

# DAKAR (regional)

COVERING: Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal



ICRC regional delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC mission ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation project

## KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ The ICRC reminded the pertinent parties in Casamance, Senegal, of their obligations under IHL and other norms – for instance, to facilitate civilians’ access to farmland and other means of livelihood, and to prevent sexual violence.
- ▶ Returnees in Casamance resumed their livelihoods with the help of ICRC-provided seed and small livestock, or cash for purchasing them; they also rebuilt or renovated their homes using ICRC-donated materials.
- ▶ The Senegalese Red Cross and the ICRC expanded their activities – such as peer-support groups – for missing migrants’ families; the ICRC also urged the authorities to provide the families with more help for their specific needs.
- ▶ People with disabilities were treated at an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre in Guinea-Bissau; they included Senegalese amputees, who were referred to the centre as part of an agreement with the Senegalese authorities.
- ▶ The Senegalese authorities continued their efforts to draft legislation implementing arms-control treaties. In Guinea-Bissau, a draft law on the protection due to the red cross emblem was approved by the government.

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	1,657
Assistance	2,997
Prevention	2,033
Cooperation with National Societies	1,147
General	151
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,986</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>487</i>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	96%
---------------------------	-----

## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	17
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	129

The ICRC opened a regional delegation in Dakar in 1989, although it had already worked in the region for several years. It focuses on promoting IHL among the armed forces and other weapon bearers and on encouraging implementation of that law by the authorities throughout the region. It supports the activities of the National Societies, assists people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in Casamance, Senegal, and in Guinea-Bissau, and visits detainees of ICRC concern, providing them with material aid where necessary.

## YEARLY RESULTS

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

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	6
RCMs distributed	5
Phone calls facilitated between family members	14
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	6
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited	757
Detainees visited and monitored individually	6
Number of visits carried out	7
Number of places of detention visited	6
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	3
RCMs distributed	2
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	7

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>		
<b>Economic security<sup>1</sup> (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 700	52
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 700	
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 6,100	9,214
Cash	Beneficiaries 1,800	3,898
Services and training	Beneficiaries 49,500	408
<b>Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 15,820	6,126
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Projects supported	Projects 1	1
Patients receiving services	Patients 600	1,811

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 situation in Casamance, Senegal, remained relatively calm, but little progress was made in talks between the government and factions of the *Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance* (MFDC). More and more IDPs and refugees, mainly from Gambia, returned to their homes; certain areas, however, remained inaccessible because of security concerns, including mines in areas bordering Guinea-Bissau. Senegal contributed troops to peacekeeping missions abroad.

In Guinea-Bissau, the political situation hindered efforts to improve State services, which were particularly limited in the north; people there also felt the effects of the situation in Casamance. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) extended the mandate of peacekeepers in the country to mid-2017.

In Gambia, the results of the December elections gave rise to political tensions; by the end of 2016, ECOWAS had stepped in to mediate.

Migrants headed for Europe or elsewhere, including asylum seekers and refugees, traveled through or from Senegal and the other countries covered.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2016, the regional delegation in Dakar focused on addressing the needs of people affected by the conflict in Casamance. The ICRC reminded the parties concerned of their obligations under IHL and other norms, such as facilitating access to farmland and other means of livelihood, and preventing sexual violence. People also reported abuses to the ICRC; these were shared with the parties concerned to prevent their recurrence, though reports had decreased compared to previous years. Following ICRC information sessions, women from communities vulnerable to sexual violence adopted risk-reduction measures – for example, the avoidance of certain routes.

Conflict-affected people in Casamance met some of their needs through activities conducted by the Senegalese Red Cross Society and the ICRC, which prioritized communities that the ICRC had exclusive access to; some activities helped mitigate protection-related concerns by reducing the need for people to leave their villages. Returnees rebuilt or improved their homes using ICRC-donated material and established or restored their livelihoods with ICRC support, which included seed and small livestock, or cash for purchasing these. Female heads of household cultivated market gardens with the ICRC's help, while others were able to hull grain more easily using ICRC-donated cereal mills. Herders availed themselves of free vaccination and deworming services for their livestock from ICRC-supported animal health workers; such assistance was also provided in northern Guinea-Bissau. Support for constructing or upgrading wells, dikes and other structures helped ensure that people had enough water for personal consumption and agriculture.

The ICRC visited detainees in Casamance to monitor their well-being. Based on these visits, it then shared confidential feedback with the authorities. In Gambia, dialogue on resuming visits to detainees remained stalled.

In Guinea-Bissau, people received physical rehabilitation services at the ICRC-supported *Centro de Reabilitação Motora* (CRM).

Among them were Senegalese victims of mines or explosive remnants of war (ERW), who were referred to the CRM as per an agreement between the Senegalese mine-action authorities and the ICRC.

The ICRC urged the authorities to provide missing people's families with more help for their specific needs. In the meantime, the Senegalese Red Cross and the ICRC expanded their activities for these families, which included peer-support groups, home visits and workshops on overcoming administrative and legal obstacles; some families also began to receive financial assistance. Missing people's families continued to lodge tracing requests with the ICRC.

The National Societies in the region received support for providing family-links services to families dispersed by conflict, detention or migration; assistance for the Gambia Red Cross Society, which had previously faced administrative challenges, commenced. All four National Societies also drew on the ICRC's support to strengthen: their ability to respond to emergencies in line with the Safer Access Framework; their organizational development; and their coordination with other Movement components.

The situation in Casamance and the needs of missing migrants' families were the focus of dialogue with the parties concerned. Radio programmes for communities, and briefings for local officials and leaders, helped broaden awareness of the Movement and its work. Troops in Guinea-Bissau and some MFDC units reinforced their knowledge of IHL and other norms through ICRC information sessions; in Senegal, soldiers received such briefings from ICRC-trained army instructors.

At events that the ICRC participated in or organized – such as an IHL course for humanitarian professionals in Africa – stakeholders from the region furthered their understanding of the ICRC and its work. With ICRC support, governments throughout the region took steps to ratify or implement key treaties: the Senegalese authorities continued to work on legislation implementing arms-related treaties, while in Guinea-Bissau, a draft law on the protection due to the red cross emblem was validated by the government. Cabo Verde ratified the Arms Trade Treaty.

The regional training unit and regional production centre in Dakar provided ICRC delegations with training and communication support, respectively.

## CIVILIANS

People in Casamance reported abuses and IHL violations to the ICRC, which documented these allegations. It then shared them with the parties concerned in order to prevent their recurrence, though reports had generally decreased compared to previous years. These parties were also reminded of their obligation to facilitate access to farmland and sources of livelihood for civilians, including IDPs, refugees and returnees. In line with the ICRC's multidisciplinary approach, protection concerns were taken into account in the ICRC's assistance activities (see below).

The ICRC raised awareness of the medical consequences of sexual violence through information sessions for health workers and people in at-risk communities. Women and girls from these communities subsequently adopted risk-reduction measures, such as travelling in groups and/or avoiding certain routes; this contributed to a decrease in reported cases.

## Returnees resume agriculture and other livelihood activities

Assistance activities carried out by the Senegalese Red Cross Society and the ICRC, which prioritized communities that the ICRC had exclusive access to, enabled conflict-affected people in Casamance to meet some of their needs; many people benefited from multiple forms of assistance. These activities also helped mitigate people's exposure to sexual violence, mines and other dangers.

In all, roughly 9,200 people restored their livelihoods with the help of productive inputs provided by the ICRC. For instance, around 1,800 returnees (200 households) began farming using ICRC-donated seed, tools, and small livestock; 68 households (612 people) were able to hull grain more easily using cereal mills that the ICRC gave to two villages. The ICRC also provided seed and advice on growing techniques to about 130 female heads of household (1,200 people total) who cultivated market gardens.

Nearly 3,900 people received cash assistance; they included 72 households (648 people) that constructed dikes for rice fields, as part of a cash-for-work project. The cash enabled them to buy, among others, canoes for fishing, or seed and working animals for farming. Meanwhile, 55 households (463 people in all) set up small business with the help of ICRC-provided grants and training.

Some 3,600 households (32,400 people) in Casamance and 800 households (5,600 people) in Guinea-Bissau availed themselves of free vaccination and deworming services for their livestock from animal-health workers supplied and trained by the ICRC. The ICRC also facilitated the procurement and planting of 2,000 saplings in order to help three villages in Casamance restore their forests, and, in the long term, their livelihoods.

About 380 returnees received two months' worth of food from an organization mobilized by the ICRC. Households affected by small-scale emergencies were provided with ad hoc assistance: five (around 50 people) received food, and another (9 people), cash.

## Conflict-affected communities gain access to water

In Casamance, over 2,700 people had better access to water after the ICRC built or upgraded wells and hand pumps in several villages; mechanics were provided with tools and, in cooperation with local water boards, community members were trained in maintenance. The ICRC also constructed or repaired dikes and fences, to the benefit of some 600 rice farmers and 300 women who were cultivating market gardens. Around 2,400 returnees rebuilt or improved their homes using ICRC-donated material.

## Efforts to support the families of missing Senegalese migrants are expanded

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the Senegalese authorities on the creation of a national mechanism for coordinating efforts to provide the families of missing migrants with support for their specific needs, including in relation to the identification of human remains.

Meanwhile, the Senegalese Red Cross and the ICRC – which signed a formal agreement in April – continued their efforts to assist these families, extending them to two particularly affected areas. In some communities where it had previously provided assistance, the ICRC began to hand over a few activities to local associations of missing migrants' families; these activities were supervised by the National Society.

Thus, the families of the missing obtained psychosocial, legal and financial support through initiatives conducted by ICRC-trained personnel from the National Society and local associations. Efforts to help them cope with their distress included peer-support groups for over 280 people, home visits to about 600 people in remote areas, and the organization of commemorative events. Five women were also referred to a centre for psychiatric treatment. To facilitate their social integration and improve their employment prospects, literacy classes were arranged for 37 adults, and supplementary lessons, for 80 schoolchildren. At workshops, some 100 people learnt more about the legal implications of a relative's disappearance; this equipped them to assist others in dealing with administrative obstacles. Based on an assessment conducted in 2015, the ICRC helped some families establish a revolving-credit scheme, which enabled 50 of them to start income-generating activities.

Discussions with the parties concerned, regarding the fate of people missing in connection with the conflict, were stalled by the political situation. Nevertheless, the ICRC began to collect information from these people's families, with a view to clarifying their fates.

## People contact or seek their relatives through the Movement's family-links network

Families dispersed by conflict, detention, migration or other circumstances sought to reconnect through the Movement's family-links services. Notably, the relatives of missing Senegalese migrants continued to file tracing requests with the National Society and the ICRC; these cases were forwarded to other countries through the Movement's worldwide family-links network (see *Paris*).

With training and other support from the ICRC, the National Societies in the region strengthened their family-links services; for instance, the ICRC organized a regional seminar on the subject, so that they could share their experiences in addressing needs related to migration. The ICRC's support contributed to, among others, the reunification of hundreds of lost children with their families, during festivals and other crowded events in Guinea-Bissau and Senegal. The Senegalese Red Cross continued to gradually assume full responsibility for family-links services, with the ICRC slowly phasing out direct support, as another organization stepped in; meanwhile, the Gambian Red Cross, which had previously faced administrative challenges, resumed the provision of family-links services, and began to get equipment and other assistance in this regard from the ICRC.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited 755 detainees in Casamance, and 2 people in Guinea-Bissau who were held on charges of "terrorism"; particularly vulnerable people were followed up individually. In Gambia, dialogue on resuming visits to detainees remained stalled.

Based on these visits, which were conducted according to the ICRC's standard procedures, the organization provided the authorities concerned with confidential feedback to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions. A report containing recommendations – such as alternatives to detention, which aimed to mitigate overcrowding in prisons – was sent to the minister of justice, as a follow-up to a workshop conducted in 2015. The penitentiary authorities also began to renovate the infrastructure at one facility, after the ICRC shared its assessment of the water and hygiene situation.

At an ICRC-organized workshop, prison staff, penitentiary officials, and justice ministry representatives discussed ways to improve

prison conditions and respect for judicial guarantees. Two senior officials also added to their knowledge of prison management by attending a course abroad, with the ICRC's support.

Through the ICRC's family-links services, detainees informed their families – or, in the case of foreigners, their consular representatives – of their situation. Because the need for these services was limited, plans to involve the National Society were put on hold.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

At the CRM – Guinea-Bissau's only physical rehabilitation centre, which received comprehensive support from the ICRC – over 1,800 people availed themselves of physiotherapy and other services. There were about 100 children with club foot among them: these children were treated by ICRC-trained personnel from CRM and Hospital Simão Mendes, and those who underwent surgery received financial assistance for covering their treatment and transport expenses. The CRM's patients also included 63 Senegalese victims of mines or ERW, who were referred there to be fitted with prostheses in line with an agreement between the Senegalese mine-action authorities and the ICRC.

To ensure the quality and the sustainability of CRM's services, ICRC technicians provided its staff with on-the-job training, and technical and managerial advice. Other forms of ICRC support included equipment and raw materials, which helped the CRM provide patients with 165 prosthetic and orthotic devices, free of charge.

People were referred to the CRM through field visits coordinated with the Guinea-Bissau Red Cross, associations of disabled persons, and other stakeholders. The ICRC also continued to work with local organizations to promote the social reintegration of people with disabilities; for instance, it sponsored a Bissau-Guinean team's participation in a basketball tournament in Senegal, and donated 21 sports wheelchairs to athletes.

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The situation in Casamance and the needs of missing migrants' families (see *Civilians*) remained the focus of dialogue with the pertinent parties in Senegal and with other actors in the region. During information sessions, local officials, community and religious leaders, and members of civil society groups were briefed on the Movement and its work. Radio programmes helped inform communities about the activities of the Senegalese Red Cross and the ICRC in Casamance, while enabling the two organizations to solicit more feedback from beneficiaries.

The ICRC worked with the Senegalese Red Cross to broaden public awareness of these concerns through photojournalism and stronger efforts to communicate using digital channels. Together with the CRM, it also produced TV and radio programmes on the resilience of mine victims and other people with disabilities.

### Senegalese troops learn more about IHL from ICRC-trained army instructors

Through ICRC briefings, nearly 1,200 national and foreign troops in Guinea-Bissau and 40 members of an MFDC faction learnt more about IHL, and 25 *gendarmes* in Casamance strengthened their knowledge of international standards for law enforcement, particularly on the use of force during arrests. In Senegal, ICRC-trained army instructors continued to conduct IHL dissemination sessions for over 4,300 other soldiers, including troops bound for

Casamance or for peacekeeping missions. During these events for weapon bearers, the need to protect those seeking or providing health care, and to prevent sexual violence, were both emphasized.

To help the Senegalese military incorporate IHL more fully in its training, the ICRC held a train-the-trainer workshop for ten officers, and supported the participation of another in an advanced course in Switzerland (see *International law and policy*). Progress on the revision of the army's IHL manual remained slow.

### Representatives of governments and international organizations further their understanding of IHL

At events attended or organized by the ICRC, stakeholders from the region learnt more about IHL; the ICRC and its work in Casamance and elsewhere; and humanitarian concerns, such as issues related to access to health care, migration and sexual violence. For instance, Francophone humanitarian professionals who were working in Africa learnt more about such matters during a course given by the ICRC.

An international conference on the humanitarian consequences of anti-vehicle mines, which had been postponed to 2016, was cancelled because of the difficulty of gathering participants; instead, the ICRC organized a workshop with the Senegalese army, at which their medical personnel learnt more about the goals of the Health Care in Danger project.

### Authorities in the region take steps to regulate arms

Regional efforts to ratify or implement key treaties continued, with ICRC support. The Senegalese authorities continued to work on draft legislation for implementing the Arms Trade Treaty; the adoption of a draft law on the regulation of small arms and light weapons, and a new code of military justice, in which IHL provisions had been incorporated, awaited their approval. In Guinea-Bissau, a draft law on the protection due to the red cross emblem was validated by the government. Cabo Verde ratified the Arms Trade Treaty.

Discussions on the establishment of IHL sub-committees within the human rights commissions/committees of Cabo Verde and Senegal continued. Gambian, Guinea-Bissauan and Senegalese officials were sponsored to attend a regional seminar (see *Nigeria*) on IHL implementation; representatives from Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal attended a universal meeting of IHL committees (see *International law and policy*), with ICRC support. Two Senegalese judges participated in a regional seminar (see *Abidjan*) on the role of national tribunals in IHL implementation. IHL training for parliamentarians in Senegal was postponed, however, as the prospective participants were unavailable.

Representatives from religious circles in Senegal, the ICRC, the International Federation and the Senegalese Red Cross, discussed the common ground between IHL and Islamic law – particularly, in relation to “terrorism” – at a meeting hosted by the National Society. Meanwhile, Senegalese students continued to learn more about IHL through ICRC-donated publications and seminars at universities. The ICRC also held a workshop on IHL instruction for 15 faculty members of a university that had expressed interest in offering a master's degree in law and humanitarian action, and sponsored the participation of two professors in a regional course (see *Yaoundé*).

---

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

All the National Societies in the countries covered bolstered their operational capacities with ICRC support. For instance, in Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, National Society first-aid instructors were trained in the Safer Access Framework; a cross-border simulation exercise in Guinea-Bissau enabled the authorities and personnel from the Bissau-Guinean, Gambian and Senegalese National Societies to strengthen their coordination. Prior to the elections in Gambia, the International Federation and the ICRC helped the National Society prepare for possible violence by providing equipment and refresher training for their personnel.

With ICRC support, the four National Societies promoted IHL and the Movement's work, notably, through radio programmes and events to celebrate World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (May 8). The National Societies of Cabo Verde, Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau drew on the ICRC's expertise to strengthen their legal bases and facilitate the revision of laws protecting the red cross emblem. In Senegal, a campaign to raise awareness of the emblem, and the respect due to it, continued in areas bordering Gambia and the Republic of Guinea.

Together with the International Federation, the ICRC provided the National Societies of Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, and to a lesser extent, Senegal, with support for reviewing their financial management, and training on governance and the Fundamental Principles. Staff from the Bissau-Guinean and Gambian National Societies were also trained in project management, and the Senegalese Red Cross received support for developing its plans and tools for internal and external communication.

Movement components present in Dakar met regularly to coordinate their activities, including support for National Societies in the region, and to discuss various concerns, such as needs related to migration and food security.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		6			
RCMs distributed		5			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		14			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		71	4		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		1			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		6			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		386	5	1	14
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		757	22	21	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		6			
Detainees newly registered		6			
Number of visits carried out		7			
Number of places of detention visited		6			
<b>RCMs and other means of family contact</b>					
RCMs collected		3			
RCMs distributed		2			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		7			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Economic security<sup>1</sup> (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	52	16	24
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	9,214	3,188	3,324
Cash	Beneficiaries	3,898	1,525	1,171
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	261	118	83
Services and training	Beneficiaries	408	147	139
<b>Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	6,126	1,838	2,450
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>				
Projects supported	Projects	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	1,811	640	322
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	102	26	5
Prostheses delivered	Units	102	25	6
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	66	19	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	51	13	24
Orthoses delivered	Units	63	15	33
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	13	6	2
Patients receiving physiotherapy	Patients	1,699	597	308
Walking aids delivered	Units	164	57	27
Wheelchairs or tricycles delivered	Units	62	33	7

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.