

RWANDA



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,100
Assistance	1,889
Prevention	313
Cooperation with National Societies	694
General	-

► **4,997**

of which: Overheads 305

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	83%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	11
National staff (daily workers not included)	76

KEY POINTS

In 2011, the ICRC:

- visited more than 68,000 detainees held by the military, the police and the prison authorities, monitoring their treatment and living conditions
- gave advice and practical support to the authorities to improve health and hygiene conditions for some 43,000 detainees
- submitted a report on the well-being of women detained with their infants, leading to concrete measures to improve their living environment
- reunited 102 people, including 95 children, with family members, while improving services and living conditions for those still seeking their relatives
- trained over 300 Rwandan Red Cross volunteers in the Safer Access approach and supported the Health Ministry in training 100 others in psychological aspects of first aid

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

Following presidential elections in 2010, and local elections in 2011 won by the incumbent party, the administration continued with its reorganization of the government and the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF). Alongside, it pursued efforts to develop the country's economy and infrastructure so as to better integrate into the East African Community Common Market.

The authorities also completed a major overhaul of the penitentiary system, with the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) – created out of the merger of the National Prison Service and the National Committee for Alternative Penalties to Imprisonment – becoming fully functional by mid-year. With the system of *gacaca* courts approaching its end in 2012 and certain detainees allowed to complete their sentences through community work, the prison population dropped nearly 10% to around 58,000 inmates at year-end.

Amid ongoing military operations in the Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), former weapon bearers, including children, continued to be repatriated from the DRC to Rwanda through the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Resettlement and Reintegration (DDRRR) process facilitated by the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). The mandate of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission was renewed for a third time.

UNHCR worked with the Rwandan government and asylum countries towards the voluntary repatriation of Rwandans living abroad.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2011, the ICRC in Rwanda continued to focus on visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions, on providing tracing and RCM services where needed and on strengthening the capacities of the Rwandan Red Cross.

During the year, more than 68,000 detainees held throughout the country in civilian prisons, police stations and military camps were visited by ICRC delegates, who shared their findings and recommendations with the authorities through confidential oral and written reports. The ICRC increased the frequency of its visits to people detained by the military authorities on security-related charges and continued to visit former weapon bearers in camps under the jurisdiction of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. Furthermore, ICRC delegates followed a group of eight people convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and serving their sentences in Rwanda.

Main figures and indicators		PROTECTION		Total	
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)					UAMs/SCs*
RCMs collected		2,839	38		
RCMs distributed		2,994	25		
Names published in the media		160			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		102			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	82			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons					Women Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		87	12	31	
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		65			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	17			
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)		127	19	51	
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers					Girls Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		35	9	19	
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		95	47	3	
	<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	78			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at 31 December 2011		93	17	31	
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		1			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits					Women Minors
Detainees visited		68,088			
Detainees visited and monitored individually		188	2	4	
Detainees newly registered		158	1	2	
Number of visits carried out		121			
Number of places of detention visited		45			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		186			
RCMs distributed		200			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		10			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

Main figures and indicators		ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
Economic security, water and habitat						
Food	Beneficiaries	4				100%
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	780				100%
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	963				100%
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	309	55%	45%		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)						
Economic security, water and habitat						
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	855				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	43,331				

The delegation also assisted the authorities in improving living conditions for detainees by providing support and guidance to the newly formed RCS. A variety of initiatives to boost inmates' nutritional status, health and hygiene were undertaken, such as joint nutrition surveys, training seminars, or the upgrade of dormitories, kitchens and water and sanitation facilities on the basis of a cost-sharing agreement with the authorities. A report on the well-being of women detained with their infants led to concrete measures to improve their living environment.

With ICRC financial support, materials and training, the Rwandan Red Cross provided tracing and RCM services, used by refugees, returnees and former weapon bearers to restore and maintain contact with family. The ICRC continued to assist children separated from their families in locating their relatives, reuniting the family when appropriate, and supporting their reintegration into family and community life. It also refurbished the kitchens and dormitories of a centre for unaccompanied minors and provided the children with the means to continue their studies.

In addition to offering family-links services, the Rwandan Red Cross continued to strengthen its capacities to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement through improved promotional tools and briefings. Training in the Safer Access approach and the support of an ICRC first-aid specialist helped boost the National Society's capacity to respond efficiently to disasters and situations of violence.

The ICRC continued to promote understanding of IHL and acceptance of the Movement within Rwandan political and military circles. It offered support and advice in the ratification and national implementation of IHL treaties and, during meetings with senior defence officials, renewed dialogue on IHL training, including the possible development of a curriculum for a future regional peace academy in Rwanda.

Movement partners in Rwanda and other organizations active in similar fields met regularly to maximize coordination and impact and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

Family members dispersed during past conflicts, including Rwandan returnees and refugees from neighbouring countries, sought to re-establish and maintain contact with relatives within Rwanda and across borders. They used the tracing and RCM services provided by the Rwandan Red Cross, with the financial, technical and material support of the ICRC (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Such support included 30 bicycles and 2 motorbikes to expedite RCM collection and distribution and the facilitation of cooperation with ICRC delegations in neighbouring countries. Former weapon bearers, including children, who had been demobilized in the DRC and repatriated to Rwanda through the MONUSCO-run DDRRR process, accessed such services in the Doha and Mutobo camps run by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. Contacts were also maintained with other actors providing services to refugees or repatriating them to Rwanda, for example UNHCR, to coordinate activities and raise awareness of the Movement's family-links services. In the course of the year, 65 people whose relatives had sought assistance in finding them were located.

The ICRC continued to take the lead in addressing the needs of unaccompanied/separated children. During the year, 95 unaccompanied children, including 3 demobilized child soldiers, were, according to their expressed wishes, reunited with their families. They later received follow-up visits to monitor their reintegration. Those experiencing social difficulties were offered ICRC mediation and counselling services, while those facing economic difficulties received material assistance. Eighty children received essential household items and four were given a one-off food ration to help boost the household economy.

Meanwhile, efforts to find the families of remaining unaccompanied children continued. The names of minors still seeking their families were broadcast on national and local radio stations, while posters of children registered by the ICRC in the DRC were displayed in the Doha and Mutobo camps. Boys and girls accommodated in the 300-bed Rusayo Centre for Unaccompanied Children enjoyed better living conditions after the ICRC facilitated the refurbishment of its kitchen and enlarged its dormitories. In addition, the boarders who stayed there for various lengths of time (some 700 children during the year) received school kits and hygiene items. More than 90 children looking for their families were still on the ICRC's register at year-end.

The "Integrated Child Policy" to address the needs of vulnerable children in Rwanda, adopted mid-2011, did not take into account most ICRC recommendations provided to the authorities in 2010.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

More than 68,000 people held in places of detention under the authority of the newly established RCS, the RDF and the Rwanda National Police received regular visits, conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures, enabling delegates to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Following constructive dialogue with the RDF, some detained under their authority in connection with the armed conflict in the DRC received more frequent individual visits, while the Rwanda National Police pursued discussions with the ICRC about increasing access to those detained in relation to State security in Rwanda and abroad. Eight detainees convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and transferred to Rwanda in 2009 received individual follow-up in accordance with an agreement with the court and the government

of Rwanda. When necessary, with the authorities' consent, newly imprisoned detainees and individuals claiming foreign citizenship contacted their relatives and/or embassies through family-links services. Former weapon bearers, including children, in camps under the authority of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission also received regular visits from ICRC delegates. Following all visits, the relevant detaining authorities received confidential reports on delegates' findings.

Special attention was paid to inmates considered to be particularly vulnerable, such as women, children and the elderly. With the agreement of the authorities, cases of minors with no legal representation were referred to appropriate organizations for follow-up. Over 520 children received ICRC-donated educational materials to facilitate the continuation of their studies. During the year, RCS managers reacted to a report on the specific needs of female detainees accompanied by their infants and to a 2010 report on the detention of minors by taking steps to ensure that such inmates had their own quarters. More than 330 mothers received baby items for their newborns. The RCS also made a general commitment to work with the ICRC to improve the living conditions of female detainees across the system, initiating several projects during the year.

In terms of judicial guarantees, detainees' cases were processed more quickly after the authorities installed electronic systems to improve the management of case files. At the authorities' request, the ICRC advised them on ways of ensuring the release of some inmates who had served their sentences but for whom supporting documentation was lacking. This also helped reduce associated problems of overcrowding.

Detainees see improvements in health and hygiene conditions

In the framework of Rwanda's prison reforms, the authorities continued to draw on ICRC practical support in ensuring that detainees' conditions met internationally recognized standards.

While prison staff continued to integrate new national health policies and procedures into their everyday work, the authorities made additional efforts to improve the health-care system overall. RCS managers and ICRC delegates conducted joint assessments in eight central prisons to examine how various environmental, social and economic factors affected detainees' health. The findings formed the basis of an exchange of expertise on ways of improving the prison health-care model during a three-day seminar attended by government officials, prison directors, head nurses and representatives of all 14 central prisons. Meanwhile, the RCS Health Unit continued to record and analyse prison health data, using a system set up with ICRC input in 2009 to enable the early detection and control of epidemics among the prison population.

Given the link between nutrition and health, the RCS, with ICRC technical support, also conducted nutrition surveys to identify and address vitamin deficiencies and other signs of malnutrition among inmates, steps which led to RCS plans to hire a nutritionist in 2012 to monitor food allocation procedures.

Measures to improve hygiene and sanitation in prisons also contributed to a healthier living environment for some 43,000 inmates, including some 6,500 detainees receiving regular supplies of soap and other personal hygiene items. Prison staff attended a workshop to enhance their knowledge of hygiene issues. Detainees benefited from a wide array of projects to improve their water supply,

sanitation and other infrastructure, carried out by the authorities and the ICRC on the basis of a 50/50 cost-sharing agreement. Thousands enjoyed more salubrious conditions after their dormitories and other shared spaces, such as kitchens, were rehabilitated, while those in one prison had access to medical treatment in a new health facility. Prison infrastructure, including biogas waste-management systems and newly installed latrines, were maintained by ICRC-trained teams, while a more consistent approach to the maintenance regime was encouraged through support to the unit concerned at RCS headquarters, including in the drafting of a related policy. The RCS organized three seminars on improving and maintaining hygiene in prisons for which the ICRC lent its expertise.

AUTHORITIES

Although no IHL instrument was actually ratified by Rwanda during the year, the African Union Convention on IDPs and the Convention on Cluster Munitions both received the approval of the cabinet. Likewise, the draft of a revised penal code, for which the ICRC had provided technical guidance, was approved by the Senate before passing to the next stage. During bilateral meetings, the authorities were encouraged to take further steps to implement treaties to which the country was already party. Rwanda, drawing on many ICRC-provided background papers, remained active in regional and international negotiations on a future arms trade treaty.

Otherwise, the ministers of foreign affairs, justice and internal security and other government officials engaged in constructive dialogue with the ICRC on improving detainees' living conditions and on national policy relating to the needs of unaccompanied children (see above). The authorities and representatives of the international community present in the country kept abreast of Movement activities through ICRC/National Society-provided newsletters and reference materials.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

For much of the year, the RDF focused on completing a major internal reorganization and no discussions took place about the level of IHL integration into its doctrine, training and operations. However, in light of growing Rwandan involvement in peacekeeping operations across the region and its ambition to widen this role, officials from the Ministry of Defence asked the ICRC to contribute to the development of a curriculum for a planned regional peacekeeping academy in Muzanze. Meanwhile, officers at the Gako Military Academy learnt more about IHL during regular ICRC lectures.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To further strengthen teaching and understanding of IHL at university level, lecturers from the National University of Rwanda in Butare and Kigali Independent University were regularly updated on legal developments and received sponsorship to attend IHL events abroad. Students and lecturers from five law faculties consulted relevant IHL documentation donated to their libraries by the ICRC.

Towards the end of the year, the ICRC completed a survey of IHL teaching at four universities with law faculties. It found that IHL was a compulsory course in all four establishments, that the teachers were highly qualified and committed, and that there were many similarities between the curricula. The faculties, however, were rarely in contact with one another. The ICRC would use the results of the survey to shape its future support to lecturers and students.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Rwandan Red Cross and the ICRC continued to develop their operational partnership, notably in the fields of restoring family links (see *Civilians*), emergency preparedness and the promotion of IHL and Movement activities.

The National Society pursued efforts to implement the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement. After assessing the present workload, it reduced the number of staff and volunteers conducting such activities but strengthened coordination with other actors in Congolese refugee camps to improve services for beneficiaries. The integration of family-links services into disaster-management activities had yet to be addressed.

With ICRC support, the Rwandan Red Cross nevertheless better prepared itself to respond to emergencies. More than 300 members of emergency-response teams underwent training in the Safer Access approach, while 100 volunteers received training in delivering psychological support before going on to provide counselling to people experiencing distress during events to commemorate the genocide. Furthermore, after the visit of an ICRC first-aid specialist, the Rwandan Red Cross devised an action plan to integrate first-aid programmes into its five-year strategy, including an expansion of free services to the Rwandan public.

Meanwhile, ICRC-trained and equipped National Society personnel promoted IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles among a wide variety of audiences, producing radio programmes and newsletters, launching a new website, and organizing briefing sessions on the Movement's activities in Rwanda for more than 40,000 people, which prompted 1,700 new volunteers to join. However, the planned overhaul of the National Society's introductory training course for new recruits and the development of a strategy tailored to promoting IHL among young audiences did not take place.

Regular meetings were held with Movement partners to coordinate activities.