

BURUNDI



ICRC / AR_2010

- ⊕ ICRC delegation
- ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation
- ⊕ ICRC office
- ⊕ ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	2,149
Assistance	3,571
Prevention	902
Cooperation with National Societies	744
General	-

▶ **7,366**

of which: Overheads 449

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
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PERSONNEL

Expatriates	19
National staff (daily workers not included)	109

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ entered the final stages of rehabilitation work aimed at improving access to clean water
- ▶ helped improve detainees' living conditions, including by partially funding the supply of drugs and medical equipment to prison health services, rehabilitating vital infrastructure and distributing hygiene items
- ▶ launched a partnership with a physical rehabilitation centre to improve services for disabled patients and fit them with affordable prosthetic and orthotic devices produced on-site
- ▶ supported the Burundi Red Cross in preparing a contingency plan to respond to needs in the event of election-related violence and in extending from 3 to 9 the number of provinces where it provided RCM services autonomously

The ICRC has been present in Burundi since 1999, focusing on helping people overcome the worst consequences of armed conflict. Owing to the progress in the peace process, ICRC assistance activities have been scaled down and now focus on working with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards. The ICRC also reinforces physical rehabilitation services, supports the Burundi Red Cross, notably in restoring links between separated family members, and provides assistance to the armed forces in their efforts to train members in IHL.

CONTEXT

While Burundi was on the road to peace, tensions persisted and key issues remained to be resolved, including the social reintegration of weapon bearers who had not been incorporated into the armed and security forces. The large number of weapons in circulation compounded the country's fragile security situation.

The incumbent party in Burundi won elections comprising five polls between May and September. All opposition candidates withdrew prior to the presidential race, alleging fraud.

With UN support, the government completed a national consultation process to help establish a transitional justice mechanism. A final report was published in December.

Burundi remained reliant on international support and continued to suffer from poverty and underdevelopment. Rapid population growth, driven not only by high birth rates but also by the return of former refugees from neighbouring countries, fuelled tensions over access to land.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	2,164	10	
RCMs distributed	2,179	9	
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations	Total		
People reunited with their families	9		
<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	6		
People transferred/repatriated	5		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	93	21	53
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	112		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	13		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	71	18	38
UAMs/SCs,* including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers	Total	Girls	Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	8	4	
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society	9	1	1
<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	6		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at 31 December 2010	21	11	
Documents			
People to whom travel documents were issued	2		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines	1		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	11,245		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	616	29	25
Detainees newly registered	526	28	22
Number of visits carried out	230		
Number of places of detention visited	47		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	109		
RCMs distributed	137		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	7		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	248,000	28%	45%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		4,960		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	3,413		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	5,100		

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

ASSISTANCE

WOUNDED AND SICK				
Physical rehabilitation		Total	Women	Children
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,232	75	2,056
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	1		
Prostheses delivered	Units	3	2	
New patients fitted with orthoses	Patients	129	2	122
Orthoses delivered	Units	213	3	203
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	1	
Crutches delivered	Units	16		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2010, the ICRC continued to focus on improving the living conditions of detainees and assisting people affected by past conflict. With the Burundi Red Cross, it stood ready to respond quickly and effectively to emergency needs if violence broke out. Given advancements in the peace process and the country's relative stability, it closed its final two structures outside Bujumbura – the Gitega sub-delegation and the Ngozi office.

Delegates visited detainees in places of permanent and temporary detention and monitored their treatment and living conditions, sharing their findings and, if necessary, recommendations confidentially with the authorities. After receiving one written report, the judiciary took steps to improve case file management, with a view to speeding up the trial process. The ICRC also provided financial, material and technical assistance to help improve inmates' living conditions, including by partially funding the supply of drugs to prison dispensaries, upgrading water, sanitation and kitchen facilities and distributing hygiene items.

In rural and urban communities, the ICRC continued to work with water boards to improve water supply systems. Maintenance courses for local personnel helped ensure the sustainability of water facilities rehabilitated in rural areas. Projects to upgrade water distribution networks in urban areas were nearing completion.

To enhance the quality of care for disabled people, the delegation launched a partnership with the Saint Kizito physical rehabilitation centre in Bujumbura, detailing a plan of action to renovate prosthetic/orthotic workshops and begin producing affordable devices. Work to this effect was well under way by year-end.

Family members dispersed within or across national borders restored contact through tracing and RCM services provided by the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross. With ICRC training and equipment, the National Society extended its self-run RCM network from three to nine provinces, with the intention of eventually expanding these activities countrywide. Where appropriate, the delegation reunited unaccompanied children, including demobilized child soldiers, with their families.

In efforts to further integrate IHL into national law and military doctrine, the ICRC fostered contacts with the relevant authorities and offered them legal expertise and support, for example by providing the government with a draft model law to implement the Convention on Cluster Munitions and by devising a strategy with the Defence Ministry to incorporate IHL into military doctrine.

As part of wider efforts to improve understanding of and respect for basic humanitarian principles, the ICRC strengthened its dialogue with political and military authorities countrywide. Delegates briefed army officers in Burundi's five military regions on the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent approach in order to facilitate safe access of its personnel to people in need.

In parallel, Burundi Red Cross communication teams received support to promote widespread understanding of the Movement's mandate. Emergency response brigades put in place a comprehensive contingency plan enabling the National Society to provide first aid as needed, using the Safer Access approach.

Movement partners met regularly to coordinate their activities and their support to the Burundi Red Cross.

CIVILIANS

Communities enjoy safer and more abundant water supplies

Some 248,000 people living in areas where water facilities had deteriorated or been destroyed by past conflict faced fewer health risks after the ICRC, in close partnership with local water boards or the users themselves, repaired, extended and maintained permanent water supplies. In rural communities, people had improved access to safe water thanks to restored water points and newly protected springs. In the city of Rumonge, residents saw improvements in water quality and quantity following the upgrading of the water production, storage and distribution networks. Similar works in Cibitoke were scheduled for completion in 2011. Local committees and water board personnel continued to build on their maintenance skills during ICRC training sessions, including a two-week course in hydraulics for 12 technical staff of the urban water and electricity board, to secure the long-term sustainability of water facilities rehabilitated since 2004. Where necessary, trained maintenance personnel and the ICRC carried out repairs on the spot.

National Society personnel underwent training to develop their emergency water and sanitation response capacities, but the relative stability meant that emergency supplies of water and essential household items were not needed.

Separated relatives restore contact

Family members dispersed while fleeing past fighting, including Burundian refugees returning from the United Republic of Tanzania and Congolese and Rwandan refugees living in camps in Burundi, restored contact through the tracing and RCM services run by the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross. With ICRC training and equipment, the National Society was able to collect and distribute RCMs autonomously in nine provinces, compared with three in 2009 (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Nine unaccompanied children, including one demobilized child soldier, were reunited with their families in Burundi and abroad, for which purpose coordination with other humanitarian and referral organizations was paramount. Reunited families received visits from delegates, and children were provided with basic essentials, where needed, to facilitate their reintegration.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Some 11,200 detainees in places of permanent and temporary detention received regular visits, conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures, enabling delegates to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Security detainees, including those arrested during the electoral period, were followed up individually. Particular attention was also paid to the situation of vulnerable inmates, such as women and children.

After the visits, the authorities received confidential feedback and written reports from the delegation including, if necessary, recommendations for improvements. Following one such report, central and local judicial authorities took practical steps to improve the file management of pre-trial cases, with the aim of speeding up the trial process and thus alleviating overcrowding. Prison authorities and the ICRC explored other ways to improve respect for judicial guarantees, often on the basis of lists of cases of concern drawn up by the delegation. Plans to publish a brochure for inmates on the subject were shelved when the delegation's partner NGO suspended its activities.

Through the RCM service, detainees restored and maintained contact with their relatives in Burundi and abroad.

Detainees' living conditions improve

The prison authorities and government ministries continued to work with the ICRC to bring detention conditions in line with internationally recognized standards. The authorities were reminded of the need to increase the prison service budget and create a budget line for places of temporary detention to meet detainees' basic needs. They planned to start a campaign with the delegation to galvanize international support to this effect.

Detainees, meanwhile, received the medical attention they needed after prison dispensaries were reimbursed for 80% of the costs of basic medicines by the ICRC, which also fully financed the treatment of serious medical cases and supported four public health centres treating people held in places of temporary detention. In parallel, the prison health authorities and relevant NGOs received technical, material and financial support to work towards ensuring that inmates had access to preventive and curative treatment services for malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS.

Some 5,100 inmates in places of permanent and temporary detention faced fewer health risks thanks to upgraded water, sanitation, kitchen and storage facilities. Prison sanitation teams received technical support to carry out pest-control campaigns, further reducing the risk of an outbreak of disease. Detainees also got soap and other hygiene items for personal use.

WOUNDED AND SICK

In June, the Saint Kizito physical rehabilitation centre in Bujumbura and the ICRC signed an agreement detailing a three-year plan of action to improve the quality of services for physically disabled people. By year-end, work was well under way to renovate the physiotherapy department and prosthetic/orthotic workshops and to build a dormitory to accommodate patients living far away from the centre. Personnel making prostheses and orthoses received the necessary machinery and components to produce more reliable and affordable devices on-site, using the ICRC's polypropylene technology.

People injured during sporadic incidents of violence received first aid from the Burundi Red Cross, with ICRC support (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), but pre-positioned medical supplies were not required.

AUTHORITIES

To cultivate respect for basic humanitarian principles and garner support for the ICRC and the Burundi Red Cross, national and local authorities countrywide were reminded during meetings and presentations of customary and treaty-based IHL principles. Representatives of regional and international organizations and the ICRC met regularly to exchange information on their respective activities.

The relevant national authorities were encouraged and offered legal expertise to establish a national IHL committee and ratify IHL treaties, such as Additional Protocol III. To this end, Burundian representatives, with ICRC sponsorship, participated in the first regional meeting on customary IHL (see *Yaoundé*) and the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees in Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*). To assist it in implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which Burundi ratified in 2009, the government received a draft model law.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

To promote respect for IHL and support for the Movement, particularly in the run-up to the elections, information sessions were held for army and police officers on basic humanitarian principles and the mandates and activities of the ICRC and the National Society. Participants included some 270 officers responsible for maintaining law and order in 5 military regions during the elections and nearly 100 officers preparing to depart on African Union peacekeeping missions.

As part of ongoing efforts to integrate IHL into military training, officials at Burundi's military academy held a workshop on IHL with the ICRC, during which they explored ways of introducing IHL in military exercises. Academy instructors were better equipped to teach IHL after receiving specialized publications. In parallel, the Ministry of Defence and the ICRC signed a formal agreement outlining a strategy and joint plan of action to work towards incorporating IHL into military doctrine and training in 2011. One commander began by participating in a workshop abroad.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Influential members of civil society, including journalists and religious and traditional leaders, learnt more about humanitarian issues during a series of presentations and bilateral discussions, better placing them to raise public awareness of and support for the Movement's work. A media workshop was not held as planned, but journalists continued to cover the Movement's activities, drawing on press releases and promotional materials provided by the ICRC.

Students from public and private universities conducted research on IHL at the delegation's library, and two universities requested and received complete sets of IHL reference books. A new network of IHL lecturers was created following an ICRC meeting with five universities on improving IHL instruction, and two lecturers boosted their teaching skills at an IHL conference in Senegal, with ICRC sponsorship (see *Dakar*). Owing to a lack of availability of key stakeholders, a planned inter-university IHL competition did not take place.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With the support of the International Federation, National Societies working internationally and the ICRC, and in coordination with the Burundi Civil Defence, the Burundi Red Cross put in place a comprehensive contingency plan to respond to the needs of people affected by potential election-related violence. Volunteers countrywide, including 160 personnel in 8 emergency units from higher-risk provinces, were trained or refreshed their skills in first aid and the Safer Access approach. Meanwhile, 30 emergency response brigades received medical supplies and first-aid materials during each of the 5 polls. On several occasions, trained volunteers assisted the national authorities in administering first aid to injured people, and they remained ready to provide emergency water supplies in case of need (see *Civilians*).

In parallel, key National Society personnel throughout Burundi participated in courses to strengthen their skills in promoting the Fundamental Principles. They received materials in the local languages to foster widespread understanding of the Movement's mandate and recognition of its emblems, thus facilitating safe access of its personnel to vulnerable people. Communication teams raised public awareness of the National Society's activities and achievements through a monthly electronic newsletter and a biannual magazine.

By year-end, within the framework of the Restoring Family Links Strategy for the Movement, the Burundi Red Cross was collecting and distributing RCMs autonomously in nine provinces, compared with three in 2009. To do so, 24 volunteers participated in ICRC-organized training and refresher courses, and 32 new volunteers were trained with a view to eventually expanding these services countrywide. Six branch offices also received technical and financial support and equipment to carry out their work.

Movement partners met regularly to coordinate their activities and help strengthen the National Society's decentralized structures.