

RWANDA



ICRC delegation + ICRC office

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,006
Assistance	1,865
Prevention	508
Cooperation with National Societies	476
General	-

► **4,855**

of which: Overheads 296

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	97%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	9
National staff (daily workers not included)	71

KEY POINTS

In 2012, the ICRC:

- with the Rwandan Red Cross, helped people, particularly those who had fled the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, restore and/or maintain contact with their families through family-links services
- visited 64,330 detainees held by the military, the police and the Rwanda Correctional Service, monitoring their treatment and living conditions and providing them with family-links services
- gave technical advice and practical support to the authorities in improving infrastructure management and health and hygiene conditions for over 14,000 detainees, including around 4,500 women and children in 12 prisons
- helped the Rwandan Red Cross complete the first phase of its multi-year first-aid programme aimed at making it the national first-aid provider, by assisting in the training of 47 first-aid trainers
- with the Ministry of Internal Security, encouraged dialogue on and support for a future arms trade treaty by organizing a regional conference for diplomats and experts from 10 States party to the Nairobi Protocol

Having worked in the country since 1960, the ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It focuses on visiting the tens of thousands of detainees held in central prisons. It also visits people held in places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities. It helps reunite children with the families from whom they became separated in relation to the genocide or the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation. It also supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

CONTEXT

In the North Kivu province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), the armed conflict between the armed group M23 and the DRC's armed forces led to an influx of reportedly over 20,000 refugees into Rwanda.

The Rwandan government pursued efforts to develop the country's economy and infrastructure and to advance its integration into the East African Community, including by participating in the Community's security reform processes such as those relating to weapons control and military cooperation.

In July 2012, the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, tasked with carrying out some of the essential functions of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), began its work. The Rwandan government also established a specialized court to pursue cases related to international crimes.

After completing a major overhaul of the penitentiary system, the authorities concerned, led by the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS), continued to implement measures to reduce the prison population. Furthermore, the Rwandan president promulgated a new penal code. The *gacaca* courts officially closed in June after trying close to 2 million suspects in relation to the 1994 conflict and genocide.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC in Rwanda maintained its focus on visiting detainees and monitoring their treatment and living conditions, on helping strengthen the capacities of the Rwandan Red Cross and, with the National Society, on providing family-links services, particularly to refugees affected by the conflict in North Kivu.

The ICRC visited detainees held throughout the country in civilian prisons, police stations and military camps. People regularly visited by the ICRC included those detained by the State security forces on security-related charges; detainees transferred to Rwanda by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), the ICTR or its subsequent mechanism; and former weapon bearers held in camps run by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. Following these visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities. Moreover, it provided technical and material support to the RCS to assist them in improving the living conditions of detainees. These efforts led the RCS to take tangible steps, on the basis of a cost-sharing agreement with the ICRC, to improve inmates' nutritional status

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION	Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		2,905	118	
RCMs distributed		2,736	24	
Phone calls facilitated between family members		245		
Names published in the media		204		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations				
People reunited with their families		131		
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	112		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		85	13	42
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		69		
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	35		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		159	23	68
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers			Girls	Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		380	199	62
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		129	43	1
	<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	110		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		269	125	58
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		64,330		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		301	2	3
Detainees newly registered		191	1	3
Number of visits carried out		76		
Number of places of detention visited		32		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		352		
RCMs distributed		80		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		11		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

and health and hygiene conditions, especially for women and children. Initiatives included a disinfection project in two places of detention and the rehabilitation of prison infrastructure.

With ICRC financial, material and technical support, the National Society stepped up its tracing and RCM services for refugees, especially those affected by the conflict in North Kivu, and for returnees and former weapon bearers seeking to restore and/or maintain contact with their families. ICRC delegates, in coordination with the local authorities and other ICRC delegations and organizations concerned, continued to assist children separated from their families in locating their relatives, reuniting them when appropriate, and supporting their reintegration into family and community life.

The National Society, with ICRC support, strengthened its capacity to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement by improving its promotional tools and briefings. First-aid trainers and volunteers received training and equipment enabling the National Society to boost its emergency response capacity and pursue its plan to become a national first-aid provider.

The ICRC continued to promote greater understanding of IHL and acceptance of the Movement through various activities with and technical support to Rwandan political, military and academic circles. In cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Security, the delegation organized a regional conference to elicit support for a future arms trade treaty. Officers from the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) and the ICRC held meetings and explored possible areas of cooperation, with a special focus on detention and regional peace-keeping efforts. Presentations on ICRC activities and key IHL developments were also made at university law faculties.

Movement partners in Rwanda and other organizations active in similar fields met regularly in order to coordinate activities, maximize impact and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

The influx of Congolese refugees fleeing armed clashes and insecurity in North Kivu from the end of April 2012 led to a rise in family-links needs. Rwandan Red Cross volunteers strengthened their capacities to provide such services with the help of ICRC training and material support. Refugees thus re-established contact with their families and informed them of their safety through 245 telephone calls and some 2,900 RCMs facilitated by the National Society/ICRC. Of the 380 unaccompanied minors registered by the National Society/ICRC in Rwanda, 19 reunited with their families with ICRC support and over 140 did so on their own. Victims of alleged IHL violations in North Kivu, such as refugees at the Nkamira camp, let the ICRC document their claims. These, along with similar information collected in the DRC, served as the basis for reminding the alleged perpetrators of their obligations towards civilians.

Family members dispersed during past conflicts also continued to rely on tracing services provided by the National Society, with ICRC support, to re-establish and maintain contact with relatives within Rwanda and across borders. Amongst these were Rwandan returnees and refugees from neighbouring countries, as well as repatriated former weapon bearers, including children, in the Doha and Mutobo camps run by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. National radio announced the names of minors still seeking their families, while the two camps displayed posters of children registered by the ICRC in the DRC. Through

Main figures and indicators	ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	13		100%
	of whom IDPs	6		
Essential household items ¹	Beneficiaries	115		100%
	of whom IDPs	15		
Cash	Beneficiaries	1		100%
	of whom IDPs	1		
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	71		100%
	of whom IDPs	16		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	1		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	14,473		

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

a partnership between the Rusayo Centre for Unaccompanied Children and the ICRC, some 300 children housed by the centre received hygiene items, school kits and sports equipment to help address their health, educational and recreational needs.

According to their wishes, an additional 110 minors, registered by other delegations, rejoined their families. Nearly 100 among them, as well as two vulnerable women, reunited with their families in Rwanda. Others from the DRC were repatriated with the help of the authorities and the ICRC delegation in the DRC (see *Congo, Democratic Republic of the*). They received essential household items to help them settle back into society and later received follow-up visits to monitor their reintegration. Those experiencing social difficulties benefited from ICRC mediation and counselling services and/or referral to the appropriate government services or organizations, while those facing economic difficulties received further material assistance.

Upon the request of the National Commission for Children, the ICRC actively participated in the establishment of a database containing relevant information on orphans and vulnerable children, designed to ensure that all vulnerable minors in Rwanda received basic services such as education and health insurance without duplication of services.

Regular contacts with other actors providing services to refugees, such as UNHCR, enhanced coordination of activities and awareness of the Movement's family-links services.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

More than 64,000 people held in places of detention under the authority of the RCS, the RDF and the Rwanda National Police, including women, children and some to whom the ICRC had not previously had access, received visits to monitor their treatment and living conditions and respect for their judicial guarantees. While most visits were conducted according to the ICRC's standard procedures, the organization pursued efforts to ensure that these procedures were respected during visits in all places of detention.

People who received individual follow-up from the ICRC through frequent visits included security detainees detained in relation to the armed conflict in the DRC; former weapon bearers, including children, in camps run by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission; and detainees transferred to Rwanda by the SCSL, the ICTR and its subsequent mechanism. When necessary, and with the authorities' consent, detainees, including newly arrested people and individuals claiming foreign citizenship, contacted their relatives and/or embassies through family-links

services. The authorities concerned received confidential oral and written reports containing recommendations based on the ICRC's findings during visits. These and previous reports, as well as ICRC technical and material support, helped the authorities take tangible steps to improve the living conditions of detainees (see below). The Ministry of Internal Security discussed possible cooperation with the ICRC on promoting respect for international human rights law in places of detention under its responsibility.

Prison authorities boost their capacities to address detainees' needs

In view of Rwanda's ongoing prison reforms, the RCS and other authorities concerned continued to pursue efforts to bring detainees' conditions more in line with internationally recognized standards. Two senior RCS managers attended a course on prison management jointly organized by the International Centre for Prison Studies and the ICRC in Geneva, Switzerland. During the second national seminar on health in prisons organized by the Ministry of Internal Security, stakeholders from the detention and health sectors discussed health problems faced by detainees in Rwandan prisons and expressed their commitment to help improve the situation. Training sessions and technical meetings attended by officials of the Ministry of Internal Security, the Ministry of Health and the RCS helped them work towards strengthening the prison health system, including by developing a strategic plan for 2013–17. Furthermore, two permanent health staff had their postgraduate studies financed by the ICRC. Nearly 30 health staff boosted their knowledge of mental health issues at a workshop, going on to train 920 peer educators in the identification of physical and mental illnesses. The Ministry of Internal Security continued to use and enhance a system for recording and analysing prison health data, established with ICRC support, enabling better monitoring of and response to public health issues in prisons, notably early detection and control of epidemics and disease, including HIV/AIDS and TB. The RCS conducted health assessments to harmonize data collection and to facilitate adequate response mechanisms.

Nutritional surveys jointly conducted by the authorities and the ICRC in five prisons helped address vitamin deficiency and malnutrition among detainees. The surveys paid particular attention to food allocation procedures to gain a comprehensive understanding of the food supply chain in prisons and to identify any shortcomings. In response to a survey recommendation and upon the authorities' request, the ICRC assessed the production capacity of prison farms with the aim of improving inmates' diet. To enhance their capacities to implement the nutrition monitoring system, prison health staff participated in a training session on nutritional concepts and in determining and analysing body mass index.

Prison authorities, particularly RCS staff and engineers, benefited from on-the-job training and joint assessments to help them strengthen their capacities to maintain infrastructure and hygiene in prisons, although the development of related norms and procedures was delayed.

Detainees' health and living conditions improve

Prison authorities took ownership of improvement projects implemented within the framework of an RCS/ICRC cost-sharing agreement. These projects thus enabled 14,473 detainees to enjoy better living conditions. They included: 10,747 detainees in two prisons who benefited from cleaner common areas after the implementation of a pilot project on the production of a disinfecting solution; some 3,600 women and their infants in eight prisons who enjoyed rehabilitated sleeping and outdoor areas; 3,646 detainees in one prison who were able to access drinking water after the construction of a water tank; and around 4,500 women and children in 12 prisons who maintained their personal hygiene with regular supply of soap and other hygiene items. Improvements to prison kitchens and the installation of a biogas system were under way.

To ensure that detainees, particularly children, received other forms of complementary support, various organizations involved in detention-related work and the ICRC maintained contact and participated in a conference aimed at facilitating multi-agency assistance projects in prisons.

AUTHORITIES

In preparation for the international talks on a future arms trade treaty (see *New York*), the Ministry of Internal Security and the ICRC organized a regional conference bringing together diplomats and experts from the Regional Centre for Small Arms and representatives of 10 States party to the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa. By the end of the conference, participants agreed to strengthen their common position on the issue and adopted IHL-related recommendations for the future treaty.

Through bilateral meetings, the authorities were encouraged to take further steps to implement treaties to which the country was already party, including the African Union Convention on IDPs. The authorities also discussed with the ICRC the possibility of establishing a national IHL committee, while some officials participated in regional seminars on domestic IHL implementation (see *Pretoria*) and on the "Strengthening IHL" process (see *International law and cooperation*).

Activities organized by the National Society, with ICRC support, helped the authorities boost their awareness of humanitarian concerns and the Movement (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*) and of the need for legislation providing a legal basis for the National Society.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In light of Rwanda's deployment of troops to peacekeeping missions and its plan to be involved in the development of the Eastern African Standby Force (EASF), high-ranking defence force officials, other relevant stakeholders and the ICRC discussed integrating IHL into the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance course for peacekeepers. Following its internal reorganization, the RDF strengthened dialogue with the ICRC on possible areas of cooperation, such as detention and the incorporation

of IHL into the curricula of military facilities, including the Gako Military Academy and the Rwanda Peace Academy.

Senior military officers from the five East African Community member States boosted their knowledge of IHL through various courses, with ICRC input. For example, some 30 of them participated in a course on ethics and the law of armed conflict organized by the Dutch embassy. Similarly, at a military observer course headed by the Australian Defence Force's Peace Operations Training Centre, peacekeeping officers shared best practices on security and stability operations. Moreover, during an EASF course, some 40 civilian experts from the 10 member States learnt more about basic IHL principles and humanitarian workers' experiences in peace-support operations.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To enhance knowledge of IHL and improve teaching capacities in the subject at university level, IHL lecturers from both private and State-run universities received regular updates on relevant legal developments, while one lecturer participated in a regional event (see *Nairobi*). Law lecturers and students from five universities continued to benefit from up-to-date reference materials on IHL for research purposes. Some 200 law students boosted their knowledge of recent key developments in IHL and of the ICRC's activities during various presentations.

In order to shape the organization's future support to lecturers and students, the ICRC continued to assess IHL teaching with the education authorities where findings showed that teachers were qualified and proactive. A new law curriculum which included IHL as a stand-alone course was approved by the National Council for Higher Education.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Rwandan Red Cross and the ICRC continued to strengthen their operational partnership in restoring family links (see *Civilians*), providing emergency response, particularly first aid, and promoting the Movement's principles and activities. The National Society boosted its capacities in these areas with ICRC material and technical support.

The National Society implemented the pilot phase of its multi-year first-aid programme aimed at enhancing its ability to respond to emergencies and to provide free first-aid services to the public. Some 480 volunteers of local disaster response teams participated in training sessions, which included the Safer Access approach, and received basic first-aid equipment, while 47 first-aid trainers honed their practical skills during refresher courses. The National Society also developed the draft of its first-aid policy and commercial business plan.

To help raise awareness of and gain support for humanitarian values and the Movement, the National Society organized a training session and a refresher course for its volunteers on dissemination and promotion, including on the Fundamental Principles and the Health Care in Danger project. Subsequently, briefing sessions/presentations were held for over 25,000 people, including journalists, the authorities, the private sector, international community representatives and the general public. National Society-produced television/radio programmes and publications helped reach an even broader audience.

Various meetings organized by the National Society regularly brought together Movement partners to coordinate and evaluate activities.