

# ABIDJAN (regional)

**COVERING:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo



ICRC / AR\_2010

- ⊕ ICRC regional delegation  
 ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation  
 + ICRC office/presence  
⏏ ICRC regional logistics centre

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	<b>1,744</b>
Assistance	<b>5,612</b>
Prevention	<b>2,569</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>2,261</b>
General	-

▶ **12,185**

of which: Overheads 744

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>94%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	<b>27</b>
National staff (daily workers not included)	<b>221</b>

## KEY POINTS

**In 2010, the ICRC:**

- ▶ strengthened the emergency response capacities of the National Societies in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo ahead of elections, facilitating in particular the treatment of 590 wounded people during the Ivorian post-election crisis
- ▶ provided dressing kits to 9 Ivorian health structures, enabling them to treat up to 700 people wounded during post-election violence
- ▶ regionwide, visited 17,099 detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions, including 299 arrested in connection with post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire
- ▶ with the relevant National Societies, gave relief goods to victims of violence or natural disaster in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, providing food to 9,617 IDPs and essential household items to 17,720
- ▶ improved access to clean water and sanitation for some 71,000 people in western and central Côte d'Ivoire, while raising their awareness of good hygiene practices
- ▶ ahead of elections, briefed over 4,000 weapon bearers in Côte d'Ivoire and 775 in Burkina Faso on IHL and international human rights law

In the countries covered by the delegation, established in 1992, the ICRC supports the authorities in implementing IHL, encourages armed and security forces to respect IHL, and visits detainees. It works with and supports the development of the region's National Societies. In Côte d'Ivoire, the delegation focuses on responding to the protection and assistance needs of people affected by the lasting consequences of the crisis that began in 2002.

## CONTEXT

In Côte d'Ivoire, 2010 was dominated by long-awaited presidential elections aimed at cementing the 2007 Ouagadougou peace accord. In February, controversy over alleged voter registration irregularities triggered violent demonstrations, causing scores of casualties. Meanwhile, civilian authorities were partially reinstated in northern and western regions formerly under Forces Nouvelles (FN) control. People displaced by earlier violence returned home. Sporadic intercommunal violence persisted, however, linked mainly to longstanding land-tenure issues. Many communities continued to struggle for access to basic services.

In November, the presidential run-off ended in political deadlock, with both the incumbent and the opposition candidates claiming victory and nominating governments. Ensuing tensions resulted in various patterns of violence. Clashes among rival groups and with security forces led to multiple arrests, scores of dead and hundreds of wounded, especially in Abidjan. With political affiliation commonly informed by ethnicity, tensions and suspicion flared among communities, particularly in central-western and western regions. Efforts previously made towards creating a unified army, incorporating

former FN fighters, were interrupted. Deadly confrontations between forces loyal to the respective candidates reflected historical divisions. With their impartiality challenged by the incumbent candidate, UN peacekeepers reported increasing restrictions on their movements. Mounting insecurity drove thousands of Ivoirians to seek refuge elsewhere in the country or abroad. Few international organizations remained operational in Côte d'Ivoire.

The African Union (AU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) embarked on mediation efforts to resolve the impasse, without success by year-end.

Throughout the region, severe flooding contributed to difficult living conditions, devastating homes and livelihoods. Intercommunal violence temporarily displaced several thousand people in northern Ghana.

Following the re-election of Togo's president in March, the government and the opposition entered a power-sharing agreement, improving prospects for political stability. Burkina Faso's president, re-elected in November, continued to play an important role in regional politics, notably in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea.

### MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

#### PROTECTION

##### CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)

Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	55		
RCMs distributed	31		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons	Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	3		1
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	1		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)	20		

##### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)<sup>1</sup>

ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	17,099		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	465	1	4
Detainees newly registered	373	1	4
Number of visits carried out	209		
Number of places of detention visited	86		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	172		
RCMs distributed	93		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	608		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	2		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

1. Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo

#### ASSISTANCE

##### CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)

Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food <sup>2</sup>	Beneficiaries	9,817	60%	26%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	9,617		
Essential household items <sup>3</sup>	Beneficiaries	17,720	60%	26%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	17,720		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives <sup>4</sup>	Beneficiaries	27,130	60%	
Water and habitat activities <sup>4</sup>	Beneficiaries	71,000	20%	40%

2. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana

3. Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo

4. Côte d'Ivoire only

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
ASSISTANCE				
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food <sup>4</sup>	Beneficiaries	2,106		
Essential household items <sup>5</sup>	Beneficiaries	10,758		
Water and habitat activities <sup>4</sup>	Beneficiaries	12,000		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
First aid <sup>4</sup>				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	4		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	4		
Wounded patients treated	Patients	590		

4. Côte d'Ivoire only

5. Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

While concentrating its operations in violence-prone parts of Côte d'Ivoire, notably in the west, the ICRC maintained a countrywide presence, enabling it to monitor tensions and population movements more widely. In case of election-related violence, it focused on contingency planning, primarily in Côte d'Ivoire but also in Burkina Faso and Togo, in partnership with the National Societies. Together they intensified efforts to strengthen support for the Movement and humanitarian principles among all those with potential influence during unrest, building on the broad acceptance of the ICRC fostered during its longstanding presence in the region. This foothold contributed to the smooth running of Movement operations, particularly during the post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, when insecurity prevented many other international organizations from operating.

The ICRC helped reinforce the emergency response capacities of the National Societies in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, reviewing their contingency plans with them and providing first-aid and communications training and equipment. It provided all National Societies with needs-assessment training and put emergency supplies at their disposal to meet communities' basic needs. As a result, National Societies were able to deploy effectively during elections. The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire stepped up activities during the post-election crisis, working with the ICRC to tend to the wounded, deliver medical supplies and alleviate hardship faced by IDPs and host communities. Regionwide, National Societies distributed relief goods to people left homeless by violence or natural disaster.

Through bilateral contacts, publicity and events, the ICRC and the National Societies intensified efforts to build respect for humanitarian values and the Movement. They worked together to promote IHL and international human rights law among weapon bearers, while emphasizing the Movement's distinctive nature and the protective properties of its emblems. In parallel, they strengthened dialogue with authorities and civil society. Despite the insecurity that prevailed during the post-election crisis, Movement personnel in Côte d'Ivoire were generally able to work unhindered. Representatives from both sides of the political divide readily maintained contact with ICRC delegates during this time.

Over the year, the ICRC visited detainees in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo, including those arrested in connection with election-related violence. It reinforced its support to the Ivorian authorities aimed at improving detainees' access to food, health care and hygiene. In urgent cases, the ICRC stepped in. It stabilized mortality rates in nine Ivorian prisons by providing malnourished detainees with supplementary food rations, facilitated medical treatment and renovated infrastructure. Following discussions with delegates, the authorities took steps to improve prison health care and nutritional standards.

In western Côte d'Ivoire, the National Society and the ICRC worked with rural and urban communities to improve their access to water and sanitation, expanding hygiene-awareness initiatives to ensure sustainable benefits. The ICRC continued to provide agricultural inputs to vulnerable farming communities to boost their economic security.

Coordination with Movement partners and other humanitarian actors ensured needs were met without duplicating efforts.

## CIVILIANS

Meetings with authorities, community leaders and weapon bearers, particularly in violence-prone areas, served to remind them of their responsibilities to respect civilians at all times.

During the Ivorian post-election crisis, civilians made use of an ICRC telephone hotline to relay allegations of abuses to the delegation. These were documented with a view to raising them with the alleged perpetrators and thus prevent further abuses.

### Violence- and disaster-affected people receive vital relief

Intercommunal and election-related violence, as well as natural disaster, affected civilians across the region.

Threatened by intercommunal violence, 9,455 vulnerable Ghanaians and 162 Ivorians (1,918 households) who had abandoned their homes to seek temporary shelter elsewhere received a one-month food ration from the ICRC to help sustain them until

their return. In Côte d'Ivoire, 924 IDPs struggling without their belongings received basic household items.

During violent pre-election demonstrations in Côte d'Ivoire, the wounded received prompt attention from ICRC-trained National Society first-aiders. Affected health structures received ICRC drugs and dressings to bolster their supplies.

With the onset of the post-election crisis, the National Society and the ICRC immediately stepped up activities, in line with contingency plans (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*), to provide relief to people wounded, displaced or otherwise affected. Of the 590 victims who received first aid, some 250 were evacuated to appropriate health structures by the National Society with ICRC ambulance support. To ensure patients received the requisite care, such structures maintained daily contact with the ICRC regarding their needs, with 9 obtaining dressing materials to treat up to 700 wounded. Facing logistical and security constraints, the National Blood Transfusion Centre requested and received ICRC help in delivering blood to hospitals low on supplies.

Communities in Danané and Duékoué, which saw an influx of people fleeing violence or insecurity, had their needs assessed by National Society/ICRC teams. To reduce strain on local resources, 2,736 IDPs and members of host families received hygiene items and household necessities. IDPs sheltering in a religious compound benefited from ICRC-constructed/renovated latrines, showers and water points, while National Society hygiene-awareness sessions helped reduce health risks aggravated by crowded conditions.

Families whose relatives had fled abroad received news of them thanks to family-links services provided by the Ivorian Red Cross and relevant National Societies (see *Guinea and Liberia*).

Across the region, over 10,000 Burkinans, Ivorians and Togolese displaced by flooding or wildfires and living in makeshift conditions received essential household items from the National Societies, with ICRC support.

### Ivorians affected by earlier violence boost their economic security

Improved security in parts of western Côte d'Ivoire prompted people displaced by earlier violence to return home. To ease their resettlement, 1,706 returnees (341 households) were provided with household essentials such as kitchen sets. As a contribution to their long-term economic security, 27,130 returnees and people hosting them (4,508 households), including 8,982 members of households headed by women, received seed, hoes and expert

advice from the ICRC. This not only helped them to revive their farming activities, but to maximize yield, thereby increasing household revenue.

### Ivorian communities participate in water and sanitation initiatives

In western and central Côte d'Ivoire, 71,000 people reduced health risks thanks to National Society/ICRC water and sanitation initiatives, focusing on community involvement to encourage sustainable benefits.

In parts of Côte d'Ivoire where flooding or power outages disrupted the water supply, some 44,700 residents regained access to safe water after National Society/ICRC teams chlorinated local wells. Accompanying National Society hygiene-awareness sessions helped reduce the risk of water-borne diseases. In towns unconnected to the water network, 7,800 residents gained better access to clean water after the ICRC repaired 13 drinking fountains. Community water-management committees learnt to undertake routine maintenance from ICRC-supported National Society volunteers, who also visited local households to promote good hygiene practices.

Around 14,500 Ivorians began benefiting from three hygiene-promotion initiatives, although these progressed slower than planned owing to the post-election crisis. Representatives of 17 communities, trained by Movement personnel, began raising awareness of good hygiene practices locally. Meanwhile, communities worked with National Society personnel to improve sanitation conditions according to their needs, for instance by digging latrines.

Ivorian Red Cross personnel in these areas were better equipped to carry out such activities after the ICRC renovated three local committee buildings. Plans to renovate two further buildings were delayed owing to technical constraints.

### Vulnerable Ivorians receive therapeutic care

At Korhogo's therapeutic feeding centre, run by the Ivorian Red Cross with ICRC support, 200 malnourished children received milk and nutritional supplements, helping them regain a healthy weight.

Staff at Bangolo hospital discussed their caseload with delegates to define future ICRC activities aimed at facilitating the treatment of victims of sexual violence. They agreed to delay the launch of such activities to ensure adequate preparation.

CIVILIANS		BURKINA FASO	CÔTE D'IVOIRE	GHANA	TOGO
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>					
Food	Beneficiaries		362	9,455	
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>			9,455	
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,400	9,320		6,000
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	2,400	9,320		6,000
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries		27,130		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries		71,000		

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Among those visited were 299 arrested in connection with the Ivorian post-election crisis. Detainees in Benin serving sentences under the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda received visits from the ICRC's Nairobi delegation (see *Nairobi*). Following such visits, the ICRC shared feedback, in confidence, with the authorities.

During visits, detainees were able, through ICRC family-links services, to contact their families or consular representatives. In particular, delegates made 608 phone calls on behalf of detainees, helping ensure family members learnt promptly of a relative's detention and did not report that person as missing.

To facilitate such activities, prison personnel in all three countries increased their understanding of the ICRC's work during briefings. Meetings with relevant authorities and international community representatives provided opportunities to impress upon them the need to allocate adequate resources to the respective penitentiary administrations to ensure detainees' living conditions met internationally recognized standards.

In Burkina Faso, detainees received soap to improve their hygiene conditions.

### Ivorian authorities supported in addressing detainees' urgent and long-term needs

Constrained by limited resources and prison overcrowding, the Ivorian authorities accepted ICRC input and guidance, which helped them meet detainees' urgent nutritional, health care and hygiene needs while working to address the root causes of these issues.

Given life-threatening malnutrition levels in some facilities, vulnerable detainees underwent regular health monitoring through

an ICRC supplementary feeding initiative conducted with the National Society and a local NGO. For as long as necessary, 2,106 detainees (an average of 1,141/month) received rations to supplement their regular meals. This helped improve their health and stabilized mortality rates in the nine targeted prisons in both central authority- and FN-controlled areas. To stem a localized spike in mortality rates, 300 of these detainees were also given high-calorie biscuits for one month to boost their nutritional intake. Moreover, 600 detainees underwent ICRC treatment for beriberi, commonly associated with malnutrition.

In efforts to improve detainees' nutritional health, the authorities confirmed an increase in the food budget. An ICRC assessment of official meal standards in different facilities enabled them to review the services provided by caterers and, where necessary, take action to resolve any disruption to services caused by delayed payment. Examples of nutritionally balanced meals, prepared by the ICRC according to locally available produce, aimed to support them in commissioning caterers to provide adequate meals.

Inmates wounded during post-election violence received attention from ICRC medical personnel, who arranged for X-ray examinations where necessary. On ICRC advice, the authorities arranged the referral of detainees with tuberculosis.

Detainees faced fewer general health risks after the ICRC repaired water and waste-disposal infrastructure in seven facilities, improved ventilation and provided 10,576 inmates with hygiene materials. Meanwhile, prison guards were trained in how to chlorinate wells, so they could respond independently in case of contamination. The Ivorian Institute of Public Hygiene disinfected 22 detention facilities with the help of ICRC equipment, benefiting some 12,000 detainees. Recreational items donated by the ICRC contributed to inmates' well-being.

The Health and Justice Ministries and the penitentiary administration explored with the ICRC ways to achieve sustainable

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	BENIN	BURKINA FASO	CÔTE D'IVOIRE – GOVERNMENT	CÔTE D'IVOIRE – FORCES NOUVELLES	TOGO
<b>ICRC visits</b>					
Detainees visited	7	182	14,338	379	2,193
Detainees visited and monitored individually	7	1	371	45	41
<i>of whom women</i>			1		
<i>of whom minors</i>			4		
Detainees newly registered			338	28	7
<i>of whom women</i>			1		
<i>of whom minors</i>			4		
Number of visits carried out	1	3	101	92	12
Number of places of detention visited	1	3	35	42	5
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected			132	19	21
RCMs distributed			78	11	4

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	BURKINA FASO	CÔTE D'IVOIRE
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>		
Food	Beneficiaries	2,106
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	182
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,000

improvements in health care. Subsequently, the authorities commissioned an assessment of prison health care standards and adopted a national policy on health in detention. They undertook to recruit additional nursing staff to improve detainees' access to professional medical care.

To encourage respect for judicial guarantees, the authorities were alerted to individual cases whose trials were overdue, resulting in the release of several detainees.

A planned seminar aimed at enhancing prison management was postponed to focus resources on needs generated by the post-election crisis.

## AUTHORITIES

Regular dialogue with local and national authorities and regional and international bodies, including the UN, deepened their understanding of IHL and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action and facilitated humanitarian coordination during crises. Contacts intensified in Côte d'Ivoire surrounding the elections, building on dialogue developed during the ICRC's longstanding presence there. These provided opportunities to remind the authorities of their responsibilities to safeguard civilians' rights and, during the post-election crisis, helped strengthen support for National Society/ICRC activities on both sides of the political divide. The parties demonstrated their backing, facilitating Movement access to those affected and granting the ICRC immediate access to people arrested in connection with the situation.

To accelerate national IHL implementation, the region's governments benefited from ICRC legal expertise and sponsorship. Accordingly, officials from all five countries shared experiences with peers at an ECOWAS/ICRC seminar in Abuja (see *Nigeria*) and at the third Universal Meeting of National IHL Committees, Geneva, Switzerland (see *International Law and Cooperation*). Representatives of French-speaking African countries explored customary IHL at a seminar in Cameroon (see *Yaoundé*). An AU/ICRC conference in Abidjan enabled 50 government officials and international community representatives to examine the AU Convention on IDPs. With ICRC support, Burkina Faso became the 30th State to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions, bringing the instrument into force. Although preoccupation with the elections hampered progress on IHL implementation in Côte d'Ivoire, relevant officials maintained contact with delegates with a view to the future ratification of priority treaties and revision of the penal code.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As a priority, weapon bearers were familiarized with IHL, international human rights law, the distinctive nature of the Movement and the protection afforded by its emblems. More than 3,400 Ivorian military and security personnel, including former fighters, attended ICRC briefings on these topics, with a focus on the proper maintenance of public order. These, along with

bilateral dialogue at command level and information sessions for 640 members of armed groups conducted with the National Society, helped secure safe Movement access to victims of the post-election crisis. Similar briefings targeted 775 military and security personnel from Burkina Faso and 20 from Togo, including peacekeepers preparing for deployment to Côte d'Ivoire.

To support the integration of IHL into forces' doctrine, training and operations, senior officers from Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and Togo enhanced their IHL expertise at international workshops with ICRC financial support. To help strengthen IHL teaching capacities, 20 Ivorian and 30 Beninois military instructors honed their skills at ICRC refresher courses. Subsequently, the Ivorian chief of staff created an IHL unit to coordinate the integration process. With ICRC input, this unit independently organized its first train-the-trainer event, at which existing instructors passed on their skills to 19 trainee instructors. Meanwhile, training units in Benin and Togo drew on ICRC expertise to update IHL handbooks, and one training facility in Burkina Faso strengthened teaching resources with ICRC-donated IHL reference materials.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Across the region, groups with potential influence during inter-communal or election-related violence had the opportunity to discuss humanitarian principles and deepen their understanding of the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work.

Traditional and religious leaders in Ghana and community leaders, students, political/youth groups, NGOs and women's associations in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo learnt about these topics at tailored National Society/ICRC events. In Côte d'Ivoire, these reached over 3,400 people, including demobilized soldiers, and often incorporated first-aid training. Besides promoting social cohesion, such events reinforced awareness of the Movement's distinctive role and, consequently, facilitated its access to victims of Ivorian post-election violence despite the prevailing insecurity.

Journalists attended Movement briefings and workshops enabling them to relay humanitarian messages accurately to the public. Radio spots and competitions prior to and during the Ivorian post-election crisis heightened awareness of humanitarian values, the Movement and its emblems, including in volatile western regions. Media contacts in Benin and Togo raised their respective National Society's profile by reporting on their assistance to flood victims.

To support the study of IHL among future opinion-leaders, university students in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo benefited from ICRC-donated IHL reference materials as well as presentations. Lecturers from all five countries enhanced their teaching skills at pan-African IHL courses, with ICRC sponsorship. Similarly, at a workshop abroad, an Ivorian official studied the process of integrating IHL into curricula with a view to organizing appropriate training for secondary school teachers.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies focused on preparing to meet needs in case of violence or natural disaster, receiving ICRC financial, material, logistical and training support to reinforce emergency response, communication, family-links and health-promotion capacities.

To strengthen their organizational development, the National Societies enhanced their governance skills at regional Movement seminars and at a meeting of National Society legal advisers in Switzerland. The Ivorian Red Cross reduced its dependence on external support by offering commercial first-aid training.

As part of contingency plans developed with ICRC support, first-aiders throughout Côte d'Ivoire and in Burkinan and Togolese flashpoints upgraded their skills and equipment with ICRC training and materials. To improve information-sharing, Ivorian and Togolese radio operators benefited from new equipment and training. All five National Societies undertook ICRC needs assessment/project management training, better preparing them to mobilize relief operations. Pre-positioned ICRC household supplies ensured they could meet communities' basic needs in an emergency.

To garner support for such operations, Ivorian and Togolese communication personnel learnt how to promote humanitarian principles, the Movement and its emblems effectively at ICRC workshops, using supporting materials produced with ICRC input (see *Civil society* and *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

Ivorian Red Cross personnel received ICRC vehicle support to facilitate national disease-prevention campaigns, enabling them to immunize thousands of children against polio and raise awareness of malaria, distributing mosquito nets to vulnerable women.

These activities, conducted in coordination with Movement partners operating locally, helped the National Societies increase their visibility and swiftly deploy to provide effective relief in the event of violence or natural disaster (see *Civilians*).