

**FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>               | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |               |               |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                                     |               |               |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                 | 3,499         | 1,378         |
| Securities  | 12,080        | 12,699        |
| Accounts receivable and accrued interest                  | 6,238         | 4,726         |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 492           |               |
| <b>Total assets</b>                                       | <b>22,309</b> | <b>18,803</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                           |               |               |
| <b>Liabilities</b>  |               |               |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account |               | 14            |
| Deferred income   | 6,000         | 4,500         |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                                  | <b>6,000</b>  | <b>4,514</b>  |
| <b>Reserves</b>   |               |               |
| <b>RESTRICTED RESERVES</b>                                |               |               |
| Inalienable capital                                       | 886           | 886           |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>                              |               |               |
| <i>Inalienable capital designated by the Board</i>        |               |               |
| Balance brought forward                                   | 10,840        | 9,530         |
| Allocation/- use during the year                          | 3,588         | 1,310         |
|   | 14,428        | 10,840        |
| <i>Financial risk reserves</i>                            |               |               |
| Balance brought forward                                   | 2,033         | 2,184         |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year   | -1,341        | -151          |
|   | 692           | 2,033         |
| <i>General reserves</i>                                   |               |               |
| Balance brought forward                                   | 530           | 249           |
| Allocation/-use during the year                           | -530          |               |
| Result for the year after transfer from/to reserves       | 303           | 281           |
|   | 303           | 530           |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>                        | <b>15,423</b> | <b>13,403</b> |
| <b>Total reserves</b>                                     | <b>16,309</b> | <b>14,289</b> |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>                     | <b>22,309</b> | <b>18,803</b> |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008 | 2008         | 2007         |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |              |              |
| Contributions   | 3,588        | 1,300        |
| Income from securities  | 351          | 323          |
| Realized gains on securities  | 0            | 16           |
| Bank interest   | 12           | 14           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>3,951</b> | <b>1,653</b> |
| <b>Expenditure</b>  |              |              |
| Bank charges  | -49          | -42          |
| Realized losses on securities   | -4           | -6           |
| Fundraising charges   | -1           | -8           |
| Audit fees  | -6           | -6           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>-60</b>   | <b>-62</b>   |
| <b>Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves</b>          | <b>3,891</b> | <b>1,591</b> |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>                                     |              |              |
| General reserves  | 530          | -            |
| <b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>                              |              |              |
| Inalienable capital designated by the Board                             | -3,588       | -1,310       |
| <b>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</b>      | <b>-530</b>  | <b>-</b>     |
| <b>Result for the year after transfer from/to reserves</b>              | <b>303</b>   | <b>281</b>   |

### Establishment

Created on 1 May 1931; statutes and objectives revised in 2002.

### Purpose

The Foundation strives to secure long-term support for the ICRC by establishing a substantial endowment fund income, most of which will be freely available to the organization.

### Administration

The Foundation Board is made up of representatives of business and political circles and the ICRC:

- ▶ one representative of the Swiss Confederation
- ▶ between 5 and 11 members appointed by the ICRC



**AUGUSTA FUND** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>                          | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |             |             |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |             |             |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds                    | 127         | 143         |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>127</b>  | <b>143</b>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                                      |             |             |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |             |             |
| Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current account                     |             |             |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account            | 3           | 2           |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                                     | <b>3</b>    | <b>2</b>    |
| <b>Reserves</b>  |             |             |
| <b>RESTRICTED RESERVES</b>   |             |             |
| Inalienable capital  | 100         | 100         |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>   |             |             |
| <i>General reserves</i>  |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 18          | 18          |
| Use during the year  | -3          | 0           |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i> |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 23          | 25          |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year              | -14         | -2          |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>                                   | <b>24</b>   | <b>41</b>   |
| <b>Total reserves</b>  | <b>124</b>  | <b>141</b>  |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>                                | <b>127</b>  | <b>143</b>  |

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>  | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>   |             |             |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds  | 0           | 2           |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>0</b>    | <b>2</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>  |             |             |
| Audit fees  | -3          | -2          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>-3</b>   | <b>-2</b>   |
| <b>Result for the year before attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/- to reserves</b> | <b>-3</b>   | <b>0</b>    |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>   | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b>    |
| <b>Attribution to Florence Nightingale Medal fund</b>   | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b>    |
| <b>Result for the year after attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/- to reserves</b>  | <b>-3</b>   | <b>0</b>    |

**Establishment**

In 1890, at the initiative of the ICRC, to commemorate the services rendered to the Red Cross by the German Empress Augusta, wife of Wilhelm I.

**Purpose**

Modified on several occasions. At the 21st International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Istanbul in 1969, it was decided that, pending further modification, receipts from the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. This decision was confirmed at the 22nd Conference, held in Tehran in 1973.

**Administration**

In view of the aforementioned decision, the same as for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

**Assets**

In order to optimize returns, risk management and bank charges, the assets of the fund are managed within two portfolios held jointly by the six ICRC-related funds. Each fund holds a share of these portfolios proportional to its initial investment and subsequent inflows/outflows.

**FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>                          | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |             |             |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |             |             |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds                    | 406         | 538         |
| Augusta Fund, current account  |             |             |
| Stock of medals  | 69          | 68          |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>475</b>  | <b>606</b>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                                      |             |             |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |             |             |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account            | 3           | 74          |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                                     | <b>3</b>    | <b>74</b>   |
| <b>Unrestricted reserves</b>   |             |             |
| <i>Capital</i>   | 75          | 75          |
| <i>General reserves</i>  |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 370         | 377         |
| Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves               | -2          | -7          |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i> |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 88          | 90          |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year              | -59         | -3          |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>                                   | <b>472</b>  | <b>532</b>  |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>                                | <b>475</b>  | <b>606</b>  |

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |             |             |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds             | 0           | 6           |
| Attribution from the Augusta Fund  |             |             |
| Other income   | 1           |             |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>6</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |             |             |
| Presentation of medals, printing and dispatching circulars                     |             | -10         |
| Audit fees   | -3          | -3          |
| Other expenses   |             | 0           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>-3</b>   | <b>-13</b>  |
| <b>Result for the year before transfers from/- to reserves</b>                 | <b>-2</b>   | <b>-7</b>   |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>  | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b>    |
| <b>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</b>                  | <b>-2</b>   | <b>-7</b>   |

**Establishment**

In accordance with the recommendations of the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in London, in 1907, and with the decision of the Ninth Conference held in Washington in 1912, a fund was established by contributions from National Red Cross Societies. The regulations were revised by the Eighteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Toronto in 1952, and by the Council of Delegates, held in Budapest in 1991.

**Purpose**

The Fund's income is used to distribute a medal, called the "Florence Nightingale Medal", to honour the life and work of Florence Nightingale. The medal may be awarded to Red Cross and Red Crescent nurses and voluntary aides for having distinguished themselves by their service to sick and wounded people

in time of peace or war. The medal is awarded every two years by the ICRC on the basis of proposals made to it by the National Societies. Only 50 medals may be distributed at any one time.

**Administration**

A commission composed of five ICRC representatives, including four Committee members.

**Assets**

In order to optimize returns, risk management and bank charges, the assets of the fund are managed within two portfolios held jointly by the six ICRC-related funds. Each fund holds a share of these portfolios proportional to its initial investment and subsequent inflows/outflows.

**CLARE BENEDICT FUND** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>  | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2007</b>  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |              |              |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |              |              |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds                                  | 1,760        | 1,976        |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>1,760</b> | <b>1,976</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>  |              |              |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |              |              |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account                          | 3            | 2            |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>   | <b>3</b>     | <b>2</b>     |
| <b>Reserves</b>  |              |              |
| <b>RESTRICTED RESERVES</b>   |              |              |
| <i>Capital</i>   | 1,633        | 1,633        |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>   |              |              |
| <i>General reserves</i>  |              |              |
| Balance brought forward  | 19           | 33           |
| Use during the year  | -19          | -33          |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves | 0            | 19           |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i>               |              |              |
| Balance brought forward  | 322          | 337          |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year                            | -196         | 126          |
| <i>Retained result at the end of the year</i>                                      | -2           |              |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>   | <b>124</b>   | <b>341</b>   |
| <b>Total reserves</b>  | <b>1,757</b> | <b>1,974</b> |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>  | <b>1,760</b> | <b>1,976</b> |

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>             | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |             |             |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds                         | 1           | 21          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>21</b>   |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |             |             |
| Audit fees   | -3          | -2          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>-3</b>   | <b>-2</b>   |
| <b>Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</b> | <b>-2</b>   | <b>19</b>   |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>  |             |             |
| General reserves   | 19          | 33          |
| <b>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</b>                         | <b>-19</b>  | <b>-33</b>  |
| <b>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</b>  | <b>-2</b>   | <b>19</b>   |

**Establishment**

1 February 1968.

**Purpose**

The Fund's income is attributed to assistance activities for the victims of armed conflicts, in accordance with Miss Benedict's wishes.

**Administration**

A commission composed of three people appointed by the ICRC.

**Assets**

In order to optimize returns, risk management and bank charges, the assets of the fund are managed within two portfolios held jointly by the six ICRC-related funds. Each fund holds a share of these portfolios proportional to its initial investment and subsequent inflows/outflows.

**MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>                          | <b>2008</b>  | <b>2007</b>  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |              |              |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |              |              |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds                    | 4,258        | 4,773        |
| Accounts receivable  | 12           |              |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>4,270</b> | <b>4,773</b> |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                                      |              |              |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |              |              |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account            | 138          | 45           |
| Allocations to be paid   | 142          | 257          |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                                     | <b>280</b>   | <b>302</b>   |
| <b>Reserves</b>  |              |              |
| <b>RESTRICTED RESERVES</b>   |              |              |
| <i>Donors' restricted contributions</i>                              |              |              |
| Balance brought forward  | 12           | 15           |
| Use during the year  | -12          | -15          |
| Allocation during the year   | 20           | 12           |
| <b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>   |              |              |
| <i>Capital</i>   |              |              |
| Balance brought forward  | 3,681        | 4,105        |
| Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves               | -16          | -424         |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i> |              |              |
| Balance brought forward  | 778          | 882          |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year              | -473         | -104         |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>                                   | <b>3,970</b> | <b>4,459</b> |
| <b>Total reserves</b>  | <b>3,990</b> | <b>4,471</b> |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>                                | <b>4,270</b> | <b>4,773</b> |

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |             |             |
| Contributions  | 13          | 9           |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds             | 3           | 52          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>16</b>   | <b>61</b>   |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |             |             |
| Allocations  |             |             |
| - Allocations paid during the year   | -132        | -225        |
| - Allocations to be paid   | 115         | -257        |
| Audit fees   | -3          | -4          |
| Other expenses   | -4          | -2          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>-24</b>  | <b>-488</b> |
| <b>Result for the year before transfers from/- to reserves</b>                 | <b>-8</b>   | <b>-427</b> |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>  | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b>    |
| <b>Use of restricted reserves</b>  |             |             |
| Donors' restricted contributions   | 12          | 15          |
| <b>Allocation to restricted reserves</b>                                       |             |             |
| Donors' restricted contributions   | -20         | -12         |
| <b>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</b>                  | <b>-16</b>  | <b>-424</b> |

N.B. Allocations to be paid were entered for the first time in 2007.

**Establishment**

The Fund was set up in accordance with Count Maurice de Madre's will and the ICRC Assembly's decision of 19 December 1974.

**Purpose**

To assist temporary or permanent staff, such as first-aid workers, delegates and nurses, of international or national Red Cross or Red Crescent institutions who, in the course of their work or during war operations or natural disasters, have suffered injury and thereby find themselves in straitened circumstances or in reduced health. In the event that the persons specified above should lose their lives in the course of the said humanitarian activities, payments may be made to their families.

**Administration**

A Board composed of five people appointed by the ICRC, currently:

- ▶ two ICRC members or staff

- ▶ one representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- ▶ one representative of the de Madre family
- ▶ one Swiss lawyer

**In 2008:**

The Fund's Board held its official annual meeting on 13 May; its secretariat handled 74 files on Movement staff.

**Assets**

In order to optimize returns, risk management and bank charges, the assets of the fund are managed within two portfolios held jointly by the six ICRC-related funds. Each fund holds a share of these portfolios proportional to its initial investment and subsequent inflows/outflows.

**OMAR EL MUKHTAR FUND** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>  | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |             |             |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |             |             |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds                                  | 820         | 920         |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>820</b>  | <b>920</b>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>  |             |             |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |             |             |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account                          | 3           | 1           |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>   | <b>3</b>    | <b>1</b>    |
| <b>Reserves</b>  |             |             |
| RESTRICTED RESERVES  |             |             |
| <i>Capital</i>   | 761         | 761         |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES  |             |             |
| <i>General reserves</i>  |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 8           | 15          |
| Use during the year  | -8          | -15         |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves | 0           | 8           |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i>               |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 150         | 157         |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year                            | -91         | -7          |
| <i>Retained result at the end of the year</i>                                      | -3          | 150         |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>   | <b>56</b>   | <b>158</b>  |
| <b>Total reserves</b>  | <b>817</b>  | <b>919</b>  |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>  | <b>820</b>  | <b>920</b>  |

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>             | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |             |             |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds                         | 1           | 9           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>9</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |             |             |
| Audit fees   | -3          | -1          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>-3</b>   | <b>-1</b>   |
| <b>Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</b> | <b>-2</b>   | <b>8</b>    |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>  |             |             |
| General reserves   | 8           | 15          |
| <b>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</b>                         | <b>-8</b>   | <b>-15</b>  |
| <b>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/- to reserves</b>  | <b>-2</b>   | <b>8</b>    |

**Establishment**

Pursuant to decision No. 5 of the Executive Board of 20 November 1980, adopted by the Committee in December 1980.

**Purpose**

A fund in dollars, made up of one or more donations by the authorities of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the income of which is to be used to finance the ICRC's general assistance.

**Administration**

A Board composed of three ICRC representatives.

**Assets**

In order to optimize returns, risk management and bank charges, the assets of the fund are managed within two portfolios held jointly by the six ICRC-related funds. Each fund holds a share of these portfolios proportional to its initial investment and subsequent inflows/outflows.



**PAUL REUTER FUND** (in KCHF)

| <b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008</b>                          | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |             |             |
| <b>Current assets</b>  |             |             |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds                    | 562         | 637         |
| <b>Total assets</b>  | <b>562</b>  | <b>637</b>  |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                                      |             |             |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>   |             |             |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account            | 13          | 12          |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                                     | <b>13</b>   | <b>12</b>   |
| <b>Unrestricted reserves</b>   |             |             |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ICRC         |             |             |
| <i>Initial capital</i>   | 200         | 200         |
| <i>General reserves</i>  |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 321         | 326         |
| Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves               | -12         | -5          |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i> |             |             |
| Balance brought forward  | 104         | 111         |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year              | -64         | -7          |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>                                   | <b>549</b>  | <b>625</b>  |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>                                | <b>562</b>  | <b>637</b>  |

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b> | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Income</b>  |             |             |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds             | 1           | 7           |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>7</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |             |             |
| Audit fees   | -3          | -2          |
| Allocation to the Jean Pictet Competition                                      | -10         | -10         |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>-13</b>  | <b>-12</b>  |
| <b>Result for the year before transfers from/- to reserves</b>                 | <b>-12</b>  | <b>-5</b>   |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>  | <b>-</b>    | <b>-</b>    |
| <b>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</b>                  | <b>-12</b>  | <b>-5</b>   |

**Establishment**

Pursuant to decision No. 1 of the Executive Board of 6 January 1983.

**Purpose**

The Fund's initial capital of CHF 200,000 donated by Prof. Paul Reuter (his Balzan prize) may be augmented by gifts or bequests. The Fund's purpose is to:

- ▶ use the income to encourage and promote knowledge and dissemination of IHL
- ▶ and to that effect award a prize every two years to reward work, assist in the implementation of a project or make a publication possible

**Administration**

- ▶ a committee composed of one member of the ICRC, who is its chairman, and two members of the ICRC staff, appointed by the Directorate
- ▶ two persons from outside the ICRC who, with the Committee members, shall make up the Paul Reuter prize jury

**Assets**

In order to optimize returns, risk management and bank charges, the assets of the fund are managed within two portfolios held jointly by the six ICRC-related funds. Each fund holds a share of these portfolios proportional to its initial investment and subsequent inflows/outflows.

## ICRC SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED (in KCHF)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008                      |              | 2008         | 2007  |
|---|--------------|--------------|-------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |              |              |       |
| <b>Current assets</b>                                     |              |              |       |
| Cash and cash equivalents                                 | 869          | 494          |       |
| Securities  | 3,816        | 3,630        |       |
| Accounts receivable                                       | 367          | 141          |       |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account |              | 294          |       |
| Accrued interest  | 32           | 22           |       |
| <b>Total assets</b>                                       | <b>5,084</b> | <b>4,581</b> |       |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>                           |              |              |       |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                                |              |              |       |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 1,354        |              |       |
| Expenses payable  | 6            | 3            |       |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>                          | <b>1,360</b> | <b>3</b>     |       |
| RESTRICTED RESERVES                                       |              |              |       |
| <i>Donors' restricted contributions</i>                   |              |              |       |
| Balance brought forward                                   | 603          | 1            |       |
| Use for Albania project                                   |              | -1           |       |
| Use for Ethiopia project                                  | -58          |              |       |
| Use for Viet Nam project                                  | -445         |              |       |
| Use for Nicaragua project                                 | -100         |              |       |
| Allocation for Ethiopia project                           | 61           | 58           |       |
| Allocation for Viet Nam project                           | 142          | 100          |       |
| Allocation for Nicaragua project                          | 134          | 445          | 603   |
| <b>Total restricted reserves</b>                          | <b>337</b>   | <b>603</b>   |       |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD             |              |              |       |
| <i>Initial capital</i>                                    |              | 1,000        | 1,000 |
| <i>Provision for portfolio unrealized gains</i>           |              |              |       |
| Balance brought forward                                   | 497          | 586          |       |
| Increase/- decrease of unrealized gains during the year   | -389         | -89          | 497   |
| <i>General reserves</i>                                   |              |              |       |
| Balance brought forward                                   | 2,478        | 2,418        |       |
| Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves    | -199         | 60           | 2,478 |
| <b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>                        | <b>3,387</b> | <b>3,975</b> |       |
| <b>Total reserves</b>                                     | <b>3,724</b> | <b>4,578</b> |       |
| <b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>                     | <b>5,084</b> | <b>4,581</b> |       |

## ICRC SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED (in KCHF)

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008 |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------|
|   | 2008             |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 2007          |
|   | Ethiopia project | Viet Nam project | Nicaragua project | Bangladesh project | India & Lao PDR project | Albania project | General   | Total         |
|   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | Total         |
| <b>Operating activities</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| <b>Contributions received in cash</b>                                   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| <i>Governments</i>  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| Australia   |                  | 496              |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 496           |
| Austria   | 321              |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 321           |
| Canada  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 86            |
| Liechtenstein   | 50               |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 50            |
| Norway  | 665              |                  | 421               | 60                 | 170                     | 12              |           | 1,328         |
| P. Leahy War Victims Fund/USAID   | 1,389            |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 1,389         |
| Spain   |                  |                  | 158               |                    |                         |                 |           | 158           |
| Switzerland   | 63               |                  | 70                |                    |                         |                 |           | 133           |
| <i>National Societies</i>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| Austria   |                  |                  | 8                 |                    |                         |                 |           | 8             |
| Belgium   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 567           |
| Monaco  | 8                |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 8             |
| Netherlands   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 601           |
| Norway  |                  |                  | 133               |                    |                         |                 |           | 133           |
| Switzerland   |                  | 350              |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 350           |
| Saudi Arabia  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 244           |
| Turkey  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 5             |
| United Arab Emirates  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 12            |
| <i>Private sources</i>  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| CR Machinery  |                  |                  | 60                |                    |                         |                 |           | 60            |
| Pro-Victimis  |                  |                  |                   | 84                 |                         |                 |           | 84            |
| OPEC Fund for International Development                                 |                  | 226              |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 226           |
| Association of Former ICRC Delegates                                    |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 0             |
| Proceeds from sale of Mr Robin Coupland's paintings                     |                  |                  | 45                |                    |                         |                 |           | 45            |
| Hoffmann la Roche   |                  |                  | 5                 |                    |                         |                 |           | 5             |
| Various donors  | 2                |                  | 2                 |                    |                         |                 |           | 4             |
| <b>Contributions received in services</b>                               |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| <i>National Societies</i>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| Canada  | 10               |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 10            |
| <b>Total contributions</b>  | <b>2,508</b>     | <b>1,072</b>     | <b>902</b>        | <b>144</b>         | <b>170</b>              | <b>12</b>       |           | <b>4,808</b>  |
| <b>Operating expenditure</b>  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| Cash expenditure  | -2,495           | -1,030           | -1,213            | -144               | -170                    | -12             |           | -5,064        |
| Services expenditure  | -10              |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | -10           |
| <b>Total operating expenditure</b>                                      | <b>-2,505</b>    | <b>-1,030</b>    | <b>-1,213</b>     | <b>-144</b>        | <b>-170</b>             | <b>-12</b>      |           | <b>-5,074</b> |
| <b>Net result of operating activities</b>                               | <b>3</b>         | <b>42</b>        | <b>-311</b>       | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>        |           | <b>-266</b>   |
| <b>Non-operating activities</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| <b>Financial income</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           |               |
| Securities income   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | 77        | 77            |
| Bank interest   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | 15        | 15            |
| Foreign exchange gains, net   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | 17            |
| <b>Total financial income</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | <b>92</b> | <b>92</b>     |
|   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |           | <b>134</b>    |

**ICRC SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED** (in KCHF)

| <b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008</b> |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |             |             | 2007       |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
|  | Ethiopia project | Viet Nam project | Nicaragua project | Bangladesh project | India & Lao PDR project | Albania project | General     | Total       | Total      |
| <b>Financial expenditure</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |             |             |            |
| Bank charges   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | -19         | -19         | -22        |
| Audit fees   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | -6          | -6          | -10        |
| Realized losses on securities, net   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | -20         | -20         | -37        |
| Non-refundable withholding taxes   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | 0           | 0           | -2         |
| Fundraising charges  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | 0           | 0           | -3         |
| Foreign exchange losses, net   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | -246        | -246        |            |
| <b>Total financial expenditure</b>   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | <b>-291</b> | <b>-291</b> | <b>-74</b> |
| <b>Net result of non-operating activities</b>                                  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 | <b>-199</b> | <b>-199</b> | <b>60</b>  |
| <b>Result for the year before transfers from/- to reserves</b>                 | <b>3</b>         | <b>42</b>        | <b>-311</b>       | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>        | <b>-199</b> | <b>-465</b> | <b>662</b> |
| <b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |             |             |            |
| General reserves   |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |             | 0           | 0          |
| <b>Use of restricted reserves</b>  |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |             |             |            |
| Donors' restricted contributions   | 58               | 100              | 445               |                    |                         |                 |             | 603         | 1          |
| <b>Allocation to restricted reserves</b>                                       |                  |                  |                   |                    |                         |                 |             |             |            |
| Donors' restricted contributions   | -61              | -142             | -134              |                    |                         |                 |             | -337        | -603       |
| <b>Result for the year after transfers from/- to reserves</b>                  | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>         | <b>0</b>          | <b>0</b>           | <b>0</b>                | <b>0</b>        | <b>-199</b> | <b>-199</b> | <b>60</b>  |

**Establishment and initial objectives**

The year 1981 was declared by the United Nations to be the "International Year for Disabled Persons". The same year, when it met in Manila, the 24th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted a resolution recommending that "a special fund be formed for the benefit of the disabled and to promote the implementation of durable projects to aid disabled persons". Pursuant to the ICRC Assembly's decision No. 2 of 19-20 October 1983, the Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) was subsequently established. Its objectives were twofold:

- ▶ to help finance long-term projects for disabled persons, in particular the creation of workshops for the production of artificial limbs and orthotic appliances, and centres for rehabilitation and occupational retraining
- ▶ to participate not only in ICRC and National Society projects, but also in those of other humanitarian bodies working in accordance with ICRC criteria

**Legal status**

In January 2001, the ICRC Assembly converted the SFD into an independent foundation under Swiss law. The primary objectives of the "ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled" remained to a large extent unchanged, i.e. to support physical rehabilitation services in low-income countries, with priority given to former projects of the ICRC. Although the SFD had become a more independent body, its projects continued to be drawn up in accordance with ICRC operational policies in the countries concerned. However, the statutes of the new Foundation also allowed the opening of its Board to members of other organizations and the SFD developed its own independent fundraising and financial management structure.

**Funding**

In 1983, the ICRC donated an initial one million Swiss francs to set up the Special Fund for the Disabled. Further support is since given to the SFD by various governments, a number of National Societies and by private and public sources.



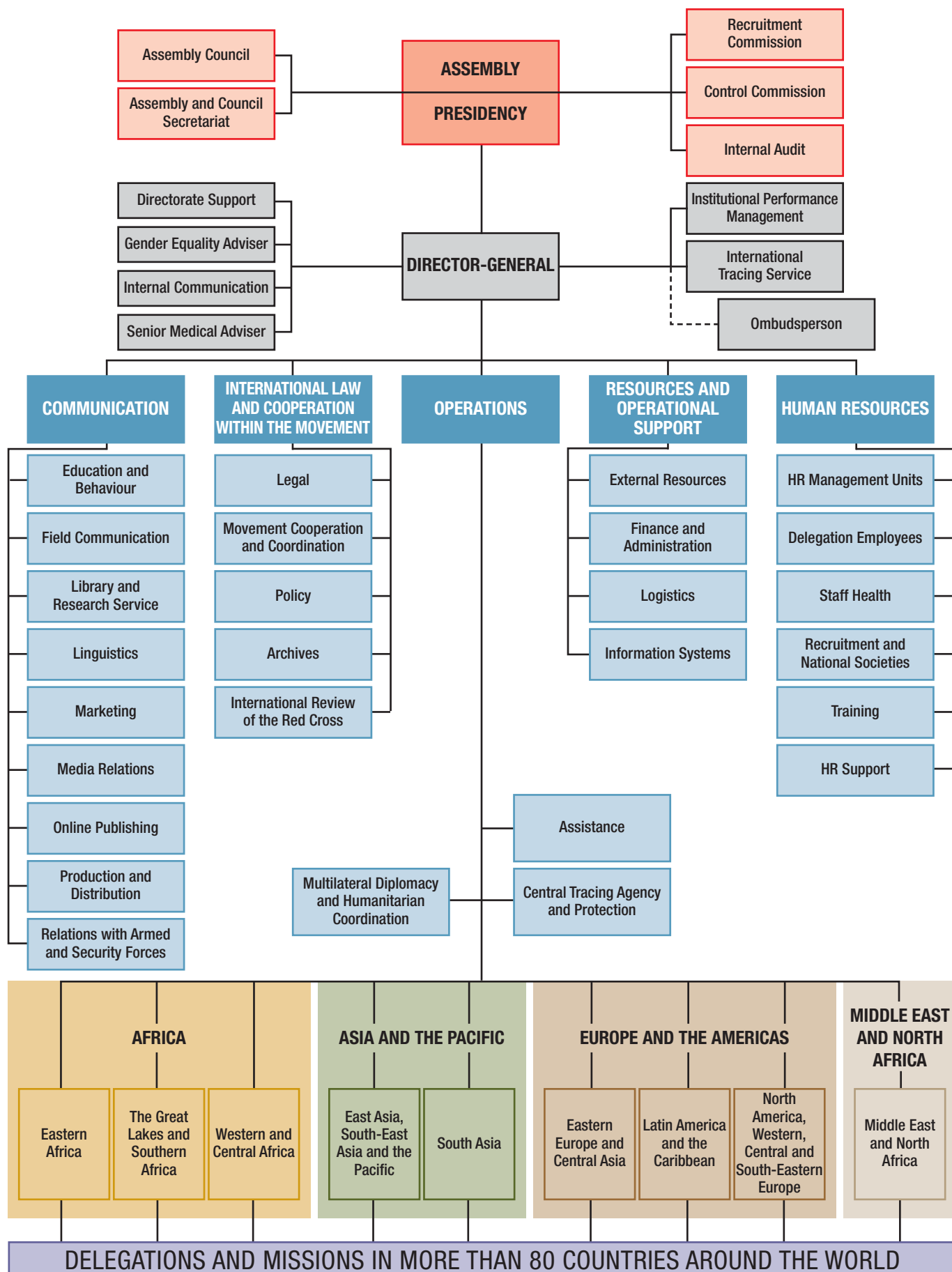


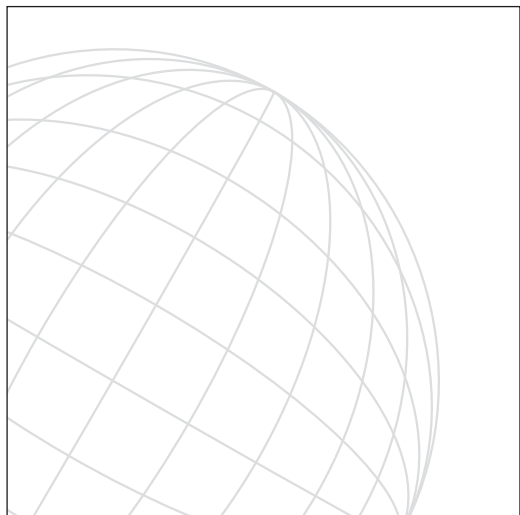


# ANNEX



# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS





# ICRC decision-making structures<sup>1</sup>

## ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC, overseeing all of its activities. The Assembly formulates policy, defines general objectives and institutional strategy, approves the budget and accounts, and nominates the directors and the head of Internal Audit. Composed of between 15 and 25 co-opted members of Swiss nationality, the Assembly is collegial in character. Its president and two vice-presidents are the president and vice-presidents of the ICRC. The Assembly convenes every two months.

**Mr Jakob Kellenberger, president**, Ph.D. from the University of Zurich, former Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1999), ICRC president since 2000. In 2007, his mandate was renewed for a four-year period beginning 1 January 2008

**Mr Olivier Vodoz, vice-president**, Bachelor of Law, barrister, former deputy in the Geneva Grand Council and former president of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva (1998)

**Mrs Christine Beerli, permanent vice-president** lawyer, former managing director of the Technical and Information Technology Departments of Bern University of Applied Sciences, former senator (Swiss Council of States) (2005)

**Mr Paolo Bernasconi**, Bachelor of Law, barrister, professor of fiscal law and economic criminal law at the Universities of St. Gallen, Zurich and Milan (Bocconi), former public prosecutor in Lugano (1987)

**Mr Jacques Forster**, Doctor of Economics, former professor at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva (1988), former permanent vice-president of the ICRC (2007)

**Mr Jacques Moreillon**, Bachelor of Law, Doctor of Political Science, former secretary general of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, former director-general of the ICRC (1988)

**Mr Daniel Thürer**, Master of Laws (Cambridge), Doctor of Law, professor at the University of Zurich (1991)

**Mr André von Moos**, Doctor of Law, Bachelor of Economics, Harvard Business School SMP certificate, former chairman of the von Moos Group, industrialist (1998)

**Mrs Gabrielle Nanchen**, Bachelor of Social Science from the University of Lausanne School of Social Studies, former member of the Swiss National Council (1998)

**Mr Jean de Courten**, Bachelor of Law, former delegate and former director of Operations at the ICRC (1998)

**Mr Jean-Philippe Assal**, Professor of Medicine, former head of the Division for Instruction in the Treatment of Chronic Diseases at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine (1999)

**Mr Jean Abt**, diplomas in agriculture and business, Lieutenant-General in the Swiss Army (retd) (2001)

**Mr Yves Sandoz**, Doctor of Law, lecturer at the University of Geneva, former director of International Humanitarian Law and Principles at the ICRC (2002)

**Ms Claude Le Coultre**, honorary professor at the University of Geneva Faculty of Medicine

**Ms Paola Ghillani**, pharmacist from the University of Lausanne, certificate from the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne, businesswoman, former director-general of the Max Havelaar Foundation (Switzerland) (2005)

**Mr Jenö Staehelin**, Doctor of Law (University of Bern), former Ambassador of Switzerland (2006)

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1. As at 31 December 2008

**Ms Christiane Augsburger**, nurse, Bachelor of Education Sciences from Geneva University, Master of Health Care from Webster University in Geneva, diploma in the management of nursing schools from the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing (2007)

**Ms Anne de Boccard**, Bachelor of Political Sciences, diploma from the Swiss Banking School, chief executive officer of Citadel Finance, Geneva, since 1999 (2007)

#### **Honorary members:**

Mr Peter Arbenz, Mr Jean-François Aubert,  
Mr Ernst Brugger, Ms Suzy Bruschweiler,  
Mr Georges-André Cuendet, Mr Max Daetwyler,  
Mr Josef Feldmann, Mr Athos Gallino, Ms Renée Guisan,  
Mr Rodolphe de Haller, Mr Pierre Keller,  
Ms Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, Mr Pierre Languetin,  
Mr Jakob Nüesch, Ms Anne Petitpierre, Mr Richard Pestalozzi,  
Ms Francesca Pometta, Mr Eric Roethlisberger,  
Mr Dietrich Schindler, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga

## **ASSEMBLY COUNCIL**

The Assembly Council is a subsidiary body of the Assembly and comprises five members elected by the Assembly. Chaired by the president of the ICRC, it prepares the Assembly's programme of activities and takes decisions on matters within its competence, particularly concerning strategic options relating to general policy on funding, personnel and communication. It serves as a link between the Directorate and the Assembly, to which it reports regularly.

**Mr Jakob Kellenberger**, president  
**Mrs Christine Beerli**, permanent vice-president  
**Mr Jean Abt**, member of the Assembly  
**Mr Jean de Courten**, member of the Assembly  
**Mr Jacques Moreillon**, member of the Assembly

## **PRESIDENCY**

The Presidency is composed of the president, one permanent vice-president and one non-permanent vice-president. The president of the ICRC has primary responsibility for the organization's external relations. As president of the Assembly and of the Assembly Council, he ensures that the spheres of competence of these two bodies are safeguarded. The president maintains a standing dialogue with the Directorate on all activities conducted by the ICRC.

## **COMMISSIONS AND BODIES APPOINTED BY THE ASSEMBLY**

### **Control Commission**

The Control Commission is composed of five members of the Assembly who are not members of the Assembly Council. It assists the Assembly in overseeing the work of the organization. It controls the implementation of Assembly decisions and ensures that ICRC activities are conducted efficiently. The Commission reviews the reports of the external and internal auditors, and monitors implementation of the audit recommendations. It meets six to eight times per year.

### **Recruitment Commission**

The Recruitment Commission is composed of members of the Assembly. It handles matters relating to the Committee's composition and submits proposals to the Assembly for the co-optation of new members.

### **Remuneration Commission**

Chaired by the president of the Control Commission, the Remuneration Commission is composed of three members of the Assembly. It sets the salaries and benefits of the president, the permanent vice-president, the directors and the head of Internal Audit.

### **Internal Audit**

The Internal Audit helps the ICRC to accomplish its objectives by using a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. The Internal Audit reports its findings directly to the president and the Control Commission, and issues recommendations to management. The head of Internal Audit is appointed by the Assembly.

### **External Audit**

The Assembly appoints the external auditors for the ICRC's financial statements. The external auditors report their audit opinion to the Assembly and prepare a management letter addressed to the Directorate. Since 2007, the external auditing has been carried out by Ernst & Young.

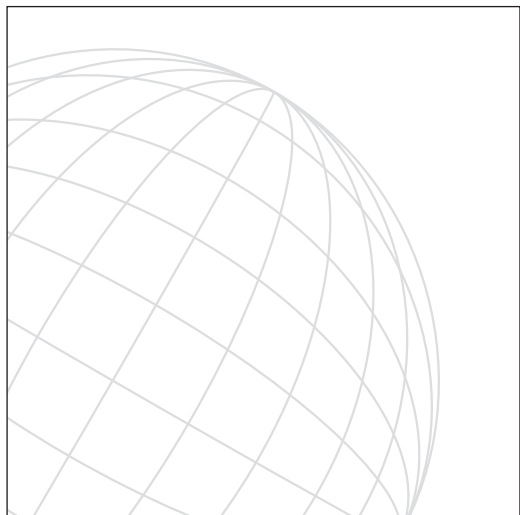
## **DIRECTORATE**

The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC, responsible for applying and ensuring implementation of the general objectives and institutional strategy defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate is also responsible for the smooth running of the ICRC and for the efficiency of its staff as a whole.

The director-general sets the administration's general priorities, directs the decision-making process and supervises the implementation of the decisions taken. The director-general is accountable to the Presidency and the Assembly as regards the Directorate's objectives and activities and the results achieved.

**Mr Angelo Gnaedinger**, director-general  
**Mr Yves Daccord**, director of Communication  
**Mr Pierre Krähenbühl**, director of Operations  
**Ms Doris Pfister**, director of Resources and Operational Support  
**Mr Philip Spoerri**, director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement  
**Mr Jacques Stroun**, director of Human Resources





# international advisers

## ADVISERS FOR THE PERIOD 2008–2011 (7th GROUP)

The purpose of the Group of International Advisers, set up by the ICRC for a four-year period to provide it with counsel and support in its activities and policy decisions, is to seek appropriate ways to enhance respect for IHL in armed conflicts, to help the ICRC better understand and deal with the political issues it encounters in carrying out its mandate and to assist it in analysing the environment for humanitarian endeavour.

The 2008–2011 Group follows on from six previous groups of advisers that have assisted the ICRC since 1984. It met twice during 2008 for confidential discussions with the ICRC leadership and was composed of 12 people with confirmed international experience:<sup>1</sup>

**Ms Maruja Milagros B. Asis** (Philippines)

**Mr Jan Eliasson** (Sweden)

**Mr Amara Essy** (Côte d'Ivoire)

**Sir Mike Jackson** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

**Mr Rami G. Khouri** (Jordan)

**Mrs Irina Kobrinskaya** (Russian Federation)

**Mrs Sonia Picado** (Costa Rica)

**Mrs Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella** (United Republic of Tanzania)

**Mr William Howard Taft IV** (United States of America)

**Mr Shashi Tharoor** (India)

**Mrs Yu Xintian** (China)

**Mr Sabah Zanganeh** (Islamic Republic of Iran)

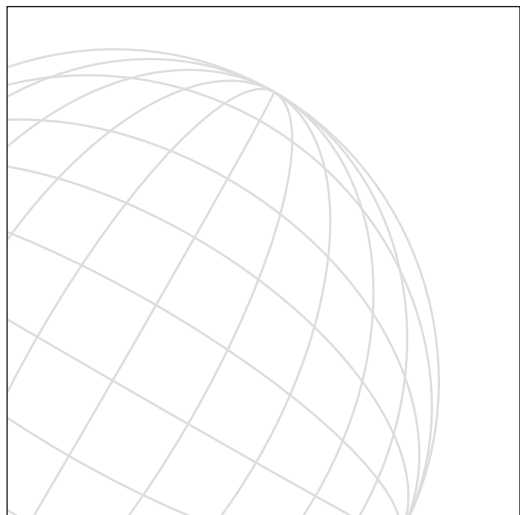
In 2008, the Group met in March and in August with members of the Assembly and of the Directorate. The comments and suggestions made during these meetings provided valuable input for the ICRC's planning and policy-making process. The following topics were discussed:

- ▶ general trends in international relations in 2008 and their implications for the armed conflicts and other situations of violence in which the ICRC was operating, with a particular focus on Africa, including: key challenges, risks and opportunities facing the continent; the role of regional

organizations such as the African Union; western countries' security policies with regard to Africa; and the role in and relations with Africa of Asia's rising powers, especially China and India

- ▶ migration and displacement: the different causes and consequences of migration; the various categories of vulnerable migrants, with a particular focus on IDPs and irregular migrants, their needs and vulnerabilities, and the limitations of the legal instruments protecting them; the role of the ICRC in terms of humanitarian response to the needs of migrants
- ▶ the global food crisis: the reasons for the crisis and the need for an adequate policy response at national and international level; the exacerbating effects of the food and energy crises on situations of armed conflict, violence or political tension; the implications of the current crisis for the ICRC's operations
- ▶ challenges in the realm of IHL, including: how IHL addresses terrorism; the status of detainees; the difficulties of characterizing a conflict; the diversity and disorganization of parties to non-international armed conflicts; the need to better define terms like "direct participation in hostilities" or "asymmetric warfare"; the humanitarian consequences of cluster munitions; the problems posed by private security and military companies; the lack of compliance with IHL and the fight against impunity; the growing number of civilian casualties in war
- ▶ the effect of cultural and political diversity on the acceptance of the ICRC and the various factors contributing to the ICRC's perceived identity, reputation and credibility

1. For more information about each adviser, please refer to the ICRC website: <http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/international-advisers-for-icrc-180408?opendocument>



## the ICRC and the international red cross and red crescent movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement's components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As the founding institution of the Movement, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the other components. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies that meet the conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC is actively involved in the organization of the Council of Delegates and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

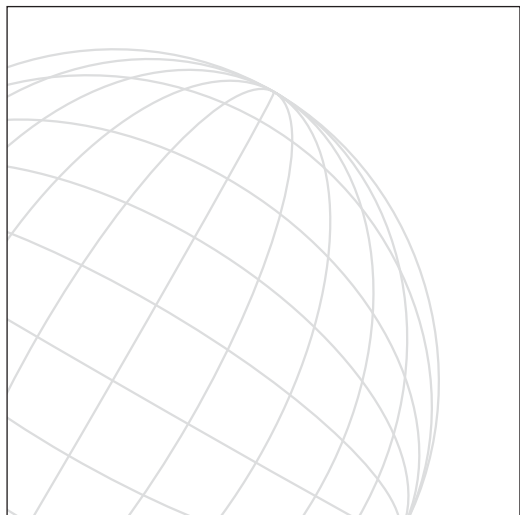
National Societies in their own country and the ICRC both have the mandate to assist the victims of armed conflicts. National Societies are the main operational partners of the ICRC, particularly in the fields of medical and relief assistance and re-establishment of family links.

While fully respecting the International Federation's competence in the matter, the ICRC contributes to the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the following areas:

- ▶ disseminating knowledge of IHL and the Fundamental Principles
- ▶ involvement of National Societies in measures taken to promote IHL and to ensure its implementation
- ▶ preparation for activities in the event of armed conflict, internal strife and other situations of violence, in particular in fields such as evacuation of the wounded and pre-hospital care, and relief assistance
- ▶ restoring family links
- ▶ mine action
- ▶ technical and legal assistance in establishing and reconstituting National Societies

- ▶ revision of National Society statutes and advice on relevant national legislation, together with the International Federation
- ▶ together with the International Federation, supporting National Societies in their efforts to adhere at all times to the Fundamental Principles

Finally, the ICRC acts as lead agency, coordinating the international relief operations conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of international and non-international armed conflict, internal strife and their direct results, as well as in situations of armed conflict concomitant with natural or technological disasters. The ICRC also coordinates activities to restore family links in all situations that require an international response.



# legal bases

The work of the ICRC is based on the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, their two Additional Protocols of 1977 and Additional Protocol III of 2005, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC's mission is to provide the victims of armed conflict with protection and assistance. To that end, the ICRC takes direct and immediate action in response to emergency situations, while at the same time promoting preventive measures, such as the dissemination and national implementation of IHL.

It was on the ICRC's initiative that States adopted the original Geneva Convention of 1864. Since then, the ICRC, with the support of the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, has put constant pressure on governments to adapt IHL to changing circumstances, in particular to modern developments in the means and methods of warfare, so as to provide more effective protection and assistance for conflict victims.

Today, all States are bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, which, in times of armed conflict, protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces, prisoners of war and civilians.

Over three-quarters of all States are currently party to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. Protocol I protects the victims of international armed conflicts, while Protocol II protects the victims of non-international armed conflicts. These instruments have in particular codified the rules protecting the civilian population against the effects of hostilities.

The legal bases of any action undertaken by the ICRC may be summed up as follows:

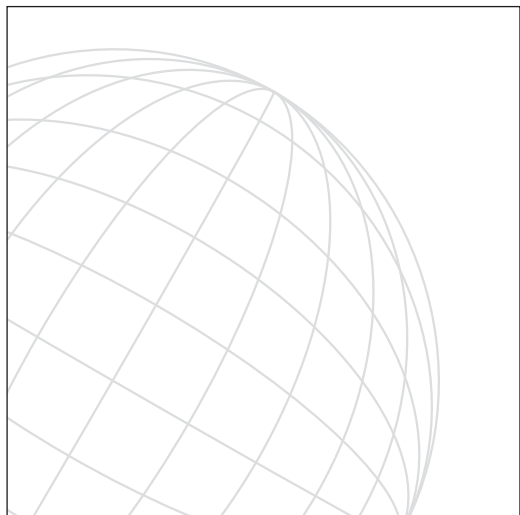
- ▶ the four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I confer on the ICRC a specific mandate to act in the event of international armed conflict. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also give the ICRC a broad right of initiative

- ▶ in situations of armed conflict that are not international in character, the ICRC enjoys a right of humanitarian initiative recognized by the international community and enshrined in Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions
- ▶ in the event of internal disturbances and tensions, and in any other situation that warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC also enjoys a right of initiative, which is affirmed and recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Thus, wherever IHL does not apply, the ICRC may offer its services to governments without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State concerned

## UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

All of the world's 194 States are now party to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. In 2008, Fiji acceded to the 1977 Additional Protocols, bringing the number of States party to Additional Protocols I and II to 168 and 164 respectively. In addition, Albania, Costa Rica, Estonia, Fiji, Guatemala, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of), Mexico, Moldova (Republic of), Paraguay, Singapore, Slovenia and Uganda ratified or acceded to Additional Protocol III.

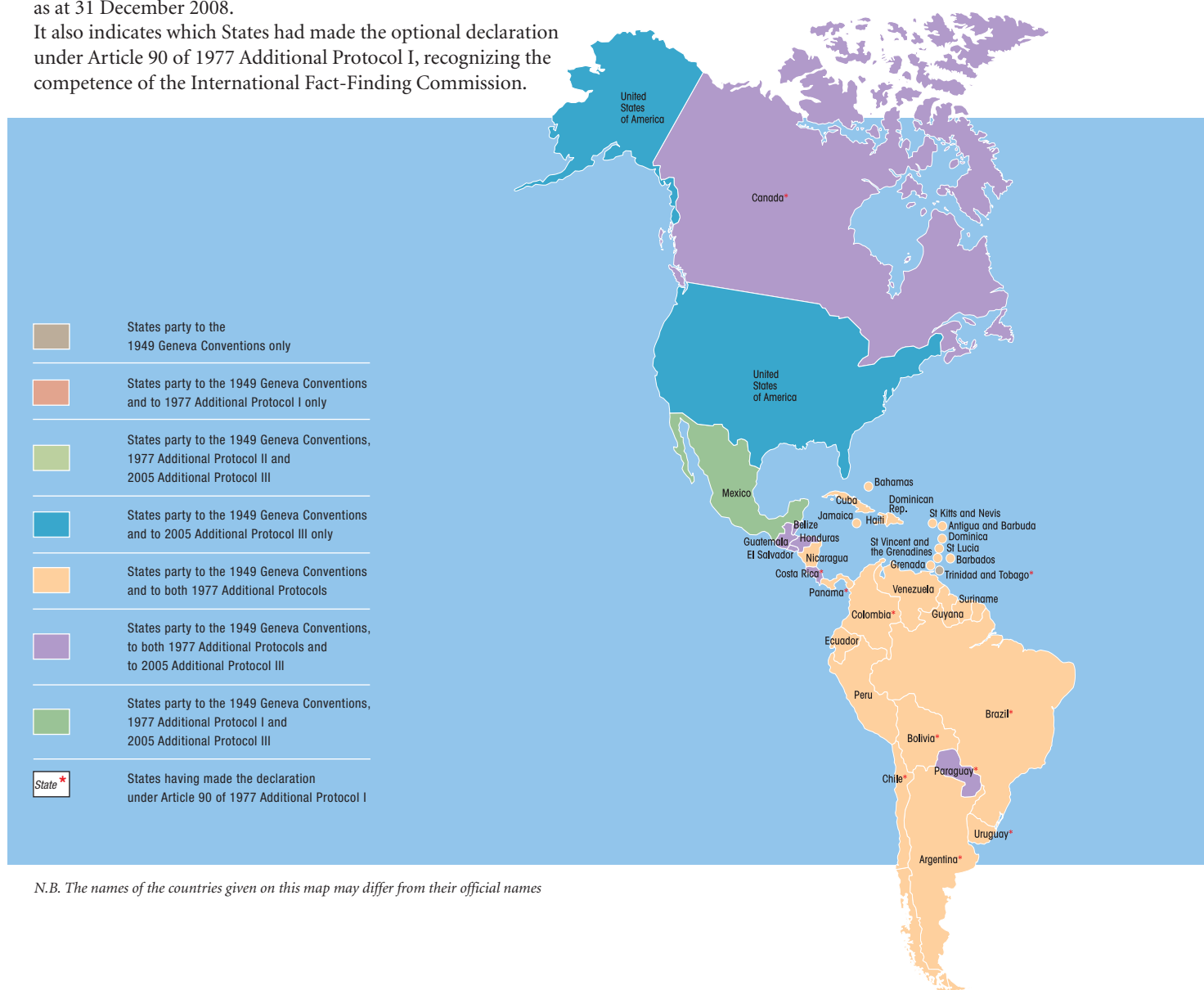
By 2008, 70 States were party to Article 90 of Additional Protocol I which provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into allegations of serious violations of humanitarian law.



# states party to the geneva conventions and their additional protocols

This map shows which States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their Additional Protocols, as at 31 December 2008.

It also indicates which States had made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I, recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.



*N.B. The names of the countries given on this map may differ from their official names*

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions: **194**

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions  
and to 1977 Additional Protocol I: **168**

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions  
and to 1977 Additional Protocol II: **164**

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions  
and to both 1977 Additional Protocols: **163**

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions  
and to 2005 Additional Protocol III: **36**

States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions,  
to both 1977 Additional Protocols  
and to 2005 Additional Protocol III: **31**

States having made the declaration  
under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I: **70**

- 1 Netherlands\*
- 2 Luxembourg\*
- 3 Switzerland\*
- 4 Liechtenstein\*
- 5 Slovenia
- 6 Croatia\*
- 7 Bosnia and Herzegovina\*
- 8 Serbia\*
- 9 Montenegro\*
- 10 FYR Macedonia





## ABBREVIATIONS

R/A/S =

**Ratification:** a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference that has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States that have not signed them may at any time accede or, in the appropriate circumstances, succeed to them.

**Accession:** instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

**Succession** (declaration of): a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of the said treaties (declaration of provisional application of the treaties). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

R/D =

**Reservation/Declaration:** unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

D90 =

**Declaration** provided for under article 90 of Additional Protocol I (prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission).

## DATES

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding to or succeeding to the Conventions or Protocols or accepting the competence of the Commission provided for under Article 90 of Additional Protocol I. They thus represent neither the date on which ratification, accession, succession or acceptance of the Commission was decided upon by the State concerned nor that on which the corresponding instrument was sent.

N.B. The dates given for succession to the Geneva Conventions by **Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal and Sierra Leone** used to be those on which the corresponding instruments had been officially adopted. They have now been replaced by the dates on which the depositary received those instruments.

## ENTRY INTO FORCE

Except as mentioned in footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Additional Protocols occurs six months after the date given in the present document; for States which have made a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of

their accession to independence. The 1949 Geneva Conventions entered into force on 21 October 1950. The 1977 Additional Protocols entered into force on 7 December 1978. The 2005 Additional Protocol III entered into force on 14 January 2007.

## NAMES OF COUNTRIES

The names of countries given in the following list may differ from the official names of States.

## UPDATE SINCE 31.12.2007

All of the world's 194 States are party to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol I: 1

► Fiji 30.07.2008

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol II: 1

► Fiji 30.07.2008

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol III: 12

► Albania 06.02.2008  
 ► Costa Rica 30.06.2008  
 ► Estonia 28.02.2008  
 ► Fiji 30.07.2008  
 ► Guatemala 14.03.2008  
 ► Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of) 14.10.2008  
 ► Mexico 07.07.2008  
 ► Moldova (Republic of) 19.08.2008  
 ► Paraguay 13.10.2008  
 ► Singapore 07.07.2008  
 ► Slovenia 10.03.2008  
 ► Uganda 21.05.2008

## TOTALS

Number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: 194

Number of States Parties to Additional Protocol I: 168

Number of States having made the declaration under Article 90: 70

Number of States Parties to Additional Protocol II: 164

Number of States Parties to Additional Protocol III: 36

Number of States Members of the United Nations: 192

States Parties to the Geneva Conventions but not members of the United Nations: **Cook Islands** and **Holy See**

## STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

| Country                       | GENEVA CONVENTIONS |     | PROTOCOL I |     |            | PROTOCOL II |     | PROTOCOL III |     |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|                               | R/A/S              | R/D | R/A/S      | R/D | D90        | R/A/S       | R/D | R/A/S        | R/D |
| Afghanistan                   | 26.09.1956         | R   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Albania                       | 27.05.1957         | R X | 16.07.1993 | A   |            | 16.07.1993  | A   | 06.02.2008   | A   |
| Algeria                       | 20.06.1960         | A   | 16.08.1989 | A X | 16.08.1989 | 16.08.1989  | A   |              |     |
|                               | 03.07.1962         | A   | 16.08.1989 | A X | 16.08.1989 | 16.08.1989  | A   |              |     |
| Andorra                       | 17.09.1993         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Angola                        | 20.09.1984         | A X | 20.09.1984 | A X |            |             |     |              |     |
| Antigua and Barbuda           | 06.10.1986         | S   | 06.10.1986 | A   |            | 06.10.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Argentina                     | 18.09.1956         | R   | 26.11.1986 | A X | 11.10.1996 | 26.11.1986  | A X |              |     |
| Armenia                       | 07.06.1993         | A   | 07.06.1993 | A   |            | 07.06.1993  | A   |              |     |
| Australia                     | 14.10.1958         | R X | 21.06.1991 | R X | 23.09.1992 | 21.06.1991  | R   |              |     |
| Austria                       | 27.08.1953         | R   | 13.08.1982 | R X | 13.08.1982 | 13.08.1982  | R X |              |     |
| Azerbaijan                    | 01.06.1993         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Bahamas                       | 11.07.1975         | S   | 10.04.1980 | A   |            | 10.04.1980  | A   |              |     |
| Bahrain                       | 30.11.1971         | A   | 30.10.1986 | A   |            | 30.10.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Bangladesh                    | 04.04.1972         | S X | 08.09.1980 | A   |            | 08.09.1980  | A   |              |     |
| Barbados                      | 10.09.1968         | S X | 19.02.1990 | A   |            | 19.02.1990  | A   |              |     |
| Belarus                       | 03.08.1954         | R   | 23.10.1989 | R   | 23.10.1989 | 23.10.1989  | R   |              |     |
| Belgium                       | 03.09.1952         | R   | 20.05.1986 | R X | 27.03.1987 | 20.05.1986  | R   |              |     |
| Belize                        | 29.06.1984         | A   | 29.06.1984 | A   |            | 29.06.1984  | A   | 03.04.2007   | A   |
| Benin                         | 14.12.1961         | S   | 28.05.1986 | A   |            | 28.05.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Bhutan                        | 10.01.1991         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Bolivia                       | 10.12.1976         | R   | 08.12.1983 | A   | 10.08.1992 | 08.12.1983  | A   |              |     |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina        | 31.12.1992         | S   | 31.12.1992 | S   | 31.12.1992 | 31.12.1992  | S   |              |     |
| Botswana                      | 29.03.1968         | A   | 23.05.1979 | A   |            | 23.05.1979  | A   |              |     |
| Brazil                        | 29.06.1957         | R   | 05.05.1992 | A   | 23.11.1993 | 05.05.1992  | A   |              |     |
| Brunei Darussalam             | 14.10.1991         | A   | 14.10.1991 | A   |            | 14.10.1991  | A   |              |     |
| Bulgaria                      | 22.07.1954         | R   | 26.09.1989 | R   | 09.05.1994 | 26.09.1989  | R   | 13.09.2006   | R   |
| Burkina Faso                  | 07.11.1961         | S   | 20.10.1987 | R   | 24.05.2004 | 20.10.1987  | R   |              |     |
| Burundi                       | 27.12.1971         | S   | 10.06.1993 | A   |            | 10.06.1993  | A   |              |     |
| Cambodia                      | 08.12.1958         | A   | 14.01.1998 | A   |            | 14.01.1998  | A   |              |     |
| Cameroon                      | 16.09.1963         | S   | 16.03.1984 | A   |            | 16.03.1984  | A   |              |     |
| Canada                        | 14.05.1965         | R   | 20.11.1990 | R X | 20.11.1990 | 20.11.1990  | R X | 26.11.2007   | R X |
| Cape Verde                    | 11.05.1984         | A   | 16.03.1995 | A   | 16.03.1995 | 16.03.1995  | A   |              |     |
| Central African Republic      | 01.08.1966         | S   | 17.07.1984 | A   |            | 17.07.1984  | A   |              |     |
| Chad                          | 05.08.1970         | A   | 17.01.1997 | A   |            | 17.01.1997  | A   |              |     |
| Chile                         | 12.10.1950         | R   | 24.04.1991 | R   | 24.04.1991 | 24.04.1991  | R   |              |     |
| China                         | 28.12.1956         | R X | 14.09.1983 | A X |            | 14.09.1983  | A X |              |     |
| Colombia                      | 08.11.1961         | R   | 01.09.1993 | A   | 17.04.1996 | 14.08.1995  | A   |              |     |
| Comoros                       | 21.11.1985         | A   | 21.11.1985 | A   |            | 21.11.1985  | A   |              |     |
| Congo                         | 04.02.1967         | S   | 10.11.1983 | A   |            | 10.11.1983  | A   |              |     |
| Congo, Democratic Republic of | 24.02.1961         | S   | 03.06.1982 | A   | 12.12.2002 | 12.12.2002  | A   |              |     |
| Cook Islands                  | 07.05.2002         | S   | 07.05.2002 | A   | 07.05.2002 | 07.05.2002  | A   |              |     |
| Costa Rica                    | 15.10.1969         | A   | 15.12.1983 | A   | 09.12.1999 | 15.12.1983  | A   | 30.06.2008   | R   |
| Côte d'Ivoire                 | 28.12.1961         | S   | 20.09.1989 | R   |            | 20.09.1989  | R   |              |     |
| Croatia                       | 11.05.1992         | S   | 11.05.1992 | S   | 11.05.1992 | 11.05.1992  | S   | 13.06.2007   | R   |
| Cuba                          | 15.04.1954         | A   | 25.11.1982 | A   |            | 23.06.1999  | A   |              |     |
| Cyprus                        | 23.05.1962         | A   | 01.06.1979 | R   | 14.10.2002 | 18.03.1996  | A   | 27.11.2007   | R   |
| Czech Republic                | 05.02.1993         | S   | 05.02.1993 | S   | 02.05.1995 | 05.02.1993  | S   | 23.05.2007   | R   |
| Denmark                       | 27.06.1951         | R   | 17.06.1982 | R X | 17.06.1982 | 17.06.1982  | R   | 25.05.2007   | R   |
| Djibouti                      | 06.03.1978         | S   | 08.04.1991 | A   |            | 08.04.1991  | A   |              |     |
| Dominica                      | 28.09.1981         | S   | 25.04.1996 | A   |            | 25.04.1996  | A   |              |     |
| Dominican Republic            | 22.01.1958         | A   | 26.05.1994 | A   |            | 26.05.1994  | A   |              |     |
| Ecuador                       | 11.08.1954         | R   | 10.04.1979 | R   |            | 10.04.1979  | R   |              |     |
| Egypt                         | 10.11.1952         | R   | 09.10.1992 | R X |            | 09.10.1992  | R X |              |     |
| El Salvador                   | 17.06.1953         | R   | 23.11.1978 | R   |            | 23.11.1978  | R   | 12.09.2007   | R   |
| Equatorial Guinea             | 24.07.1986         | A   | 24.07.1986 | A   |            | 24.07.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Eritrea                       | 14.08.2000         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Estonia                       | 18.01.1993         | A   | 18.01.1993 | A   |            | 18.01.1993  | A   | 28.02.2008   | R   |
| Ethiopia                      | 02.10.1969         | R   | 08.04.1994 | A   |            | 08.04.1994  | A   |              |     |
| Fiji                          | 09.08.1971         | S   | 30.07.2008 | A   |            | 30.07.2008  | A   | 30.07.2008   | A   |
| Finland                       | 22.02.1955         | R   | 07.08.1980 | R X | 07.08.1980 | 07.08.1980  | R   |              |     |
| France                        | 28.06.1951         | R   | 11.04.2001 | A X |            | 24.02.1984  | A X |              |     |

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)**

| Country                                | GENEVA CONVENTIONS |     | PROTOCOL I |     |            | PROTOCOL II |     | PROTOCOL III |     |
|--|--------------------|-----|------------|-----|------------|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|  | R/A/S              | R/D | R/A/S      | R/D | D90        | R/A/S       | R/D | R/A/S        | R/D |
| Gabon                                  | 26.02.1965         | S   | 08.04.1980 | A   |            | 08.04.1980  | A   |              |     |
| Gambia                                 | 20.10.1966         | S   | 12.01.1989 | A   |            | 12.01.1989  | A   |              |     |
| Georgia                                | 14.09.1993         | A   | 14.09.1993 | A   |            | 14.09.1993  | A   | 19.03.2007   | R   |
| Germany                                | 03.09.1954         | A X | 14.02.1991 | R X | 14.02.1991 | 14.02.1991  | R X |              |     |
| Ghana                                  | 02.08.1958         | A   | 28.02.1978 | R   |            | 28.02.1978  | R   |              |     |
| Greece                                 | 05.06.1956         | R   | 31.03.1989 | R   | 04.02.1998 | 15.02.1993  | A   |              |     |
| Grenada                                | 13.04.1981         | S   | 23.09.1998 | A   |            | 23.09.1998  | A   |              |     |
| Guatemala                              | 14.05.1952         | R   | 19.10.1987 | R   |            | 19.10.1987  | R   | 14.03.2008   | R   |
| Guinea                                 | 11.07.1984         | A   | 11.07.1984 | A   | 20.12.1993 | 11.07.1984  | A   |              |     |
| Guinea-Bissau                          | 21.02.1974         | A X | 21.10.1986 | A   |            | 21.10.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Guyana                                 | 22.07.1968         | S   | 18.01.1988 | A   |            | 18.01.1988  | A   |              |     |
| Haiti                                  | 11.04.1957         | A   | 20.12.2006 |     |            | 20.12.2006  | A   |              |     |
| Holy See                               | 22.02.1951         | R   | 21.11.1985 | R X |            | 21.11.1985  | R X |              |     |
| Honduras                               | 31.12.1965         | A   | 16.02.1995 | R   |            | 16.02.1995  | R   | 08.12.2006   | R   |
| Hungary                                | 03.08.1954         | R   | 12.04.1989 | R   | 23.09.1991 | 12.04.1989  | R   | 15.11.2006   | R   |
| Iceland                                | 10.08.1965         | A   | 10.04.1987 | R X | 10.04.1987 | 10.04.1987  | R   | 04.08.2006   | R   |
| India                                  | 09.11.1950         | R   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Indonesia                              | 30.09.1958         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Iran, Islamic Republic of              | 20.02.1957         | R X |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Iraq                                   | 14.02.1956         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Ireland                                | 27.09.1962         | R   | 19.05.1999 | R X | 19.05.1999 | 19.05.1999  | R X |              |     |
| Israel                                 | 06.07.1951         | R X |            |     |            |             |     | 22.11.2007   | R X |
| Italy                                  | 17.12.1951         | R   | 27.02.1986 | R X | 27.02.1986 | 27.02.1986  | R   |              |     |
| Jamaica                                | 20.07.1964         | S   | 29.07.1986 | A   |            | 29.07.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Japan                                  | 21.04.1953         | A   | 31.08.2004 | A X | 31.08.2004 | 31.08.2004  | A   |              |     |
| Jordan                                 | 29.05.1951         | A   | 01.05.1979 | R   |            | 01.05.1979  | R   |              |     |
| Kazakhstan                             | 05.05.1992         | S   | 05.05.1992 | S   |            | 05.05.1992  | S   |              |     |
| Kenya                                  | 20.09.1966         | A   | 23.02.1999 | A   |            | 23.02.1999  | A   |              |     |
| Kiribati                               | 05.01.1989         | S   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Korea, Democratic People's Republic of | 27.08.1957         | A X | 09.03.1988 | A   |            |             |     |              |     |
| Korea, Republic of                     | 16.08.1966         | A X | 15.01.1982 | R X | 16.04.2004 | 15.01.1982  | R   |              |     |
| Kuwait                                 | 02.09.1967         | A X | 17.01.1985 | A   |            | 17.01.1985  | A   |              |     |
| Kyrgyzstan                             | 18.09.1992         | S   | 18.09.1992 | S   |            | 18.09.1992  | S   |              |     |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic       | 29.10.1956         | A   | 18.11.1980 | R   | 30.01.1998 | 18.11.1980  | R   |              |     |
| Latvia                                 | 24.12.1991         | A   | 24.12.1991 | A   |            | 24.12.1991  | A   | 02.04.2007   | R   |
| Lebanon                                | 10.04.1951         | R   | 23.07.1997 | A   |            | 23.07.1997  | A   |              |     |
| Lesotho                                | 20.05.1968         | S   | 20.05.1994 | A   |            | 20.05.1994  | A   |              |     |
| Liberia                                | 29.03.1954         | A   | 30.06.1988 | A   |            | 30.06.1988  | A   |              |     |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya                 | 22.05.1956         | A   | 07.06.1978 | A   |            | 07.06.1978  | A   |              |     |
| Liechtenstein                          | 21.09.1950         | R   | 10.08.1989 | R X | 10.08.1989 | 10.08.1989  | R X | 24.08.2006   | R   |
| Lithuania                              | 03.10.1996         | A   | 13.07.2000 | A   | 13.07.2000 | 13.07.2000  | A   | 28.11.2007   | R   |
| Luxembourg                             | 01.07.1953         | R   | 29.08.1989 | R   | 12.05.1993 | 29.08.1989  | R   |              |     |
| Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of | 01.09.1993         | S X | 01.09.1993 | S X | 01.09.1993 | 01.09.1993  | S   | 14.10.2008   | R   |
| Madagascar                             | 18.07.1963         | S   | 08.05.1992 | R   | 27.07.1993 | 08.05.1992  | R   |              |     |
| Malawi                                 | 05.01.1968         | A   | 07.10.1991 | A   |            | 07.10.1991  | A   |              |     |
| Malaysia                               | 24.08.1962         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Maldives                               | 18.06.1991         | A   | 03.09.1991 | A   |            | 03.09.1991  | A   |              |     |
| Mali                                   | 24.05.1965         | A   | 08.02.1989 | A   | 09.05.2003 | 08.02.1989  | A   |              |     |
| Malta                                  | 22.08.1968         | S   | 17.04.1989 | A X | 17.04.1989 | 17.04.1989  | A X |              |     |
| Marshall Islands                       | 01.06.2004         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Mauritania                             | 30.10.1962         | S   | 14.03.1980 | A   |            | 14.03.1980  | A   |              |     |
| Mauritius                              | 18.08.1970         | S   | 22.03.1982 | A X |            | 22.03.1982  | A   |              |     |
| Mexico                                 | 29.10.1952         | R   | 10.03.1983 | A   |            |             |     | 07.07.2008   | R   |
| Micronesia, Federated States of        | 19.09.1995         | A   | 19.09.1995 | A   |            | 19.09.1995  | A   |              |     |
| Moldova, Republic of                   | 24.05.1993         | A   | 24.05.1993 | A   |            | 24.05.1993  | A   | 19.08.2008   | R   |
| Monaco                                 | 05.07.1950         | R   | 07.01.2000 | A   |            | 07.01.2000  | A   | 12.03.2007   | R   |
| Mongolia                               | 20.12.1958         | A   | 06.12.1995 | R X | 06.12.1995 | 06.12.1995  | R   |              |     |
| Montenegro                             | 02.08.2006         | A   | 02.08.2006 | A   | 02.08.2006 | 02.08.2006  | A   |              |     |
| Morocco                                | 26.07.1956         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Mozambique                             | 14.03.1983         | A   | 14.03.1983 | A   |            | 12.11.2002  | A   |              |     |
| Myanmar                                | 25.08.1992         | A   |            |     |            |             |     |              |     |
| Namibia                                | 22.08.1991         | S   | 17.06.1994 | A   | 21.07.1994 | 17.06.1994  | A   |              |     |

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)**

| Country  | GENEVA CONVENTIONS |     | PROTOCOL I   |     |              | PROTOCOL II |     | PROTOCOL III |     |
|--|--------------------|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|  | R/A/S              | R/D | R/A/S        | R/D | D90          | R/A/S       | R/D | R/A/S        | R/D |
| Nauru  | 27.06.2006         | A   | 27.06.2006   | A   |              | 27.06.2006  | A   |              |     |
| Nepal  | 07.02.1964         | A   |              |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| Netherlands  | 03.08.1954         | R   | 26.06.1987   | R   | X 26.06.1987 | 26.06.1987  | R   | 13.12.2006   | R   |
| New Zealand  | 02.05.1959         | R   | 08.02.1988   | R   | X 08.02.1988 | 08.02.1988  | R   | X            |     |
| Nicaragua  | 17.12.1953         | R   | 19.07.1999   | R   |              | 19.07.1999  | R   |              |     |
| Niger  | 21.04.1964         | S   | 08.06.1979   | R   |              | 08.06.1979  | R   |              |     |
| Nigeria  | 20.06.1961         | S   | 10.10.1988   | A   |              | 10.10.1988  | A   |              |     |
| Norway   | 03.08.1951         | R   | 14.12.1981   | R   | 14.12.1981   | 14.12.1981  | R   | 13.06.2006   | R   |
| Oman   | 31.01.1974         | A   | 29.03.1984   | A   | X            | 29.03.1984  | A   | X            |     |
| Pakistan   | 12.06.1951         | R   | X            |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| Palau  | 25.06.1996         | A   | 25.06.1996   | A   |              | 25.06.1996  | A   |              |     |
| Panama   | 10.02.1956         | A   | 18.09.1995   | R   | 26.10.1999   | 18.09.1995  | R   |              |     |
| Papua New Guinea                                     | 26.05.1976         | S   |              |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| Paraguay   | 23.10.1961         | R   | 30.11.1990   | A   | 30.01.1998   | 30.11.1990  | A   | 13.10.2008   | R   |
| Peru   | 15.02.1956         | R   | 14.07.1989   | R   |              | 14.07.1989  | R   |              |     |
| Philippines  | 06.10.1952         | R   |              |     |              | 11.12.1986  | A   | 22.08.2006   | R   |
| Poland   | 26.11.1954         | R   | X 23.10.1991 | R   | 02.10.1992   | 23.10.1991  | R   |              |     |
| Portugal   | 14.03.1961         | R   | X 27.05.1992 | R   | 01.07.1994   | 27.05.1992  | R   |              |     |
| Qatar  | 15.10.1975         | A   | 05.04.1988   | A   | X 24.09.1991 | 05.01.2005  | A   |              |     |
| Romania  | 01.06.1954         | R   | 21.06.1990   | R   | 31.05.1995   | 21.06.1990  | R   |              |     |
| Russian Federation                                   | 10.05.1954         | R   | X 29.09.1989 | R   | X 29.09.1989 | 29.09.1989  | R   | X            |     |
| Rwanda   | 05.05.1964         | S   | 19.11.1984   | A   | 08.07.1993   | 19.11.1984  | A   |              |     |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis                                | 14.02.1986         | S   | 14.02.1986   | A   |              | 14.02.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Saint Lucia  | 18.09.1981         | S   | 07.10.1982   | A   |              | 07.10.1982  | A   |              |     |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines                     | 01.04.1981         | A   | 08.04.1983   | A   |              | 08.04.1983  | A   |              |     |
| Samoa  | 23.08.1984         | S   | 23.08.1984   | A   |              | 23.08.1984  | A   |              |     |
| San Marino   | 29.08.1953         | A   | 05.04.1994   | R   |              | 05.04.1994  | R   | 22.06.2007   | R   |
| Sao Tome and Principe                                | 21.05.1976         | A   | 05.07.1996   | A   |              | 05.07.1996  | A   |              |     |
| Saudi Arabia   | 18.05.1963         | A   | 21.08.1987   | A   | X            | 28.11.2001  | A   |              |     |
| Senegal  | 18.05.1963         | S   | 07.05.1985   | R   |              | 07.05.1985  | R   |              |     |
| Serbia   | 16.10.2001         | S   | 16.10.2001   | S   | 16.10.2001   | 16.10.2001  | S   |              |     |
| Seychelles   | 08.11.1984         | A   | 08.11.1984   | A   | 22.05.1992   | 08.11.1984  | A   |              |     |
| Sierra Leone   | 10.06.1965         | S   | 21.10.1986   | A   |              | 21.10.1986  | A   |              |     |
| Singapore  | 27.04.1973         | A   |              |     |              |             |     | 07.07.2008   | R   |
| Slovakia   | 02.04.1993         | S   | 02.04.1993   | S   | 13.03.1995   | 02.04.1993  | S   | 30.05.2007   | R   |
| Slovenia   | 26.03.1992         | S   | 26.03.1992   | S   | 26.03.1992   | 26.03.1992  | S   | 10.03.2008   | R   |
| Solomon Islands                                      | 06.07.1981         | S   | 19.09.1988   | A   |              | 19.09.1988  | A   |              |     |
| Somalia  | 12.07.1962         | A   |              |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| South Africa   | 31.03.1952         | A   | 21.11.1995   | A   |              | 21.11.1995  | A   |              |     |
| Spain  | 04.08.1952         | R   | 21.04.1989   | R   | X 21.04.1989 | 21.04.1989  | R   |              |     |
| Sri Lanka  | 28.02.1959         | R   |              |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| Sudan  | 23.09.1957         | A   | 07.03.2006   | A   |              | 13.07.2006  | A   |              |     |
| Suriname   | 13.10.1976         | S   | X 16.12.1985 | A   |              | 16.12.1985  | A   |              |     |
| Swaziland  | 28.06.1973         | A   | 02.11.1995   | A   |              | 02.11.1995  | A   |              |     |
| Sweden   | 28.12.1953         | R   | 31.08.1979   | R   | X 31.08.1979 | 31.08.1979  | R   |              |     |
| Switzerland  | 31.03.1950         | R   | 17.02.1982   | R   | 17.02.1982   | 17.02.1982  | R   | 14.07.2006   | R   |
| Syrian Arab Republic                                 | 02.11.1953         | R   | 14.11.1983   | A   | X            |             |     |              |     |
| Tajikistan   | 13.01.1993         | S   | 13.01.1993   | S   | 10.09.1997   | 13.01.1993  | S   |              |     |
| Tanzania, United Republic of                         | 12.12.1962         | S   | 15.02.1983   | A   |              | 15.02.1983  | A   |              |     |
| Thailand   | 29.12.1954         | A   |              |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| Timor-Leste  | 08.05.2003         | A   | 12.04.2005   | A   |              | 12.04.2005  | A   |              |     |
| Togo   | 06.01.1962         | S   | 21.06.1984   | R   | 21.11.1991   | 21.06.1984  | R   |              |     |
| Tonga  | 13.04.1978         | S   | 20.01.2003   | A   | 20.01.2003   | 20.01.2003  | A   |              |     |
| Trinidad and Tobago                                  | 24.09.1963         | A   | 20.07.2001   | A   | 20.07.2001   | 20.07.2001  | A   |              |     |
| Tunisia  | 04.05.1957         | A   | 09.08.1979   | R   |              | 09.08.1979  | R   |              |     |
| Turkey   | 10.02.1954         | R   |              |     |              |             |     |              | X   |
| Turkmenistan   | 10.04.1992         | S   | 10.04.1992   | S   |              | 10.04.1992  | S   |              |     |
| Tuvalu   | 19.02.1981         | S   |              |     |              |             |     |              |     |
| Uganda   | 18.05.1964         | A   | 13.03.1991   | A   |              | 13.03.1991  | A   | 21.05.2008   | A   |
| Ukraine  | 03.08.1954         | R   | 25.01.1990   | R   | 25.01.1990   | 25.01.1990  | R   |              |     |
| United Arab Emirates                                 | 10.05.1972         | A   | 09.03.1983   | A   | X 06.03.1992 | 09.03.1983  | A   | X            |     |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 23.09.1957         | R   | X 28.01.1998 | R   | X 17.05.1999 | 28.01.1998  | R   |              |     |

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)**

| Country                  | GENEVA CONVENTIONS |     |   | PROTOCOL I |     |            | PROTOCOL II |     | PROTOCOL III |     |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----|---|------------|-----|------------|-------------|-----|--------------|-----|
|                          | R/A/S              | R/D |   | R/A/S      | R/D | D90        | R/A/S       | R/D | R/A/S        | R/D |
| United States of America | 02.08.1955         | R   | X |            |     |            |             |     | 08.03.2007   | R   |
| Uruguay                  | 05.03.1969         | R   | X | 13.12.1985 | A   | 17.07.1990 | 13.12.1985  | A   |              |     |
| Uzbekistan               | 08.10.1993         | A   |   | 08.10.1993 | A   |            | 08.10.1993  | A   |              |     |
| Vanuatu                  | 27.10.1982         | A   |   | 28.02.1985 | A   |            | 28.02.1985  | A   |              |     |
| Venezuela                | 13.02.1956         | R   |   | 23.07.1998 | A   |            | 23.07.1998  | A   |              |     |
| Viet Nam                 | 28.06.1957         | A   | X | 19.10.1981 | R   |            |             |     |              |     |
| Yemen                    | 16.07.1970         | A   | X | 17.04.1990 | R   |            | 17.04.1990  | R   |              |     |
| Zambia                   | 19.10.1966         | A   |   | 04.05.1995 | A   |            | 04.05.1995  | A   |              |     |
| Zimbabwe                 | 07.03.1983         | A   |   | 19.10.1992 | A   |            | 19.10.1992  | A   |              |     |

**NOTES****Djibouti**

Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Geneva Convention was dated 26.01.1978.

**France**

On accession to Additional Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Additional Protocol I.

**Ghana**

Entry into force of Additional Protocols I and II on 07.12.1978.

**Namibia**

An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and the 1977 Additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18.10.1983. In an instrument deposited on 22.08.1991, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31.03.1952.

**Niue**

Pursuant to New Zealand law at the time of accession, and consistent with customary international law, the Geneva Conventions apply to Niue by virtue of New Zealand's accession, on 02.05.1959, to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions.

**Palestine**

On 21.06.1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council "that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 04.05.1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto".

On 13.09.1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

**Philippines**

The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 07.03.1951.

**Republic of Korea**

The Geneva Conventions entered into force on 23.09.1966, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art.62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).

**Sri Lanka**

Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23.02.1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second, and Third Geneva Conventions).

**Switzerland**

Entry into force of the Geneva Conventions on 21.10.1950.

**Trinidad and Tobago**

Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17.03.1963.





# MISSION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.

The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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