



ICRC/AR_2016
 + ICRC delegation * Dominican Republic is covered by the ICRC delegation in Haiti

The ICRC has been present in Haiti since 1994. It responds to acute humanitarian situations in prisons and supports national authorities in improving conditions of detention and respect for judicial guarantees. While sustaining dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers on humanitarian concerns, it helps the national security forces disseminate international human rights law, other relevant norms and standards, and humanitarian principles. With other Movement partners, the ICRC helps strengthen the emergency response capacities of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the Dominican Red Cross.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ In Haiti, dozens of detainees were released in relation to efforts by the justice ministry and penitentiary legal staff, backed with the ICRC's technical advice, to tackle prolonged pre-trial detention via streamlined case management.
- ▶ Although the Haitian authorities sought to preserve the results of past measures to ensure detainees' treatment and living conditions, budgetary, staffing and other constraints considerably hampered their ability to do so effectively.
- ▶ Detainees saw some improvements in their circumstances, partly through the support of ICRC-mobilized actors or – in acute situations – of the ICRC to the Haitian authorities, but food-supply, sanitation and health-care issues persisted.
- ▶ The Haitian National Red Cross Society built its capacities with ICRC input. Its agreements with the International Federation and the ICRC helped facilitate coordinated Movement action in behalf of hurricane-affected households.

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	40
Phone calls facilitated between family members	574
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	10,750
Number of visits carried out	44
Number of places of detention visited	18
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	69
RCMs distributed	36
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	7

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	542
Assistance	1,107
Prevention	393
Cooperation with National Societies	694
General	19
Total	2,755
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>168</i>

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	95%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	4
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	32

ASSISTANCE

	2016 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Services and training	Beneficiaries	200

CONTEXT

The long-protracted presidential and legislative electoral processes in Haiti – at times, marked by violent protests – eventually led to the election of a new president in November; polls for some legislative positions were pending at end-2016.

Grave socio-economic conditions prevailed, notably in terms of the difficulties in accessing essential services, including within the penitentiary system. These were exacerbated by political uncertainty and, in October, the passage of Hurricane Matthew, which affected some 2 million people. Limited access to clean water, for instance, contributed to the rise of cholera cases. The circumstances endured by detainees were compounded by overcrowding – mainly linked to a very high rate of prolonged pre-trial detention – and food-supply gaps, which caused malnutrition.

The Haitian authorities and their international partners continued to strengthen the capacities of the Haitian National Police (PNH). The UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) was undergoing reconfiguration, towards extending more support to the authorities' development initiatives; its troop reduction continued.

Haitians and people of Haitian descent continued to return from the Dominican Republic, voluntarily or otherwise, because of the Dominican Republic's tightened immigration policies – a source of tension between the two States.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In Haiti, the ICRC backed the authorities' efforts to meet detainees' needs, mainly by providing technical input and mobilizing international actors to lend support. It monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees during visits conducted according to its standard procedures. Based on these visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations with the Penitentiary Administration Directorate (DAP), the PNH, and the health and justice ministries, urging them to take appropriate action; budgetary, staffing and other constraints, however, considerably hampered their ability to respond effectively. In the continued absence of official coordination mechanisms, the ICRC bolstered its dialogue and networking efforts to foster cooperation between relevant local and international parties in addressing detention-related issues.

To help tackle prolonged pre-trial detention, the ICRC supported the justice ministry and penitentiary legal assistants in following up the cases of the detainees concerned. Hundreds of detainees thus saw their cases handled more efficiently; dozens of them were released.

Detainees had reduced health risks through the support that the ICRC or ICRC-mobilized actors provided to the authorities. For example, some newly detained people were vaccinated against cholera, during a campaign undertaken partly by DAP medical staff. Although the appointment of an ICRC-trained pharmacist and ICRC-donated stocks of essential drugs helped the DAP run its central pharmacy, it struggled to maintain the pharmacy's daily operations, because of a lack of resources. The DAP seldom shouldered inmates' laboratory-examination fees, and only at one prison; as in the past, it was prompted by the ICRC to do so systematically for all detainees. The ICRC extended ad hoc assistance to malnourished inmates. Through dialogue, it sought

to persuade the PNH, the DAP and the justice ministry to provide these detainees with sufficient food. Such dialogue also covered the ICRC's concerns regarding the adequacy of the overall prison food supply. This contributed to the official approval of new contracts with relevant service providers, fending off shortages in the short term; supply issues, however, persisted. A working group led by the health ministry finished developing a prison health policy; it awaited formalization by the health and justice ministries.

The authorities' ability to maintain a hygienic and orderly environment for detainees was limited; ICRC initiatives, including infrastructural repairs or upgrades, helped improve the situation of some detainees.

Towards ensuring an effective response to emergencies in Haiti, the Haitian National Red Cross Society enhanced its operational capacities, with comprehensive ICRC support, and entered into coordination agreements with the International Federation and the ICRC. The agreements notably helped facilitate resource mobilization and maximize humanitarian action by Movement components, in connection with the passage of Hurricane Matthew; thousands of households received assistance, including for contacting family members.

With the help of Movement and other partners, the National Society boosted its family-links services, particularly to enable family members dispersed by migration or disaster to reconnect. Its informational materials helped Haitians increase their awareness of the need to respect the red cross emblem and ensure safe passage for ambulances.

Through dialogue, training and public communication, the ICRC promoted IHL, pertinent internationally recognized standards and the Movement among the authorities, weapon bearers, civil society representatives and international actors. It kept influential parties updated on its adaptation of activities as it focused on reinforcing local ownership and sustainability of the response to humanitarian needs; this entailed, *inter alia*, maintaining its status as a delegation for the time being, instead of changing into a mission by end-March, as initially planned.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The authorities face challenges in ensuring detainees' welfare

During visits conducted in accordance with its standard procedures, the ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of 10,757 in 18 places of detention; it paid particular attention to respect for judicial guarantees and detainees' access to health services and open air. Some juvenile detainees reconnected with relatives, using ICRC family-links services. After its visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations with the DAP, the PNH and the health and justice ministries, urging them to take appropriate action.

Although these authorities sought to preserve the results of past measures to ensure that the circumstances of detainees conformed to internationally recognized standards, budgetary, staffing and other constraints – some linked to the political situation (see *Context*) – considerably hampered their ability to do so effectively. They obtained support from either ICRC-mobilized international actors or, in acute situations, the ICRC (see below).

Given the continued inactivity of the DAP's sectorial coordination platforms working on penitentiary reform and the absence of alternative official mechanisms, the ICRC bolstered its dialogue and

networking to foster cooperation between relevant local and international actors in helping address detainees' needs. Such included facilitating periodic meetings, where detention-related issues, and ways to keep them on the government's agenda, were discussed.

Eligible detainees are released, via the efforts of trained legal assistants

In line with the goal of promoting respect for judicial guarantees, the pertinent actors continued to receive ICRC advice and/or training. The justice ministry sought to broaden its efforts to tackle pre-trial detention: for instance, prosecutors assigned to Port-au-Prince city worked towards streamlining the management of 300 cases. This led to such results as decisions on the cases of 54 people held in preventive detention, and the release of 92 detainees, contributing to the alleviation of overcrowding. In parallel, penitentiary legal assistants and clerks lobbied the judiciary to expedite the resolution of detainees' cases, especially those held for protracted periods and/or with particular vulnerabilities, through representations on the detainees' behalf. Through a project funded by UNICEF, which the ICRC had mobilized, these assistants: underwent training and regular coaching, to better handle their caseloads and instruct some detainees to guide their peers in basic legal protocols; and had improved working conditions, following office upgrades.

The detaining authorities continued to be urged by ICRC to ensure inmates' access to outdoor areas.

PNH recruits augmented their knowledge of pertinent standards, including those linked to detention, during seminars (see *Actors of influence*); 183 were later assigned to various prisons.

Hundreds of detainees receive assistance to lower health risks

Some 430 newly detained people in Jacmel and Les Cayes prisons were vaccinated against cholera, during a campaign by WHO and the ICRC; each inmate received the second of two doses from DAP medical staff. Around 470 scabies-afflicted detainees received treatment from the penitentiary medical department, with ICRC support. Although the appointment of an ICRC-trained pharmacist and ICRC-donated stocks of essential drugs helped the DAP run its central pharmacy, it struggled to maintain the pharmacy's daily operations, because of a lack of resources. The DAP seldom shouldered inmates' laboratory-examination fees, and only at one prison; as in the past, it was prompted by the ICRC to do so systematically for all detainees. Fifty-five nurses honed their skills in providing health care to detainees – including the prevention and treatment of cholera, scabies, TB and Zika virus disease – during workshops organized by the British embassy in Haiti, mobilized to this end by the ICRC.

DAP and/or ICRC personnel regularly assessed the nutritional status of detainees; DAP medical supervisors were encouraged by the ICRC to ensure adherence to pertinent best practices. The number of detainees with malnutrition was found to have decreased in some prisons, and increased in others. Malnourished detainees received high-calorie food supplements, helping ease their condition, from the ICRC on an ad hoc basis. The ICRC urged the PNH, the DAP and the justice ministry to assume their responsibilities in providing malnourished detainees with sufficient food; some of these detainees were later covered by a nutrition programme led by the DAP, with ICRC financial and technical support. Dialogue with these authorities – and with the president and the prime minister – also covered the ICRC's concerns regarding the adequacy of the overall prison food supply,

owing partly to the non-renewal of contracts with pertinent service providers. All this contributed to the official approval of new contracts with these providers, fending off shortages in the short term; supply issues, however, persisted.

A working group led by the health ministry – composed of the DAP and other partners, including the ICRC – finished developing a prison health policy; its formalization by the health and justice ministries remained pending.

Detainees reduce their risk of cholera

The authorities' ability to maintain a hygienic, orderly environment for detainees was limited; ICRC initiatives helped improve the situation of some detainees. A total of 395 inmates in Gonaïves and Petit-Goâve prisons had increased access to water and sanitation, following emergency repair and maintenance work to water-supply and sewage systems. In Jacmel prison, 560 detainees could better avert infection after a treatment area for sick detainees was renovated. Local engineers, with ICRC backing, completed a new cell block in Les Cayes prison; up to 18 minors could thus be held in more suitable conditions. In this and one other prison, hurricane-damaged facilities (see *Context*), including roofing and utility systems, were repaired, benefiting some 1,406 detainees. Around 6,240 detainees in five prisons received hygiene kits and cleaning materials to help lower their risk of cholera, particularly after the hurricane; some also benefited from flood-control measures. In six prisons, 107 particularly vulnerable inmates – women, minors and those sick – had increased protection from such ailments as Zika virus disease, after mosquito nets were installed. About 300 detainees in Pétion-Ville women's prison learnt more about avoiding the said disease, during information sessions.

The authorities received an evaluation report, including recommendations for improvement, on the work of the penitentiary technicians who had joined a 2015 ICRC workshop. Thirty-two penitentiary technicians honed their skills at a workshop organized in mid-2016. These workshops were held in line with an agreement with the authorities to help address, through training, the limited functionality of equipment and facilities that had previously been renovated or maintained with ICRC support. Tools and equipment were to support the regular maintenance of prison facilities, particularly plumbing and electricity systems. The authorities began work on developing a countrywide infrastructure-maintenance plan.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The ICRC engaged, through dialogue and training, with the authorities, security forces, civil society representatives and international actors; all of them also had access to ICRC-produced multimedia resources. This helped promote the protection of vulnerable people, notably detainees (see *People deprived of their freedom*), and facilitate humanitarian activities for them, especially during emergencies (see also *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Such contact also fostered acceptance for IHL and the Movement.

The ICRC kept influential parties updated on its adaptation of activities as it focused on reinforcing local ownership and sustainability of the response to humanitarian needs.

Security personnel strengthen their grasp of pertinent standards

During seminars organized by the PNH's training academy and the ICRC, over 1,400 PNH recruits learnt more about: internationally recognized standards applicable to their duties – particularly,

on the use of force and detention; and the Movement. About 100 MINUSTAH officers – briefed by ICRC delegates in their countries of origin before their deployment– refreshed their understanding of these, during dissemination sessions in Haiti.

Seven Dominican military officers deepened their knowledge of IHL and international policing standards, during their ICRC-supported participation in courses abroad (see *Mexico City*).

Haitian law on the red cross emblem awaits entry into force

Twenty staff members of the Haitian foreign affairs ministry increased their familiarity with the ICRC's mandate and activities during an ICRC briefing, held at the ministry's request.

Some 80 legal professionals further their knowledge of IHL and international human rights law at a training course organized by an international human rights institute, during which the ICRC made a presentation. Secondary-school and university students learnt about these subjects, during information sessions conducted by a local human rights organization and the ICRC.

The lower house of Haiti's bicameral legislature adopted a law protecting the red cross emblem, following joint efforts to this end by the National Society/ICRC; the law awaited entry into force. The draft of a new penal code, to which the ICRC contributed as part of its work to advance detention-related reform (see *People deprived of their freedom*), remained under discussion by civil society representatives.

The Dominican national IHL committee received periodic encouragement from the ICRC to promote domestic IHL implementation. The Haitian foreign affairs and justice ministries continued to study the prospect of acceding to IHL-related treaties, with ICRC input.

Haitians learn more about the need to respect the red cross emblem

Haitians increased their awareness of the need to respect the red cross emblem and ensure safe passage for ambulances – particularly during emergencies – and of the Movement, with the help of such National Society informational materials as radio spots, produced with Movement support, including the ICRC. The National Society established a communication unit, to strengthen its capacities in this field.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Despite staffing and other constraints, the Haitian Red Cross enhanced its operational capacities (see also *Actors of influence*) with financial, logistical, material and technical backing from the ICRC.

The Haitian Red Cross bolsters its emergency response

During ICRC-facilitated workshops on first aid and the Safer Access Framework, Haitian Red Cross personnel honed their pertinent skills. Various branches received emergency supplies. In the tension-prone Martissant district of Port-au-Prince, volunteers treated and/or evacuated about 2,400 injured people – some hurricane-stricken (see *Context*) – and shared key violence-prevention messages with the community. Discussions with the National Society, aimed at promoting the full recognition of these volunteers and their formal affiliation with a local branch to reinforce the National Society's ability to operate in Martissant and similar areas, continued.

The Haitian Red Cross finished drafting its five-year strategic plan with input from the International Federation and the ICRC. Pursuant to this, and to ensure a coordinated Movement response to emergencies in Haiti, the National Society entered into: a tripartite agreement, with the International Federation and the ICRC; and a partnership framework agreement, with the ICRC. These notably helped facilitate resource mobilization and maximize humanitarian action by Movement components, including the Dominican Red Cross, in connection with the hurricane; some 10,000 households received assistance, including for contacting family members (see also *People deprived of their freedom*).

The Haitian Red Cross reunites hurricane-dispersed families

The National Society, with ICRC support, continued strengthening its family-links services, to better enable relatives separated by migration or disaster to reconnect (see *Context*). For example, in some badly hurricane-hit areas, the National Society collected tracing requests, facilitated phone calls, and helped over 200 people reunite with their families. A family-links services coordinator: updated pertinent guidelines; developed a plan to promote the organization's family-links services; trained personnel assigned to border areas, with American Red Cross funding; and delivered a refresher course for Haitian and Dominican National Society volunteers. The Haitian Red Cross formalized a memorandum of understanding, on coordination to help dispersed families reconnect, with UNICEF, which had been mobilized by the ICRC to this end.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
RCMs and other means of family contact			UAMs/SC	
RCMs collected		40		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		574		
Names published on the ICRC family-links website		188		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		10,750	712	295
Number of visits carried out		44		
Number of places of detention visited		18		
RCMs and other means of family contact				
RCMs collected		69		
RCMs distributed		36		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		7		

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)				
Services and training	Beneficiaries	200	40	20
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)¹				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,749	294	46
Services and training	Beneficiaries	4,517	80	40
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	3,901	78	39
Health				
Visits carried out by health staff		7		
Places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	6		
Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff	Structures	1		

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.