

BURUNDI



ICRC/AR_2016
 ICRC delegation ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation project

The ICRC has been present in Burundi since 1962, opening its delegation there in 1992 to help people overcome the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. ICRC activities focus mainly on working with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees' treatment and living conditions accord with internationally recognized standards. The ICRC helps bolster the Burundi Red Cross's work, notably in terms of emergency preparedness, and restoring links between separated family members, including refugees. It supports the armed forces' efforts to train their members in IHL. It also reinforces the quality and sustainability of physical rehabilitation services.

YEARLY RESULT

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

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ People arrested in relation to unrest and people in pre-trial detention received visits from the ICRC. Findings from these visits helped the authorities improve detainees' treatment and reinforce respect for judicial guarantees.
- ▶ The authorities, with ICRC support, improved food and health services, and infrastructure in 11 prisons. They used ICRC funds and supplies to continue providing food to detainees, amid food shortages and budgetary constraints.
- ▶ Members of families dispersed by unrest or armed conflict stayed in touch with the Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC's assistance. Minors in neighbouring countries rejoined their relatives in Burundi with the ICRC's help.
- ▶ In Bujumbura, police agents and military troops assigned to support them strengthened their grasp of international policing standards via ICRC-supported training. Peacekeepers headed abroad were briefed on applicable IHL rules.
- ▶ Health-care providers in Bujumbura, including the Burundi Red Cross, expanded their capacities with ICRC-provided supplies and training. Staff in two hospitals drew on the ICRC to update their emergency plans.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,356
Assistance	4,686
Prevention	1,166
Cooperation with National Societies	887
General	36
Total	10,130
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>618</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	91%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	25
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	75

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	6,051
RCMs distributed	7,566
Phone calls facilitated between family members	371
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	205
People reunited with their families	74
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	69
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	11,532
Detainees visited and monitored individually	2,216
Number of visits carried out	180
Number of places of detention visited	37
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	304
RCMs distributed	311
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	481

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	26,000 11,792
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	2
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Projects	1 1
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,500 3,989

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.

CONTEXT

The security situation in the capital, Bujumbura, remained precarious owing to the unrest around the presidential elections in April 2015. Occasional outbreaks of violence, including indiscriminate grenade attacks in populated areas, in Bujumbura and nearby provinces, caused casualties. Police and military personnel were deployed to maintain public order; arrests were reported after security operations. Fewer incidents of violence were reported towards the end of 2016.

Around 300,000 people, most of whom had fled Burundi in 2015, remained in neighbouring countries (see, for example, *Nairobi* and *Rwanda*); tens of thousands of IDPs lived in camps or with host communities. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC) lived in UNHCR camps in Burundi.

An economic slump, due partly to the developments mentioned above, threatened the delivery of essential services, including in prisons, as cuts in the national budget and some delays in the disbursement of funds were reported. Floods and landslides caused by heavy rains in some parts of the country added to people's difficulties.

Burundi continued to contribute troops to international missions, notably the African Union Mission in Somalia and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC's Burundi delegation intensified its efforts to assist people suffering the consequences of past unrest and detainees; and local services, notably the Burundi Red Cross, to prepare for outbreaks of violence and other emergencies.¹

Detainees in Burundi continued to receive visits conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedures; people arrested in connection with the security situation, and especially vulnerable inmates, were individually monitored. After visits, the ICRC shared its findings confidentially with the authorities, to help them improve detainees' living conditions and treatment – particularly, respect for judicial guarantees. Cases of people in pre-trial detention were referred to judicial officials, and the legal departments of two prisons were given support for systematizing the registration, archiving and follow-up of detainees' files, with a view to expediting the processing of cases.

The authorities continued to draw on ICRC expertise to improve penitentiary services; the ICRC contributed to the newly established national penitentiary policy. The ICRC also increased its direct support for improving services in selected prisons, which helped the penitentiary authorities prevent crises from worsening. Thus, in Burundi's 11 prisons, ICRC support helped: health services care for sick and malnourished detainees or refer them to hospital; the penitentiary authorities provide detainees with adequate food, amid food shortages and budgetary constraints; and the penitentiary authorities renovate prison infrastructure, including cooking and food storage facilities, clinics, family-visit areas and water and sanitation facilities. Inmates were also urged to practise good hygiene and given soap and cleaning materials.

Members of families separated by unrest, armed conflicts in neighbouring countries or detention reconnected using National Society and ICRC family-links services. Burundians kept in touch with relatives who had fled the country, and refugees in Burundi contacted their families back home. The ICRC also helped families reunite; Burundian minors in the DRC and Rwanda rejoined their families in Burundi. Some families also received news of their missing relatives, after the ICRC located them.

The National Society led the regular provision of material assistance – food, water, household essentials and shelter – to people displaced by natural disasters and living in three IDP camps. In one camp, the ICRC constructed latrines and showers, helping the IDPs there to maintain good hygiene conditions. The ICRC and local water authorities also undertook projects to improve vulnerable peoples' access to clean water; in Bujumbura, repairs to pipelines in one violence-affected area began and were scheduled for completion in 2017. Some IDPs and vulnerable residents made use of ICRC livelihood aid – cash grants and cash-for-work initiatives – to earn sufficient income for their household needs.

Medical services strengthened their emergency response with ICRC support. In particular, two Bujumbura hospitals were given medical supplies and guidance for updating contingency plans. National Society first-aid posts and mobile teams, and some health centres, received one-off donations of supplies and equipment. The ICRC continued to lend technical expertise to the Saint Kizito Institute in Bujumbura, which provided good-quality physical rehabilitation services to many disabled people, especially children; this support will end in 2017.

The ICRC worked to reinforce respect for applicable international law and standards among State weapon bearers. At ICRC briefings, military and security forces learnt more about legal frameworks covering their operations in Bujumbura and about the importance of facilitating access for wounded people to medical care. ICRC training helped military instructors teach troops the basic principles of IHL. The ICRC continued to counsel the authorities on advancing the ratification of IHL-related treaties, notably the Arms Trade Treaty. Communication efforts by the ICRC and the National Society fostered support for Movement action in Burundi.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC intensified its efforts to assist people affected by violence in Burundi, notably those displaced within the country and abroad in 2015. It prepared for outbreaks of violence and other emergencies (see also *People deprived of their freedom* and *Wounded and sick*) by stocking household essentials and materials for repairing public facilities. An agreement between the WFP and the ICRC – the former would supply food and the latter distribute it during emergencies – remained in force.

Burundians contact relatives displaced abroad

Members of families dispersed by unrest in Bujumbura, armed conflicts in neighbouring countries, or other circumstances restored or maintained contact using RCMs, phone calls and other family-links services provided by the Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC. Burundians contacted relatives who had fled the country, and refugees in Burundi contacted their families back home. When appropriate, the ICRC helped families reunite: Burundian minors in the DRC and Rwanda rejoined their families in Burundi; and people in Burundi, including vulnerable adults, returned to their families in the DRC and Rwanda.

1. To this end, the ICRC launched a Budget Extension Appeal for Burundi, available on the ICRC's Extranet for donors, at: [https://xnet.ext.icrc.org/applic/extranet/rexdonors.nsf/0/87D91F7E017F457FC125802700225F2B/\\$File/UpD_Burundi_BE_REX2016_376_Final.pdf](https://xnet.ext.icrc.org/applic/extranet/rexdonors.nsf/0/87D91F7E017F457FC125802700225F2B/$File/UpD_Burundi_BE_REX2016_376_Final.pdf)

Some tracing requests were resolved: families were informed of the fate of over 200 missing relatives, and, where appropriate, put in touch with them. At the authorities' request, the ICRC located the families of two detained minors, and helped these minors rejoin them after being released; 127 travel documents were issued to refugees, to help them resettle abroad.

The activities mentioned above were conducted in coordination with other organizations and State agencies, some of which were provided with technical support for their own family-links activities. National Society staff and volunteers working in UNHCR camps or elsewhere received on-the-job and other training; among them, 104 also got financial incentives. Representatives from various ministries, the military, police forces and the National Society were trained, at ICRC workshops, in the proper handling of human remains, to lessen the difficulty of identifying the dead during and after emergencies. The authorities, urged by the ICRC, included management of human remains in the national emergency plan and created an emergency coordination mechanism for State agencies concerned.

People displaced by natural disasters maintain adequate hygiene and living conditions

Around 5,400 IDPs in one camp benefited from ICRC-constructed latrines and showers. In another camp, people displaced by floods assembled temporary shelters using supplies distributed by the National Society with ICRC technical, financial and material support. Some 6,000 inhabitants of the Makamba province obtained clean drinking water from a water point upgraded by the National Society and the ICRC. In Bujumbura, the water authorities and the ICRC began to repair pipelines in one violence-affected area; poor soil conditions and administrative constraints delayed completion of the repairs until 2017.

Female breadwinners cover their families' needs with livelihood support

IDPs in host communities, remaining residents of largely deserted Bujumbura districts and other vulnerable people met the needs of their households with livelihood support from the ICRC and National Society volunteers. Thus, 288 female breadwinners earned an income from small businesses established with ICRC cash grants; and 300 heads of households earned a month's wages through cash-for-work projects for improving communal infrastructure.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People in pre-trial detention receive help to expedite their cases

Some 11,500 detainees in 11 prisons, 23 jails, 1 military camp and 2 re-education centres for minors received visits conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. People arrested in connection with the security situation and vulnerable inmates – women, minors and sick people – were monitored individually. The ICRC also followed the situation of detainees transferred to Burundi from neighbouring countries.

Findings from the above-mentioned visits were shared confidentially with the authorities, to help them improve detainees' living conditions and treatment – particularly respect for judicial guarantees. The ICRC referred the cases of some 150 people in pre-trial detention to local judicial officials; afterwards, about half were closed, and the people in question released or convicted. Senior justice ministry officials agreed to receive cases of people in prolonged pre-trial detention. The legal departments of two prisons

– which had been established with ICRC support – continued to draw on the ICRC for systematizing the registration, archiving and follow-up of detainees' files.

Detainees restored or maintained contact with relatives within the country or abroad through RCMS, phone calls and other ICRC family-links services. The ICRC assisted some vulnerable detainees to return home after their release. Over 50 foreigners notified their consular representatives or UNHCR of their situation.

Penitentiary authorities use ICRC support to ward off food and health crises

Drawing on years of ICRC guidance, the authorities established a national penitentiary policy for the period 2017–2021; this would help systematize improvements to penitentiary services. ICRC support for services in Burundi's 11 prisons helped the penitentiary authorities manage crises and make improvements throughout the system. A senior penitentiary official attended a course in prison management held abroad (see *Abidjan*). The ICRC continued to urge penitentiary authorities and the justice ministry to coordinate their efforts to address overcrowding and budgetary constraints.

Detainees and the children living with them obtained health care from services guided and supplied by the ICRC. Prison health staff screened detainees for illnesses, including TB and HIV/AIDS, and then treated them and/or referred them to hospital; critically ill detainees – nearly 370 cases – received treatment directly from the ICRC. Seven jails outside Bujumbura were helped to establish referral agreements with nearby health facilities. Body-mass checks conducted by prison health workers, penitentiary officials and ICRC staff identified 1,163 malnourished detainees, who were then enrolled in ICRC-supported therapeutic feeding programmes.

Given the food shortages and budgetary constraints, the penitentiary authorities drew on ICRC support to meet detainees' nutritional needs and prevent the food situation in prisons from worsening. In March, the penitentiary authorities re-established food supply lines with ICRC funding and, after that, filled gaps in the food supply with ICRC-provided food. From June to December, the authorities received beans and maize flour, enough for about 1,500 detainees, and from May to December, salt and oil for approximately 10,000 inmates. The penitentiary authorities and detainees planted six vegetable gardens with agricultural supplies and tools, and advice, from the ICRC; this should help increase and diversify malnourished detainees' diet. Donations of measuring equipment helped the penitentiary authorities regulate food stocks more efficiently. The ICRC reminded the ministries concerned of national protocols stipulating detainees' access to adequate nutrition.

Detainees benefit from infrastructural upgrades carried out by the authorities and the ICRC

With ICRC support, the penitentiary authorities assessed infrastructure at all 11 prisons and then worked with the ICRC to make renovations. Over 5,100 detainees benefited: the upgrades to cooking and food storage facilities, clinics and family-visit areas improved their access to food and health care and facilitated family visits. The construction of separate quarters for men and women in one prison, and for minors and adults at another, progressed; one aim of this was to reduce risks of abuse. Following emergencies in three prisons, the ICRC carried out urgent infrastructural upgrades: 290 detainees in one prison slept more comfortably on newly installed bunk beds; about 590 inmates in another prison

had clean water from a rainwater-harvesting system; and some 240 detainees in a third prison benefited from renovated latrines.

Inmates were urged, through ICRC-supported information sessions at all 11 prisons, to practise good hygiene. They were also given soap and cleaning materials.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Two Bujumbura hospitals prepare for large influxes of wounded people

Staff at two hospitals in Bujumbura were given medical supplies and advice for updating contingency plans. They were also trained in the triage of wounded people, and, in one hospital, participated in a mass-casualty simulation. With ICRC support – staff training, sterilization equipment and infrastructural upgrades – these hospitals also implemented measures to reduce patients' risk of infection. ICRC agreements with both hospitals – to deploy surgical staff in case of emergencies – remained in force.

The ICRC also supported other medical services in Bujumbura. Burundi Red Cross first-aid posts and mobile teams, and some health centres, received one-off donations of supplies and equipment. National Society personnel practised coordinating first-aid services in situations of violence, at a workshop organized by the Red Cross of Monaco and the ICRC. Some 30 medical personnel from Bujumbura hospitals expanded their war-surgery skills at an ICRC seminar.

Over 420 students from schools in volatile areas learnt basic first aid, at presentations conducted by the National Society and the ICRC.

The needs of victims of sexual violence were assessed, with a view to assisting them in 2017.

Saint Kizito Institute works towards self-sufficiency

Almost 4,000 disabled people, mainly children, regained some mobility through physical rehabilitation services and assistive devices from the ICRC-supported Saint Kizito Institute. Around 60 particularly vulnerable patients, including wounded people and detainees, received these services free of charge. The institute's staff learnt how to sustain the quality of their services through e-learning courses, on-the-job training and other technical support provided by the ICRC. Of the four technicians studying physiotherapy/orthopaedic technology abroad with ICRC support, one had finished and was working at the institute again.

In preparation for the end of ICRC support in 2017, senior staff at the institute were given advice for improving managerial practices – for example, concerning the use of data-collection software – and support for their fundraising efforts, such as activities to attract potential donors.

During an ICRC seminar, health ministry officials drafted standards for accrediting Burundi's physical rehabilitation centres.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Military and security forces learn more about legal frameworks regulating their operations in Bujumbura

At ICRC briefings in Bujumbura and five provinces, nearly 400 police officers reinforced their understanding of international policing standards, particularly on the use of force, and internationally recognized standards for detention. About 160 military

officers deployed alongside the police to maintain public order were briefed on the differences between IHL and international human rights law; they also did exercises to determine which framework applied to a given situation.

Aided by the ICRC, military instructors – past beneficiaries of IHL training from the ICRC – evaluated the military's grasp of IHL and other applicable norms, with a view to developing more effective training methods. New military instructors developed their ability to teach IHL-related subjects through ICRC workshops. These instructors gave lectures, on the legal frameworks mentioned above, to troops assigned to several regions. Other troops were briefed directly by the ICRC: over 2,800 military and police personnel bound for Somalia added to their knowledge of IHL provisions applicable to peacekeeping. Briefings used leaflets and training videos translated into the local language, making the material easier to understand and remember. A senior military official attended an advanced IHL workshop abroad (see *International law and policy*). IHL information sessions were also organized for cadets from three officer's schools.

While the draft law for ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty was awaiting parliamentary approval, the officials concerned learnt more, at an ICRC workshop, about other requirements for ratifying the treaty. At a regional conference (see *Nairobi*), Burundi and other Member States of the East African Community signed a cooperation agreement with the ICRC on promoting IHL. Officials from the public security ministry participated in the event with the ICRC's financial support.

Community leaders, medical staff and weapon bearers are urged to ease people's access to medical care

At various events that it organized or supported, the ICRC urged influential actors in Burundi to facilitate access to humanitarian aid and medical services, particularly during outbreaks of violence or other emergencies. At ICRC information sessions in Bujumbura, 180 community leaders, including heads of city districts, and some 90 hospital staff learnt more about the Movement and the goals of the Health Care in Danger project. Military and police officers were urged, at information sessions, to facilitate wounded people's access to medical care and to support Movement action. Briefings for personnel in charge of places of detention clarified the ICRC's activities for detainees. Former members of the armed forces were also briefed on the ICRC's mandate.

Journalists were made aware, through two press conferences, of the importance of respecting the red cross emblem and of the need for a law regulating its use in Burundi. They were also kept informed of the activities of the Burundi Red Cross and the ICRC in the country, which helped them report accurately on the two organizations' activities. National Society volunteers' public-communication capacities were strengthened through training in writing and photography.

Law students from six universities tested their knowledge of IHL at a moot-court competition abroad (see *Rwanda*). One university received ICRC publications on IHL; some graduating students used these reference materials for writing their theses.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society volunteers are trained to provide first aid and to assist IDPs

With the support of Movement partners and other humanitarian actors, the Burundi Red Cross led the regular provision of material assistance – food, water, household essentials and shelter – to over 6,500 IDPs in three camps. Volunteers drew on ICRC training to assess these people's needs and to set up temporary water and sanitation facilities.

The National Society was also given support for improving its overall emergency response. ICRC workshops trained volunteers, including members of 34 emergency response teams in Bujumbura, to administer first aid and teach it, provide psychosocial care, and restore family links. The ICRC urged them to apply the Safer Access Framework while working in violence-prone areas. The ICRC helped the National Society expand its logistical capacities by providing it with three vehicles, fuel, a generator and emergency supplies, and assistance in constructing a warehouse in Bujumbura.

The National Society undertook to promote respect for the red cross emblem and the Movement (see *Actors of influence*). With the ICRC's help, it strove to improve its organizational structure and financial management.

Regular meetings ensured coordination between Movement components in Burundi. They signed agreements to formalize their coordination mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives and to facilitate the joint implementation of security measures.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		6,051	278		
RCMs distributed		7,566	257		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		371			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		74			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	68			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		413	78	89	87
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	179			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		205			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	85			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		578	114	165	139
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	351			
Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		27	15		
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		69	24		5
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	65			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		21	11		
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		127			
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		39			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		11,532	562	334	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		2,216	96	16	93
Detainees newly registered		1,646	93	16	82
Number of visits carried out		180			
Number of places of detention visited		37			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		304			
RCMs distributed		311			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		481			
Detainees released and transferred/repatriated by/via the ICRC		2			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		32			

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)				
Cash ¹	Beneficiaries			
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	11,792	4,717	3,538
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities ¹	Beneficiaries			
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	15,171	1,062	303
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		124		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	17		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	14		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	2		
Physical rehabilitation				
Projects supported	Projects	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	3,989	171	3,585
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	25	5	3
Prostheses delivered	Units	34	11	6
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	8	1	1
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	506	24	456
Orthoses delivered	Units	841	34	779
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	1,665	80	1,483
Walking aids delivered	Units	92	19	59
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	4	1	

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect the extent of the activities carried out during the reporting period.