



# rwanda

The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. Its current activities focus on visiting the tens of thousands of detainees held in central prisons. It also regularly visits people held in places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities. It helps to reunite children with the families from whom they became separated during the exodus of 1994 or the mass repatriations in 1996–97. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation and into school and university curricula. It also supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

⊕ ICRC delegation   ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation   + ICRC office/presence

## EXPENDITURE (IN CHF ,000)

Protection	3,373
Assistance	8,960
Prevention	888
Cooperation with National Societies	668
General	-

► **13,890**

of which: Overheads 848

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89.8%
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## PERSONNEL

28 expatriates
195 national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2005, the ICRC:

- ▶ following a gradual phase-out, ended food deliveries to prisons and handed over this responsibility to the government after 11 years of providing the service;
- ▶ conducted health, hygiene and water projects in prisons and drew up a national plan for the prevention of and response to HIV/AIDS infection in places of detention;
- ▶ regularly visited detainees in all places of detention, paying particular attention to detainees' diet, and conveyed its findings to prison authorities;
- ▶ assisted the Ministry of Internal Security in carrying out an assessment of the current situation and needs of the National Prisons Service;
- ▶ completed water-distribution projects benefiting more than 172,000 people in both rural and urban areas;
- ▶ supported the integration of IHL and of international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into army and police training respectively, and further developed its network of partners in civil society for the promotion of IHL.

## CONTEXT

Following a two-year process of institutional and legislative reforms marking an end to the transition period, the authorities turned their attention to the reform of the judicial system. Considerable challenges lay ahead with respect to bringing to justice people suspected of involvement in the 1994 genocide. Some 9,000 *gacaca* courts, based on the concept of a traditional tribal council, were set up throughout the country and started collecting information and hearing testimonies. More than 700,000 genocide suspects were expected to appear before these courts in the next few years.

*Gacaca* courts in 118 jurisdictions began work in March, and by the end of the year, more than 4,000 people had been brought before them. The trials did not lead to a rise in the prison population. Rather, following the release of around 23,000 inmates in July, the total number of detainees had decreased. Those released included detainees who had confessed to taking part in the genocide but were not ringleaders, those whose case files against them lacked sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction and those who had spent more time in detention than they would have served if convicted. Nevertheless, approximately 70,000 inmates, including around 11,000 ordinary criminals, remained behind bars.

In the Declaration of Rome issued in March, the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR), the armed opposition group based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), denounced the genocide for the first time and said it would disarm and return to Rwanda providing its forces were given guarantees of their reintegration into Rwandan society under international supervision. The Rwandan government responded by reiterating its willingness to welcome the ex-fighters home and to help them settle back into society. The FDLR's announcement, however, had not led to significant disarmament and repatriation by the end of the year.

On the international scene, Rwanda decided to boost the size of its contingent taking part in the African Union's peace-keeping mission in Darfur, Sudan.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	92,965	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	722	Food	Beneficiaries	64,160
Number of visits carried out	244	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	100,102
Number of places of detention visited	103	Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	2,352
<b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>		Water-supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)		
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	172,479
RCMs collected	5,837	<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
RCMs distributed	6,606	Hospital supported	Structure	1
People reunited with their families	53			
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	145			
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	47			
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2005	93			
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>				
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	102			
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	53			
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2005	699			

## ICRC ACTION

Rwanda's stability and the government's commitment to the country's development prompted the ICRC to continue to phase out its assistance programmes. Instead, more emphasis was placed on helping bolster the capacities of local institutions.

All micro-projects for widows' associations drew to a close during the first quarter of 2005. An assessment of their impact showed that the ICRC's input had helped beneficiary associations keep their projects going.

In light of the authorities' willingness to take responsibility for supplying food to prisons and the inclusion of the additional expense in the 2006 State budget, the ICRC stopped providing rations to the last three prisons it was still thus assisting. Over the three previous years, the delegation had gradually reduced the supply of food, with the State meeting 85% of the prison population's nutritional needs in 2005. The ICRC systematically monitored the nutritional status of the detainees and carried out much-needed health, water and hygiene projects in prisons. Delegates conducted regular visits to detainees held in police stations and military-run places of detention.

The ICRC delegation became increasingly involved in the prison administration's reform process. It completed a preliminary assessment of the prison service and submitted the study to the Ministry of Internal Security. The authorities were to use the report to find ways of reinforcing the prison

administration. Six major water projects, two of them supplying central prisons as well as the general population, were completed and handed over to the authorities for management and maintenance.

For planning and fundraising purposes, the Rwandan Red Cross organized two partnership meetings attended by other National Societies, the International Federation, the ICRC and prospective donors.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross, offered the RCM service to people separated from their families. It also continued to provide tracing and RCM services in Mutobo camp for fighters demobilized and repatriated to Rwanda by the United Nations Mission in the DRC.

In addition, the ICRC worked with the National Society to reunite children with their relatives. To check on how such children were faring, the ICRC conducted a survey of recently reunited families. Despite the difficulties arising from the increasingly long time spent apart and the economic problems at home, the overwhelming majority of children and their families who took part in the survey were satisfied with the reunification.

- 5,229 RCMs collected from and 5,987 RCMs delivered to civilians

- 47 people located at their families' request
- in cooperation with the National Society, 50 unaccompanied/separated children and 52 demobilized child soldiers registered
- 52 unaccompanied/separated children and 1 demobilized child soldier reunited with their families
- 699 cases of children separated from their families under investigation at the end of 2005

### Improving access to water for residents

The ICRC continued to repair or build water systems in partnership with the government, water boards and local communities to ensure an adequate supply of clean water for the population. It completed the Kinyinya-Remera project to harness seven springs and construct six outlet pipes and a gravity-fed water system in the Nsinda-Nyarukombe region and handed them over to the national water board or the Electrogaz electricity company.

Also completed were the Gikongoro-Karaba project which involved the development of 11 springs, and the Kabarondo pump system. In Nyanza, the ICRC rehabilitated 31 springs and built 19 reservoirs and 6 outlet pipes.

The delegation supported the water boards and communities in the Mudasmwa district in the management of the area's water network, thereby increasing the output of 28 sources. It trained local officials in the

management of water installations. Similar support was given in the Gihogwe, Karaba, Nsinda-Nyarukombe and Nyanza districts.

- ▶ water systems completed benefiting 172,479 people

### Assisting women and children

As part of the reorientation of its assistance programmes, the ICRC discontinued micro-projects aiding 24 women's associations. It continued to visit the groups to gauge the effectiveness of the support and provided technical back-up and seeds, tools and goats.

- ▶ 24 ICRC-supported agricultural micro-projects launched in 2004–05 assessed; 110 of 550 micro-projects supported by the ICRC between 1996 and 2003 surveyed and 80% found to be still in existence
- ▶ 4,148 unaccompanied children supplied with 130 tonnes of food and 2 tonnes of soap
- ▶ school fees paid for 1,002 orphans

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Protecting detainees

The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment of detainees and their living conditions, nutritional status, health, access to medical care and length of time awaiting trial. It made a number of representations to the authorities regarding the conditions it found in prisons and places of temporary detention under the authority of the police and the army. The ICRC offered the RCM service to newly imprisoned detainees.

The delegation completed a report on the prison service and submitted it to the authorities. The report was intended for use by Rwandan officials when considering prison reforms.

In order to improve detention conditions for minors, the ICRC cooperated with the authorities to build separate blocks for detainees under 18 years of age. The delegation also provided minors with textbooks and stationery for schooling organized in prisons.

- ▶ 92,965 people visited including 382 newly registered and 722 monitored individually (in accordance with the prevailing situation, the ICRC ended its 10-year long practice of monitoring every detainee suspected of participating in the genocide) during 244 visits to 103 places of detention

- ▶ 608 RCMs collected from and 619 distributed to detainees
- ▶ 229 minors in prisons provided with school supplies
- ▶ blocks for minors completed in 2 prisons

### Ensuring detainees' access to medical care

The ICRC continued to collect epidemiological data in prisons, to suggest procedures to enable staff to respond quickly to outbreaks of disease, and to recommend the hospitalization of sick detainees. The delegation supplied 50% of the medicines needed, down from 70% the previous year.

HIV/AIDS-prevention projects in the prisons took hold more rapidly than foreseen. The ICRC's training and awareness projects in five central prisons, jointly organized with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, were completed in 2005. Other NGOs that had followed the ICRC's lead and begun working in five other central prisons also finished their schemes. The ICRC took an active role in drawing up a national plan for HIV/AIDS prevention and response in Rwanda's prisons. The plan was to be finalized at the beginning of 2006.

### Access to clean water for detainees

The supply of clean water to central prisons remained problematic, and the amount was often largely below the recommended minimum of 15 litres per person per day. The ICRC therefore continued to support water-supply projects contributing to an increase of available water to 12 litres per person a day, up from 7 litres in 2004.

### Adequate hygiene and sanitation for detainees

The ICRC improved sanitation in two large prisons, where it also worked with the authorities to install biogas systems (the production of energy through gas produced by waste matter). The kitchens in several prisons were either upgraded or repaired, and inmates' living conditions were further enhanced by a number of small-scale renovation projects.

In order to promote hygiene conditions in prisons, the ICRC supplied detainees with chlorine and soap and sanitary towels for women.

Pest-control campaigns were undertaken in six prisons. Throughout the year, however, the ICRC checked that cleaning and hygiene programmes were regularly carried out in the prisons and that the authorities

had supplied the necessary materials for that purpose.

- ▶ access to clean water and sanitation improved for 88,879 detainees
- ▶ 95,954 detainees provided with essential household items

### Monitoring nutrition in prisons

As foreseen in the *Emergency Appeals 2005*, the ICRC discontinued its supply of food to prisons at the end of the year, following a gradual phase-out over three years. Early in 2005, it handed over responsibility for supplying food to inmates in five prisons to the authorities. Throughout the year, however, it continued to supply 15% of the food needs of Rwanda's prison population, making its final delivery in December. The authorities provided sufficient food to make up the difference. The ICRC measured the body mass index of detainees in all 16 central prisons and informed the authorities of the results, pointing out where improvements could still be made.

The ICRC also provided three central prisons with technical support, seeds, tools and fertilizers to help them develop agricultural production.

- ▶ 60,012 detainees in central prisons supplied with 2,690 tonnes of food
- ▶ 1,350 detainees worked in ICRC-supported prison farms

## WOUNDED AND SICK

There was no influx of war-wounded during the year and accordingly there was no assistance in this sphere besides ad hoc support to Butare hospital.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC intensified its networking with the various State bodies concerned with the enforcement of IHL, namely the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice and specialized parliamentary commissions. Members of parliament took into account the delegation's proposals in the drafting of a law on prison reform. The legal department of the Ministry of Defence also requested the ICRC's advice in the drafting of a proposed law on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Promoting IHL in army training

The ICRC continued to work with the Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) to integrate IHL into military doctrine, training and operations. A high point of this activity in 2005 was the ICRC/RDF cooperation on the organization of the first ever IHL competition for East African military.

- ▶ 21 participants from 6 countries attended the joint ICRC/RDF regional IHL competition
- ▶ 2 army officers sponsored to attend a two-week IHL course in San Remo
- ▶ 40 non-commissioned officers attended a one-week IHL instructors' course supported by the ICRC
- ▶ 85 officers and 1,960 troops briefed on IHL and on the humanitarian situation in Darfur ahead of a peace-keeping mission

### Promoting human rights standards/humanitarian principles in police training

The ICRC supported the national police force in its efforts to include human rights law in police training.

- ▶ 24 police officers attended a two-week awareness session on IHL
- ▶ 72 police officers and 275 local defence forces attended 3 information sessions on ICRC detention visits and respect for detainees

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Promoting the ICRC's image

The ICRC pursued efforts to increase awareness among journalists of its mandate and IHL. During the year, the delegation invited the media to attend events highlighting the ICRC's activities, such as the launch of a new radio programme broadcasting the names of children separated from their families, the inauguration of drinking-water systems, and the IHL competition for the military.

The delegation's briefings and press releases prompted media coverage on various issues, including general IHL topics, but also the humanitarian situation in Darfur and the ICRC's study on customary international humanitarian law.

The ICRC strengthened contacts and assisted national associations, commissions and NGOs that include IHL dissemination in their mission, by providing them with

information, training opportunities and reference material.

### Promoting Exploring Humanitarian Law in secondary schools

The ICRC continued to support preparations to include the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the new six-year civic-education curriculum for secondary-school pupils. Implementation was behind schedule and would not begin until a teacher-training manual and timetable in both French and English were completed and distributed.

### Promoting IHL in universities

In order to complement training in IHL, the ICRC sponsored two lecturers from private universities to attend pan-African IHL courses in Yaoundé (Cameroon) and Pretoria (South Africa). It also held a round-table discussion, attended by five IHL lecturers and four assistant lecturers from three universities, on the teaching of IHL and the ICRC's study on customary international humanitarian law.

The ICRC regularly provided documentation and advice to students writing their theses on IHL-related topics. It also maintained contacts with lecturers from other faculties with a link to IHL, such as political science and journalism.

- ▶ 3 students from the National University of Rwanda sponsored to participate in the regional moot-court competition in Arusha, Tanzania (see *Nairobi*)

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Early in 2005, the ICRC and the Rwandan Red Cross signed three cooperation agreements concerning the development and strengthening of the National Society's capacities in the fields of dissemination and communication, tracing and disaster preparedness.

- ▶ 5 training workshops on IHL dissemination skills held, attended by 70 National Society volunteers
- ▶ the capacities of 4 provincial emergency teams reinforced
- ▶ courses in first-aid and basic management of refugee camps held for 80 National Society volunteers
- ▶ National Society's emergency stocks topped up
- ▶ tracing activities in Byumba and Gikongoro assessed and shortcomings corrected

- ▶ RCM distribution given technical support by ICRC field officers; 321 volunteers given RCM training, bringing the network's coverage up to 70% of the country