

# BURUNDI



The ICRC has been present in Burundi since 1962, opening its delegation there in 1992 to help people overcome the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. ICRC assistance activities focus mainly on working with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards. The ICRC reinforces physical rehabilitation services, helps bolster the Burundi Red Cross's work, notably its efforts to restore links between separated family members, including refugees, and supports the armed forces' efforts to train their members in IHL.

## YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action **HIGH**

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

### In 2014:

- ▶ 5,750 people detained in 5 prisons maintained access to good-quality health care through prison dispensaries stocked with an ICRC-funded supply of basic medicines
- ▶ people displaced by conflict/violence learnt the whereabouts of their relatives and/or restored contact with them – and 10 unaccompanied minors rejoined their families – through Movement family-links services
- ▶ owing to their late election, dialogue with members of the new Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on incorporating families' needs in the legal framework governing missing persons, was postponed to 2015
- ▶ some 2,800 disabled people received appropriate physical rehabilitation services at the ICRC-supported Saint Kizito Institute, where staff continued to strengthen their skills through on-the-job-training
- ▶ some 4,150 military personnel bound for peacekeeping missions in the Central African Republic and Somalia learnt more about IHL during pre-deployment briefings by ICRC delegates
- ▶ the Burundi Red Cross, with Movement support, reinforced its emergency response capacities by assisting flood victims and preparing a contingency plan for the elections

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)	
Protection	1,678
Assistance	1,992
Prevention	480
Cooperation with National Societies	474
General	-

**4,624**

of which: Overheads 282

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>99%</b>

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	12
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	51

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	1,771
RCMs distributed	1,263
Phone calls facilitated between family members	207
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	102
People reunited with their families	18
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	10
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	8,706
Detainees visited and monitored individually	275
Number of visits carried out	92
Number of places of detention visited	19
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	17
RCMs distributed	15

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
Physical rehabilitation		
Centres supported	Structures	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,500
		2,808

## CONTEXT

The security situation in Burundi remained relatively stable, though tensions related to the legislative and presidential elections of 2015 persisted throughout the year.

The parliament established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission as part of the transitional justice process in the country; members were elected late in the year.

Isolated security incidents were reported at the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC). Refugees, mainly from the DRC, continued to arrive in Burundi.

The Burundian armed forces contributed troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2014, the ICRC maintained its focus on supporting the authorities in improving the conditions of detainees and on providing assistance to those affected by past conflicts.

ICRC delegates visited detainees in places of permanent and temporary detention to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Their findings and recommendations were communicated confidentially to the authorities concerned, through written reports and face-to-face discussions. This led authorities to update prison management and policies, invigorate the inspection system and step up efforts to increase respect for detainees' judicial guarantees. At the ICRC's suggestion, they recruited a civil engineer to be in charge of penitentiary infrastructure.

The ICRC provided financial, material and technical support to improve inmates' living conditions: for example, it helped rehabilitate prison infrastructure and upgrade water and sanitation facilities. The ICRC covered the costs of basic medicines at five prison dispensaries, facilitated access to medical treatment and organized workshops on treating some of the most commonly encountered diseases in prisons, which boosted the capacities of prisons' health personnel and contributed to a general improvement in detainees' health.

Technical, financial and training support from the ICRC enabled the Saint Kizito Institute to improve the quality of its physical rehabilitation services for disabled people, optimize patient management capacities and professionalize its treatment protocols.

The Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC worked together to provide family-links services to families dispersed by conflict or other circumstances. Training for National Society volunteers and enhanced coordination with other actors facilitated management of cases of separated/unaccompanied children. The ICRC also maintained its dialogue with the national authorities, and others involved in transitional justice and the issue of missing persons, to exchange pertinent information and monitor developments.

Dialogue with political/military authorities focused on reinforcing understanding of and respect for basic humanitarian principles and the Movement's work. Supported by the ICRC, Burundi ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ICRC co-organized with the national small arms commission

a workshop in Bujumbura to sensitize the pertinent authorities and other parties concerned to the need to accelerate ratification of the Kinshasa Convention and the Arms Trade Treaty.

The ICRC also provided technical advice and training support for the armed forces in their efforts to incorporate IHL in military doctrine, training and operations. ICRC-trained instructors briefed Burundian contingents on IHL before their deployment with AMISOM or MINUSCA. To ensure continuity, new instructors, selected by the Burundian armed forces, were trained by the ICRC; high-ranking officers were sponsored to attend IHL courses abroad.

With ICRC support, the Burundi Red Cross strengthened its capacities in emergency preparedness, human remains management, first aid and restoring family links. It assisted thousands of people displaced by heavy floods in Bujumbura and prepared a contingency plan for the general elections in 2015.

Movement partners met regularly to exchange views and coordinate activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Members of dispersed families restore contact through Movement family-links services

Families dispersed by past conflict in Burundi or ongoing fighting in neighbouring countries, including refugees and returnees, re-established or maintained contact through Burundi Red Cross/ICRC family-links services. The whereabouts of some 100 people were communicated to their relatives; 18 people rejoined their families, including from/to neighbouring countries; over 3,000 RCMs were delivered or collected on behalf of dispersed families.

Refugees living in urban areas, and others at two camps learnt more about the Movement's activities, including family-links services, during outreach activities conducted with the National Society.

With ICRC support, the National Society provided emergency family-links services for people affected by the floods in Bujumbura; it also continued to enhance its capacities in this area. The ICRC paid the salaries of staff members from throughout the country, including those working in four refugee camps. National Society staff sharpened their skills at refresher training courses, together with 20 new volunteers, and during joint field trips and special sessions on managing tracing requests and registering unaccompanied minors/separated children. At three ICRC-organized meetings, humanitarian actors involved in protecting children – including UN agencies – strengthened coordination in family-links activities related to resettlement programmes.

### Parliament launches Truth and Reconciliation Commission

In April, the parliament established a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (see *Context*) and entrusted it, *inter alia*, with handling the cases of persons missing in relation to past conflict and the needs of their families. The commissioners were elected to their posts late in the year; consequently, dialogue with them, on incorporating the needs of families in the legal framework pertaining to missing persons, was postponed. Nevertheless, discussions continued with others – national authorities and representatives of international organizations/civil society – concerned with the issues of missing persons and support for their families. ICRC financial support enabled a Burundian forensics specialist to attend an international conference in

March (see *Nigeria*), which added to the country's stock of expertise in forensics.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Prison authorities take steps to improve detainees' treatment

The ICRC visited, in accordance with its standard procedures, some 8,700 detainees at 19 places of permanent or temporary detention to monitor their treatment and living conditions. After the visits, findings and recommendations were submitted confidentially to the prison authorities. Of the detainees visited, 275 were registered and monitored individually; vulnerable inmates such as minors, women and foreigners received special attention. Inmates restored/maintained contact with relatives within the country or abroad through RCMs and phone calls. After their release, some 100 former detainees registered by the ICRC received follow-up visits; others returned home with ICRC assistance.

Detainees saw their treatment improve after the authorities took steps to update prison management and policies: for instance, the inspection system was revised and brought into line with internationally recognized standards. With the ICRC's encouragement, the pertinent authorities also took steps to increase respect for detainees' judicial guarantees, for example by setting up a legal services department at the Mpimba central prison. In addition, at three ICRC-organized workshops, penitentiary and judicial officials discussed ways to improve detention conditions.

Dialogue with the penitentiary directorate tied in with efforts to address issues related to detention conditions, particularly through meetings of the working group composed of the pertinent authorities, other financial/technical partners and the ICRC. With the group's support, including through technical advice and workshops, the penitentiary directorate continued to reinforce its capacity to manage the country's 11 central prisons. For example, at six ICRC-organized meetings, State actors and international organizations discussed how to improve conditions in Burundian prisons: suggestions included drawing up a prisons policy and drafting a master plan to develop existing prisons. At a workshop, key actors involved in prison social services discussed challenges related to their duties; visits to prisons conducted with penitentiary administration/Justice Ministry officials and other partners took stock of progress made in implementing past recommendations to improve conditions of detention and prison services.

### Detainees benefit from upgraded health services and infrastructure

Around 5,750 detainees in five prisons maintained access to good-quality health care through prison dispensaries stocked with an ICRC-funded supply of basic medicines; prison authorities covered the costs of medicines at the other six prisons. Sick detainees recovered their health through some 32,800 curative consultations and treatment services for TB and HIV/AIDS provided by the prison authorities. At two ICRC-organized workshops, 37 nurses from the 11 central prisons learnt more about treating TB, HIV/AIDS and the most common diseases. Monitoring and supervision of detainees' nutritional status, and of prison clinics, during joint visits with the Health Ministry's prison health coordinator helped stave off malnutrition and further enhanced health services for detainees.

Donations of soap/cleaning materials, and training sessions for the authorities in proper planning, inventory management and

distribution of hygiene materials, improved sanitation for inmates in prisons visited by the ICRC. During awareness-raising sessions conducted within the framework of a memorandum of understanding between the penitentiary administration and the ICRC, detainees, including female inmates, learnt how to improve their hygiene and mitigate the risk of contagious diseases.

Infrastructural work done with the penitentiary directorate improved living conditions for detainees at five places of detention: electrical systems were upgraded, and water/sanitation systems, kitchens, dispensaries and dormitories, including separate cells for women and minors, were renovated/constructed. A review of past pest-control campaigns carried out with the authorities sought to identify ways to increase the effectiveness of future efforts.

The ICRC periodically urged the authorities to develop prison services' capacities; this resulted in a civil engineer being hired to rehabilitate and maintain prison infrastructure; joint prison visits led to the identification of problem areas in existing structures and repairs/construction at five prisons.

Over 140 inmates passed examinations and received formal certificates of literacy with educational and recreational materials provided by the ICRC, with some being trained as instructors.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

About 2,800 disabled people, including 200 women and 2,401 children, recovered or improved their mobility through physical rehabilitation services provided at the ICRC-supported Saint Kizito Institute in Bujumbura.

On-the-job training enabled prosthetic/orthotic and physiotherapy personnel to add to their skills, which helped improve the quality of care for disabled persons at the Saint Kizito Institute. ICRC support also enabled four students to continue their studies abroad in physiotherapy/orthopaedic technology.

As the Saint Kizito Institute needed no assistance in procuring the materials for its prosthetic/orthotic and physiotherapy services, the ICRC continued to concentrate on helping its board of directors optimize the Institute's patient management capacities and professionalize its treatment protocols.

After Burundi ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see *Actors of Influence*), the ICRC was appointed to the Health Ministry's technical commission, which was responsible for reviewing and updating the national development plan for physical rehabilitation in Burundi; meetings with other members of the commission got under way.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

With the ICRC's encouragement and support, the Burundian government ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The ICRC sponsored the participation of three senior government officials in a workshop abroad on promoting the ratification of IHL-related treaties in Africa (see *Democratic Republic of Congo*).

As part of the effort to persuade the authorities to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty and the Kinshasa Convention, Burundi's national small arms commission and the ICRC organized a workshop in Bujumbura for government officials and local NGOs on regulating the trade in small arms and other weapons; some 50 representatives of the

presidency/parliament/civil society/ and the armed/security forces discussed what had to be done to ratify such treaties. The authorities took steps to address the issue of illegal small arms more effectively: internal regulations and follow-up commissions were established, which bolstered the national small arms commission's capacities.

Government officials and members of civil society also learnt more about mitigating risks and managing disasters related to explosives and ammunition at a workshop, to which the ICRC contributed its expertise.

Teams from five Burundian universities tested their knowledge of IHL skills by participating, with ICRC sponsorship, in a regional moot court competition (see *Rwanda*).

### **Burundian armed forces reinforce IHL instruction in military schools**

Within the framework of an agreement with the Burundian armed forces, 12 new military IHL instructors prepared to instruct their colleagues in IHL at the country's military training centres; these instructors had completed a two-week course in which two ICRC-trained officers participated. At the time of reporting, all five schools for soldiers and sub-officers were conducting, with ICRC support, IHL training through ICRC-trained instructors.

Before their deployment with AMISOM, some 3,200 soldiers and officers learnt about basic IHL and humanitarian principles at briefings conducted by ICRC-trained instructors alongside ICRC delegates. At the time of reporting, all Burundian battalions deployed with AMISOM, except the first 12, had undergone pre-deployment briefings on IHL. Some 600 military personnel attached to MINUSCA and 350 from a standby peacekeeping force furthered their understanding of IHL during similar briefings. Non-commissioned officers and troops learnt about basic IHL through two IHL training videos in the local language, produced by the ICRC at the request of the National Defence Force (NDF). Three officers, including the deputy chief of staff of the NDF, added to their knowledge of IHL at courses held abroad (see *Beijing*).

A technical committee designated by the Defence Ministry to revise military doctrine suspended its activities. The ICRC was ready to provide support for them to resume work.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

### **The National Society and the ICRC renew their partnership**

The Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC reinforced cooperation by signing a four-year partnership agreement, which was based on the former's strategic plan for 2014–17. Under this agreement, the ICRC renewed its commitment to providing financial/material/technical support for the National Society to bolster its capacities in emergency response, restoring family links, communication and internal governance.

The National Society covered its operational and running costs with assistance from the ICRC and other partners, who also undertook fundraising initiatives to make the National Society financially independent.

Following numerous ICRC representations to the pertinent State authorities, the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the National Society signed a partnership agreement that recognized the latter's humanitarian mission and independent status and laid the groundwork for cooperation.

### **National Society volunteers address flood victims' needs**

In February, with logistical and financial support from the ICRC and other partners, the National Society responded to the needs of people affected by heavy floods in Bujumbura. For several months, it distributed emergency kits consisting of blankets, mosquito nets and other items, and provided family-links services (see *Civilians*), to thousands of displaced people. The promptness of its response raised awareness of its role in emergencies.

ICRC-organized training courses in water and sanitation techniques and good hygiene enabled 20 volunteers in cholera-prone provinces to learn more about disease prevention. At special sessions on the Safer Access Framework conducted by ICRC-trained instructors, some 120 volunteers from six provinces learnt how to reduce the risks to themselves during relief operations. Owing to the focus on emergency response (see above), some training courses and workshops were postponed. National Society representatives attended an ICRC training course in human remains management, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Burundi Red Cross, with Movement partners' support, prepared a contingency plan for the general elections in 2015; the ICRC donated first-aid kits.

Through its extensive network of volunteers, the National Society continued to expand its humanitarian activities, and increase its visibility throughout the country, including through online and radio campaigns promoting humanitarian principles, which also helped foster acceptance for the Movement.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>			<b>UAMs/SCs*</b>		
RCMs collected		1,771	9		
RCMs distributed		1,263	11		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		207			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>					
People reunited with their families		18			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	5			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		194	50	50	28
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	11			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		102			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	2			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		90	24	22	16
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	5			
<b>UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</b>			<b>Girls</b>		<b>Demobilized children</b>
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		3	1		
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		10	5		
	<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	4			
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>			<b>Women</b>	<b>Minors</b>	
Detainees visited		8,706	449	299	
			<b>Women</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>
Detainees visited and monitored individually		275	12	1	2
Detainees newly registered		72	6	1	2
Number of visits carried out		92			
Number of places of detention visited		19			
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected		17			
RCMs distributed		15			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		4			

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)</b>				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	142		
Cash	Beneficiaries	2,629		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	5,712		
<b>Health</b>				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		83		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		11		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>				
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,808	200	2 401
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	7	2	1
Prostheses delivered	Units	12	3	4
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	221	5	199
Orthoses delivered	Units	452	16	414
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	988	86	818
Crutches delivered	Units	92		