



ethiopia

The ICRC has been continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977. Its priority is to protect and assist people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea or by internal violence or disturbances, often compounded by natural disasters. The ICRC provides emergency aid but also implements medium-term assistance projects to preserve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities in violence-prone regions. It also supports physical rehabilitation services. The ICRC visits security detainees, restores family links, particularly for relatives separated by the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border and for Sudanese refugees, promotes IHL and supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

EXPENDITURE (IN CHF ,000)

Protection	6,361
Assistance	14,641
Prevention	2,432
Cooperation with National Societies	1,562
General	-

► **24,997**

of which: *Overheads* 1,514

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	86.2%
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PERSONNEL

69 expatriates
382 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2005, the ICRC:

- ▶ monitored the individual cases of more than 3,000 security detainees in some 280 detention facilities countrywide and completed projects to improve living conditions in 21 prisons;
- ▶ delivered, together with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, emergency food aid and relief goods to tens of thousands of IDPs and improved access to water for some 83,500 vulnerable residents;
- ▶ in response to post-election unrest, provided medical supplies to treat over 400 wounded, trained Ethiopian medical staff in casualty management, boosted support to the Red Cross Society ambulance service and gained access to some of the people arrested;
- ▶ introduced training for the armed forces in IHL and internal security operations and conducted workshops on human rights standards and good policing for some 1,000 regional police and special forces;
- ▶ working with the Ethiopian Red Cross, delivered more than 26,000 RCMs, including in all 5 Sudanese refugee camps;
- ▶ supported 6 physical rehabilitation centres, which treated over 10,000 patients, and contributed funds or teaching staff to upgrade the skills of 43 prosthetic/orthotic personnel.

CONTEXT

Ethiopia's general elections held on 15 May heightened political tensions. In early August, the National Electoral Board declared a parliamentary majority for the incumbent Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, with opposition parties making gains. Amid accusations of voting irregularities, short-lived but violent street protests broke out in early June and again in early November in Addis Ababa and some regional towns, mainly in Oromia and the Somali Regional State (SRS). Scores of people were killed and hundreds injured in clashes between security forces and demonstrators, and there were mass arrests.

As in past years, low-level conflict between government forces and armed opposition groups continued in the SRS. Gambella was the scene of renewed fighting in early and late 2005, springing from a mix of ethnic and political grievances. The SRS and Afar remained prone to small-scale intercommunal clashes, and ethnic tensions persisted along the Oromia-SRS border following the border changes voted on in the 2004 referendum.

Good rainy seasons in most parts of the country led to an above-average harvest, but one in eight Ethiopians still depended on aid. In pockets where the rains had failed, there were concerns over the likelihood of severe food shortages in 2006.

The physical demarcation of the Eritrea-Ethiopia border remained on hold for the third consecutive year. The UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) continued to monitor the buffer zone between the two countries.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	68,565	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	3,160	Food	Beneficiaries	62,950
Number of visits carried out	452	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	196,177
Number of places of detention visited	282	Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	210,445
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS		Water-supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)		
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	98,310
RCMs collected	30,394	WOUNDED AND SICK		
RCMs distributed	26,418	<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>		
People reunited with their families	62	Patients receiving services	Patients	10,193
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>		Prostheses delivered	Pieces	1,804
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	566	Orthoses delivered	Pieces	2,517
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	243			
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2005	1,442			
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>				
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	318			
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	36			
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2005	602			
DOCUMENTS ISSUED				
People to whom travel documents were issued	31			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	901			

ICRC ACTION

Ethiopia remained one of the ICRC's largest operations in 2005.

The ICRC was able to work countrywide and even extended its presence to monitor the situation in more areas where tensions existed. This was possible because of its well-established network of sub-delegations and offices, its cooperation with the Ethiopian Red Cross and solid contacts fostered over time with the authorities, forces of law and order and civil society leaders.

In general, the delegation carried out its programmes as foreseen in its 2005 emergency appeal.

The ICRC delivered relief goods and medical supplies to more victims of internal violence than planned because of the intensity of fighting in Gambella and persistent tensions along the Oromia-SRS border.

The delegation made good progress in implementing its medium-term assistance programmes aimed at preserving community livelihoods in the violence-prone SRS and Afar regions. A major achievement was the training of 56 community health workers and midwives who, by the end of 2005, were covering the entire Afar district of Boromodaitu. Water projects fell behind schedule in the SRS because of security constraints and in Afar because of logistic problems.

The ICRC continued to monitor detention conditions in prisons and police stations countrywide and reported its findings and recommendations, in confidence, to the authorities. Delegates were granted access to some, but not all, of the detainees held in connection with the June and November post-election unrest. The organization also built or upgraded vital infrastructure in 21 prisons and contributed its expertise to Ethiopia's internationally funded penal and judicial reform process.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC followed up with the authorities any remaining cases of POWs, as well as requests from families for news of relatives still missing in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia. It delivered RCMs sent between relatives separated by the closed border, assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia and, at their request, reunited children, the elderly and infirm with family across the border. In war-damaged Tigray, it gave communities the materials and expertise to improve their water facilities.

Tracing and RCM services were also offered in all five Sudanese refugee camps in western Ethiopia. At the end of 2005, the ICRC was handling the cases of some 570 child refugees who were separated from their parents and was working to put the families back in touch through RCMs.

The ICRC marked its 26th year of supporting Ethiopia's physical rehabilitation services. Given the World Bank-funded project for this sector, the ICRC adapted its approach. It provided less direct funding, while emphasizing structured training and on-the-job supervision.

IHL promotion remained a priority, with the focus on the armed forces, police and universities and colleges. The ICRC introduced specialized workshops for the military on IHL and internal security operations. In the field, it focused on training in IHL and human rights law for police and special forces stationed in violence-prone areas. The ICRC decided to discontinue its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools after an evaluation showed that the programme had not taken root.

The ICRC provided the Ethiopian Red Cross with substantial support to strengthen its ambulance service and first-aid, tracing and dissemination programmes. During the post-election unrest, extra funds were given to the ambulance and first-aid services, whose efficient response saved lives.

CIVILIANS

ICRC delegates monitored violence-prone regions, documented alleged problems faced by communities and, where necessary, made representations to the parties concerned. Teams in the field also took every opportunity to promote IHL in discussions with the local authorities, law enforcers and community leaders.

Food and relief goods for IDPs

The ICRC distributed relief goods to more victims of internal violence than planned in 2005 because of the intensity of fighting in Gambella early in the year and persistent tensions after the 2004 Oromia-SRS border changes. Displaced families received, as needed, food, seeds, farm tools and essential household items such as tarpaulins, blankets and kitchenware.

The largest relief operation was in Gambella, where sporadic violence since late 2003 had driven tens of thousands of people from their homes. In May, during the main planting period, the ICRC delivered seeds and tools, as well as food to last until the harvest, to some 54,000 IDPs (9,000 families) who had begun to sell their assets, mainly livestock, to survive.

The ICRC also distributed emergency supplies to more than 20,000 people uprooted by the SRS-Oromia border tensions and to families who fled internal violence or floods in the SRS and Afar.

- ▶ 62,950 IDPs provided with food
- ▶ 43,123 IDPs received essential household items
- ▶ 67,900 IDPs provided with 102.3 tonnes of seed and 41,970 farm implements

Ensuring medical aid

The ICRC worked to ensure that people wounded during internal violence received emergency treatment and that displaced families had access to free medical and health care. Because of the election-related unrest, more emergency supplies than planned were delivered to medical facilities in 2005 to treat casualties. During the June and November violence, five hospitals in Addis Ababa received enough ICRC supplies to treat some 400 wounded. After the June unrest, the ICRC held a two-day workshop on casualty management for 42 medical staff in Addis Ababa. This initiative helped save lives during the November unrest.

During the Oromia-SRS border tensions, the ICRC evacuated 13 casualties, provided five referral centres with medical and

surgical supplies and ensured two health clinics had the means to extend their services to 8,000 IDPs.

- ▶ medical/surgical supplies delivered to treat some 700 war-wounded

Preserving community livelihoods

The ICRC continued to develop medium-term assistance programmes designed to help local communities in violence-prone areas improve their livelihoods and avoid long-term dependence on aid. The organization used an integrated approach, combining health, water, agricultural and veterinary projects.

In 2004, the ICRC initiated a five-year integrated assistance programme in Boromodaitu district (population 44,000) in southern Afar. By the end of 2005, with ICRC support, 56 local people had been trained (33 in 2005 and 23 in 2004) during six-month courses as community health workers (29 men) or midwives (27 women) and were working in all 15 sub-districts. In addition, the ICRC organized two one-week refresher courses for the health workers and midwives trained in 2004. To further improve public health standards, the delegation delivered water-purification filters to eight sub-districts and helped establish health committees and hygiene-awareness sessions in seven sub-districts. To boost food production and income, the ICRC provided three farming associations with an irrigation system and training to develop cash crops (fruit trees and vegetables) on 13.6 hectares. It was also training 30 people as animal health workers, who would cover all 15 sub-districts. In a pilot project, a community of 2,400 people received seeds and tools to cultivate maize on 50 hectares to use as animal fodder. In the only setback in 2005, water projects fell behind schedule because the delegation was obliged to build a new road and bridge across the Awash river to transport materials; the ICRC built three wells, two sub-surface reservoirs and two rainwater containers.

In the SRS, the ICRC extended its integrated assistance programmes to more areas where tensions existed, but security constraints slowed overall progress. The delegation built nine water points and, as a pilot project, constructed a system to collect, filter and store surface water for both drinking and crop irrigation. To boost crop yields and income in the Gode region, the ICRC delivered fruit-tree saplings, farm tools and irrigation pipes, benefiting around 79,650 people. It also held five-day veterinary courses throughout the SRS to train

nomadic herders to identify and treat livestock diseases.

In Gambella, the ICRC initiated small-scale projects to help communities rebuild their lives and livelihoods after the disturbances. It repaired 10 hand pumps and delivered fishing gear and mosquito nets, accompanied by malaria-awareness sessions, to needy families.

In the drought-prone East Hararghe region in Oromia and in war-damaged Tigray, the ICRC focused on improving community access to water. In East Hararghe, it built 6 water points, a solar-powered pumping station and 280 latrines, and trained and equipped 70 people to maintain hand pumps. In Tigray, the communities themselves built 11 water points, with the ICRC providing the materials and expertise.

- ▶ 142,545 residents benefited from agricultural and micro-economic projects, including the delivery of 30.4 tonnes of seed, 4,744 farm tools, 2,710 kits of fishing gear and 12,203 fruit-tree saplings
- ▶ 83,550 residents benefited from water and sanitation projects
- ▶ 153,054 residents provided with essential household items, mainly mosquito nets

Restoring family links

Telecommunication and postal services had not yet been re-established across the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border. This meant that thousands of people still relied on the tracing and RCM network to exchange news with relatives across the border. When requested, the ICRC also reunited children, the elderly and infirm with relatives across the border.

For relatives separated by the 1998–2000 Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict:

- ▶ 20,310 RCMs delivered in Ethiopia and 18,996 collected;
- ▶ 55 people, including 29 children, in Ethiopia reunited with family in Eritrea, and 41 people, including 34 children, in Eritrea reunited with family in Ethiopia;
- ▶ 65 people located at their families' request;
- ▶ 316 requests to trace relatives, including 73 children, pending.

Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia and relatives scattered by internal violence also used the tracing and RCM services. Despite the Sudanese peace settlement signed in January 2005, few Sudanese refugees

returned home, and the refugee population remained at around 80,000. The ICRC's priority was to identify and register children separated from their parents and restore contact through RCMs. Security constraints in Gambella, where three of the five refugee camps were located, as well as restrictions on movement within southern Sudan, delayed the exchange of messages.

For refugees and dispersed Ethiopian families:

- 5,744 RCMs delivered, including 182 to children separated from their parents, and 10,771 collected;
- 7 children reunited with their families;
- at year end, 574 cases of unaccompanied/separated children being handled;
- 178 people located at their families' request;
- 1,126 requests to trace relatives, including 143 children, pending.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC continued to advocate that the Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities establish mechanisms to provide families with news about relatives still unaccounted for in connection with the 1998–2000 war. In the meantime, many families approached the ICRC. In March, the organization presented the Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities respectively with the names of 153 such people of Eritrean origin and 200 of Ethiopian origin whom it could not trace.

Repatriation

The delegation, together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia, providing transport and basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp. It also retrieved and forwarded official documents so that these people could continue their studies or apply for work. Compared with past years, there were fewer requests for repatriation to Eritrea. This was partly owing to a 2004 Ethiopian law that helped regularize the status of people of Eritrean origin living in Ethiopia.

The ICRC also monitored the living conditions of people of Eritrean origin living in Ethiopia and, where necessary, made representations on their behalf to the authorities.

- 182 civilians voluntarily repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 848 from Eritrea to Ethiopia
- 58 documents forwarded from Ethiopia

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

When election-related unrest broke out in June and again in November, the ICRC immediately contacted the authorities, formally requesting access to all detainees held in connection with the violence. The organization was granted access to some, but not all, of the people being held. It visited these detainees, monitored their treatment and living conditions and reported its findings, in confidence, to the authorities.

- 7,319 enquiries registered with the ICRC by families searching for news of relatives allegedly arrested in connection with election-related unrest, of which 4,207 resolved

Throughout 2005, the ICRC visited detention facilities, mainly prisons and police stations, countrywide and followed the individual cases of more than 3,000 detainees held in connection with the 1991 change of government or for other reasons of State security. The organization regularly informed the authorities confidentially of its findings and recommendations. It submitted two in-depth reports on detention conditions in SRS and Oromia police stations and in prisons in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples State (SNNPS). In addition, workshops on detention conditions were held for prison directors and local authorities in most regions.

The ICRC also monitored respect for detainees' pre-trial and trial rights. As part of this process, delegates conducted over 300 interviews in 25 detention facilities with detainees held in connection with the 1991 change of government. The ICRC discussed the findings with the authorities and was preparing a full report for them.

During detention visits, the ICRC offered inmates the RCM service so that they could exchange news with relatives and distributed hygiene and recreational items to contribute to their health and welfare. It also helped build or upgrade prison water and sanitation facilities, kitchens and separate blocks for women.

- 68,565 detainees visited, 3,160 of them monitored individually (1,254 newly registered), including 282 minors, during 452 visits to 282 places of detention
- 14,760 detainees benefited from water and sanitation projects and 10,950 from habitat projects in 21 prisons

- 30 prisons received medical assistance
- 364 RCMs delivered to detainees and 627 collected for distribution to relatives

POWs

In 2002, Ethiopia released and repatriated the last POWs of Eritrean origin regularly visited by the ICRC. In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC followed up with the authorities a small number of POW cases still pending.

Supporting prison reform

The ICRC contributed its expertise to the internationally funded process to reform Ethiopia's judicial and penal systems. It submitted two reports on prison-staff structure and discussed the recommendations with the federal prison commissioner and Federal Affairs Ministry. The organization also participated as an observer in the donors' coordination meetings and discussed issues in bilateral meetings with the donors and the Ethiopian authorities.

WOUNDED AND SICK

There were an estimated 360,000 disabled people in Ethiopia, 22,000 of them war veterans.

During 2005, the ICRC provided training, materials, supervision and funds to six physical rehabilitation centres (Addis Ababa, Arba Minch, Dessie, Harar, Mekele and the new Asela centre). In total, 10,193 patients received treatment at the centres, 2,297 of them amputees. With World Bank funding since 2002, Ethiopia was upgrading its physical rehabilitation services, focusing to date on building new facilities. The ICRC, therefore, started to reduce its direct funding to centres and emphasized training and supervision – the lack of skilled staff was a perennial problem.

Twenty students graduated in January from Ethiopia's first prosthetic/orthotic diploma course, a two-and-a-half-year programme taught by the ICRC, funded by the World Bank and co-organized with Ethiopia's Labour and Social Affairs Ministry. The graduates returned to work, with ongoing ICRC back-up. Another 19 staff from various centres graduated in November from a six-month ICRC course, qualifying as assistant technicians. The delegation also sponsored four Ethiopians on advanced courses at the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists. With these initiatives, Ethiopia was developing a solid base of skilled personnel in this sector.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC renewed contact with government legal advisers, offering its assistance in incorporating key IHL provisions into domestic law. However, as 2005 was an election year, IHL implementation was not a government priority.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL training for armed forces

With ICRC support since 1991, the Ethiopian air force had incorporated IHL into its training, using its own instructors, and the army was in the process of doing the same.

- ▶ 50 new armed forces instructors trained to teach IHL
- ▶ in a new initiative, 2 workshops held for military personnel on IHL and internal security operations
- ▶ Defence University College assisted in designing IHL curricula and provided with reference materials
- ▶ 19 armed forces members sponsored to take part in IHL events abroad
- ▶ over 1,000 Ethiopian peace-keepers leaving for Burundi and Liberia and UNMEE staff briefed on IHL and international human rights law
- ▶ armed forces assisted in producing draft standing orders on the introduction of identification tags for military personnel
- ▶ introductory IHL talks held for military field units countrywide

Police and security forces

The ICRC, together with six Ethiopian police instructors, focused on providing training in international human rights law and good policing for local police, special forces and, for the first time, civilian militia stationed in violence-prone areas.

- ▶ some 1,800 police, special forces personnel and civilian-militia members attended 21 two-day workshops in Afar, Gambella, Harar, Amhara, Tigray, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz and the SNNPS
- ▶ introductory presentations held for local police and militia groups countrywide

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL in rural areas and through the media

In violence-prone areas, ICRC delegates regularly gave talks on the basic principles of IHL to community elders and traditional leaders with influence on public opinion. The organization also distributed three new IHL leaflets, specially designed for the Afar, Gambella and SRS regions, where the majority of people were illiterate.

The ICRC fostered its contacts with the media, providing press releases, briefings and interviews to draw attention to IHL and the organization's related activities. It also held two IHL presentations for 73 local journalists in Oromia and Amhara.

IHL for tomorrow's leaders

The ICRC encouraged institutes of higher learning to offer IHL courses and supported them in so doing. It provided IHL reference materials and gave introductory talks to students at the five law faculties that offered elective IHL courses (the universities of Addis Ababa, Mekele and Bahir Dar, the Civil Service College and Unity University College). In addition, under ICRC sponsorship, Alemaya University's new IHL lecturer and the law faculty's deputy dean participated in an IHL course abroad, and three law students from Addis Ababa University took part in the ICRC's annual IHL moot-court competition in Tanzania.

The ICRC decided to discontinue its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools. An extensive evaluation in 2005 showed that, after four years, the programme had not taken root.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Ethiopian Red Cross and the ICRC continued to work together to deliver emergency aid, run the tracing and RCM network and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles countrywide. The ICRC provided the National Society with substantial support to develop these activities, particularly in violence-prone regions. To strengthen the overall structure of the Ethiopian Red Cross, the delegation also provided funds to cover the running costs of 14 branches, including salaries, and the construction of premises for the Bale branch in Oromia.

Emergency and assistance programmes

The ICRC's long-term provision of vehicles, funds, training and materials to upgrade the Ethiopian Red Cross ambulance service contributed to the National Society's highly efficient response during the post-election unrest, which saved lives.

In 2005, the ICRC:

- ▶ provided 59 branches with first-aid materials and the Addis Ababa branch with extra funds to respond to post-election unrest;
- ▶ equipped 88 ambulances with VHF radios and financially supported the ambulance service countrywide;
- ▶ helped organize refresher courses for 1,036 ambulance attendants and 33 first-aid coordinators and a conflict-preparedness workshop for all branches in Tigray;
- ▶ replenished the National Society's stock of relief goods to cover 2,000 families.

Restoring family links

With ICRC financial and technical support, the National Society's tracing network continued to improve.

- ▶ 22 tracing officers from 14 branches trained as tracing instructors, who then trained 40 volunteers
- ▶ a draft tracing manual produced

IHL and the Fundamental Principles

With the support of ICRC funds, materials, equipment and expertise:

- ▶ 24 branches, assisted by 4 regional offices, held talks on IHL and the Fundamental Principles for local authorities and community leaders;
- ▶ 30 disseminators attended a training workshop;
- ▶ 58 dissemination programmes were aired on radio and television.

Mine action

With ICRC financial support, the Ethiopian Red Cross assisted 30 mine victims in Tigray in attending school and 100 in starting small businesses.