

SUDAN



The boundaries, names and designations used in this report do not imply official endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Arrangements necessary for resuming ICRC field activities were discussed with the Sudanese authorities. The ICRC's operations remained limited, but it was able to carry out some initiatives as planned.
- ▶ Disabled people received assistive devices and physiotherapy services at ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres. Expenses for travel, accommodation and food were covered for the most vulnerable among them.
- ▶ People separated from their families, including refugees from South Sudan, located and/or restored contact with their relatives through the joint family-links activities of the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and the ICRC.
- ▶ Military lawyers and trainers learnt more about IHL and developed their ability to teach the subject at the first training sessions organized by the ICRC within the framework of an agreement signed with the defence ministry in 2015.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,403
Assistance	3,770
Prevention	2,339
Cooperation with National Societies	1,477
General	125
Total	10,114
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>617</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	95%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	15
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	165

The ICRC has been present in Sudan since 1978. It focuses on addressing the consequences of armed conflicts in Darfur and between South Sudan and Sudan. While pursuing dialogue with the authorities on gaining direct access to conflict-affected people, it focuses on activities aiming to: promote respect for IHL; help disabled people obtain rehabilitative services; re-establish links between separated family members; and seek information on the fate of persons allegedly detained in relation to the conflicts. When possible, the ICRC works with and supports the Sudanese Red Crescent Society.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action	MEDIUM
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PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected ¹	1,261
RCMs distributed ¹	328
Phone calls facilitated between family members	326
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	105
People reunited with their families	1
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	<i>1</i>

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries	
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects	8 11
Patients receiving services	Patients	3,400 4,578

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CONTEXT

Armed confrontations between Sudanese government forces and armed groups in Darfur, and in Blue Nile and South Kordofan, continued. Clashes in the Jebel Marra area during the first half of the year reportedly caused new waves of mass displacement of people, most of whom sought refuge in Central, North and South Darfur. Communal violence persisted in other parts of Sudan.

A referendum on the administrative status of Darfur was held in April, as per the 2011 Darfur Peace Agreement. Subsequently, the Darfur Regional Authority – formed under the agreement – was formally dissolved. The National Dialogue Conference, held in October, ended two years of discussion about a proposed national dialogue document that was meant to guide, among other things, the drafting of a permanent constitution.

Sudan continued to host refugees from South Sudan. Tensions persisted between the two countries, particularly in connection with the contested area of Abyei and the demarcation of the border.

International organizations' access to conflict-affected people in Darfur, refugees from South Sudan, and vulnerable communities in Blue Nile and South Kordofan remained limited. In compliance with government directives, these organizations usually channelled humanitarian aid through the Sudanese authorities, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society and/or local NGOs. In December, the government issued revised directives that are expected to ease access in certain areas.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to build acceptance for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian approach and for its activities to benefit people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in Sudan. However, it was still unable to gain direct access to vulnerable communities and carry out the full range of its activities in the field, which were suspended from February to September 2014 in accordance with a government directive. It further reduced its presence and staff in Sudan, as a result. Nevertheless, the ICRC continued to implement the limited range of humanitarian activities it was able to undertake.

Discussions with the Sudanese authorities focused on the scope of the ICRC's activities, its working methods and the arrangements necessary to implement the framework agreements it signed with federal ministries in 2015. The ICRC president and other ICRC staff discussed these matters during meetings with senior Sudanese government officials. The ICRC supplemented these bilateral talks with dissemination sessions and other events for the authorities, armed forces, members of civil society and community leaders; the aim was to broaden support for the ICRC's mandate and work, and promote respect for IHL. The ICRC organized an IHL information session for military lawyers and a train-the-trainer course for armed forces instructors; they were the first sessions held within the framework of a memorandum of understanding – on IHL awareness and instruction – that the ICRC and the defence ministry signed in 2015.

After a series of meetings, the Sudanese Red Crescent and the ICRC agreed, in May 2016, to extend their 2015 cooperation agreement. This was followed by implementation of action plans concerning institutional support, family-links activities and application of the Safer Access Framework. Joint activities, to help members of

separated families reconnect, continued; the National Society was given material and financial support for sustaining its operations and expanding its capacities.

While negotiations with the authorities were in progress, the ICRC was able to conduct some of its activities as planned. It provided the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO) with technical and other forms of assistance for running physical rehabilitation centres and improving the quality of rehabilitative services in the country. As a result, thousands of physically disabled people were able to avail themselves of assistive devices and physiotherapy services. Physically disabled children received treatment at a hospital, which the ICRC also provided with raw materials, on-site support and technical guidance.

The National Society and the ICRC maintained their joint efforts to carry out family-links activities. They were able to help more people than last year to send written or oral messages to relatives separated from them by violence in Sudan or elsewhere in the region. People also continued to seek the ICRC's help in locating missing relatives, including those allegedly detained or captured; National Society and ICRC efforts resulted in several people being located.

As it was still unable to resume most of its assistance activities, the ICRC donated – to the National Society, local authorities and other local or international organizations – the undistributed supplies that it had in stock.

Through meetings with the authorities concerned, the ICRC continued to seek permission to visit people held in connection with conflict and other violence, in order to monitor their treatment and living conditions.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC continued its efforts to foster acceptance for its activities in Sudan, with a view to gaining direct and independent access to vulnerable communities. Discussions with the authorities (see *Actors of influence*) focused on the arrangements necessary to implement the agreements signed with the government and federal ministries in 2014 and 2015; these agreements were meant to enable the ICRC to resume activities that were formally suspended from February to September 2014 in accordance with a government directive. The discussions in 2016 covered, among other matters, permission for ICRC teams to travel to the field and administrative procedures for delivering essential supplies.

Families locate their relatives and restore contact with them

As per a plan of action they signed in May (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), the National Society and the ICRC continued to work jointly to help members of dispersed families restore contact; they reached more people with family-links services than last year. National Society staff members refreshed their skills at ICRC-organized workshops, and National Society and ICRC teams raised awareness of the availability of family-links services in local communities.

The joint activities of the National Society and the ICRC enabled people in East, South and North Darfur and, for the first time since 2013, refugees and other vulnerable families in West Kordofan and White Nile to exchange news with their relatives through RCMs, phone calls, and short oral greetings relayed by ICRC delegates. Several refugee households searched for their relatives using ICRC-produced booklets containing pictures

of people separated from their families by the violence in South Sudan (see *South Sudan*).

Sudanese families seeking information on relatives allegedly arrested or captured, or missing in relation to conflict, continued to seek the ICRC's assistance. A total of 105 people were located through the efforts of National Society and ICRC teams.

Disabled people start livelihood activities to support their families

In Al Fashir and Nyala, 60 physically disabled people (supporting some 360 people) started small businesses – raising livestock and distributing water, for example – with ICRC cash grants. These beneficiaries had been patients at an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre (see *Wounded and sick*).

No other assistance activities took place while negotiations with the authorities were in progress. The ICRC therefore donated the supplies it had in stock from 2015, or pre-positioned for 2016, to local institutions or other international organizations. The National Society was given essential household items, enough for some 3,600 families, to help it strengthen its emergency preparedness. Water authorities in Darfur and Khartoum, and some international organizations working in rural areas of Darfur, benefited from donations of spare parts and equipment for water systems. The health ministry was provided with solar-powered refrigerators for storing vaccines, to support its emergency response in remote areas. A hospital in Khartoum and an international organization running clinics in Darfur received medical supplies and equipment.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the Sudanese authorities (see *Actors of influence*) and armed groups, with a view to gaining access to people held in relation to the armed conflicts in the country and monitoring their treatment and living conditions. It submitted and followed up requests for information about people allegedly arrested or captured; these requests were based on reports from families who had sought the ICRC's help in locating their relatives (see *Civilians*).

During discussions with military officials and members of armed groups, the ICRC continued to emphasize its readiness to serve as a neutral intermediary in the handover of people in their custody.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Physically disabled people avail themselves of rehabilitative services

Some 3,680 physically disabled people received assistive devices and physiotherapy services at physical rehabilitation centres in Khartoum and Nyala and at satellite centres in Damazine, Dongola, Gadaref, Kadugli and Kassala. Destitute and other particularly vulnerable people were among those who obtained services at the centre in Nyala; the ICRC covered their transportation, food and accommodation expenses.

The centres were run by NAPO with raw materials, equipment, technical guidance and other support from the ICRC; despite this assistance, shortages of supplies continued to hamper the provision of services at some of the centres. With a view to extending its reach, NAPO established a new centre in El-Obaid in North Kordofan – aided by ICRC expertise, particularly in renovating infrastructure and staffing.

A total of 896 physically disabled children obtained services at the Cheshire Home children's hospital in Khartoum; the hospital's workshop benefited from infrastructural improvements, donations of equipment and raw materials, and guidance from an ICRC-trained technician and therapist. A disabled people's association in Al-Fashir also received technical and material support from the ICRC.

The authorities take steps to ensure the good quality of physical rehabilitation services

In line with the government's commitment to pay particular attention to disabled people's needs, NAPO worked to improve the quality of services available at its centres. It drew on ICRC support for upgrading or renovating facilities, training technicians, clarifying staff members' roles and identifying good management practices. It sought to standardize procedures in its centres, such as those for collecting data, by implementing quality-control measures. Service providers and the users themselves were given Arabic-language videos or leaflets about physiotherapy and the management of club foot.

Thirteen NAPO staff members completed a training course for bench workers at a workshop that the ICRC helped renovate and equip; two others learnt how to train their colleagues. Fourteen physiotherapists expanded their skills at ICRC-backed training sessions, and fourteen others completed the first year of the three-year diploma course established by NAPO, a local university and the ICRC in 2015. Four NAPO technicians continued their studies abroad.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Resumption of ICRC activities remains under discussion

Following on from dialogue that began in 2014, and based on the agreements it signed with government bodies in 2014 and 2015, the ICRC continued to work on fostering acceptance for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian approach and for its activities to benefit people affected by armed conflict and other violence. The ICRC met with Sudanese government officials regularly, in Sudan and elsewhere, to discuss its working procedures and the scope of its activities and to clarify the requirements for resuming them. These efforts, which included a meeting between the ICRC's president and Sudan's state minister for foreign affairs, have yielded limited results thus far (see *Civilians*).

Discussions with the authorities also covered the ICRC's humanitarian activities for people deprived of their freedom. Members of the national IHL committee, in particular, learnt more about these and about the ICRC's protection activities in general through an ICRC presentation and during meetings with ICRC officials.

Local authorities, community leaders and military and police commanders in Darfur and West Kordofan were kept informed of the ICRC's negotiations with the authorities. Local authorities acknowledged the positive impact of past ICRC activities and expressed their willingness to work with the organization again in assisting conflict-affected people.

Military lawyers and trainers advance their understanding of IHL

Twelve newly appointed lawyers of the armed forces' Military Justice Administration discussed IHL-related issues during an orientation session organized by the ICRC at the invitation of the administration's director. During a course for them, 14 trainers

from the army, navy and the air force developed their ability to teach IHL; they also discussed future IHL-related activities for the armed forces. These were the first sessions organized within the framework of a memorandum of understanding – on promoting IHL instruction and building trainers’ capacities – that the defence ministry and the ICRC signed in December 2015. The possibility of a memorandum of understanding, for providing IHL training to security services personnel, was discussed with the interior ministry.

University professors and students learn more about IHL

Training sessions held in Sudan and elsewhere helped cultivate support for IHL among the authorities and members of civil society. A legal adviser from the national IHL committee benefited from an ICRC-organized course in Lebanon (see *Lebanon*). At a local workshop organized by the ICRC and a network of academics researching IHL, 21 law students from various universities learnt more about IHL and other related matters; some 80 other law students became more familiar with the subject at another event. University students demonstrated their grasp of IHL at a national moot-court competition; ICRC support enabled the winning team to participate in a regional competition (see *Nairobi*).

Representatives of Sudanese NGOs familiarized themselves with the basics of IHL, and with the ICRC’s work, at a workshop organized by the French embassy in Sudan and the ICRC. UN personnel and staff from international NGOs learnt more, from ICRC presentations, about IHL matters related to their work.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In May, after a series of meetings, the Sudanese Red Crescent and the ICRC signed an extension of their 2015 cooperation agreement. This was followed by implementation of plans of action concerning institutional support, family-links services (see *Civilians*) and application of the Safer Access Framework. The National Society covered part of its operating costs, particularly staff salaries, with ICRC financial assistance.

The National Society worked on being better prepared for emergencies, with the ICRC’s support, which included donations of essential household items and the provision of supplies for emergency action teams. At an ICRC-organized workshop about the Safer Access Framework, National Society staff members and volunteers learnt more about mitigating risks to their safety while carrying out their duties.

Together with the ICRC, the National Society assessed capacities and needs at its headquarters and at several branches – in particular, volunteers’ knowledge of basic IHL and their communication skills – with a view to developing its capacity to promote IHL.

Despite the absence of a new Movement coordination agreement, the National Society, the International Federation, the ICRC and other components of the Movement met regularly to discuss their activities.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected ¹		1,261	107		
RCMs distributed ¹		328	2		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		326			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		1			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	1			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		311	124	19	26
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	39			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		105			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	18			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		724	166	40	63
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	102			
Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		24	12		1
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		1			
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	1			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		26	15		1
Documents					
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		1			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
RCMs and other means of family contact					
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1			

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MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries			
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	11		
Patients receiving services	Patients	4,578	949	1,342
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	361	85	14
Prostheses delivered	Units	803	208	44
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	2	1	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	440	24	386
Orthoses delivered	Units	1,048	97	856
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	5,146	297	3,852
Walking aids delivered	Units	704	132	24
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	23	13	

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