

# GUINEA



+ ICRC delegation   
 + ICRC sub-delegation   
 + ICRC office

\* Sierra Leone is covered by the ICRC delegation in Guinea

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	<b>1,072</b>
Assistance	<b>3,468</b>
Prevention	<b>1,299</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>1,721</b>
General	-

▶ **7,562**

*of which: Overheads 462*

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>92%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	<b>18</b>
National staff (daily workers not included)	<b>96</b>

## KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ engaged in constructive dialogue with the transitional Guinean administration, which took into account ICRC recommendations related to the events of 28 September 2009
- ▶ provided training, expertise, funds and materials to boost the Red Cross Society of Guinea's emergency response capacities, enabling it to assist over 700 people affected by post-election violence
- ▶ with the National Society, raised awareness of IHL/international human rights law and the Movement among Guinean authorities, civil society and weapon bearers, including 370 instructors from the special election security force
- ▶ visited hundreds of people detained in connection with election-related violence and helped notify their families of their detention
- ▶ expanded its nutritional programme in prisons, providing 1,013 malnourished detainees with supplements to their official meals and reducing associated morbidity and mortality
- ▶ raised standards of care in 6 hospitals, providing specialist staff training and equipment to enhance the treatment of weapon-wounded patients and carrying out urgent renovations to infrastructure

In Guinea since 1970, the ICRC opened its delegation in Conakry in 2001. It seeks to protect people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, restore family links, enhance the capacity of the health system and improve water supply. It also visits detainees and advises the detaining authorities on detention-related matters. In parallel, it promotes IHL among the armed and security forces, political authorities and civil society. Since 2009, the delegation has provided support for the ICRC office in Sierra Leone. It works with each National Society to strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies and to promote the Movement.

## CONTEXT

Having entered the year in political turmoil, Guinea recovered a fragile stability in 2010 under a transitional government tasked with steering the country to its first democratic elections. Mindful of the role played by armed and security forces in quelling past unrest, the interim administration embarked on reform of these sectors with international support. It created a 16,000-strong special security force, known as FOSSEPEL, to maintain public order during the elections. A revised constitution, published by decree in May, required that provisions for the protection of human rights be integrated into national military and academic curricula.

A prolonged interval between calm but inconclusive presidential elections in June and the run-off in November slowed economic and political activity while fuelling tensions between rival supporters. With voting commonly drawn along ethnic lines, political differences aggravated underlying ethnic tensions among

communities. The November poll was marked by demonstrations, tensions and violence across the country. Several thousand people were temporarily displaced, fearing attack from opposition supporters. The announcement of the results triggered further violence, causing hundreds of casualties. The authorities declared a state of emergency, restoring calm. Guinea's new president took office on 21 December to pursue the country's democratic transformation.

Meanwhile, widespread unemployment and poverty, combined with limited access to basic services, contributed to difficult living conditions for much of the population. In December, refugees fleeing post-election insecurity in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire began arriving in south-east Guinea, adding strain on local resources.

In Sierra Leone, the government pursued efforts to consolidate peace and tackle corruption, poverty and unemployment ahead of elections in 2012.

### MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

#### PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
<b>Red Cross messages</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>UAMs/SCs*</b>
RCMs collected		84	
RCMs distributed		113	
Phone calls facilitated between family members		75	
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		21	3
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		47	5
			<b>Minors</b>
			6
			10
<b>Documents</b>			
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		1	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
<b>ICRC visits</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>
Detainees visited		3,007	
Detainees visited and monitored individually		71	3
Detainees newly registered		61	3
Number of visits carried out		282	
Number of places of detention visited		35	
<b>Restoring family links</b>		<b>Total</b>	
RCMs collected		81	
RCMs distributed		2	
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		7	

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

#### ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Women</b>	<b>Children</b>
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	740		100%
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	98,651	50%	30%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>				
Food	Beneficiaries	1,013		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	7,022		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,811		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
<b>Hospitals</b>				
Hospitals supported	Structures	6		

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2010, the ICRC focused on contingency planning ahead of Guinea's elections. Initially, it developed dialogue with the interim authorities to obtain their support for its protection, assistance and communication activities. Given the potential for election-related violence, it focused resources on helping strengthen the emergency response capacities of the Red Cross Society of Guinea and national health structures and, with the National Society, on raising awareness of humanitarian principles among those likely to have influence in maintaining calm.

The ICRC pursued its response to the humanitarian consequences of a political demonstration suppressed on 28 September 2009, providing the interim administration with a copy of its findings and recommendations concerning the incident. This contributed to constructive dialogue aimed at preventing abuses of civilian rights.

With the authorities' backing, the ICRC and the National Society familiarized military and security personnel with IHL, international human rights law and the Movement. In preparation for the elections, they trained FOSSEPEL instructors in the maintenance of public order. Meanwhile, National Society/ICRC teams raised awareness of IHL and the Movement among community leaders and other civil society actors, using radio to promote humanitarian principles widely. This facilitated safe Movement access to violence-affected people.

In parallel, the ICRC helped strengthen Guinean Red Cross emergency response capacities. With Movement partners, it contributed to the National Society's emergency action plan and reinforced its first-aid network. The ICRC also boosted its support to Guinean hospitals, providing specialist training, equipment and supplies to enhance the treatment of weapon-wounded patients, backed up by structural renovations. The first ICRC war-surgery module was introduced at Conakry University. Such preparations enabled the Movement to play a valuable role in assisting victims of violence surrounding the elections.

The ICRC visited detainees held by Guinea's Justice Ministry, and some held by the *gendarmerie* and the police, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. This included visits to hundreds of people detained in connection with election-related violence. Delegates continued to support the authorities in improving detainees' access to food, health care, water and sanitation. Where inmates required urgent assistance, the ICRC stepped in. It launched an emergency feeding programme for malnourished detainees, which was expanded mid-year. It also facilitated life-saving operations, distributed medical and hygiene supplies, and renovated dilapidated infrastructure.

National Society personnel received ICRC guidance and financial and logistical support to facilitate tracing/RCM services, ensuring these were available to separated relatives throughout Guinea and Sierra Leone. With the arrival of refugees from Côte d'Ivoire, trained teams swiftly deployed to help them contact family members left behind. To ensure the relevance of

family-links services, ICRC/National Society teams conducted an assessment to identify unmet needs in Guinea, and prepared for a similar exercise in Sierra Leone.

With the Guinean water authorities, the ICRC improved access to clean water for thousands of urban and rural dwellers and supported training in facility maintenance.

The ICRC continued to support the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society in raising its profile and assuming its peacetime responsibilities. With back-up from delegates, the National Society built support for IHL/international human rights law and the Movement among parliamentarians, armed and police forces and academic circles.

Coordination with Movement partners and other humanitarian actors ensured needs were met while avoiding duplication.

## CIVILIANS

Upon taking office, Guinea's transitional administration received a copy of the ICRC's confidential report concerning alleged human rights abuses documented during a political demonstration suppressed on 28 September 2009. Meetings with authorities and military and security officials (see *Authorities and Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*) served to remind them of their responsibilities to respect civilians at all times, including during elections.

### Violence-affected Guineans and refugees from Côte d'Ivoire receive prompt attention

Guineans wounded or displaced during violent demonstrations and intercommunal clashes, mainly linked to electoral tensions, received prompt attention from ICRC-trained National Society teams, who registered IDPs, administered first aid and evacuated the wounded to hospital (see *Wounded and sick* and *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Over 200 people seeking refuge in Guinea from post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire met National Society/ICRC teams, who assessed their needs, administered first aid and registered separated/unaccompanied children. Refugees sent word by telephone or RCM to relatives left behind to reassure them of their well-being, through family-links services provided in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire.

Meanwhile, three National Society branches acquired new ICRC-constructed premises, boosting their capacities to respond to local humanitarian needs.

### Guinean communities gain access to clean water

With technical and financial back-up from the ICRC, the Guinean water board pursued efforts to improve the water supply in urban and rural areas vulnerable in emergencies, benefiting 98,651 people in 2010. It demonstrated growing confidence in managing facilities previously rehabilitated by the ICRC. To encourage ownership, 50 water board engineers received expert maintenance training from the International Office for Water, financed by the ICRC.

In Kindia, Kouroussa and Mamou, some 63,600 residents gained better access to clean water following ICRC-supported network extensions or repairs, including 10,000 whose nearest water point was previously 3 km away. The upgrading of Kankan's water treatment plant, begun by the ICRC in 2009, saw production increase by 200%. As it proved technically unfeasible to construct a similar plant in Mali town, residents began to benefit from new wells instead.

Over 34,500 rural residents benefited similarly from new fountains constructed with the water authorities. The authorities established village water committees to maintain the facilities, thereby ensuring sustainability.

To cover communities' basic needs in an emergency, National Society/ICRC teams were trained to distribute contingency water and household supplies, but these were not required.

### **Guinean and Sierra Leonean families seek news of relatives**

In Guinea and Sierra Leone, family members separated by crises exchanged news using Movement tracing/RCM services.

Some 20 Guinean families requested help locating relatives unaccounted for from 28 September 2009. An association established after the incident developed dialogue with delegates, who shared their experience in this field to help alleviate the families' distress. With ICRC sponsorship, the country's leading forensic official enhanced his skills at an expert course on managing human remains, prompting him to propose a similar workshop for Conakry hospital personnel.

Some 740 formerly unaccompanied children in Guinea who, with ICRC support, had been reunited with relatives or had found other long-term solutions, received essential household items to help them resettle.

To ensure the relevance of Movement family-links services in Guinea, National Society/ICRC teams conducted an assessment to identify unmet needs. They then initiated dialogue with actors in contact with vulnerable groups, such as children sent abroad for their education, to gauge such groups' interest in family-links services. Communities in Sierra Leone stood to benefit from a similar assessment in 2011, preparations for which were in progress.

## **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Detainees in Guinea held by the Justice Ministry, and those in certain facilities run by the police or *gendarmerie*, received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Among those visited were hundreds detained in connection with election-related violence. Following its visits, the ICRC shared feedback, in confidence, with the authorities.

Especially vulnerable inmates, including foreigners, women, minors and people sentenced to death, were closely monitored and the authorities alerted to their particular needs. All inmates, including

the newly arrested, were able, through delegates, to contact their relatives or consular representatives by telephone or RCM.

### **Detainees benefit from vital nutritional and medical care and improved hygiene**

Detainees continued to suffer the repercussions of longstanding neglect of Guinea's prison system, with overcrowding straining infrastructure and the authorities' capacities to provide adequate food, medical attention, water and sanitation.

As insufficient food put detainees in grave danger, the most vulnerable became the focus of an ICRC emergency-feeding programme launched with the authorities, involving regular health monitoring. Initially targeting 16 prisons, the programme was expanded in June to include all vulnerable inmates under Justice Ministry jurisdiction. Between March and December, 1,013 malnourished detainees (on average 143 detainees/month) had their official meals supplemented with high-energy biscuits, resulting in a dramatic drop in severe malnutrition and associated mortality rates, which stabilized towards year-end.

The health monitoring helped ensure that detainees diagnosed with serious illnesses, such as tuberculosis, were referred for appropriate treatment. Eight inmates underwent life-saving operations financed by the ICRC. Detainees requiring less serious attention received on-site treatment more readily after the ICRC donated essential medicines and/or equipment to 12 prison infirmaries.

Efforts continued to reduce hygiene-associated health risks. During pest-control campaigns run by the authorities with ICRC support, inmates underwent treatment for scabies or skin infections. They were among 7,022 inmates in 28 prisons to receive ICRC-donated hygiene items. Following ICRC renovations to infrastructure in 10 facilities, 3,811 detainees gained improved access to clean water, safe waste disposal facilities, ventilation and natural lighting.

### **Health and Justice Ministries work to improve detainees' conditions**

The ICRC continued to urge the authorities to allocate adequate resources to cover detainees' basic needs. With ICRC encouragement, the ministries met more regularly to address priority issues.

To support the ministries in making a credible appeal to the Finance Ministry, delegates helped them calculate precise food requirements based on current detainee numbers. An ICRC assessment of official meal standards in different facilities enabled the authorities to review the services provided by caterers and take action where necessary to improve nutritional standards. Penitentiary and health officials familiarized themselves with internationally recognized standards thanks to an ICRC poster on recommended nutritional intake.

In efforts to improve prison health care, the chief doctor supervising prison health services began accompanying delegates on their visits. Together with the Health and Justice Ministries, they produced a standard job description for prison health workers, to which local

health, penitentiary and judicial officials were introduced at ICRC presentations. Health workers also had access to ICRC-developed guidance on monitoring procedures aimed at swiftly identifying and addressing symptoms. Meanwhile, the epidemic-management committee, health workers and the ICRC discussed detainees' access to national disease-prevention programmes.

To counter overcrowding, the Justice Ministry and the ICRC explored ways of accelerating the trial process for people in pre-trial detention. The authorities resolved a significant number of cases, contributing to a 10% reduction in the prison population. At the ICRC's instigation, the ministry strengthened cooperation with the firm contracted to overhaul Guinea's penitentiary infrastructure. They sought ICRC advice to ensure such infrastructure met internationally recognized standards, resulting in four blueprints adapted to Guinean needs.

The authorities appointed 600 penitentiary guards to better support detainees, and accepted the ICRC's proposal to help them train personnel to that effect.

### Sierra Leone

Detainees formerly held by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL), having been transferred to third countries in late 2009, received visits from delegates in those countries. The residual SCSL body in Freetown maintained contact with the relevant delegations.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Guinean health services continued to receive ICRC support to raise levels of care, focusing on the treatment of victims of violence. Paramedics and surgeons at Conakry, N'Zérékoré and Mamou hospitals and one military hospital acquired specialist techniques in caring for weapon-wounded patients at ICRC courses. They benefited from ongoing ICRC supervision in the workplace, receiving further training where necessary to reinforce their skills.

As part of contingency plans developed with ICRC input, staff at N'Zérékoré hospital, medical students and National Society volunteers undertook a simulation exercise, better preparing them to handle influxes of wounded. Conakry, Mamou and N'Zérékoré hospitals received ICRC dressing materials and surgical instruments to replace used or worn stocks. Contingency medical supplies ensured they were adequately equipped to treat casualties in an emergency.

Hospitals also benefited from ICRC renovations and upgraded equipment. In particular, the provision of clean running water improved hygiene conditions at Mamou, while an overhaul of electrics at Kindia enhanced operating conditions.

When violence flared in November, the Health Ministry invited delegates to help coordinate its response. In accordance with contingency plans, hospitals maintained close contact with the ICRC,

which provided advice and mobilized ICRC-supported National Society ambulances and stretcher-bearers as needed. Conakry's Donka hospital, which admitted the most victims, demonstrated its capacity to perform quality surgery, thanks partly to ICRC preparatory support.

With the introduction of an ICRC war-surgery module at Conakry University, 36 medical students became Guinea's first to acquire skills to treat weapon-wounded patients as an integral part of their syllabus.

## AUTHORITIES

Guinea's transitional administration engaged in constructive dialogue with the ICRC on issues related to the protection of civilians and the improvement of detainees' living conditions. Dialogue with national and local authorities intensified in the run-up to the elections. In particular, 210 officials learnt more about the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action through Guinean Red Cross/ICRC presentations, building acceptance of its work.

In Sierra Leone, national and international authorities regularly met National Society and ICRC representatives, reinforcing their understanding of these organizations' respective roles. The government welcomed ICRC support in accelerating IHL implementation. At a National Society/ICRC briefing, 60 parliamentarians reviewed the 1962 act governing the National Society's mandate and examined the steps involved in ratifying/implementing the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. Officials subsequently produced cabinet papers aimed at adopting the Geneva Conventions Act and creating a national IHL committee. In October, the country ratified the African Union Convention on IDPs.

Two representatives from each country advanced their IHL skills at an Economic Community of West African States/ICRC seminar (see *Nigeria*) with ICRC sponsorship, helping build national IHL capacities.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In line with provisions of the new constitution, Guinea's military command and the ICRC embarked on concerted efforts to build respect for humanitarian principles among military and security personnel to better prepare their response in case of unrest or violence.

High-ranking military and security officers devised a coordinated response plan with delegates, incorporating ICRC recommendations related to 28 September 2009 (see *Civilians*). This led to a draft cooperation agreement with the ICRC aimed at integrating IHL into forces' training. At the authorities' request, 370 FOSSEPEL instructors enhanced their understanding of international policing standards at National Society/ICRC courses and received tailored teaching tools, preparing them to train their peers.

During National Society/ICRC briefings countrywide, some 1,800 military officers and 1,100 *gendarmes*/police officers learnt more about their responsibilities during law and order operations, focusing on IHL and international human rights law respectively. They also raised their awareness of the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and the protection afforded by its emblems.

Such activities facilitated safe access by Movement personnel to victims of election-related violence.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Efforts focused on building support for the Movement and humanitarian principles among influential members of Guinean society to facilitate National Society/ICRC operations in case of violence.

Traditional leaders raised their awareness of these topics at National Society/ICRC presentations, contributing to their own efforts to calm intercommunal tensions. Similar briefings enabled trade unions, NGOs and youth groups to consider their role in promoting social cohesion. Meanwhile, religious leaders examined parallels between IHL and Islamic law at a conference organized by Conakry's Islamic Centre and the National Society/ICRC, attracting the support of Guinea's senior Muslim authority.

Contacts fostered with Guinean media helped increase public understanding of these topics. Pre-election radio broadcasts in local languages familiarized even remote communities with the Movement's emblems and humanitarian action. During election-related violence, additional broadcasts reinforced these messages and alerted communities to ICRC activities on behalf of those affected.

Around 1,000 students learnt about IHL and the Movement at events organized with an ICRC-trained lecturer, helping garner support among Guinea's future opinion-leaders. Many explored these subjects further at the delegation's research library. Students from six universities tested their understanding of IHL at a national moot court competition organized with ICRC support.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With ICRC support, the Guinean Red Cross strengthened its management, emergency response and family-links capacities, while the Sierra Leone Red Cross developed activities according to peacetime needs. Coordination with the International Federation and National Societies working internationally helped both organizations meet statutory obligations and address fundraising objectives.

In case of election-related violence, the Guinean Red Cross developed a contingency action plan with Movement partners. It reinforced its first-aid network with ICRC advice and material support, streamlining its first-aid curricula and upgrading volunteer skills and equipment. It joined forces with the ICRC to build widespread respect for Movement activities (see *Authorities, Armed forces and other bearers of weapons* and *Civil society*). These preparations enabled it to respond effectively to crises, directly assisting over 700 people with ICRC supervision and logistical support (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*). Such action earned it an increase in Health Ministry funding.

Backed by the Education Ministry, the Guinean Red Cross reoriented its school programme to engage a broader cross-section of youth in Movement activities.

In Sierra Leone, the National Society pursued efforts to boost its profile and raise support for IHL and the Movement, updating promotional materials with ICRC funding. It conducted a student IHL competition and briefed 2,335 military/security personnel and 60 parliamentarians (see *Authorities*). With ICRC guidance, it drafted terms of reference for its 2011 assessment of national family-links needs, drawing on lessons learnt in Guinea (see *Civilians*).