



# guinea

The ICRC has been extensively involved in protection activities in Guinea since 2002, particularly restoring family links, visiting detainees and advising the penal authorities. At the same time, it promotes IHL among the armed and security forces, political authorities, media and the public. It cooperates with the Red Cross Society of Guinea to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies and restore family links. The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, initially through its regional delegations. Its operational delegation was opened in Conakry in 2001.

## EXPENDITURE (IN CHF ,000)

Protection	3,905
Assistance	2,401
Prevention	1,711
Cooperation with National Societies	1,290
General	-

► **9,308**

of which: Overheads 568

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	99.2%
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## PERSONNEL

29 expatriates
160 national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2005, the ICRC:

- reunited 167 children with their families; collected 7,659 RCMs and delivered 7,233 RCMs;
- concluded its three-year rural water-supply programme, which saw the construction of 90 wells and water points in border villages most affected by population movements;
- worked with the Guinean Red Cross to start training 90 volunteers responsible for raising community awareness of hygiene and safe-water management in 85 border villages;
- donated a mobile laboratory to the Guinean water board and completed the rehabilitation of the Yalenzou water-treatment plant serving N'Zérékoré town;
- visited 2,971 detainees, including 459 monitored individually, and registered 416 new detainees during 226 visits to 62 detention places;
- established contact with, and conducted information sessions for, representatives of the Ministry of the National Islamic League and religious and traditional leaders; organized 10 sessions on the ICRC, for 115 religious leaders.

## CONTEXT

President Lansana Conté escaped an attempt on his life at the beginning of 2005. He appointed a new prime minister, who sought to improve Guinea's image on the international stage by liberalizing its airwaves, reviving dialogue with the opposition and authorizing multiparty politics. This prompted donors and the international community to re-engage with Guinea after years of strained relations caused by the government's lack of progress on reforms. In municipal elections held in December, the president's party won in 31 of the 38 districts, an indication that the opposition's impact was minimal. The year saw the purging of the military, signalled by the announcement that several thousand personnel, including two generals, would be sent into retirement.

Guinea's economic situation worsened, and the stabilization of basic commodity prices at year's end did little to ease the hardship of most people, who continued to depend on subsistence agriculture or small-scale trade. Basic services such as water and electricity, practically non-existent beyond the capital, became scarcer even in Conakry as State and parastatal companies found themselves unable to provide any services. Dilapidated health and education facilities, too, received little attention as the government faced yet another year with diminished donor support and remained unable to meet the people's basic needs.

Notwithstanding an overall calming of the conflicts in the region, clashes between two ethnic groups in Guinée Forestière, the attempt on President Conté's life and other violent incidents served as a reminder of the volatile situation in Guinea. One of the clashes – between two ethnic groups in the town of N'Zérékoré – had to be quashed by security forces. The clashes left about ten people injured and led to the arrest of nearly 200.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	2,971	<i>Water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	459	Water-supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)	Beneficiaries	280,474
Number of visits carried out	226	Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	19,100
Number of places of detention visited	62			
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS				
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>				
RCMs collected	7,659			
RCMs distributed	7,233			
People reunited with their families	172			
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	168			
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	37			
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2005	234			
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>				
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	211			
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	167			
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2005	618			
DOCUMENTS ISSUED				
People to whom travel documents were issued	174			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	15			

## ICRC ACTION

Many Liberians were reluctant to go home before the elections in their country. This slowed down the return process. Accordingly, throughout 2005, the ICRC concentrated on assisting Liberian refugees, particularly children separated from their families. It remained a principal actor in restoring family links and helping reunite children and vulnerable people with their families.

Several agencies coordinated their efforts to find the best solutions for the last group of Sierra Leonean children still separated from their families. The ICRC focused on securing greater protection for registered children seeking their families. This meant interceding on their behalf and, whenever possible, referring them to an agency able to provide them with support. By the end of 2005, a much-delayed UNICEF-funded programme to follow up Guinean children associated with fighting forces and already reunited with their families by the ICRC finally got off the ground.

The end of 2005 saw the conclusion of the ICRC water and sanitation programmes. Spanning the years since the attacks in Guinée Forestière, the programmes built 90 safe water points for rural Guineans and restored water-treatment plants in the three main towns affected by insecurity and population displacements. The part of the programmes aimed at raising communities' awareness of hygiene and proper

water management, undertaken jointly with the Guinean Red Cross, was set to continue in 2006.

The ICRC continued visiting all detention in places under the jurisdiction of the Ministries of Justice and Security. It monitored closely the situation in these places, paying particular attention to judicial guarantees, the treatment of detainees and detention conditions. Following the visits, it presented its observations and gave advice to the prison and judicial authorities. It provided material and structural support to the prison system, carrying out therapeutic feeding, water-supply and sanitation programmes as an emergency measure to bridge the gap left by a State prison system unable to cater adequately to detainees' needs. The organization also facilitated interministerial dialogue to help improve the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

The ICRC strengthened its contacts and relations with opposition, religious and traditional leaders to explain its mandate and promote its activities in Guinea. Meetings with the leaders enabled the organization to gain a better understanding of the groups they represented, their role in society and their perceptions of the Red Cross. Discussions with the army chief of staff helped revitalize a joint ICRC/Guinean military IHL training programme.

In 2005, the ICRC consolidated its already strong commitment to building the capacity of the Guinean Red Cross. The International Federation's deployment of a representative to Guinea around July made it possible to resume tripartite cooperation, suspended since the Federation's departure from Guinea in 2004. Increased ICRC involvement in coordinating Movement operations in Guinea led to the launch of a project to co-finance the construction of a national headquarters for the Guinean Red Cross.

## CIVILIANS

## Protecting civilians

The ICRC maintained its dialogue with the local, regional and national authorities, security and police forces, the judiciary and civil society. The purpose was to keep abreast of any developments in the humanitarian situation, notably a spillover into Guinea of the instability in neighbouring countries. The ICRC continued to bring to the authorities' attention its concerns about violations of rules protecting the dignity and integrity of individuals.

To better detect and respond to civilians' problems arising from mass influxes of refugees, violations of IHL or similar situations, the ICRC compiled information on villages along Guinea's borders with Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The data should help determine the villages most at risk, the resources available locally to resolve related

problems, and the kind of support that would be needed urgently (in terms of food, water, sanitation, etc.) in the event of a crisis.

- ▶ 2 emergency water-treatment kits pre-positioned in Kissidougou and N'Zérékoré to supply 10,000 people with 5 litres of water daily for three months
- ▶ emergency stock of household items for 4,000 families (20,000 people) maintained in Conakry and ICRC sub-delegations to respond to needs occasioned by internal and/or sub-regional tensions

### Restoring family links

For years, refugees in Guinea lacked the means to locate and maintain contact with family members separated from them by conflict. The RCM network, run by the ICRC in cooperation with the Guinean Red Cross, continued to assist civilians affected by conflict, particularly refugees, to re-establish family links.

With the consolidation of peace, many refugees had gradually returned to their home countries or found alternative channels of communication. This had eased the ICRC's caseload, enabling it to focus its services on those still with no other means of communication (unaccompanied children, children separated from their parents and accompanied by a vulnerable family member or other caregiver, and vulnerable adults).

In 2005, the ICRC identified, registered and regularly monitored new cases falling within its criteria, but exercised extra caution because it had recently noted that many of those originally believed to be unaccompanied children or otherwise falling within ICRC criteria were in fact accompanied and thus far less vulnerable than initially believed. This reduced the number of cases deserving close attention and prompted the ICRC to close some of them.

The ICRC regularly revisited children searching for their relatives or awaiting family reunification and offered them the opportunity to correspond with their parents. The children's number gradually dropped owing to family reunifications carried out by the ICRC and other organizations and to ongoing repatriation. To keep track of those who opted for repatriation, the ICRC was present at the departure of UNHCR convoys and verified their safe arrival back home.

- ▶ 6,923 RCMs collected from and 6,834 RCMs delivered to civilians
- ▶ 37 persons located; 234 tracing cases still being processed (117 regarding women and 109 minors at the time of disappearance)
- ▶ 211 new cases of unaccompanied children and children separated from their parents registered in and outside camps
- ▶ 666 registered people, including Liberians, Sierra Leoneans and Ivorians monitored
- ▶ 167 children (unaccompanied/separated or demobilized) registered in Guinea reunited with their relatives in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- ▶ repatriation by UNHCR and follow up by the ICRC of 129 unaccompanied children to Liberia and 26 to Sierra Leone
- ▶ 594 cases of unaccompanied/separated children and 24 of demobilized children still being processed

### Assisting children separated from their families

The living conditions of registered unaccompanied children remaining in refugee camps deteriorated for various reasons. A reduction in food assistance and services (such as secondary education and health care), along with the repatriation of foster families, left children with limited material assistance, adult supervision and care, and increased their risk of exploitation.

Regular visits to the children enabled the ICRC to assess their situation. On many occasions, and with the children's prior consent, the ICRC interceded with other organizations to assist them. It continued to seek out organizations in a position to offer ad hoc specialized assistance to people it had registered outside refugee camps. Particular efforts were devoted to three categories of children separated from their families.

Female field officers were hired to improve the organization's access to girls in difficulty and to assess the needs of 22 ICRC-registered girls, particularly pregnant ones and underage mothers.

As part of the effort to support children formerly associated with fighting forces in the sub-region, Guinean children were reunited with their families and regularly visited thereafter, pending the arrival of other child-protection agencies capable of providing the necessary follow-up. By the end of 2005, a local organization

funded by UNICEF had been selected to help reintegrate 23 such children and 115 other children at risk of recruitment into their communities.

To assist Sierra Leonean children whose families had yet to be located despite years of tracing efforts, the ICRC cooperated with UNICEF, UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee to seek durable solutions. These included repatriation and proposals to the Guinean authorities to integrate the children into local communities.

### Improving civilians' living conditions and access to water

In the rural Guinée Forestière region, the ICRC continued implementing its water and sanitation programmes, constructing and restoring 30 wells in 85 villages and fitting them with hand pumps. This raised the number of wells constructed by the organization to 90, serving some 70,000 people. Together with the Guinean Red Cross, the ICRC launched a health education programme in each of the villages to help sustain and manage the wells.

In urban areas, the project for the restoration of the N'Zérékoré water-treatment and pumping station, undertaken in collaboration with the Guinean water board, neared completion, with 95% of the work accomplished by the end of 2005.

- ▶ access to water and sanitation improved for a total of 280,000 people
- ▶ houses constructed/rebuilt for 19,100 people

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

#### Safeguarding detainees' welfare

The ICRC continued to visit regularly detainees held in 32 permanent places of detention under the authority of the Justice Ministry. It regularly visited major police and *gendarmerie* posts in Conakry, while it conducted such visits elsewhere in the country as needed. Access to these temporary places of detention improved following dissemination sessions conducted by the ICRC at central and local levels.

The ICRC continued to monitor closely the case of Ivorians detained after they sought refuge in Guinea. Representations were made to various authorities to remind them of their obligations to respect the principle of *non-refoulement*. The ICRC proposed practical ways of dealing with the issue.

- ▶ 2,971 detainees visited during 226 visits to 62 detention places; 459 detainees, including 43 minors and 22 women, monitored individually
- ▶ 736 RCMs collected from and 399 RCMs delivered to detainees

A constructive dialogue with the Justice Ministry, in particular the prison administration, centred on detainees' access to health care and food, respect for judicial guarantees and the optimal allocation and use of resources. The ICRC made written and oral representations to prosecutors, judges and the chief of police, notably with regard to basic judicial guarantees, in particular where the detention of minors aged under 13 was concerned. In addition it organized a workshop on judicial guarantees attended by staff of the central prison in Conakry and stakeholders from the judicial sector.

Repeated ICRC representations helped persuade the authorities to reallocate resources according to needs in various prisons and to decide on a new prison food-supply system. In late 2005, the ICRC organized a round-table with representatives of various ministries, during which steps were taken to implement the new system of supplying food to detainees. The ICRC continued supporting the prison administration and closely monitoring food supply to facilitate prison reform.

Implementation of the protocol agreement on health in detention places, signed by the Justice and Health Ministries in 2004, remained slow. Noted progress included the appointment of medical personnel to monitor prisons and the allocation of a small budget for medicines for detainees countrywide.

Following a national survey, five prisons were selected as priorities for rehabilitation. The work enhanced access to potable water and improved sanitary installations and the living environment (lighting, ventilation, partial roof repairs and fumigation).

- ▶ some 450 detainees supported through therapeutic feeding programmes carried out in 10 detention places
- ▶ some 300 detainees in 11 prisons treated for scabies by the ICRC/authorities; health programme established for the entire prison population in these prisons
- ▶ with the authorities, first-aid kits distributed to prisons
- ▶ mass deworming programmes conducted in 3 detention places

- ▶ 3 water and sanitation projects successfully implemented with the prison authorities, 2 others neared completion; access to water and sanitation improved for 474 inmates
- ▶ support given for the creation of committees comprising detainees and prison personnel to improve hygiene in 8 prisons, and training in basic hygiene and upkeep of repaired facilities provided
- ▶ buckets, brooms and soap distributed to all permanent detention places
- ▶ distribution of prison registers initiated

## WOUNDED AND SICK

An emergency stock of medical supplies for the treatment of 100 hospitalized war-wounded and first-aid kits to treat 600 people were positioned in Conakry and in ICRC sub-delegations as a contingency measure in the event of emergencies.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC launched an initiative to support the creation of an IHL committee and maintained contact with an interministerial committee tasked with combating the proliferation of light weapons.

- ▶ 2 high-ranking government officials sponsored to attend the Economic Community of West African States/ICRC IHL seminar in Abuja (see *Abuja*)

A series of round-tables enabled the ICRC to consolidate its relations with the regional authorities and culminated in plans to promote IHL, protect the emblem and improve detention conditions.

- ▶ information sessions organized for local and national authorities countrywide on the ICRC's mandate and activities

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC and the country's army chief of staff organized a round-table that assembled 28 high-ranking officers, opening a dialogue with the military hierarchy and prompting the adoption of an action plan that articulated the forces' responsibilities in integrating IHL and the support the ICRC could bring to the process. Efforts to familiarize the armed and security forces with the ICRC and IHL took into account the organization's operational needs, notably access to detainees.

- ▶ 1 high-ranking military officer sponsored to attend an IHL course in San Remo
- ▶ information sessions organized for 1,980 soldiers, officers and elite troops; information sessions/a round-table on the ICRC and detention held for 36 security officers in N'Zérékoré and Conakry
- ▶ 4 seminars on IHL/human rights law organized for 150 high-ranking police officials
- ▶ training seminar held for 30 police officers

## CIVIL SOCIETY

ICRC efforts to acquaint the public with its mandate, activities and IHL reached hundreds of people countrywide. The organization strengthened relations with the media, which reported widely on humanitarian activities, and maintained contacts with local and regional organizations, including the Mano River Women's Peace Network.

- ▶ a trip organized for international journalists covering reunification of children with their families in Guinea and Liberia
- ▶ a round-table and other sessions on the ICRC organized for members of the Ministry of the National Islamic League, 14 NGOs and Guinean youth associations
- ▶ an information stand mounted at the "Forum Social Africain" held in Conakry in December

The ICRC and Guinea's three main universities organized an IHL competition. The ICRC sponsored the best four of the 150 contestants to represent Guinea in a regional moot-court competition held in Dakar in August.

- ▶ IHL module integrated into Kankan University's curriculum
- ▶ an IHL session held for 35 college lecturers
- ▶ 2 professors sponsored to attend the pan-African IHL course in Yaoundé (see *Yaoundé*)

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

### Coordination of Movement activities and tracing services

Lack of financial and human resources and insufficient support from other Movement partners constrained the National Society's efforts to address humanitarian needs. Until July, the ICRC was the only Movement partner present in the country and supporting the National Society. The International Federation assisted the National Society's cholera-prevention programme.

ICRC support included:

- ▶ assisting in the evaluation of the National Society's tracing services and the production of a tracing manual and field guide for early-response and first-aid teams;
- ▶ the monthly follow-up and training of committees active in tracing along volatile borders;
- ▶ the training of 340 committee members and 26 directors;
- ▶ donating bicycles and office supplies to the National Society.

### Responding to emergencies and promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC continued strengthening the National Society's capacities to respond to emergencies and promote the Fundamental Principles, and helped it revise its contingency plan to enhance emergency preparedness.

- ▶ the "Safer Access" approach presented to 60 National Society leaders; 780 Red Cross members and 180 members of early-response teams trained; first-aid trainers' workshop conducted for 16 team leaders
- ▶ 90 volunteer community workers trained to manage the sanitation facilities and 90 wells constructed by the ICRC
- ▶ support provided for the construction of 2 National Society branch offices
- ▶ 5 dissemination workshops held for 114 National Society leaders; the "Safer Access" framework used to emphasize the importance of activities such as IHL dissemination on the safety of Movement partners
- ▶ IHL workshops organized for 39 trainers and communicators
- ▶ 26 local committees assisted in celebrating World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May
- ▶ production of the National Society's quarterly newsletter and promotional materials supported

- ▶ the Red Cross school programme introduced in 7 schools, raising the number of participating schools to 92; a Red Cross course conducted for 62 lecturers from teacher training institutions and 180 primary- and secondary-school teachers; conferences organized to familiarize 350 parents, teachers and students with the programme; 50 programme committee members trained
- ▶ the national interministerial committee on misuse of the emblem decentralized
- ▶ National Society representatives briefed ahead of the 28th International Conference in Seoul; the National Society's participation in the conference funded