

GUINEA

COVERING: Guinea, Sierra Leone



ICRC/AR, 2016
 ⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation
 *Sierra Leone is covered by the ICRC delegation in Guinea

The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, opening its delegation in 2001. It seeks to protect violence-affected people, restore links between separated relatives and improve the water supply and sanitation conditions. It visits detainees, monitoring their treatment and living conditions, and supports the authorities' efforts to improve their well-being. It promotes IHL and humanitarian principles among the armed and security forces, the authorities and civil society. Since 2009, the delegation has overseen ICRC cooperation and prevention activities in Sierra Leone. The ICRC works with each National Society to help it strengthen its capacities, including in emergency response, and promote the Movement.

YEARLY RESULT

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

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ The ICRC continued to encourage the Guinean authorities to assume full responsibility for nutrition and health care in prisons. Owing to their budgetary and administrative constraints, however, ICRC support was still necessary.
- ▶ People in areas vulnerable to violence arising from communal, political or socio-economic tensions had reliable access to clean water within 600 metres of their homes through water infrastructure repaired or built by the ICRC.
- ▶ At ICRC briefings, community leaders from areas where humanitarian workers had encountered hostility during the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak learnt more about neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.
- ▶ Guinea adopted new versions of their code of criminal procedure and the penal code, both revised with input from the ICRC, and ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ▶ Aided by the ICRC, the Guinean Red Cross developed its emergency response capacities and adopted a new strategic plan and volunteer-management policy, and the Sierra Leonean Red Cross promoted IHL and the Movement's work.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,937
Assistance	2,427
Prevention	938
Cooperation with National Societies	1,061
General	49
Total	6,412
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>391</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	11
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	84

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	47
RCMs distributed	57
Phone calls facilitated between family members	53
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	7
People reunited with their families	1
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	3,822
Detainees visited and monitored individually	45
Number of visits carried out	106
Number of places of detention visited	33
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	84
RCMs distributed	28
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	66

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	97
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	30,000 73,950

CONTEXT

Significantly fewer Ebola cases were reported in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Both countries were tentatively declared Ebola-free on a number of occasions; however, a handful of cases were documented, and the risk of new cases remained.

In Guinea, episodic incidents of violence related to communal, political or socio-economic tensions, and to disputes over access to land, persisted. Economic difficulties, which had been exacerbated by the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak, hindered the Guinean authorities' efforts to improve water infrastructure in rural areas and living conditions in prisons. With support from the international community, the country kept up efforts to reform its justice and security sectors, but progress was slow.

Guinea continued to contribute troops to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2016, the ICRC continued to visit detainees in Guinea; it focused on inmates in priority prisons, which held most of the detainee population. During its visits, which were conducted in accordance with its standard procedures, it monitored detainees' treatment and living conditions; afterwards, it shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with penitentiary officials. The ICRC continued to urge the authorities to assume full responsibility for providing adequate nutrition and health care in prisons and supported them in this regard; notably, it helped penitentiary officials lobby for funds to be allocated for prison health care in the 2017 budget. However, owing to the authorities' budgetary and administrative constraints, some material support from the ICRC was still necessary: for instance, ICRC-donated therapeutic food and medicine were used to treat malnourished and/or ailing inmates. Detainees were at lesser risk of contracting diseases after the ICRC carried out pest-control and hygiene-promotion campaigns, repaired water and sanitation facilities, and distributed hygiene supplies and other essentials.

In line with commitments made at a regional seminar on IHL implementation in 2015, the Guinean authorities ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They also adopted new versions of their code of criminal procedure and their penal code, which incorporated the ICRC's recommendations on IHL-related matters and on measures to ensure respect for judicial guarantees and expedite judicial processes, respectively. Other instruments to which the ICRC had contributed, such as the code of military justice and the code of children's rights, had yet to be adopted. Discussions continued with defence, security and penitentiary officials, the European Union, the UN, NGOs and other parties involved in reforming the justice and security sectors.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea and the ICRC held dissemination sessions for the *gendarmerie* on international standards for law enforcement, internationally recognized standards for detention, and the necessity of respecting the emblems protected under IHL. The ICRC continued to remind the authorities of their responsibility to respect and protect people during law enforcement operations in connection with demonstrations and violent incidents.

In areas of Guinea that were prone to violence arising from communal, political or socio-economic tensions, the ICRC, together with the authorities, repaired or built water infrastructure,

giving people reliable access to clean water within 600 meters of their homes.

In areas where humanitarian workers had encountered hostility while responding to the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak, community leaders learnt more about neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, at ICRC briefings. One aim of these briefings was to facilitate humanitarian access for Guinean Red Cross teams during violent incidents.

The Guinean Red Cross strengthened its emergency response capacities with ICRC support, which included first-aid training and equipment for its personnel. It adopted a new strategic plan and a new volunteer-management policy, both drafted with the ICRC's assistance. Both the Guinean Red Cross and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society received support for their public-communication initiatives.

CIVILIANS

The authorities are reminded of the need to respect and protect people during security operations

The ICRC continued to remind the Guinean authorities, particularly the police and the *gendarmerie*, of their responsibility to respect and protect people during law enforcement operations in response to demonstrations and violent incidents, and to facilitate injured people's access to medical treatment. It also held dissemination sessions for security forces on international standards for law enforcement, and provided technical assistance for the authorities' efforts to reform the security sector (see *Actors of influence*). Where necessary, documented allegations of abuse were discussed confidentially with the authorities for their further investigation.

During demonstrations and violent incidents, the Guinean Red Cross and the ICRC deployed volunteers to administer first aid to the injured and evacuate them, if necessary.

Contact with local authorities, and with youth leaders and other community members, in violence-prone areas of Conakry and other parts of the country (see *Actors of influence*) aimed to facilitate humanitarian access for Guinean Red Cross teams during emergencies.

Separated family members reconnect

People dispersed by internal violence, migration or natural disasters restored or maintained contact with their relatives through family-links services provided by the Guinean Red Cross, the Sierra Leonean Red Cross and the ICRC. The last refugee cases linked to the 2011 conflict in Côte d'Ivoire were being dealt with by the UNHCR; at their request, the ICRC helped some refugees contact their Ivorian relatives.

The Guinean Red Cross received ICRC funding and technical guidance to bolster its family-links services, which it incorporated in its emergency response plans. ICRC support also helped the National Society develop its capacities in the management of human remains; plans to support the National Society in facilitating the search for missing persons and mitigating the spread of diseases were cancelled, as the prerequisites for such activities were not in place.

Violence-prone communities have better access to water

In rural communities vulnerable to episodes of violence arising from communal, political or socio-economic tensions, the ICRC,

working with the authorities, repaired existing infrastructure or built new water networks. These activities gave some 41,000 people reliable access to up to 25 litres of clean water per day, within 600 metres of their homes. With ICRC training and assistance, community members learnt to operate and maintain their water-supply systems, benefiting some 73,000 people; they also assembled teams to supervise this work. Where appropriate, local water authorities received similar support.

Some 90 people, including relatives of Ebola victims, benefited from an ICRC donation of household items to the Guinean Red Cross.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over the course of the year, some 3,800 detainees in Guinean detention facilities under the authority of the justice ministry, police or *gendarmerie* received ICRC visits conducted in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. During these visits – which focused on 12 prisons that held most of Guinea's detainee population – ICRC delegates monitored inmates' treatment and living conditions, paying particular attention to security detainees. Findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with penitentiary officials.

In October, the authorities adopted a new penal code, which had been revised in 2015 with recommendations from the ICRC on measures to ensure respect for judicial guarantees and expedite judicial processes. Discussions continued among parties involved in reforming the justice and security sectors. Dissemination sessions were held for the police and the *gendarmerie* on the appropriate use of force during arrests and detention (see *Actors of influence*).

Detainees reconnected with or sought to locate their relatives by means of ICRC family-links services, which included phone calls for newly arrived inmates. Twenty foreigners notified their consular representatives of their detention via the ICRC. Penitentiary officials were reminded of their obligation to notify families about a detained relative's arrest or transfer to another place of detention.

The authorities are encouraged to assume full responsibility for nutrition in prisons

The ICRC continued to urge the authorities to assume full responsibility for providing adequate nutrition to detainees; budgetary and administrative constraints prevented this, however, and the ICRC continued to support the authorities' efforts to manage the penitentiary food supply and treat malnourished inmates. For instance, the ICRC continued to monitor the nutritional status of detainees in the 12 priority prisons; subsequently, some 1,400 malnourished inmates were treated with ICRC-donated therapeutic food and supplements. In the second half of 2016, the ICRC began providing additional rations to malnourished detainees at four priority prisons; this form of support was chosen instead of therapeutic food because it would be easier for the authorities to provide when they eventually take over the task.

Inmates have better access to health care

Financial constraints, staff shortages and insufficient coordination, particularly the health and justice ministries, hampered the authorities' efforts to provide health care in prisons.

Despite these obstacles, inmates still had some access to medical care; the ICRC provided the authorities and health staff with assistance in this regard. Prison health staff were given advice on

managing diseases, administering medicines and keeping records, which helped them conduct thousands of consultations. Some 3,500 detainees in the 12 priority prisons – including 600 with vitamin deficiencies and 100 with severe malnutrition – were treated with ICRC-provided medicines. The ICRC facilitated inclusion in national treatment programmes for detainees with tuberculosis, HIV or AIDS in national treatment programmes. With ICRC support, officials lobbied for funds to be allocated for detainees' medical treatment in the national budget for 2017.

With the ICRC's encouragement, the health and justice ministries discussed the revision of a 2004 agreement that defined their responsibilities in the provision of health care to detainees. Officials attended working sessions organized by the ICRC, and drew on ICRC expertise to ensure that the revised agreement and its implementation would be in line with international standards.

Detainees mitigate their risk of disease

Some 2,900 detainees were at lesser risk of disease following pest-control initiatives and hygiene-promotion campaigns organized by the ICRC, and the distribution of clothes, mats, soap, bleach and other materials. Some 3,000 detainees in nine prisons benefited from emergency activities to restore drinking-water supply and renovations to kitchens, warehouses and health and sanitation facilities.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Guinea adopts the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child

In line with commitments made at a regional IHL-implementation seminar in 2015, the Guinean authorities ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. They also adopted new versions of their code of criminal procedure – which had been revised with input from the ICRC on IHL-related matters – and their penal code (see *People deprived of their freedom*). Other legal instruments to which the ICRC had contributed, such as the code of military justice and the code of children's rights, had not yet been adopted.

Discussions continued with defense, security and penitentiary officials, the European Union, the UN, NGOs and other parties involved in reforming the justice and security sectors.

During bilateral discussions, the ICRC encouraged the justice ministry to establish a national IHL committee, but the ministry was unable to do so because of other priorities.

The police and the *gendarmerie* bolster their knowledge of international standards for law enforcement

At sessions organized by the ICRC, with help from the National Society, 230 members of Guinea's *gendarmerie* and 50 police officers learnt more about international standards for law enforcement, internationally recognized standards for detention, and the necessity of respecting the emblems protected under IHL. The *gendarmerie* invited the ICRC to conduct such sessions systematically during training for their recruits. Some 20 instructors at the national school for *gendarmerie* received ICRC training in humanitarian principles and norms applicable to law enforcement.

Community leaders and journalists learn more about humanitarian work

In ICRC dissemination sessions, local officials, traditional leaders and young people in nine Guinean localities vulnerable to outbreaks

of violence learnt more about the Movement and its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian approach, and about the necessity of respecting and protecting medical personnel. Among them were some 500 young people and 50 leaders from areas where humanitarian workers had encountered hostility during the 2014–2015 Ebola outbreak. The ICRC had planned to help key actors send representatives to a course abroad, on the common ground between Islamic law and IHL; however, the course did not take place.

Seventy journalists in three towns learnt more about humanitarian work during seminars organized by the Guinean Red Cross and the ICRC.

Senior military officers strengthen their grasp of IHL and other applicable norms

ICRC training sessions helped some 570 officers from various military units, and 300 troops bound for deployment to Mali, learn more about IHL and the rules of international human rights law applicable to the conduct of hostilities and to law enforcement operations. Senior officers of the Guinean and Sierra Leonean armed forces reinforced their understanding of IHL during advanced courses abroad, including in San Remo.

Fifty magistrates added to their knowledge of IHL implementation through ICRC training; two attended a regional seminar in Côte d'Ivoire with ICRC support (see *Abidjan*).

ICRC seminars and ICRC-provided teaching materials helped 15 law professors from six universities strengthen their ability to teach IHL; one professor attended a regional seminar with ICRC support (see *Yaoundé*). ICRC briefings furthered understanding of IHL among more than 900 law students from eight universities. Law students participated in an annual moot court competition organized by the ministries of higher education and justice and the ICRC.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Guinean Red Cross strengthened its operational and organizational capacities with various forms of ICRC support. For instance, its volunteers received first-aid equipment and training, and branches in violence-prone areas were given phones. Some 1,000 personnel were trained in emergency response, including first aid, restoring family links and the Safer Access Framework. Three branch offices were built with ICRC assistance; this improved working conditions for over 300 personnel. The National Society also received assistance for planning and implementing its activities: after ICRC-organized meetings, it adopted a new strategic plan and a new volunteer-management policy, both developed with ICRC guidance. Movement partners in the country coordinated their activities, including through monthly meetings, with ICRC support.

The Sierra Leonean Red Cross received ICRC support for its efforts – including a radio broadcast – to promote the Fundamental Principles and protection for the red cross and red crescent emblems. It conducted dissemination sessions on IHL and the Movement's work for officials from the national military academy, police, *gendarmerie* and penitentiary services. One staff member, sponsored by the ICRC, attended a seminar in Geneva, Switzerland, on global health.

Both National Societies drew on ICRC assistance to produce public-communication materials. With ICRC support, the Guinean Red Cross organized several events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), which helped raise its profile as a humanitarian actor.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		47			
RCMs distributed		57			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		53			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		1			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		36	13	10	6
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		4			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		7			
<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)		32	11	8	9
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		2			
Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		1			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		1	1		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		3,822	180	252	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		45	2	1	2
Detainees newly registered		31	1	1	2
Number of visits carried out		106			
Number of places of detention visited		33			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		84			
RCMs distributed		28			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		66			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		2			

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)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	97	50	16
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	73,950	36,975	22,185
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,928	116	139
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,000	120	60
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		6		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	22		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	6		