



abuja (regional)

Active in Nigeria during the Biafran war (1966–70), the ICRC established a regional delegation in Lagos in 1988 and relocated to Abuja in 2003. The ICRC works to enhance the Nigerian Red Cross Society’s capacity to respond to emergencies countrywide. It supports the National Society’s tracing and dissemination activities and a programme to improve hygiene and sanitation in prisons. Working with the authorities, the armed forces, the police and civil society, the organization promotes awareness of IHL and its national implementation. The ICRC and the National Society work to promote the Red Cross.

COVERING
Nigeria

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	100
Assistance	-
Prevention	1,973
Cooperation with National Societies	1,283
General	-

► **3,356**

of which: Overheads **205**

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89%
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PERSONNEL

5 expatriates
29 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ helped the Nigerian Red Cross Society prepare for and respond to emergencies, including election-related violence
- ▶ strengthened dialogue with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) leadership to improve cooperation between ECOWAS and the ICRC
- ▶ conducted train-the-trainer courses for 26 military and 42 police instructors
- ▶ gave presentations on the ICRC and IHL/human rights law for over 2,000 military/police personnel, including pre-deployment briefings for peacekeepers
- ▶ together with the National Society, conducted 3 first-aid training sessions for 62 volunteers from Muslim aid organizations
- ▶ continued to support the National Society’s activities to disseminate IHL and the Movement’s Fundamental Principles and to restore family links

CONTEXT

The victory of President Musa Yar’Adua and his running mate Goodluck Jonathan in the May presidential elections was still being contested at the end of the year, with the election tribunal yet to pass judgement on petitions filed by two opposition candidates. At the state level, courts ruled that two governors had been elected fraudulently and should be replaced by the real winners, and called for fresh polls in three further states where the results had been annulled.

The nation’s anti-graft agency declared that 31 state governors were involved in financial corruption. The agency was investigating a further eight ex-governors for crimes including money-laundering, theft and diversion of State funds.

Although strong oil revenues continued to bolster government finances, living conditions remained difficult for the majority of the population.

Crime and violence were still running high in the Niger Delta despite government efforts to talk to armed groups in the region. A ceasefire declared by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) when President Yar’Adua took office lasted only a few months. Acts of sabotage and the kidnapping of foreign oil workers were frequent, while others were increasingly abducted for ransom. Violent clashes occurred between the security forces and militant or criminal groups, in particular in the city of Port Harcourt.

A multi-party agreement, reached under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), provided for the integration of 7,292 refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia residing in Nigeria. Under the terms of the agreement, Sierra Leone and Liberia were to issue their affected nationals with passports, while Nigeria would allow them to settle and to enjoy access to work, education and health on the same terms as Nigerians.

On 12 November, 21 Cameroonian soldiers were killed in the Bakassi peninsula. While the attackers remained unidentified, the Nigerian Senate declared that the transfer of the territory to Cameroon should be put on hold until the Nigerian legislature had been given an opportunity to ratify the Greentree Accord.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

	Total
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS	
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>	
RCMs collected	65
RCMs distributed	64
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>	
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	8
<i>of whom females</i>	5
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)	34
<i>of which for females</i>	14
<i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>	11

ICRC ACTION

Working in close cooperation with and supported by the ICRC, the Nigerian Red Cross Society provided assistance to people affected by political violence, urban riots, religious and intercommunal clashes, and natural disasters. The ICRC helped the National Society organize workshops on conflict preparedness and response and hold information sessions for Red Cross volunteers and staff on IHL and the Fundamental Principles. It also provided material, logistic and financial support to all 37 state branches, including through the pre-positioning of non-food items and medical supplies countrywide.

The ICRC maintained its support to the National Society's prison sanitation programme, through which sanitation micro-projects were completed in two prisons and sanitation materials were distributed to detainees in nine prisons. It continued to work with the National Society to restore family links.

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the political authorities and civil society, including traditional and religious leaders, academic circles and the media, in order to gain a better understanding of the complexities of the country and region, promote awareness and implementation of IHL, exchange information on issues of humanitarian concern, and anticipate possible crises.

Train-the-trainer courses on IHL and on human rights and humanitarian principles applicable in internal disturbances aimed to support the military and police in gaining autonomy in their IHL training. Delegates also gave briefings on IHL/human rights law and on the ICRC and its activities to military and police personnel, including troops departing on peace-support operations.

Dialogue with ECOWAS aimed to gain the regional body's support in the conduct of ICRC operations and, more generally, the promotion of IHL in West Africa.

During the second half of the year, the National Society undertook a review of its activities, structure and performance, following which it formalized areas of cooperation with the ICRC through the signing of a series of agreements. With ICRC support, the Nigerian Red Cross held its General Assembly in December, at which a new president and executive board were elected.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The Nigerian Prison Service (NPS) and the ICRC maintained regular contact and generally strengthened their relationship.

- NPS staff members participated in a workshop during which they learned about the ICRC's standard procedures for visits to detainees
- medical and welfare services in Nigerian prisons were the subject of a paper presented by the ICRC at an NPS-organized workshop

AUTHORITIES

Departments within the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs were briefed by the ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross's legal adviser on topics linked to the draft Geneva Conventions Act and, in particular, on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The Ministry of Justice passed the bill to the president and the Executive Council for ratification.

ECOWAS president, Mohamed Ibn Chambas, and the political affairs, peace and security commissioner met the ICRC to discuss ways to improve cooperation between the two institutions. Contact with the ECOWAS legal department was renewed with a view to bolstering its support for IHL implementation within member States.

- senior legal officials from the Justice and Foreign Affairs ministries of 13 of the 15 ECOWAS member States participated in the fourth joint ECOWAS/ICRC seminar on national IHL implementation and related issues

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The military high command and the ICRC continued to discuss IHL integration into doctrine, training and operations. The ICRC conducted training courses for instructors and pre-deployment IHL sessions for peacekeeping battalions. An officer in charge of doctrine and training participated in the Senior Workshop on International Rules governing Military Operations hosted by the ICRC and the Swiss army in Geneva, Switzerland.

The police steering committee attended a workshop on the integration of IHL and human rights principles into police procedures, and the ICRC helped produce 150,000 booklets entitled *Guide for Police Conduct and Behaviour*. The minister of the interior met the ICRC to discuss police reform.

In all, 26 military and 42 police instructors took part in train-the-trainer courses aimed at building military/police internal training autonomy. The training of IHL instructors was discussed with the heads of three combat training institutions.

Presentations on IHL/human rights law and on the ICRC's mandate and activities took place for over 2,000 military/police personnel, including:

- ▶ 60 senior army officers responsible for training and operational planning and over 120 commanding officers from operational units countrywide
- ▶ 250 students attending key military academies
- ▶ 1,600 military personnel departing on peace-support operations abroad
- ▶ 80 police officers undergoing training

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to strengthen its network of contacts within the media, religious groups and academic institutions.

The media's understanding of the ICRC's work was enhanced through an IHL workshop for 23 journalists in Abuja and the sponsorship of two radio journalists to attend ICRC broadcast training.

Higher education institutions continued to receive support for the teaching of IHL, with their students taking part in a national IHL moot court competition and a Nigerian team participating in an international IHL moot court competition in Arusha, Tanzania. Two law professors attended the All African Course on IHL in Pretoria, South Africa.

- ▶ 6,000 copies of a magazine about the Red Cross in Nigeria published and distributed to key contacts
- ▶ 62 volunteers from Muslim aid organizations attended 3 first-aid training sessions, with the involvement of Nigerian Red Cross first-aid instructors
- ▶ school pupils took part in an ICRC-organized art competition and exhibition on the theme "Youths and Violence"

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Emergency preparedness and response

To help the Nigerian Red Cross respond effectively to emergencies, relief items, including first-aid materials, were pre-positioned country-wide, the radio communications network was upgraded and training was conducted for over 1,500 National Society staff and volunteers, with ICRC financial, technical, material and logistic support.

- ▶ 2,070 victims of election-related violence treated and some evacuated to hospitals by over 11,000 volunteers and trained first-aiders
- ▶ people affected by flooding in 10 states received first-aid services, food and non-food items, and hygiene materials from 428 volunteers
- ▶ 284 victims of political/religious violence in Kano and Bauchi states assisted

Promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles

With ICRC support:

- ▶ IHL workshops held for 208 governance members and 20 teachers from secondary schools in Lagos
- ▶ 1 dissemination officer participated in the All African Course on IHL in Pretoria
- ▶ 30,000 copies each of 2 brochures printed, one on the additional emblem and the other on the Fundamental Principles

Prison sanitation programme

Support to Nigerian Red Cross prison sanitation activities was maintained and the programme restructured to improve its effectiveness.

- ▶ 2 micro-projects (sewage and drainage) were completed in Agodi prison (Oyo state) and Bida prison (Niger state) respectively
- ▶ 1,647 inmates in 9 prisons in Ebonyi, Niger and Oyo states received sanitation materials

Restoration of family links

Tracing activities in the Oru refugee camp and related staff training continued to receive ICRC support up until the official closure of the camp in the middle of the year, following which most refugees returned to their home countries.

- ▶ 65 RCMs collected from and 64 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 7 to unaccompanied children
- ▶ new tracing requests registered for 8 people (including 5 females); 17 people located; 34 people (including 14 females and 11 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought

Movement cooperation

The Nigerian Red Cross Society held its General Assembly in December, with ICRC support, and elected a new president and executive board. Regular national and regional Movement coordination meetings took place, and Movement staff received training on the Seville Agreement and its Supplementary Measures.