

RWANDA



Having worked in the country since 1960, the ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It visits detainees held in central prisons and places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities, while supporting the authorities in improving detainees' living conditions. It helps reunite children and their families who were separated in relation to the genocide and its aftermath or to violence in neighbouring countries, such as Burundi or the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation. It supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ People who had fled Burundi, minors and other persons separated from their families contacted or rejoined relatives using the Movement's family-links services.
- ▶ Detainees held in prisons and in military and police facilities received ICRC visits; they had better living conditions after ICRC-trained correctional service staff improved the quality of food, water and infrastructure in their facilities.
- ▶ Detention authorities, with ICRC support, took steps to improve health care in prisons: they monitored the implementation of national health standards revised in 2015 and repaired a health facility in one prison.
- ▶ ICRC-facilitated training enabled Rwandan Red Cross volunteers to assist victims of natural disasters and other people in need, and to conduct information sessions and launch multimedia campaigns on the Movement's work.
- ▶ Law faculties organized the first national moot court competition, as a result of recommendations made at past IHL round-tables for academics.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,991
Assistance	1,441
Prevention	781
Cooperation with National Societies	484
General	36
Total	5,734
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>350</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	94%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	15
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	72

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	6,428
RCMs distributed	3,764
Phone calls facilitated between family members	37,671
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)	73
People reunited with their families	57
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	<i>47</i>
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	56,523
Detainees visited and monitored individually	239
Number of visits carried out	74
Number of places of detention visited	28
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	99
RCMs distributed	131
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	196

ASSISTANCE	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	86
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	100
Cash	Beneficiaries	27

CONTEXT

Rwanda continued to host people fleeing neighbouring countries. There appeared to be fewer people seeking refuge from the effects of the violence that erupted in Burundi in 2015 (see *Burundi*), but an estimated 82,000 of them remained in Rwanda. Most of them were housed in transit centres and at a camp in Eastern Province; others were in urban areas. Some 73,000 refugees who had fled persistent insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC; see *Congo, Democratic Republic of the*) were also in Rwanda.

Former weapon bearers of Rwandan origin, including children, were repatriated from the DRC as part of the demobilization process there. Former fighters from the M23 armed group remained interned in facilities run by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR).

Changes occurred in Rwanda's security and justice sectors: notably, responsibility for supervising the Rwanda National Police (RNP) and the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) passed from the internal to the justice ministry.

Rwanda contributed troops to various peace-support missions in the Central African Republic, Haiti, Mali, South Sudan and Sudan. It also sought closer cooperation with other countries in security matters; to this end, it led efforts to prepare the Eastern Africa Standby Force for deployment as part of the African Standby Force and pledged troops for the African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to focus on: visiting detainees and working with the authorities to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions; restoring family links, jointly with the Rwandan Red Cross; and helping the National Society to strengthen its operational capacities.

Detainees held in prisons and military/police facilities received visits, conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures, during which their treatment and living conditions were monitored. ICRC delegates followed up inmates detained on security-related charges and former weapon bearers – including minors – individually. After these visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities concerned. Inmates contacted their families – or their consular representatives in the case of foreign inmates – through the Movement's family-links services. The ICRC issued attestations of detention that enabled certain detainees to have their status reviewed. It also continued to engage the authorities in dialogue to gain or maintain access to all detainees within its purview.

The RCS and the ICRC carried out joint efforts aimed at improving detainees' living conditions. Maintenance or installation of chlorine-, soap- and briquette-producing machines helped provide detainees with safe water and cleaner surroundings. The RCS sought to provide healthier meals to detainees by growing more fresh food on some prison farms. With ICRC support, it continued to implement a project to improve nutrition, hygiene and disease prevention and control in two prisons. One health facility was renovated and implementation of national prison health-care standards drafted in 2015 was monitored. Guided by the ICRC, the RCS improved its methods of collecting and using health-related data: for instance, it assessed the nutritional status

of detainees in all prisons and promoted the timely submission of monthly health reports among prison staff.

Members of families separated by past or ongoing conflicts or by other situations of violence – among them, former weapon bearers, returnees and people fleeing Burundi – contacted their relatives through Movement family-links services, which included the provision of phone credit and phone-charging services at transit centres and refugee camps. The ICRC monitored the welfare of unaccompanied minors – including those previously associated with fighting forces – while their families were being traced, and reunited them with their relatives where possible and appropriate. The ICRC also sought, through material assistance and follow-up visits, to ease the transition for minors reunited with their families. All this was done in coordination with local authorities, other organizations involved in child protection and other National Societies or ICRC delegations concerned.

Dialogue with the authorities, including military and police officials, sought to raise further support for IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention. The Rwanda Law Reform Commission and the ICRC sought partners for a project to harmonize domestic legislation with IHL. At ICRC briefings, Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) officers and troops furthered their knowledge of IHL before leaving for peace-support missions abroad. Presentations and events organized with ICRC support – including the first national moot court competition in the country – kept students and university lecturers abreast of IHL-related issues.

The ICRC continued to help the National Society expand its operational capacities. It worked with the National Society's emergency teams to respond to the ongoing influx of people from Burundi, notably by providing family-links services and medical care, and to natural disasters. Public events and multimedia productions promoted the Fundamental Principles and the Movement's work among a wider audience.

CIVILIANS

Minors and people who fled Burundi re-establish contact with their families

People separated from their relatives by events in Burundi and the DRC, migration or other circumstances, and members of families dispersed by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, used Movement family-links services – including those available on the ICRC's family-links website (familylinks.icrc.org) – to restore or maintain contact with relatives in Rwanda or abroad. Among them were Congolese refugees in Rwanda, Rwandan refugees abroad, and former weapon bearers repatriated to Rwanda, including children (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

Some families had the names of their missing relatives (204 people) broadcast over national radio, as a result of which the whereabouts of six people were established. Others filed tracing requests: over 70 people were found through the tracing service.

As Burundians continued to seek refuge in Rwanda, the National Society and the ICRC went on providing family-links services while monitoring the situation and adjusting activities to accommodate changing needs. Most of the 330 unaccompanied/separated minors registered during the reporting period were Burundian. They and thousands of other people fleeing violence made a total of almost 37,700 phone calls to their families back

home or elsewhere. People who had fled Burundi and who had their own mobile phones made use of credit and phone-charging services offered at transit centres and refugee camps by the ICRC and its partners.

Children rejoin their families

National Society and ICRC support enabled over 40 children to rejoin their families. Among them were six Burundian minors, who were reunited with their families across the border by the ICRC. All of them received aid – food, transportation and accommodation – for their journey home. Some were also given household items and/or cash to ease their return to family life. They also received follow-up visits from the ICRC to gauge the extent of their reintegration.

At year's end, the cases of 1,135 unaccompanied minors were still being followed by the ICRC in Rwanda; the families of some of them were traced. Special attention was paid to 41 of them who were formerly associated with weapon bearers. The National Society and the ICRC maintained close coordination with MIDIMAR and humanitarian agencies involved in child protection, to ensure that unaccompanied children received proper attention and that their particular needs were met.

The National Society continued to improve its family-links services; it did so with material support and training from the ICRC, particularly during joint visits to and provision of services at refugee camps and transit centres. The National Society coordinated these activities with the local authorities, other National Societies or ICRC delegations concerned and other humanitarian organizations. Instead of drafting regional contingency plans and family-links-related working procedures as planned for 2016, the National Society, with ICRC support, reinforced – through training – its volunteers' ability to conduct family-links activities during emergencies and to evaluate their response. During a forensics conference and a course held in Côte d'Ivoire, a medical staff member learnt about recent developments in forensic science concerning the identification of human remains.

People wounded while fleeing Burundi obtain medical care

ICRC support enabled some people wounded while fleeing Burundi to receive medical attention. Treatment costs for about 20 wounded people were covered by the ICRC, which also facilitated their access to secondary or tertiary care, as needed. Medical equipment was provided for some hospitals, with a view to bolstering their capacity to respond to emergencies – in particular, to treat weapon-wounded patients. MIDIMAR, other humanitarian actors concerned and the ICRC established a referral system to help ensure that wounded people received care. Rwandan government departments and the ICRC continued to discuss their roles in assisting patients, particularly those who had crossed into Rwanda.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Inmates at 28 detention facilities under the authority of the RCS, the RNP and the RDF received ICRC visits, conducted in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. ICRC delegates monitored their treatment and living conditions, paying particular attention to: people held for reasons related to State security; former weapon bearers, including minors, in camps run by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, and former M23 fighters interned in Rwanda; and detainees with specific needs, such as the elderly, foreigners and vulnerable women. People convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and serving their

sentences in Rwanda also received visits. The ICRC engaged the authorities in dialogue to gain or maintain access to all detainees within its purview.

After these visits, delegates shared their findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities. These reports, together with ICRC technical or material support – including guidance for ensuring respect for judicial guarantees – helped the authorities take further action to bring detainees' living conditions and treatment in line with internationally recognized standards. Prison managers and over 200 newly recruited prison guards and service staff learnt more about these standards at a management course facilitated by the ICRC and at ICRC presentations, respectively. The RCS and the ICRC established a coordination mechanism to improve their working relationship and dialogue on these matters.

The ICRC issued attestations of detention on a case-by-case basis, enabling some inmates to have their detention status reviewed.

Detainees, including minors at the Nyagatare rehabilitation centre and women at the Ngoma central prison, restored or maintained contact with their families through RCMs and oral messages relayed by ICRC delegates. Foreign detainees notified their consular representatives of their detention through the ICRC. The ICRC followed up some detainees after their release to check on their welfare.

Detainees in RCS facilities have more fresh food and better access to health care

Inmates benefited from the RCS's efforts to promote the production of vegetables and other fresh food at all facilities within its purview. With ICRC support, the RCS increased fresh-food production at some prison farms, using natural fertilizer produced through biogas systems previously installed by the ICRC.

The RCS monitored the implementation of the revised national standards for prison health care, which it had reviewed with ICRC support in 2015. It launched several initiatives for collecting and making effective use of health-related data to monitor detainees' conditions and address any issues that may arise. For instance, correctional staff assessed the nutritional status of detainees in all prisons, drawing on ICRC expertise and on the experience they had gained from conducting similar surveys in two prisons in 2015 (see below). The RCS encouraged the timely submission of monthly prison health reports to the RCS medical service, and installed databases in all its facilities and trained data managers and its central medical team in their use. In line with ICRC recommendations, the RCS restructured its medical service so that it could regularly survey and respond to emerging prison health needs – for psychological care, for instance. At meetings, and with the ICRC's help, the RCS, the health ministry and others concerned identified gaps in health services at places of detention and their roles in addressing them. The director of the RCS's medical services attended a post-graduate course with ICRC support.

As part of its strategy to improve health services in prisons over a five-year period (2013–2017), the RCS, with ICRC support, pursued a project to tackle issues related to nutrition, hygiene and disease prevention and control. The RCS and the ICRC selected the Huye central prison and the Ngoma women's prison as the pilot sites for the project. Detainees at Huye had access to a health facility that had been renovated and equipped with ICRC support.

Authorities improved their ability to systematically monitor the living conditions of detainees at both sites by means of a new software tool. Programmed in line with a public-health approach, the software gave prison staff the means to track hygiene levels and detainees' access to health care and to such necessities as clothes; it also helped them monitor adherence to the revised standards for prison health care (see above).

Detainees benefit from water-supply facilities and other infrastructure maintained by correctional staff

The 53,000 detainees in the central prisons were protected more effectively against malaria after the RCS led a fumigation campaign – using a new protocol – in response to the increased incidence of the disease throughout Rwanda. They also benefited from the renovation of prison infrastructure carried out by prison authorities and the ICRC, under a cost-sharing agreement between them; the agreement aimed to help the authorities gradually assume full responsibility for improving detainees' living conditions. Inmates in all 14 RCS-run prisons benefited from repairs to sanitation and other facilities.

The maintenance of previously installed chlorine-, soap- and briquette-producing machines, or the installation of new ones, in 13 of the 14 RCS-run facilities provided the RCS with a sustainable in-house water treatment and sanitation system, and detainees with clean water for drinking and personal hygiene. After undergoing training, 26 prison personnel assumed responsibility for using and maintaining the machines and for conducting technical evaluations to optimize the machines' performance. The RCS appointed an infrastructure maintenance technician at each prison. RCS staff strengthened their capacities in infrastructure maintenance and in hygiene promotion at a refresher course.

The ICRC also provided material assistance to health facilities in the Muhanga central prison and in a camp holding former M23 fighters interned in Rwanda. In particular: the former fighters benefited from hygiene materials distributed by the ICRC; one of them received a prosthetic device and a visually impaired internee obtained a mobility aid.

Some 180 detainees displaced by a fire in the Nyarugenge central prison were housed in temporary shelters provided by the ICRC; material donations helped the authorities meet some of the displaced detainees' needs.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Military and peacekeeping units take steps to incorporate IHL in their operations and training

Humanitarian issues affecting the region were discussed during dialogue with the authorities; the ICRC's interaction with police and military officials helped raise their awareness of IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*). The justice ministry and the ICRC explored possibilities for cooperation in line with the ongoing changes in Rwanda's justice sector.

The ICRC was unable to secure regular teaching slots at the country's main military academy; however, it maintained dialogue with senior RDF officers on topics of common concern. The RDF sought the ICRC's advice for implementing the International Committee of Military Medicine's recommendations for protecting the delivery of health care. The RDF continued to receive support for incorporating IHL in training for its staff. One RDF officer

attended an IHL course in San Remo; other officers and hundreds of troops learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's work in training sessions.

Predeployment briefings for RDF units assigned to peace-support missions continued. Key messages about sexual violence and the need to protect health-care services were conveyed at the briefings. The Rwanda Peace Academy and the ICRC worked together to distribute a module on peacekeeping, with a view to helping peace-support troops from Rwanda and the surrounding sub-region increase their understanding of IHL.

Around 100 police officers and law students learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's activities at a conference held at the National Police College. Training activities with the police however remained limited, owing to ongoing reforms within the RNP.

Government bodies and the National Society work on various instruments to implement IHL

Rwanda shared its views on the Strengthening IHL process during a meeting of States in Switzerland (see *International law and policy*). The Rwanda Law Reform Commission and the ICRC sought partners for a project to harmonize domestic legislation with IHL. The results of the ICRC's research on Rwanda's existing policy on protecting IDPs were incorporated in a report on the implementation of the African Union Convention on IDPs (see *African Union*). The Rwandan Red Cross continued to work on a draft law about its status as an auxiliary to the government and the proper use of the emblems protected under IHL; with ICRC support, it reviewed, amended and translated the draft into the local language, and distributed it to the government ministries concerned for comment.

Lecturers and students strengthened their grasp of IHL at the first national moot court competition in Rwanda – organized as a result of recommendations made during past law faculty roundtables – and at other local/overseas competitions. They also learnt more through reference materials provided by the ICRC and ICRC presentations at different universities.

The general public learnt about issues of humanitarian concern and the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities through various events – such as those held to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), dissemination sessions, and newsletters produced by the National Society with ICRC support.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Rwandan Red Cross continued to develop its capacity to respond to emergencies and raise support for the Movement, with financial, technical and material support from the ICRC. National Society staff, volunteers and instructors learnt more about doing their work in safety at information sessions on the Safer Access Framework, elements of which were also incorporated in the first-aid training curriculum. The National Society evaluated its emergency preparedness and response at a simulation exercise held nationwide. The ICRC helped it to streamline its management systems. Movement partners provided other support, in line with a clearly defined set of responsibilities.

The National Society expanded its countrywide network of emergency teams from 114 to 238 groups (2,700 members). These teams were trained in specific areas: restoring family links, health-related matters, including first aid, and disaster response.

Together with other volunteers, they provided assistance for people who had fled Burundi, people in Congolese refugee camps (see *Civilians*), and others. They also responded to floods and landslides in May, which affected around 1,000 families in four districts.

With ICRC support, volunteers representing 30 branches and six university chapters of the National Society developed their

communication skills at training sessions. Some 420 National Society communication volunteers enlightened the public on the Movement's work, through information sessions and such tools as mobile cinema – which showed films on community health issues – and TV and radio programmes.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC		
RCMs collected		6,428	600		
RCMs distributed		3,764	552		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		37,671			
Names published in the media		204			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		57			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	7			
People transferred or repatriated		23			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		114	13	35	46
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	12			
Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established)		73			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	5			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		351	42	109	107
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	117			
Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		330	71		18
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		47	13		
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	3			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		1,135	329		41
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		56,523	4,112	439	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		239	14		4
Detainees newly registered		36	3		3
Number of visits carried out		74			
Number of places of detention visited		28			
RCMs and other means of family contact					
RCMs collected		99			
RCMs distributed		131			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		196			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		32			

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	86		86
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	100		100
Cash	Beneficiaries	27		27
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	54,085	3,245	541
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		51		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	17		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	4		