



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation

burundi

The ICRC has been monitoring the situation in Burundi since 1962 and intervening on an ad hoc basis. Since 1999 it has been continuously present in the country. Current activities focus on protecting people deprived of their freedom and helping civilians to overcome the worst consequences of conflict. The ICRC supports a project in northern Bujumbura aimed at providing care for women victims of sexual violence, restores family links for children separated from their parents and conducts programmes to improve people's access to water and sanitation and to boost their income. It also supports health facilities providing medical care for thousands of civilians and detainees.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,795,398

Assistance

7,088,622

Preventive action

918,082

Cooperation with National Societies

180,261

General

38,130

▶ **10,020,493**

of which: Overheads **611,579**

PERSONNEL

22 expatriates

108 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ Working with the national health authorities, the ICRC kept up its involvement in a project providing medical and psychological care for victims of sexual violence.
- ▶ The ICRC continued to reunite children in refugee camps with their families and offered its RCM service to demobilized child soldiers.
- ▶ The ICRC worked with the water boards on eight water projects in urban and rural locations to ensure tens of thousands of people had access to clean water and sanitation.
- ▶ In selected rural areas, the ICRC provided some 13,000 families with quality seed to increase agricultural production and initiated three projects to rehabilitate public services.
- ▶ The ICRC visited some 11,000 detainees and worked with the detaining authorities to improve water supply and health care in prisons.
- ▶ The ICRC supplied 6 hospitals with medicines and materials to treat surgical emergencies (including the war-wounded, women needing caesareans, and HIV/AIDS patients).

CONTEXT

The security situation in Burundi was relatively stable in 2004, apart from continued resistance to the peace process by the Forces for National Liberation (FNL), which launched sporadic attacks on government forces and their allies, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD). Though considerably weakened, the FNL still showed it was capable of derailing peace efforts, claiming responsibility for the massacre of some 160 Banyamulenge refugees in Gatumba in August. Only concerted diplomatic efforts prevented the incident from plunging the whole volatile region back into chaos.

The main task for the country remained the implementation of the 2000 Arusha Accord and subsequent agreements ahead of democratic elections in 2005. In this the government faced an uphill battle, with repeated delays in the schedule. The process of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating armed groups and the Burundian armed forces began but was slow to get off the ground. More encouragingly, over 600 child soldiers were demobilized, 27 political parties registered for the elections and a voter list was compiled. Laws also came into effect establishing new integrated armed and police forces.

In the countryside, particularly in Bujumbura Rural, civilians continued to suffer violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) at the hands of armed groups, who regularly resorted to looting, pillage and rape. Communities in Citiboke province

were also subject to incursions by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) from neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). International organizations repeatedly called on the leaders to curb the violations committed by their forces, although it was not possible to establish contact with the FNL or the FDLR. Violence or the fear of violence prompted several thousand civilians to flee to camps in Rwanda and Tanzania in October, although the situation eventually calmed and many returned alongside 90,000 Burundian refugees repatriated by UNHCR.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC supported health facilities serving people affected by armed conflict, including victims of sexual violence. Given the poverty and instability in many parts of Burundi, it supplied several hospitals with medicines and materials to treat the wounded and paid the costs of civilians unable to afford medical care. It worked with the rural and urban water boards to rehabilitate a number of installations providing clean drinking water for thousands of families.

The ICRC reunited a number of children with their families. This was a particular issue in 2004 given the various displacements following outbursts of violence between armed groups, but also as the situation calmed and tens of thousands of refugees were repatriated. The ICRC also reunited Burundian child soldiers in the DRC with their families in Burundi.

Lifting the restrictions it had placed on its activities following a serious security incident in 1996, the ICRC expanded its scope beyond urban areas and initiated several projects in the rural areas of north and central Burundi to increase agricultural production and boost incomes.

The ICRC continued to monitor security detainees in all places of detention in Burundi. Where necessary, it boosted the capacity of the detaining authorities to provide adequate health care and sanitation for all detainees. It regularly reminded the authorities of the need for them to take over responsibility for ensuring adequate conditions for detainees.

Throughout the year the ICRC worked to promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), among a variety of audiences. These ranged from the armed forces and police to the authorities and the media, secondary schools and universities. It also supported the dissemination efforts of the National Society.

CIVILIANS

Ensuring access to care for victims of sexual violence

The ICRC maintained its involvement in a project that it had started two years earlier in northern Bujumbura to improve the level of care available to victims of sexual violence and to raise awareness of their plight. Working with the National Programme of Reproductive Health (NPRH), it helped find and train traditional birthing atten-

dants (TBA) to provide midwifery services to women in their communities. The attendants were asked to identify victims of sexual violence and to refer them to centres providing suitable medical and psychological care, such as a private women's clinic supported by Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium, the Prince Regent Charles Hospital, the Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire de Kamenge or certain health centres in the northern districts of Bujumbura. The ICRC supplied these facilities with medical materials or training and encouraged them to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS. Destitute patients received free surgery and care.

The ICRC helped a team of experts from the NPRH draft a national training manual on medical management, psychological support, legal advice and community-based support for victims of sexual violence. UNICEF and the UN Population Fund also provided input. In August the ICRC helped train 28 instructors to teach health-care workers how to follow the recommendations of the manual, soon to be distributed around the country.

To elicit support from the community for the victims, the ICRC held information sessions on the prevalence of rape and the difficulties and stigma often suffered by the victims.

- 60 TBA trained and monitored
- 140 people in positions of influence (including TBA) trained to take on a role in their community to combat sexual violence
- 1,155 women benefited from the presence of TBA when giving birth (of these 868 women gave birth at home, 143 were referred to a health centre, 144 women were referred to hospital (42 for caesarean sections) to which the ICRC supplied surgical kits).

Reuniting children with their families

The ICRC continued to restore family links for children in refugee camps in Burundi, registering new arrivals and offering them the tracing service to locate their families. It also worked in refugee camps in Tanzania, reuniting many of the Burundian children registered there with their families in Burundi.

The delegation continued to handle tracing for and repatriation of Burundian child soldiers in the DRC, reuniting some 22 of them with their families. In Burundi itself, responsibility for child soldiers lay with the Structure Nationale pour la Démobilisation des Enfants and UNICEF. The ICRC made

its tracing service available to the child soldiers and urged the authorities to make reunification with their families a priority. By the end of the year 600 child soldiers had been demobilized and the majority reunited with their families.

- 5 children separated from their parents in Burundi registered and 2 reunited with their families; 16 cases pending
- 55 Burundian children in Tanzania separated from their parents registered and 85 reunited with their families; 302 cases pending
- 91 Congolese and Rwandan refugee children separated from their parents registered and 23 reunited with their families; 77 cases pending
- 20 Burundian child soldiers in the DRC registered and 22 reunited with their families; 8 cases pending
- 2,427 RCMs delivered and 1,977 collected

Ensuring clean water for residents and IDPs

The ICRC had two projects under way in the urban centres of Kayanza (25,000 residents) and Rumonge (40,000 residents) aimed at improving water supply. In conjunction with the national urban water board (REGIDESO), it constructed new metallic and reinforced concrete reservoirs (completed in Kayanza, almost completed in Rumonge), drilled two deep boreholes in Rumonge and continued work on other sections of the networks. In Rumonge, the ICRC operated a temporary water-treatment unit for internally displaced people (IDPs) and the resident population. The system supplied some 6,000 people with at least 15 litres of water a day.

In 2004 the ICRC established a partnership with the National Office for Hydraulics and Rural Energy to improve water supply for communities and IDPs in rural areas. During the year it rehabilitated several water sources (completed in Busiga, ongoing in Mwumba, Ryansoro and Showe) and was developing marshland (Mwumba and Buraza). The ICRC set up training programmes to teach local committees how to maintain the rehabilitated systems.

- 500,500 people in urban areas and IDP sites provided with access to clean water
- 320,000 people in rural areas and IDP sites (Kayanza, Ngozi and Gitega provinces) provided with access to clean water

Economic assistance to residents and IDPs

Following assessments, the ICRC singled out three communes in three rural

provinces where there were pressing needs. From mid-year onwards, working with local associations, it initiated four types of projects to boost household incomes in Buraza (Gitega), Gahombo (Kayanza) and Mwumba (Ngozi). The projects aimed to: multiply seeds and improve the quantity and quality of seeds; rehabilitate marshlands and make the use of agricultural land possible all year round; repair mills for grinding cereals; and distribute seeds, (along with food to prevent people from eating the seeds), to especially vulnerable individuals.

- ▶ 149 families provided with seeds and one month's food ration through local associations, as part of seed-multiplication projects
- ▶ 3 mills, each to be managed by a local association, purchased and the buildings rehabilitated
- ▶ 1,511 families, owning a piece of land in 2 rehabilitated marshlands, provided with seeds and one month's food ration
- ▶ 900 families identified as the most vulnerable and/or who had had a very poor harvest, received seeds and one month's food ration

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Ensuring minimum standards of detention

Throughout the year the ICRC monitored conditions in all of Burundi's 11 civilian prisons and 61 temporary places of detention, as well as in several military camps. During its visits it encouraged the Direction Générale des Affaires Pénitentiaires (DGAP) to develop its capacity to provide water and health care to the detainees and stressed the need for separate quarters for minors. At the end of the year the ICRC presented an oral report on its findings to the judicial service and the *gendarmérie*.

- ▶ 227 visits conducted in 72 places of detention
- ▶ 239 security detainees newly registered
- ▶ 11,087 detainees (including 2,937 in temporary places of detention) benefited from ICRC programmes

Improving hygiene for detainees

The ICRC rehabilitated several water and sanitation facilities to improve hygiene conditions in the prisons. Working with the DGAP, it supplied the places of detention with cleaning materials and trained staff to maintain the facilities and carry out pest control. It also provided detainees with personal hygiene products.

- ▶ rehabilitation work on the waste-water and sanitation systems/septic tanks completed at Muramvya and Bubanza prisons and Kirundu police station
- ▶ work on improving water supplies (Rumonge) and rehabilitating the kitchens (Bururi and Rutana) begun
- ▶ detainees trained in plumbing and electrical maintenance in Muramvya and Bubanza prisons
- ▶ 7 prisons and 25 temporary detention centres provided with cleaning materials
- ▶ 11,520 detainees provided with blankets, soap, jerrycans, and buckets for hygiene purposes

Health care for detainees

The ICRC worked with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees had access to medical care and, where necessary, encouraged the transfer of sick detainees to hospital. Along with the provincial health authorities, it made sure that every prison had a functioning dispensary stocked with basic medicines and that all detainees received a regular supply of soap. In Bubanza prison, it piloted a project to hand over full responsibility for the management of medical supplies to the DGAP.

In the three largest prisons (Gitega, Ngozi and Mpimba), the ICRC supported the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) in offering anonymous HIV screening, counselling and treatment for opportunistic infections. In line with its plans to integrate the project into the national HIV/AIDS programme, the ICRC ceased this support at the end of the year.

In prisons with less than 350 inmates, the ICRC encouraged the authorities to allow screening in hospitals or health centres and to promote awareness of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and their prevention (condom use and abstinence).

In March the national HIV/AIDS programme gained access to anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs thanks to support from the Global Fund. A number of detainees in Gitega, Mpimba and Ngozi prisons were listed for ARV therapy in the HIV/AIDS units of their local ICRC-assisted hospitals.

- ▶ 6 prison dispensaries supplied monthly with essential drugs and medical materials, and the quality of health care for detainees monitored
- ▶ 50 detainees put on the list for ARV therapy

WOUNDED AND SICK

Care of the war-wounded

The ICRC provided six hospitals with monthly supplies of medicines and materials to treat people wounded in sporadic clashes. Following the attack on the Gatumba refugee camp in August, it provided supplementary surgical assistance in coordination with other actors/organizations. It also delivered surgical kits to two clinics/hospitals treating some 70 wounded.

Access to basic medical care for the destitute and HIV/AIDS sufferers

An ICRC assessment in the rural provinces of Gitega, Ngozi and Kayanza showed that half the population could not afford public health care because of the cost-sharing system in place. As a result, the ICRC sponsored a voucher system in hospitals it was assisting to enable the destitute to receive emergency surgery and/or basic treatment for HIV/AIDS (opportunistic infections or sexually transmitted diseases). It also topped up the SWAA's medical supplies and continued to advise the authorities on ways to improve health care.

- ▶ 6 hospitals provided with medicines and materials to treat the war-wounded, perform caesarean sections and offer emergency surgery and/or basic treatment for HIV/AIDS to the destitute
- ▶ 5 hospitals/6 prison dispensaries supplied with the new malaria treatment protocol (combined artesunate therapy), while the ICRC maintained stocks of perfusions and quinine for the most serious cases
- ▶ SWAA supplied with medicines to supplement those already received from the national health authority, to enable it to care for more than 800 people living with HIV/AIDS in Gitega and Ngozi (the ICRC withdrew this assistance at the end of the year)

AUTHORITIES

Ratification/implementation of IHL treaties

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to promote IHL and ensure acceptance of the organization and its activities among national, provincial and local authorities.

In February the ICRC took part in a workshop on anti-personnel landmines in Bujumbura organized by the National Centre for the Prevention of Conflicts and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. On this and other occasions the

ICRC reminded the government of its obligations as a signatory to the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

The ICRC also promoted the demobilization of child soldiers, distributing documentation and other communication materials to demobilization sites in three provinces at the request of the commission charged with disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former fighters.

Ensuring respect for IHL among ONUB/AU forces

The ICRC fostered contacts with the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), which incorporated forces from the African Union's African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), and reminded them of the applicability of IHL to peace-keeping missions. In October it held an information session on its "To serve and to protect" course for members of ONUB's police force.

The ICRC also held numerous information sessions for members of the government, provincial and local authorities and representatives of international organizations.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Integration of IHL into the training and doctrine of the armed forces

At the end of the year a law came into effect on the creation of a new national army – the National Defence Forces (NDF) – which was to include former members of armed opposition movements and the Burundian armed forces. Ahead of this, the ICRC held talks with the integrated general staff of the NDF on a plan of action for IHL training for the new force. The minister of national defence established a working group, consisting of five officers whom the ICRC had previously sponsored to attend the IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, to draft a programme for the full integration of IHL into the training of the new army.

- senior army officer sponsored to attend an advanced IHL course at the San Remo Institute
- 130 senior and mid-ranking officers of the armed forces attended ICRC information sessions

Knowledge of and respect for the ICRC among police forces

In December a law came into effect creating a new national police force, composed of the five existing police services and the *gendarmerie*. Ahead of this, the ICRC held information sessions for the police to explain the ICRC's role and mandate and to introduce them to international human rights standards and humanitarian principles. Also in December the ICRC held a first meeting with the integrated police command to discuss further training for the force on the ICRC and its mandate.

Officers of the judicial police took part in information sessions to highlight the ICRC's protection and detention-related activities. In addition, 20 staff officers of the integrated police force attended a seminar on the ICRC's "To serve and to protect" course in October.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL and the ICRC among the media

The ICRC fostered relations with the media to promote a better understanding of its role and mandate. Among its activities that received good press coverage were its support to and funding of the SWAA, the provision of medical supplies to hospitals, the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities and the restoration of family links.

Following the attack in Gatumba, the ICRC issued a press statement to local and international media condemning the massacre of Banyamulenge refugees in the camp.

Teaching of IHL in secondary schools

The ICRC helped monitor the quality of teaching in secondary schools of its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, which was included in the national curriculum for the 2004–05 academic year. The previous year, it had trained 339 teachers in the programme and provided each one with an education pack.

In 2004 the ICRC sponsored two representatives of the education authorities to attend its second Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law (see *Pretoria*). It also sent an adviser from the research department of the Bureau d'Etude des Programmes de l'Enseignement Secondaire with expertise in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to Rwanda to help with teacher training.

The ICRC presented the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme at a workshop on citizenship education jointly organized by the General Office of Pedagogy and UNESCO and supported by the Association to Promote Education and Training Abroad. It also held talks with the private Belgian school in Bujumbura and with the Ministry of Artisanal Crafts, Vocational Training and Literacy on integrating the programme into their curricula.

- teaching of Exploring Humanitarian Law made compulsory for 340 secondary schools with 27,000 pupils
- pedagogical support provided for civic education teachers in 18 schools teaching the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

Promoting IHL at university level

Five private universities in Burundi had already made IHL an obligatory subject for law students. In 2004 the ICRC encouraged the University of Burundi, the country's only public university, to make its optional IHL course compulsory. It also helped increase the amount of research material available in the universities by donating IHL libraries.

Information sessions on IHL were held for hundreds of students at the Universities of Ngozi and Lumière in Bujumbura.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Restructuring of the National Society

Discussions continued within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on the best means of supporting changes to the structure of the Burundi Red Cross Society. In August the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement with the National Society which formalized the level of technical and financial support it would receive to pursue restructuring. The ICRC held four workshops for the National Society aimed at helping the restructuring of the provincial branches.

Support for dissemination efforts

The ICRC provided the Burundian Red Cross with the means to organize activities to disseminate information on the Movement's Fundamental Principles. It also paid three months' salary of a new national branch development coordinator and financed activities for the media to promote Red Cross membership.