



# ethiopia

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

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	5,936
Assistance	13,275
Prevention	2,435
Cooperation with National Societies	1,408
General	-

► **23,055**

of which: *Overheads* 1,404

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>88%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

<b>68</b> expatriates
<b>388</b> national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2006, the ICRC:

- monitored the individual cases of 2,088 security detainees in 234 detention facilities and improved infrastructure in prisons housing some 7,700 inmates;
- improved access to clean water for some 150,000 residents and distributed food to 30,000 IDPs in violence-prone regions; as drought relief, trucked in water for 70,000 people, provided 24,000 people with food and 42,000 people with seeds and tools, and treated 336,000 head of livestock against disease;
- together with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, distributed over 14,000 RCMs and collected some 16,000 RCMs on behalf of family members separated by conflict;
- trained armed forces instructors to teach IHL and conducted IHL workshops and briefings for over 30,000 military, security and police personnel;
- supported 8 physical rehabilitation centres that treated some 9,000 patients and significantly boosted their production of artificial limbs and other mobility devices;
- provided the Ethiopian Red Cross with funds, relief goods and logistics back-up to help drought, flood and conflict victims.

## CONTEXT

Over 2006, relative calm returned to Ethiopia's urban centres after the 2005 post-election unrest, but political tensions persisted. Conflict intensified in the Somali Regional State (SRS), a severe drought hit southern areas, followed by flash floods, and at year-end, the government intervened militarily in neighbouring Somalia.

An Ethiopian parliamentary enquiry into the post-election unrest, published in October 2006, concluded that security forces did not use excessive force, and put the number of civilian casualties at around 900. The trial was in progress of the some 100 people remaining in custody, mainly opposition party members. Some international donors critical of the government's reaction during the 2005 disturbances cancelled their direct funding to Ethiopia, but this was later reinstated.

Armed violence continued to flare up in various regions of Ethiopia, fuelled by a mix of ethnic and political grievances. Armed opposition groups were operating in the SRS, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Oromia and Tigray. Ethnic clashes again affected Gambella, sometimes involving the army, as well as the SRS, Afar and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS). The level of violence subsided in the second half of 2006, except in the SRS, where clashes between government forces and the opposition Ogaden National Liberation Front intensified.

South-eastern Ethiopia was hit by a severe drought in early 2006, followed by flash floods in the second half of the year. Good rainy seasons elsewhere, however, produced above-average harvests in 2005 and 2006. Nonetheless, 10 million Ethiopians, or one person in eight, remained dependent on food aid.

In late December, Ethiopian armed forces entered into the conflict in Somalia, assisting Somalia's transitional federal government in ousting the Supreme Islamic Courts Council from most areas it controlled. To the north, unresolved border issues stalled the demarcation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea frontier for the fourth consecutive year.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	56,633	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	2,088	Food	Beneficiaries	54,000
Number of visits carried out	379	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	17,904
Number of places of detention visited	234	Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	369,558
<b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>		Water supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)	Beneficiaries	219,206
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	7,760
RCMs collected	16,150	<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
RCMs distributed	14,423	<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>		
People reunited with their families	43	Patients receiving services	Patients	8,956
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>		Prostheses delivered	Pieces	1,828
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	6,808	Orthoses delivered	Pieces	3,560
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	6,061			
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006	1,347			
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>				
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	46			
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	43			
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006	496			
<b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued	59			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	396			

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC operations focused on protecting and assisting people affected by non-international armed conflict and other situations of armed violence and on meeting the needs remaining from the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea. A sub-delegation opened in Addis Ababa to facilitate the implementation of activities in the surrounding regions of Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia. Activities had to be suspended in the SRS after two ICRC staff were kidnapped there by armed assailants on 18 September. They were released unconditionally five days later. After obtaining firm security guarantees from the perpetrators, the ICRC resumed work in the region in early December.

The ICRC monitored violence-prone regions, documented alleged problems faced by communities and, where necessary, made representations to the parties concerned, in accordance with humanitarian principles and, where applicable, IHL. People directly affected by armed violence, mainly IDPs, were given, as needed, food, shelter materials and essential household items.

The ICRC also mounted a drought-relief operation in the SRS between February and May. The emergency aid (food, water and agricultural, veterinary and health assistance) targeted the worst-off families in areas of the SRS where other organizations faced security and logistics constraints. In

parallel, the delegation carried out scheduled assistance projects aimed at helping communities in five violence-affected regions to preserve or improve their livelihoods. In the second half of 2006, the ICRC began adapting those projects in line with recommendations made in an independent evaluation, finalized in August 2006, of its 2004–2006 economic security programme in Ethiopia.

By year-end, despite continuous efforts, the ICRC had not yet regained access to federal prisons, denied since the November 2005 post-election unrest, and some other main detention facilities. Delegates visited some 200 other places of detention countrywide, monitoring the treatment and living conditions of security detainees and informing the authorities, in confidence, of its findings and recommendations. The ICRC encouraged and supported the authorities' initiatives to improve detention conditions, while stepping in where necessary to upgrade prison infrastructure and provide medical care.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC followed up with the authorities any remaining cases of former POWs of Eritrean origin, as well as requests from families for news of relatives still missing in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea. It assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia, delivered RCMs sent between relatives separated by the closed border, and reunited vulnerable people with

family across the border. Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia also used the tracing and RCM network to contact relatives.

The ICRC provided medical facilities with supplies to treat the weapon-wounded and supported eight limb-fitting centres. As the World Bank was helping Ethiopia upgrade physical rehabilitation infrastructure, the delegation ended its direct cash support to the sector and focused on providing materials and supervision.

The promotion of IHL remained a priority, with the focus on the authorities, defence and police forces, academic institutions and influential sectors of civil society. Building on its 2005 initiative, the ICRC held more workshops and briefings for military and police personnel on IHL and internal security operations.

The Ethiopian Red Cross received substantial support to build up its emergency response, tracing and dissemination programmes.

## CIVILIANS

Non-international armed conflict and other situations of violence continued to put civilians' lives and livelihoods at risk.

## Protecting civilians

The ICRC monitored violence-prone regions, documented allegations of abuse against civilians and made any necessary

representations to the parties concerned, in accordance with humanitarian principles and, where applicable, IHL.

### Providing emergency aid

To help them regain a measure of self-sufficiency, people directly affected by conflict or intercommunal clashes were provided with, as needed, food, shelter materials and essential household items (tarpaulins, blankets, sleeping mats, kitchenware, jerrycans and soap). The food aid was distributed by the Ethiopian Red Cross.

Drought victims in the south of the SRS received a combination of emergency and recovery aid. The drought-relief operation began in February and wound up in May, when the rains arrived, and was supported by the Ethiopian Red Cross. Activities were coordinated with other aid agencies and Ethiopian government bodies in the field. The ICRC targeted the SRS zones (Afdar, Fik, Gode and Liben) that presented security or logistics constraints for other organizations. Near-destitute families received a one-month food ration. Pastoralists had a regular supply of water over three months, delivered by 28 trucks to 40 distribution points set up or rehabilitated by the ICRC. To reduce the livestock mortality rate, 336,000 animals were treated against disease and parasites. Around 7,000 vulnerable farming families (42,000 people) were given seeds to plant when the rains arrived, and the ICRC repaired or provided fuel to run 301 irrigation pumps along the Shebele river. To combat the spread of disease, 16 health facilities received enough medical supplies to treat up to 90,000 people for two months, and Health Ministry mobile teams had the loan of three cars for a month.

### Preserving community livelihoods

Pastoralists and farmers living in violence-prone regions worked with the ICRC on a combination of water, agricultural, veterinary and health projects designed to help them preserve or improve their livelihoods and avoid long-term dependence on aid.

After training and the provision of supplies, 30 community animal-health workers were offering basic veterinary services in all 15 zones of Boromodaitu district (population 44,000) in Afar. As a complement, seven communities received seeds, tools and training to improve fodder production. To further boost production and income in the district, three cooperatives repaired their irrigation canals and planted cash-crop bananas and tomatoes, with the ICRC supplying materials and expertise. All zones

also had access to primary health care services provided by 56 midwives and health workers who had been trained by the ICRC and continued to receive the necessary medicines. Eighteen Ministry of Health staff participated in a refresher course on health care provision, and a pharmacy was being built to improve community access to drugs. Villages were also provided with 150 household water filters and two water reservoirs were constructed to improve access to clean drinking water and thus reduce health risks.

In the SRS, Gambella, Tigray and West Hararghe (Oromia), the local authorities, communities and the ICRC together built a total of 750 latrines and 228 water points and trained local committees to maintain them. This completed the ICRC's water and sanitation programme in West Hararghe, initiated after the 2003 drought. In the SRS, farming cooperatives along the Shebele river received fruit-tree saplings to vary their diet and boost income, and herders, including female heads of household, were trained in livestock management. At an ICRC-organized workshop, local officials, suppliers, livestock owners and aid agencies agreed on ways to improve access to good quality veterinary drugs. In Gambella, 20 rural cooperatives and some 50,000 returnees began rebuilding their livelihoods (fishing, agriculture, small shops and restaurants), with the ICRC supplying materials and expertise. By year-end, almost half of the cooperatives were making a profit. To improve public health in Gambella, some 6,000 people received mosquito nets, and one clinic was rehabilitated, with two more under construction.

- ▶ 369,558 people (59,639 households), including 150,348 drought victims (25,058 households) and 96,606 IDPs (16,100 households), benefited from agricultural, veterinary and micro-economic initiatives
- ▶ 282,506 people benefited from completed (219,206 people) and ongoing (63,300 people) water and sanitation projects, including 10,000 cubic metres of water trucked in for 70,000 drought victims
- ▶ 24,000 drought victims (4,000 households) and 30,000 people (5,000 households) displaced by intercommunal clashes provided with food
- ▶ 17,904 people (2,984 households), including 11,958 IDPs (1,993 households), received essential household items

### Restoring family links

Thousands of people used the tracing and RCM services to communicate with relatives across the closed Ethiopia-Eritrea border. At their request, children, the elderly and the infirm were reunited with family members across the border.

In accordance with the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the ICRC continued to advocate that Ethiopia and Eritrea establish mechanisms to provide families with information about relatives still unaccounted for in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict. By year-end, no feedback had been received concerning 153 such people of Eritrean origin and 211 of Ethiopian origin whose names the ICRC had submitted to the Ethiopian and Eritrean authorities respectively in March 2005.

- ▶ 11,090 RCMs collected from and 11,419 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 49 from and 22 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 90 people (36 females, 24 minors at the time of disappearance); 25 people located; 464 people (134 females, 90 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- ▶ 40 children reunited with family in Eritrea, and 38 people, including 24 children, in Eritrea reunited with family in Ethiopia
- ▶ 44 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered; 40 reunited with their families; 34 cases of such children still being handled

Sudanese refugees in five UNHCR-run camps in Ethiopia, as well as relatives scattered by internal violence, also used the tracing and RCM network to contact family left behind. A priority was to identify and register children separated from their parents, restore contact through RCMs and, if possible, reunite them with their families.

- ▶ 4,898 RCMs collected from and 2,960 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 38 from and 40 to unaccompanied/separated children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 6,718 people (198 females, 881 minors at the time of disappearance), mainly in connection with the 2005 election-related unrest (see *People deprived of their freedom*); 6,036 people located; 883 people (297 females, 121 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

- 2 unaccompanied/separated children newly registered; 3 reunited with their families; 462 cases of such children still being handled

### Repatriation

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of people of Eritrean origin living in Ethiopia and made any necessary representations on their behalf to the authorities. People of Ethiopian or Eritrean origin who wished to be repatriated could do so, with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary. They were provided with transport and basic supplies for the trip and a short stay in a transit camp, and their official documents, mainly education certificates, were retrieved and forwarded to them so that they could apply for a job or continue their studies. For the first time in several years, the authorities authorized the repatriation to Ethiopia in October of three families of mixed origin (wives of Eritrean origin and husbands and children of Ethiopian origin).

- 70 civilians voluntarily repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 934 from Eritrea to Ethiopia
- 9 documents forwarded from Ethiopia and 116 from Eritrea

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

At year-end, despite continuous efforts, the ICRC had not yet regained access to federal prisons or Addis Ababa police stations, denied by the authorities since December 2005 and April 2006 respectively. The delegation did, however, follow up just over 6,500 enquiries from families for news of relatives allegedly arrested in connection with the June and November 2005 post-election disturbances. Most detainees were released and at year-end just 134 cases of persons unaccounted for were unresolved.

The ICRC continued to visit other detention facilities countrywide, monitoring the individual cases of security detainees, and followed up with the authorities a small number of pending cases concerning former POWs of Eritrean origin. The authorities were regularly informed, in confidence, of the ICRC's findings and recommendations concerning detention conditions, detainees' treatment and the application of judicial guarantees. Federal and regional authorities also received an in-depth ICRC report, based on over 300 interviews in 25 detention facilities, on respect for pre-trial and trial rights of detainees held in connection with the 1991 change of government.

Inmates were provided with hygiene and other essential items and could correspond with their families through RCMs. Some prisons were assisted in providing medical care for detainees and in building or upgrading water and sanitation facilities, kitchens and separate blocks for women. In parallel, at ICRC-organized workshops and round-tables, prison staff and the local authorities in four regions discussed what initiatives they could take to improve detention conditions. The detaining authorities in Amhara, Oromia, the SNNPRS and Tigray agreed in principle to set up regional detention technical units, comprising engineers and medical experts, but at the time faced financial and other constraints.

- 56,633 detainees visited, 2,088 of them monitored individually (56 females, 208 minors), including 1,253 newly registered (54 females, 144 minors), during 379 visits to 234 places of detention
- 162 RCMs collected from and 44 RCMs distributed to detainees
- 20,610 inmates benefited from completed (7,760 inmates) and ongoing (12,850 inmates) projects to improve infrastructure in 19 prisons
- 396 certificates of detention issued to former detainees or their families

### WOUNDED AND SICK

#### Providing emergency care

With the help of ICRC funds and medical supplies, just over 100 weapon-wounded were treated in hospitals and health facilities in Addis Ababa, Afar, Amhara and Gambella. Gambella hospital was also assisted in treating cholera victims during an outbreak of the disease in May and June.

#### Supporting physical rehabilitation services

There were an estimated 380,000 physically disabled people in Ethiopia, around 25,000 of them conflict victims. With World Bank funding, the country was upgrading its physical rehabilitation services. Direct ICRC cash support for the sector was, therefore, phased out, while eight main centres (Addis Ababa, Arba Minch, Asela, Bahir Dar, Dessie, Harar, Mekele and the Cheshire facility near Menegesha) received more raw materials, components and on-the-job supervision to improve management and patient care. Arba Minch and Asela benefited from the full-time presence of an ICRC expert. Six of the centres signed agreements on management and production processes, which contributed to a significant rise in the delivery of mobility devices.

- 8,956 patients (2,177 women and 1,572 children) received services at 8 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 1,136 new patients (149 women and 78 children) fitted with prostheses and 2,792 new patients (855 women and 699 children) fitted with orthoses
- 1,828 prostheses (239 for women and 141 for children; 728 for mine victims), 3,560 orthoses (972 for women and 992 for children; 11 for mine victims), 7,230 crutches and 370 wheelchairs delivered

### AUTHORITIES

After a busy election year in 2005, the authorities resumed discussions with the ICRC on the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. The government gave the green light to publish the ICRC's Amhara translation of the 1977 Additional Protocols, which Ethiopia had ratified but not yet incorporated into domestic law. It was also considering a proposal to reactivate its interministerial committee on IHL, with the ICRC providing technical and legal input.

Outside the capital, regional and local authorities in violence-prone areas took part in nine presentations on IHL and the ICRC.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF) and police continued to work with the ICRC to develop training programmes on IHL and international human rights standards for all ranks. The subjects were taught at ENDF and police training institutions, but they were not consistently included in combat orders and there was a shortage of instructors. Building on a 2005 initiative, ENDF and police officers took part in specialized training on IHL and human rights standards applicable to internal security operations, while the rank and file stationed in violence-prone regions were briefed on the subject. Military medical personnel, attachés and female officers also benefited from IHL workshops tailored to their specific roles, and the police academy was assisted in upgrading its curriculum.

- 30 ENDF instructors trained to teach IHL during 2 two-week workshops



- ▶ 76 senior ENDF and police officers took part in 2 workshops and over 18,000 ENDF personnel attended briefings on IHL, human rights standards and internal security operations
- ▶ 36 ENDF officers, 71 female officers and 25 military attachés participated in IHL workshops on, respectively, military medical personnel, women in time of conflict and the introduction of armed forces identification tags
- ▶ 12 Defence University College instructors participated in a workshop on updating IHL curricula
- ▶ 25 police academy instructors attended a one-week refresher course on IHL and human rights standards
- ▶ 2 military and 2 police officers sponsored to take part in IHL courses abroad
- ▶ some 12,600 police and civilian militia members participated in sessions on international human rights standards and good policing
- ▶ over 3,000 peacekeepers heading for Liberia briefed on IHL and the ICRC

## CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise public awareness of IHL and humanitarian issues, the ICRC fostered contacts with the media, influential community members and institutes of higher education. Most of the main State and private universities and colleges taught IHL, but the standard of instruction varied.

- ▶ elders and other traditional community leaders attended introductory talks on IHL
- ▶ public events organized to mark International Women's Day, World Water Day and World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day
- ▶ law faculties of Addis Ababa University and regional higher-education institutes provided with IHL materials, training for lecturers and technical advice
- ▶ 3 university students sponsored to participate in the annual IHL moot court competition in the United Republic of Tanzania (see *Nairobi*)
- ▶ national and international media provided with press releases, interviews and field trips

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society (some 900 staff and 90,000 volunteers) had a proven capacity in tracing and dissemination and was building up its management skills and first-aid and assistance programmes. Over 2006, the National Society helped the ICRC deliver emergency aid, run the tracing and RCM network and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles countrywide. With substantial ICRC support (funds, materials and technical expertise), it carried out a variety of initiatives to develop these activities, especially at headquarters and in 14 branches situated in violence-prone regions.

### Building infrastructure and management skills

- ▶ 4 new branch offices built and 1 renovated
- ▶ running costs in 14 branches and the salaries of key headquarters and branch staff covered
- ▶ activities in 38 branches monitored

### Providing relief and assistance

- ▶ drought, flood and conflict victims provided with emergency aid
- ▶ 716 personnel in 30 branches trained in first aid
- ▶ a countrywide ambulance service provided, and 15 new ambulances and 13 service vehicles purchased
- ▶ 4 three-year projects completed, benefiting communities in drought-prone areas and mine victims, HIV/ AIDS sufferers and street children in Tigray

### Restoring family links

- ▶ 162 Red Cross personnel participated in 8 regional tracing workshops
- ▶ branches provided with 200 tracing manuals

### Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

- ▶ local authorities and the public attended dissemination sessions in 25 branch areas
- ▶ programmes to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day broadcast on television and radio and events organized at branch level
- ▶ 40 personnel from 34 branches trained as disseminators
- ▶ all branches provided with dissemination materials