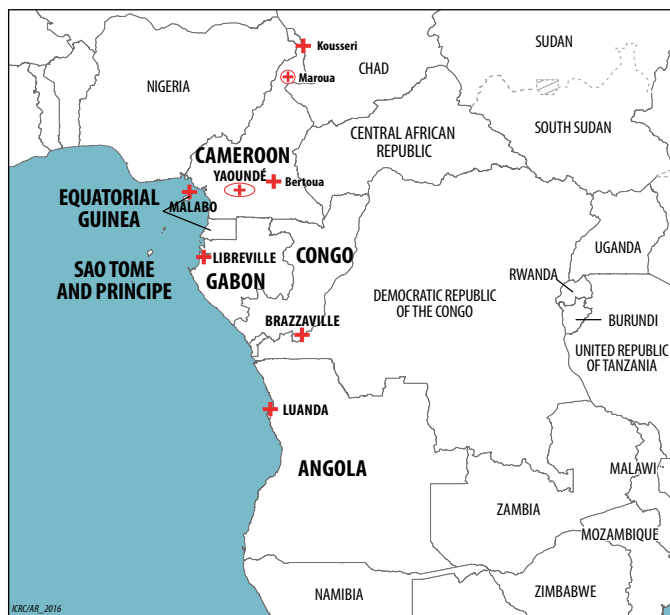


YAOUNDÉ (regional)

COVERING: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe



ICRC regional delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC office

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Despite constraints – namely, security concerns and difficulties in contacting key actors – the region’s authorities and weapon bearers and the ICRC discussed respect for IHL and other applicable norms, and protection for civilians.
- ▶ In Cameroon, people affected by the conflict in the Lake Chad region met their urgent needs via ICRC-supplied food and household essentials, and ICRC-repaired water facilities. IDPs in Congo also received essential household items.
- ▶ Detainees in Cameroon benefited from the provision of food and medicines, and repairs to prison facilities, by the ICRC. Malnourished detainees received nutritional supplements, which helped them recover their health.
- ▶ IDPs in northern Cameroon, and refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria, reconnected with relatives through the Movement’s family-links services. Separated minors rejoined their families in Cameroon and Congo.
- ▶ In Cameroon, conflict-affected people had access to health services at two ICRC-supported centres. During election-related violence in Congo and Gabon, wounded people were treated by the ICRC-backed National Societies.
- ▶ The National Societies in the region promoted IHL and the Movement. With ICRC financial, material and technical support, they strengthened their capacity to respond to emergencies, administer first aid and restore family links.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,492
Assistance	11,157
Prevention	2,266
Cooperation with National Societies	2,118
General	73
Total	19,106
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>1,166</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	100%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	34
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	137

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 helps restore contact between separated family members, including migrants, and responds to the emergency needs of refugees and IDPs in northern Cameroon. It pursues longstanding programmes to spread knowledge of IHL among the region’s authorities, armed forces and civil society, and supports the development of the National Societies.

YEARLY RESULT

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

	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	602
RCMs distributed	269
Phone calls facilitated between family members	24
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	391
People reunited with their families	22
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	22
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	9,609
Detainees visited and monitored individually	1,015
Number of visits carried out	45
Number of places of detention visited	27
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	58
RCMs distributed	10
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	167

ASSISTANCE

	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 72,000	90,497
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 42,000	45,617
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 30,000	28,566
Cash	Beneficiaries	13,932
Services and training	Beneficiaries 3	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 30,000	60,990
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures 4	2
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	40

CONTEXT

The conflict linked to the activities of the armed group that calls itself Islamic State's West Africa Province (also known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad or Boko Haram) persisted throughout the Lake Chad region. Cameroon – along with its neighbours Chad, Niger and Nigeria – continued to send troops to combat the armed group. Humanitarian needs, arising from the presence of refugees and IDPs, persisted in the north; because of logistical, financial and security constraints, however, few humanitarian actors were able to provide sufficient aid. The Cameroonian government continued to transport Nigerians without the necessary documents back to Nigeria.

The spillover of violence from the conflict in the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR) prevented refugees from leaving eastern Cameroon and Congo.

In Congo and Gabon, election-related violence led to casualties and mass arrests. In the Pool region of Congo, where government forces were deployed, some people were temporarily displaced.

Socio-political concerns were sources of tension in Angola and Equatorial Guinea.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Security concerns and difficulties in reaching out to key interlocutors sometimes curtailed the ICRC's access to people in need. Despite these constraints, the organization pursued its efforts to expand dialogue with authorities and weapon bearers in the region. Discussions with armed and security forces, particularly in Cameroon and Congo, focused on the protection of civilians and their access to basic services, and on IHL and other norms applicable to the conduct of hostilities. The ICRC organized pre-deployment training sessions for Congolese and Gabonese armed and security forces personnel bound for Bangui in the CAR. Influential Cameroonian and Congolese figures, such as military judges and prosecutors, learnt more about IHL and other applicable norms – through discussions and training sessions – and were encouraged to incorporate these norms in their duties. Regular contact with the ICRC helped members of civil society – religious and traditional leaders, academics and journalists – further their understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement.

The Yaoundé regional delegation continued to adapt its set-up and activities to respond to the prevailing humanitarian needs in Cameroon. To facilitate its access to people in need, it strengthened its sub-delegation in Maroua – covering the conflict-affected departments of Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga – and, at the end of 2016, upgraded its Kousséri office to a sub-delegation – covering the Logone-et-Chari department, which hosts the largest number of IDPs in the country. The situation in the Lake Chad region called for a budget extension¹ (see also *Chad, Niger and Nigeria*), which was used, in Cameroon, to reinforce the Movement's family-links services. Photo-tracing services were used to search for children separated from their families within the Minawao refugee camp, and vulnerable people outside the camp began to benefit from family-links services.

In northern Cameroon, people affected by the conflict in the Lake Chad region coped with the help of food and/or household

essentials distributed by the Cameroon Red Cross Society and the ICRC; some vulnerable resident households received agricultural supplies and equipment, which helped them pursue their food production activities. They had better access to potable water after the ICRC repaired boreholes, and to good-quality health services because of ICRC financial, material and technical support for two primary-health-care centres. The Congolese Red Cross and the Gabonese Red Cross Society, with ICRC backing, administered first aid to people injured during election-related violence in their countries. In Congo, people displaced by violence in the Pool region (see *Context*) received household essentials from the ICRC, which helped them meet some of their needs.

In Angola, Cameroon and Congo, ICRC delegates visited detainees – in places of detention to which they had access – to monitor and help improve their treatment and living conditions. After such visits, delegates discussed their findings confidentially with the detaining authorities: various issues were covered, including the need to respect international norms and principles applicable to arrests and detention. The ICRC's dialogue with detaining authorities in the region had two other important aims: to secure broader access to detainees and to ensure that prison visits could be conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. In Cameroon, the growing numbers of arrests related to the conflict in the Lake Chad region put additional pressure on facilities, resources and services already under strain. Malnourished detainees in some prisons received nutritional supplements, which helped them recover their health. Detainees benefited from ICRC distributions of medicines for common diseases; their living conditions improved after the ICRC upgraded infrastructure at their facilities.

In light of the situation in northern Cameroon and socio-political tensions in the region, particularly in Congo and Gabon, the ICRC reinforced its partnership with all the National Societies in the countries covered. ICRC financial, material and technical support, and training, helped them to strengthen their communication, emergency-response and family-links capacities. Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities.

CIVILIANS

Despite some constraints (see *ICRC action and results*), the ICRC pursued dialogue – including on the protection of civilians and their access to basic services, notably health-care services in line with the Health Care in Danger project – with the authorities in the countries covered by the regional delegation. This was especially the case in northern Cameroon, where people, particularly IDPs, continued to endure the effects of the conflict in the Lake Chad region, and in Congo, where people were affected by election-related violence. The ICRC and the authorities also discussed security forces' compliance with international rules governing crowd control and the use of force.

The ICRC initiated discussions with Cameroonian authorities on the conditions for transporting Nigerians back to their country (see *Context*) and the treatment of people during arrest operations.

IDPs and refugees in Cameroon and Congo restore contact with their relatives

The region's National Societies, notably those of Cameroon and Congo, improved the quality of their family-links services with the ICRC's support. The National Societies concerned and the ICRC helped members of dispersed families – mostly refugees from

1. For more information on the budget extension appeal, please see: [https://xnet.ext.icrc.org/applic/extranet/rexdonors.nsf/0/C22344A334FA4D99C12580270022ADD7/\\$File/BEA_2016_LakeChad_347_Final.pdf](https://xnet.ext.icrc.org/applic/extranet/rexdonors.nsf/0/C22344A334FA4D99C12580270022ADD7/$File/BEA_2016_LakeChad_347_Final.pdf)

the CAR and Nigeria, and IDPs in northern Cameroon – restore and maintain contact with their relatives through telephone calls and RCMs; those who could not locate their relatives filed tracing requests with the National Society and the ICRC. In the Minawao refugee camp in Cameroon, people benefited from photo-tracing services, which facilitated the search for children separated from their families within the camp. Vulnerable people outside Minawao – particularly female heads of households and the elderly – had access to family-links services, because of the partnership between the National Society and the ICRC.

Over 240 unaccompanied minors and separated children were newly registered and given help to locate their relatives. Twenty-one children were reunited with their families in Cameroon, and one rejoined his family in Congo.

The ICRC assessed the family-links needs of migrants in Gabon and supported the Gabonese National Society in developing its response to them.

People in northern Cameroon have access to health services

The National Societies – particularly those responding to humanitarian needs arising from the situations in northern and eastern Cameroon or the election-related violence in Congo and Gabon – strengthened their emergency-response capacities, including first aid, with the help of ICRC-provided materials and training. During an outbreak of yellow fever, ICRC-trained Angola Red Cross volunteers helped raise awareness of the disease and how to prevent its contraction; they also carried out vaccination campaigns, in coordination with the health ministry.

Over 40,200 people in northern Cameroon had better access to good-quality curative and preventive health-care services at the Maltam and Mémé primary-health-care centres, both of which received material, technical and financial support – including coverage of the staff's salaries – regularly from the ICRC. Children and pregnant women had medical consultations, free of charge, at these centres. A total of 115 people injured in an attack received life-saving care from staff at the Mémé centre, who used supplies provided by the ICRC to treat weapon wounds. Over 40 people in need of higher-level medical care were referred, and transported, to a hospital supported by Médecins Sans Frontières. Infrastructural upgrades made by the ICRC aimed to enhance the quality of services available at both supported centres.

People affected by conflict and other violence cover their basic needs

Approximately 60,200 IDPs and residents of host communities had access to drinking water after the ICRC repaired over 80 boreholes in several communities in northern Cameroon. Latrines, showers and water points were built in response to an emergency in an IDP camp; some 700 people benefited. In two communities in Mayo-Tsanaga, water committees and maintenance workers were trained to help ensure the sustainability of infrastructure; the ICRC prepared to extend such support to other communities.

Despite the security and logistical constraints that impeded relief distributions, the ICRC pursued its efforts to assist conflict-affected people in northern Cameroon – specifically in Diamaré, Logone-et-Chari, Mayo-Sava and Mayo-Tsanaga. Some 61,000 IDPs (around 10,000 households) and 29,500 residents (around 4,600 households) met their nutritional requirements with food distributed by the National Society and the ICRC; some 13,900 IDPs bought food

with cash transfers. Around 44,600 people (7,503 households), mostly IDPs, coped with their situation with the help of household essentials. In addition, 4,761 vulnerable resident households increased their crop yield (benefiting some 28,600 people) with seed and fertilizer, and technical support, from the ICRC. The ICRC coordinated with other humanitarian organizations – notably the WFP – and strengthened its cooperation with the Cameroonian National Society, to strengthen its activities for people in need and to avoid duplication of effort.

In Congo, over 1,000 people (209 households) displaced by the fighting in the Pool region (see *Context*) met some of their needs with ICRC-distributed household essentials. Aided by the ICRC, National Society volunteers working at IDP sites carried out activities to help ensure that people had access to sanitation facilities and health-care services; they also helped the authorities to manage the sites.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the region's detaining authorities, with a view to gaining improved access to detainees and ensuring that its visits could be conducted in accordance with its standard procedures. In Angola, Cameroon and Congo, ICRC delegates visited over 9,600 detainees – in places of detention to which they had access – and monitored their treatment and living conditions. They communicated their findings and recommendations confidentially to the pertinent authorities.

In Cameroon, dialogue with the authorities – notably the justice ministry – continued; it covered such subjects as the treatment of detainees, particularly in places of temporary detention, and respect for judicial guarantees. ICRC activities continued to focus on emergencies in prisons (see below). In Angola and Congo, some detainees – including those allegedly involved in an attempted coup d'état in Angola and people arrested during election-related violence in Congo – benefited from ad hoc ICRC assistance. In Gabon, national authorities and detention officials attended a meeting organized by the justice ministry and the ICRC, where they discussed how to improve the health system in the country's detention facilities.

Thirty-eight detainees held in Yaoundé were visited by their relatives for the first time since their arrest; the visits were arranged through the ICRC's family-visit programme.

Detainees in Cameroon have better living conditions

In Cameroon, people continued to be arrested in growing numbers as the conflict in the Lake Chad region intensified. This put additional pressure on facilities, resources and services already under strain, and adversely affected inmates' living conditions.

Some 3,700 malnourished detainees in four places of detention – in Bertoua and Kousséri, and two in Maroua – continued to receive nutritional supplements from the ICRC, which helped most of them to recover their health. Almost 37,100 detainees in these prisons and in the Garoua prison received food from the ICRC, which helped prevent malnutrition among them. These prisons also received material support and/or training from the ICRC, to strengthen the food-supply chain. Some 4,600 detainees in five places of detention, including one in Yaoundé, had improved living conditions thanks to ICRC-provided household essentials and hygiene items. Detainees in four prisons – around 4,000 people – had access to medicines for common diseases. When necessary,

detainees were taken to health facilities outside prison; their medical expenses were covered by the ICRC.

Detainees further improved their health and living conditions with the help of ICRC upgrades to prison facilities. At one of the prisons in Maroua, 1,700 detainees benefited from the installation of ovens and the donation of cooking pots. At the Bertoua prison, 700 detainees had better access to potable water after the ICRC built a water tower and repaired a well; they also benefited from upgrades made to the prison's kitchen facilities and wastewater-treatment system. Similar projects were ongoing in the Garoua and Kousseri prisons.

When seasonal power cuts narrowed access to potable water in one of the prisons in Maroua, the city's fire brigade and the ICRC trucked in water every day for about a month and a half, while longer-term solutions were sought; 1,700 detainees benefited.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The region's armed and security forces learn about IHL and other applicable norms

In light of the general situation in the region (see *Context*), the ICRC sought to expand its dialogue with local and national authorities, and weapon bearers. It aimed to help them strengthen their understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and other norms applicable to their duties, and the ICRC's role and mandate, and to facilitate the ICRC's access to detainees with respect to the organization's standard procedures. In Cameroon and Congo, discussions with weapon bearers focused on the protection of people not or no longer taking part in hostilities, especially from abuses such as sexual violence and forced recruitment. Dialogue was, however, limited by poor security conditions and difficulties in reaching out to all of the key parties involved in the conflict and other violence.

Through dissemination sessions, military personnel in Cameroon – including members of the multinational force (see *Context*), the Rapid Intervention Brigade and the *gendarmerie* – learnt more about IHL and/or other norms applicable to the conduct of hostilities, law enforcement operations and command responsibility. They were encouraged to incorporate IHL in their doctrine, training and operations, and in military disciplinary and sanction mechanisms. With ICRC help, senior officers attended a workshop abroad on rules governing military operations (see *International law and policy*).

Military student officers from 18 countries participated in an event held at a military academy in Libreville, Gabon, where they strengthened their grasp of IHL and of the ICRC's mandate and activities. In Congo, officers in charge of security during the presidential elections attended a workshop on international standards for the use of force and norms applicable to arrests and detention. Congolese and Gabonese military and security forces personnel waiting to be deployed to Bangui participated in ICRC training sessions on IHL.

Influential figures are encouraged to incorporate IHL and other applicable norms in their duties

Military judges and prosecutors and other influential figures took part in a series of discussions and training sessions, organized by the ICRC in Yaoundé, where they learnt more about IHL and other applicable norms, and were encouraged to incorporate these norms in their duties; topics included the use of force in law

enforcement, treatment of detainees, judicial guarantees, and the use of sanctions to prevent violations of IHL. In Congo, 30 civilian and military magistrates discussed these matters at an IHL seminar organized by the justice ministry and the ICRC.

Members of civil society in Cameroon and Congo advance their understanding of humanitarian issues

The ICRC expanded its engagement with the region's civil society – journalists, academics, and religious and traditional leaders – to help broaden their awareness of humanitarian concerns and the Movement. Such interaction aimed to facilitate access for the National Societies and the ICRC to people in need. This was especially the case in northern Cameroon where the ICRC discussed its role as guardian of IHL, and its activities in response to the conflict in the Lake Chad region, with administrative and religious leaders. Through joint communication efforts, the National Societies and the ICRC raised awareness of their activities for people affected by armed conflict and other violence.

During seminars and meetings with the ICRC, Cameroonian and Congolese journalists learnt more about their roles and responsibilities while reporting on armed conflict and other violence, and about the protection afforded to them by IHL. In Cameroon, the general public, including people who benefited from ICRC assistance, learnt more about the ICRC and its activities through press releases and radio programmes.

Students at the University of Maroua participated in dissemination sessions and gained access to an IHL library; the ICRC gave its advice on the school's IHL curricula. The ICRC's annual pan-African IHL training course was held in Yaoundé, in March; a total of 32 professors from 13 countries, sponsored by the ICRC, participated in the event. Such efforts strengthened the ICRC's relationship with academics.

The Congolese justice ministry sought the ICRC's expert opinion on the revisions of the penitentiary, penal and procedural codes. In Cameroon, the ICRC and the National Society began to review the law on the protection of the red cross emblem. The ICRC initiated discussions with the pertinent Cameroonian authorities on the implementation of the African Union Convention on IDPs. It continued to encourage the governments in the region to establish national IHL committees.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Societies in the region strengthened their partnership with the ICRC, and – with ICRC training and material support – reinforced their ability to administer first aid and restore family links (see *Civilians*).

The Cameroonian, Congolese and Gabonese National Societies expanded their emergency-response capacities through sessions on the Safer Access Framework; the Cameroonian and Gabonese National Societies received technical support for applying the framework, and for developing contingency plans, which helped ensure that their activities were carried out in safety. As the ICRC's primary partner in assisting conflict-affected people in northern Cameroon, the Cameroonian National Society received three additional vehicles from the ICRC, which expanded its operational and logistical capacities; 352 volunteers received insurance coverage.

All six National Societies received ICRC support for broadening awareness of and acceptance for their work. The Cameroonian,

Congolese and Gabonese National Societies built up their communication capacities through ICRC workshops, at which volunteers were reminded of the Fundamental Principles and the proper use of the red cross emblem. Radio and TV programmes in Congo and Gabon informed people of the National Societies' activities. Youth volunteers from the Cameroonian National Society promoted the Movement among students, whom they also trained in first aid. The ICRC provided support for organizational development to the Equatorial Guinea Red Cross Society and the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross.

Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities and avoid duplication of effort.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		602	182		
RCMs distributed		269	20		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		24			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		22			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	11			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		513	12	84	172
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	10			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		391			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	33			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		2,518	406	438	349
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	516			
Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		243	81		
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		22	4		3
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	11			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		527	179		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		9,609	489	220	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		1,015	65	2	57
Detainees newly registered		725	55	1	48
Number of visits carried out		45			
Number of places of detention visited		27			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		58			
RCMs distributed		10			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		167			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		38			

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)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	90,497	20,684	53,635
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	60,992	13,441	37,176
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	45,617	10,748	26,390
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	45,199	10,643	26,182
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	28,566	7,096	15,976
Cash	Beneficiaries	13,932	3,018	8,584
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	13,932	3,018	8,584
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	60,990	18,297	24,396
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	15,247	4,574	6,099
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	2		
Average catchment population		37,882		
Consultations		26,046		
	<i>of which curative</i>	22,298	6,686	11,208
	<i>of which antenatal</i>	3,748		
Immunizations	Patients	200,569		
	<i>of whom children aged 5 or under who were vaccinated against polio</i>	110,418		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	178		
	<i>of whom gynaecological/obstetric cases</i>	47		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	37,068	588	1,335
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	4,606	126	138
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,400	48	72
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		16		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	4		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	4		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	40		