



ICRC delegation \* Dominican Republic is covered by the ICRC delegation in Haiti

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,149
Assistance	2,911
Prevention	532
Cooperation with National Societies	759
General	-

► **5,352**

of which: Overheads 321

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	98%
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	8
National staff (daily workers not included)	72

## KEY POINTS

### In 2012, the ICRC:

- ▶ visited over 6,300 detainees in prisons and police stations, including in a newly opened prison, helping enhance inmates' access to hygiene/health care by supporting prison dispensaries and coaching health staff
- ▶ helped the Haitian penitentiary administration address prison overcrowding by advocating reform and respect for judicial guarantees and renovating prison infrastructure
- ▶ with the water authorities, refurbished/constructed 2 pumping stations and 13 water distribution points to help improve access to safe drinking water for 240,000 residents of Cité Soleil
- ▶ in violence-prone areas, supported the Haitian National Red Cross Society in providing some 7,640 people with first aid and 16,100 families with information on good hygiene practices, cholera prevention and hurricane preparedness
- ▶ briefed gang members from Cité Soleil and Martissant and nearly 700 Dominican/Haitian/UN police and/or military officers on humanitarian principles, the Movement, human rights norms and civilians' access to medical care

The ICRC opened a fully fledged delegation in Haiti in 2004. It responds to acute humanitarian situations in prisons and supports national authorities in improving conditions of detention and respect for judicial guarantees. It seeks to mitigate the effects of social unrest throughout the country and in violence-prone neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince. It also supports the security forces in integrating human rights norms applicable to the use of force into their doctrine, training and operations. With other Movement partners, the ICRC helps strengthen the emergency response capacity of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the neighbouring Dominican Red Cross.

## CONTEXT

Laurent Lamothe took over as prime minister in May. The minister of justice was replaced in the new cabinet by the fourth person to head the ministry in seven months. Following the Ministry of Defence's reinstatement, the government explored the possibility of re-establishing the army.

The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) continued to operate in the country, handling security issues alongside the Haitian National Police (HNP) in order to respond to a rise in violent crime early in the year. While violence in Port-au-Prince's shantytown neighbourhoods of Cité Soleil and Martissant decreased overall, criminality, including gang violence, remained common.

Problems related to the poor economic situation persisted, including a general lack of development and inadequate infrastructure management and maintenance, particularly in shantytown neighbourhoods, compounded by the 2010 earthquake. In places of detention, chronic overcrowding, dilapidated infrastructure and lack of resources continued to affect the delivery of essential services to detainees. Heavy rains led to a resurgence of cholera, while a drought and two tropical storms destroyed a significant portion of agricultural production.

In the Dominican Republic, President Daniel Medina of the ruling Dominican Liberation Party took office in August.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

While focusing on mobilization of and structural support to Haiti's penitentiary authorities, the ICRC provided direct assistance to help improve detainees' living conditions and access to health care in the short term. Delegates conducted visits to detainees, particularly those held in six severely overcrowded places of detention and in a recently inaugurated one, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. They discussed their findings and any recommendations for improvements with the penitentiary authorities and reinforced dialogue with them on the basis of comprehensive ICRC reports on the situation in Haiti's detention facilities. Efforts to encourage the authorities to take a more active role in penitentiary reform resulted in the creation of coordination mechanisms to better structure the detention-related activities of their partners and of working groups to address specific detention-related matters. When reform efforts were put on hold, the ICRC rallied international actors to encourage the Haitian authorities to resume the process, leading to discussions with Haiti's president on ways to tackle problems in the penitentiary system.

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		6,326		
Number of visits carried out		47		
Number of places of detention visited		12		

As a priority, the ICRC promoted respect for judicial guarantees to help counter prison overcrowding. It supported judicial committees dealing with prolonged pre-trial detention in identifying and forwarding such cases to the relevant authorities to speed up the process. Penitentiary legal assistants helped reconstitute some case files lost during the earthquake.

While awaiting a global plan for the rehabilitation/construction of prison infrastructure, the ICRC worked with the penitentiary administration in three main prisons to rehabilitate water supply systems, a kitchen and/or a courtyard. Such efforts, in addition to the installation of bunk beds, distributions of hygiene items, and hygiene-promotion activities, helped mitigate the effects of overcrowding and enhanced detainees' sanitary conditions.

The ICRC worked with the relevant authorities to improve detainees' access to health care and stepped in to help them deal with emergencies such as cholera outbreaks. It continued to give financial and technical backing to penitentiary health workers and to a pilot health project in Port-au-Prince Central Prison aimed at tackling TB and HIV/AIDS. It also donated medical supplies to prison dispensaries and provided financial assistance to individual detainees in need of treatment available only outside prison.

To help deepen understanding of international norms regulating the use of force during arrest, humanitarian principles and the Movement, the ICRC, in coordination with the relevant authorities, organized briefings/training sessions for the HNP and MINUSTAH police units deployed in Haiti. Such contacts also served to ensure respect for the emblem and unhindered access by humanitarian workers to vulnerable people, particularly in Cité Soleil and Martissant.

In Cité Soleil, the water authorities and the ICRC pursued cooperation in rehabilitating/constructing water infrastructure damaged by the earthquake, helping ensure a safe and affordable water supply for residents.

With ICRC support, the Haitian National Red Cross Society provided services such as first aid and hygiene education to Cité Soleil and Martissant residents. In coordination with the International Federation and other Movement partners, the ICRC continued to help the Haitian Red Cross strengthen its emergency response capacities and further integrate the Safer Access approach into its programmes. Thanks to joint Haitian Red Cross/ICRC efforts, the Senate passed a law on the use and protection of the emblem. Movement partners continued to meet regularly to coordinate activities and discuss issues of mutual concern.

## CIVILIANS

In Cité Soleil and Martissant, where chronic problems related to poor infrastructure management and maintenance existed, people were still recovering from the devastating effects of the 2010 earthquake, notably in terms of water supply and sanitary conditions. They remained vulnerable to resurging cholera and tropical storms, which further impaired their access to clean water.

The water authorities and the ICRC continued to work together to ensure a safe and affordable water supply for 240,000 Cité Soleil residents. Pursuing efforts begun in 2009 but disrupted by the earthquake, they rehabilitated/constructed two pumping stations and repaired 13 water distribution points. The local water board better managed water production and distribution with ICRC technical support and advice, combined with measures such as the election of neighbourhood water committees to ensure the proper maintenance of infrastructure.

Residents of Cité Soleil and Martissant continued to benefit from Haitian Red Cross services. Around 7,640 sick or injured people received first aid, some of whom were then transferred to medical facilities. To help reduce their exposure to health risks, some 16,100 families learnt about hygiene, cholera prevention and preparedness for the annual hurricane season during hygiene-awareness sessions.

When possible, dialogue with police and MINUSTAH forces and armed gang leaders/members in Cité Soleil and Martissant aimed to enhance respect for the safety of civilians and their access to health care and to ensure safe access by Movement personnel to people in need (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over 6,300 detainees, particularly those in the country's six most-crowded places of detention including a police station serving as a permanent place of detention (together representing about two-thirds of Haiti's prison population), received ICRC visits, according to the organization's standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Inmates in the newly opened Croix-des-Bouquets prison also received visits. Following such visits, the penitentiary authorities and the ICRC confidentially discussed the findings and any recommendations for improvements. In-depth dialogue with the authorities at several levels focused on the substance of comprehensive reports submitted by the ICRC as part of structural-support efforts. Topics discussed included legal assistance, outdoor access for inmates, and water and sanitation (see below).

Addressing overcrowding by promoting respect for judicial guarantees remained a priority. Judicial committees dealing with prolonged detention in Cap Haïtien, Les Cayes and Port-au-Prince central prisons received support in identifying 330 detainees being held in lengthy pre-trial detention and forwarding their files to the relevant authorities to speed up the handling of their cases. Detainees whose case files were lost in the earthquake benefited from the efforts of penitentiary legal assistants to reconstitute some of these documents. The authorities drew on ICRC legal expertise to advance the revision of the Haitian penal code and rules of criminal procedure.

The national authorities and international stakeholders dealing with detention issues and the rule of law, for example the Cuban cooperation agency, the European Union, USAID and UN agencies, discussed Haiti's prison situation and coordinated their

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	240,000	36%	32%
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	36,589		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	4,589		

activities at regular ICRC-convened meetings. Such events led to a reinforced call for structural reform and an active role of the Haitian authorities in the process. This prompted the creation by the penitentiary authorities of coordination mechanisms to better structure the activities of their partners in tackling problems within the penitentiary system, resulting in the establishment of working groups to discuss health in detention and prolonged pre-trial detention. Subsequently, however, efforts to advance penitentiary reform were put on hold. To encourage the authorities to resume the process, representatives of the international community visited Port-au-Prince Central Prison, at the instigation of the ICRC, and discussed with the Haitian president ways of tackling issues related to prolonged detention.

### Detainees' living and hygiene conditions improve

The penitentiary administration continued to rely on ICRC technical support to improve detention conditions. To help it overhaul prison infrastructure, the penitentiary authorities received a report on the water and sanitation situation in Haiti's detention facilities. Consequently, it took over the task of emptying septic tanks, while working with the ICRC to rehabilitate water supply systems at Cap-Haïtien and Les Cayes prisons.

Detainees at Port-au-Prince Central Prison saw improvements in their living conditions following the refurbishment of the prison's kitchen, boosting cooking capacity, and the installation of bunk beds, increasing inmates' available sleeping surface area. In Les Cayes prison, inmates enjoyed time out of their cells following the rehabilitation of the prison courtyard. Distributions of clothes and games also helped detainees boost their well-being.

To help improve sanitary conditions, detainees, including vulnerable ones such as women, people held in police custody, and Haitians deported from the United States of America, benefited from hygiene-promotion activities and/or the distribution of hygiene items. Deported inmates also received phone cards to enable them to contact their relatives upon arrival in Haiti.

### Inmates have better access to health care

The relevant authorities and the ICRC pursued efforts to enhance detainees' access to health care, with the ICRC providing ad hoc assistance in the event of emergencies.

With professional guidance, the penitentiary administration's medical department developed a plan for health care in detention, helping strengthen the prison health system. This led to the penitentiary administration's hiring of additional prison health staff, although more resources were needed to ensure the sustainability of such efforts. At prison level, to help enhance diagnosis and treatment of detainees, health workers in three prisons benefited from technical support, including on-the-job training. In Port-au-Prince Central Prison, the systematic screening of inmates for TB and HIV/AIDS continued, thanks to an ongoing pilot health project backed by the ICRC in the form of salary support for two

basilloscopy specialists and the facilitation of meetings between the penitentiary authorities and NGOs involved in the project.

Distributions of medical materials helped improve detainee health care, and those in need of special care unavailable in prison health centres benefited from individual financial assistance. Sick detainees had access to appropriate treatment following the donation of medical equipment to health centres in Croix-des-Bouquets and Grande Rivière du Nord prisons.

Detainees and staff at Jacmel prison and Petit Goâve police station weathered acute cholera outbreaks after the ICRC stepped in, disinfecting the premises and reintroducing appropriate preventive measures. Sick detainees were treated with intravenous fluids, injection material and oral rehydration salts, and other inmates and staff received prophylactic treatment. Detainees in Port-au-Prince Central Prison benefited from similar measures carried out in coordination with Médecins Sans Frontières – Belgium, following a cholera outbreak in December.

### AUTHORITIES

Meetings with the national authorities and members of the international community served to heighten their understanding of the ICRC and gain support for its work and for penitentiary reform in Haiti (see *People deprived of their freedom*). A headquarters agreement formalizing the ICRC's status in the country had yet to be concluded. Nevertheless, the commissions in charge of judicial reform and re-establishment of the army accepted the ICRC's offer of legal advisory services.

While discussions on the ratification of legal instruments such as Additional Protocol III were under way, the Senate, prompted by the Haitian Red Cross/ICRC, passed a law regulating the use and protection of the emblem, yet to be approved by the House of Deputies. Key ministry officials and members of civil society, including academics, improved their IHL knowledge at a seminar organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, regarded as a possible first step towards the creation of a national advisory mechanism on domestic IHL implementation.

Although the Dominican Republic's national IHL committee did not convene owing to the May elections, the committee co-organized a workshop at which its members enhanced their understanding of the need to implement IHL domestically.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

At briefings, 200 newly arriving MINUSTAH police officers from six countries enhanced their understanding of basic humanitarian principles and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent work. Gang members in Cité Soleil and Martissant, including 40 from Cité Soleil, took part in similar briefings. Such contacts also served to remind weapon bearers, including MINUSTAH military units, of the need to respect the emblem and to allow humanitarian workers to reach and assist all vulnerable people unhindered (see *Civilians*).

So that police officers deployed on the ground, notably in Cité Soleil and Martissant, could gain a better grasp of basic legal concepts regarding police operations and detention, almost 440 HNP commissioned officers, staff and cadets underwent training in international norms regulating the use of force during arrest. They also received printed materials in Haitian Creole relating to the policing concepts of proportionality, legality, accountability and necessity. First-aid sessions facilitated by Haitian Red Cross trainers helped equip participants to deal with medical emergencies.

In the Dominican Republic, efforts to assist the relevant authorities in integrating IHL/human rights law into military doctrine, training and operations continued. Thus, instructors at the armed forces' school for human rights and IHL upgraded their teaching skills, including through the participation of one instructor in an IHL course at San Remo. Some 40 military and police officers enhanced their knowledge of such topics at training sessions.

### **CIVIL SOCIETY**

Contacts with community/religious leaders, associations and the media in Cité Soleil and Martissant served to garner their support for Movement activities and familiarize them with humanitarian principles. This led to the national media's wide coverage, among other ICRC-related events, of the inauguration of the Healing Hands for Haiti physical rehabilitation centre, constructed and financed by the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled.

To raise awareness of the ICRC's work in Cité Soleil, Haitian Red Cross volunteers carried out a door-to-door dissemination campaign. Consequently, over 2,900 residents and community leaders in Cité Soleil learnt about the ICRC's water programme and the role of the national water board in the project's management (see *Civilians*).

Efforts to familiarize academic circles with IHL and the Movement continued. To this end, over 90 lawyers enhanced their IHL knowledge in an introductory course organized with the school of magistracy.

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

The Haitian Red Cross remained the ICRC's primary partner in the implementation of assistance activities in Cité Soleil and Martissant (see *Civilians*). Along with the Dominican Red Cross, it strengthened its family-links services (notably by recruiting a family-links focal point who completed a month-long training course in Rwanda organized by the Rwandan Red Cross) and IHL dissemination capacities through the training of volunteers.

In line with its 2010–15 strategic plan, the Haitian Red Cross continued to strengthen its legal base and operational capacities, with support from the International Federation/ICRC and other Movement partners, in particular to respond to emergencies and to work safely in situations of urban violence. It pursued the integration of the Safer Access approach into its programmes, which involved briefings for some 120 volunteers taking part in promotion and psychological-support activities and a workshop on the development of an operational guide for National Society work in emergencies. For governance-related reasons, elections in local and regional committees did not take place.

Movement partners continued to coordinate their activities and discuss issues of mutual concern such as migration and the Health Care in Danger project.