

rwanda



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC office/presence

The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It focuses 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 during 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.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	3,567
Assistance	5,041
Prevention	992
Cooperation with National Societies	738
General	-

► **10,337**

of which: Overheads 631

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	99%
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PERSONNEL

24 expatriates
156 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2006, the ICRC:

- ▶ visited more than 83,700 detainees during 293 visits to 110 places of detention, including the country's 16 central prisons and police stations and military detention facilities;
- ▶ repatriated unaccompanied children to Rwanda, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and reunited 45 children with their families;
- ▶ collected nearly 4,000 RCMs from and delivered more than 6,000 RCMs to people separated from their families, in cooperation with the National Society;
- ▶ completed water supply projects for 58,200 people in 1 urban and 3 rural areas and initiated 6 new projects;
- ▶ provided logistic support to help the National Society distribute food aid to people in drought-stricken regions, assist returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania and respond to a cholera epidemic;
- ▶ provided technical information to the authorities on the ratification process for the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

CONTEXT

Trials of genocide suspects by traditional *gacaca* courts started nationwide in July, leading to a steady flow of sentenced individuals into the prisons. According to official figures, more than 760,000 cases had been documented by the end of October 2006. All suspects were scheduled to have stood trial by the end of 2007. A new law to overhaul the prison system was promulgated at the end of the year.

The disarmament and repatriation of members of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda, an armed group based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), progressed only haltingly.

Some regions of Rwanda felt the effects of the drought in East Africa, but belated rains nevertheless contributed to a satisfactory June harvest. However, by the end of the year food security in several areas of the country was fragile.

Rwanda reorganized its administrative structure, reducing its 12 provinces to 4 regions plus the capital Kigali and the number of districts from 120 to 30. New regional and district authorities took up their functions.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS AND PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		
Detainees visited	84,765	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	478	Food	Beneficiaries	4,341
Number of visits carried out	293	Essential household items	Beneficiaries	91,075
Number of places of detention visited	110	Agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	618
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS		Water supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)	Beneficiaries	88,200
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Habitat structures	Beneficiaries	56,034
RCMs collected	3,930			
RCMs distributed	6,220			
People reunited with their families	45			
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	108			
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	52			
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2006	72			
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>				
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	91			
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	45			
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2006	562			
DOCUMENTS ISSUED				
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	10			

ICRC ACTION

Following Rwanda's extensive administrative reorganization, the ICRC delegation contacted all new district authorities in charge of budgets and supplies for central prisons to brief them on the situation in each prison and the ICRC's response. The relevant authorities at central and local level were informed mid-year of the ICRC's plans to further decrease direct assistance to prisons, so that they could prepare their 2007 budgets accordingly.

Detainees continued to receive visits from delegates, who monitored their conditions of detention. Where necessary, recommendations for improvements were made to the authorities as part of an ongoing confidential dialogue. As the authorities had assumed responsibility for food supply in prisons at the end of 2005, the ICRC concentrated on providing direct support in crucial sectors such as health and hygiene, water and sanitation and the maintenance of prison infrastructure.

With the nationwide *gacaca* trials under way, the prison population increased by 24% during the second half of the year, reaching more than 87,000 inmates, including some 17,000 common criminals, by the end of the year. Systematic assessments of detainees' nutritional status and accommodation were carried out and the results shared with the authorities.

Eighty-one peer educators in Kigali's central prison were trained by the ICRC

to help in the implementation of the national plan to tackle HIV/AIDS in prisons drafted with the active participation of the delegation.

Some 58,200 people in Gihogwe, Kabarondo, Karaba and Nyanza gained improved access to water with the completion of projects in their communities. A further six projects were initiated.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross, made the RCM service available to enable separated family members to restore or maintain contact. Where children had been separated from their families, the ICRC helped to trace their relatives, reunite them where appropriate and monitor and support their reintegration. For children still waiting to be reunited with their families, it supported centres looking after them.

The Rwandan Defence Force continued to receive support from the ICRC in its efforts to integrate IHL into military doctrine, training and operations. The delegation also carried out activities to raise awareness of issues relating to IHL among the media, higher-education establishments and the general public.

Drought-affected populations and people of Rwandan origin who had been expelled by the United Republic of Tanzania were both assisted by the National Society, with logistic and other support from the ICRC and the International Federation.

CIVILIANS

People separated from their relatives were able to restore or maintain contact through the tracing and RCM services provided by the ICRC and the Rwandan Red Cross. Weapon bearers at the Mutobo demobilization camp, who had been demobilized and repatriated to Rwanda by the UN Mission in the DRC, were also able to use these services.

Where appropriate, children were repatriated to Rwanda, mostly from the DRC, and reunited with their families. Some of their families were found through bulletins given by the ICRC to local radio stations to broadcast.

Children waiting to be reunited with their families were looked after in 22 ICRC-supported centres. A total of 123 children who had been reunited with their families received visits from ICRC staff to see how they were settling back into society. Twenty-six families with social and economic problems received support from local authorities and associations which the ICRC had mobilized.

- 3,739 RCMs collected and 6,071 RCMs distributed, including 78 from and 96 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 108 people (47 females, 57 minors at the time of disappearance); 52 people located; 72 cases (45 females, 44 minors at the time of disappearance) still being processed

- ▶ 91 unaccompanied/separated children registered (including 48 demobilized children); 45 reunited with their families; 562 cases of such children (including 71 demobilized children) still being handled
- ▶ 400 names of people seeking or being sought by their relatives broadcast
- ▶ 4,341 children who had either been recently reunited with their families or were still staying in centres for unaccompanied/separated minors supplied with 126 tonnes of food and 2 tonnes of soap
- ▶ 618 vulnerable orphans' school fees paid

In Kabarondo, Karaba and Nyanza, 37,000 people gained a better water supply with the completion of three projects. In the final stage of the projects, with guidance and support from the ICRC, local authorities and communities learned how to manage the distribution network.

In Gihogwe, on the outskirts of Kigali, 21,200 people had improved access to water when work on the Gihogwe water supply system was completed by the State-run Electrogaz Company and the ICRC.

Early in the year, 30,000 residents of areas of Kigali suffering from an outbreak of cholera were assured of a safe supply of water by the National Society and the ICRC, with the latter providing water trucking, bladder tanks and jerrycans, thus helping to contain the epidemic within a few weeks.

Six new projects (in Gasasa, Kabarondo, Kabaya, Kigarama, Mbazi and Ndiza) were initiated to improve access to water for 68,850 people. Each project included support to and training of local authorities to ensure proper management of water production and distribution.

Inhabitants of regions stricken by drought, and Rwandan nationals expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania benefited from relief programmes run by the National Society with ad hoc support from the ICRC (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in civilian prisons, police stations and places under the authority of the military received regular visits from ICRC delegates, who checked on their treatment, living conditions, nutritional status, health and access to medical care and conveyed the findings confidentially to the authorities.

Newly imprisoned detainees were given the opportunity to make contact with their relatives through the RCM service. Minors received particular attention from the ICRC, which insisted on their strict separation from adults. To this end, it constructed separate cellblocks for them in three central prisons, in collaboration with the Rwandan authorities.

- ▶ 84,765 detainees visited, 478 of them monitored individually (44 females, 14 minors), including 346 newly registered (36 females, 12 minors), during 293 visits to 110 places of detention
- ▶ 191 RCMs collected from and 149 RCMs distributed to detainees
- ▶ 10 detention certificates issued to former detainees or their families

Health, hygiene and living conditions

Detainee health care in 12 prisons was supported through the ICRC's continued provision of 50% of the required essential medicines. Recommendations for improving the quality of prison health services were made by delegates during visits.

An analysis of prison data showed HIV/AIDS to be the main cause of death among detainees. In January, the authorities launched a national prevention and integrated response plan to fight HIV/AIDS, as well as other health threats, in prisons. The plan had been drafted by a steering committee comprising various organizations, including the ICRC. Under the plan, 62 detainees and 19 administrative personnel of Kigali's central prison were trained as peer educators by the ICRC.

Inmates' nutritional status was checked on 27 different occasions by measuring their body mass index. The results were shared with the authorities, so that they could improve the situation where necessary.

Prisons were encouraged to create vegetable gardens to improve the diet of sick detainees. To stimulate agricultural production, they received technical support, seeds, tools and fertilizer.

In seven places of detention, 56,034 inmates experienced improved living conditions as a result of upgraded kitchen or latrine facilities or other small-scale projects. In five prisons, 21,302 detainees were set to benefit from improved sanitation facilities as a result of ongoing projects to construct biogas systems (waste-water management

combined with energy production), carried out by the ICRC in conjunction with the authorities.

To maintain hygiene standards, prisons regularly received chlorine, liquid soap, soap bars and hygiene products for women. The delegation also monitored cleaning and hygiene programmes. Pest control campaigns were conducted in seven prisons.

- ▶ detainees in 8 prisons received materials and equipment to grow food
- ▶ 87,067 detainees provided with hygiene items
- ▶ 461 minors in prisons provided with school supplies

AUTHORITIES

Various State bodies concerned with the implementation of IHL, including the Defence and Justice Ministries and specialized parliamentary committees, received information, advice or legal support from the ICRC.

The reorganization of the Foreign Ministry early in the year slowed down the consultation process regarding the ratification of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Nevertheless, at the end of the year the Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed the ICRC that it had started consultations with the Ministry of Defence regarding ratification of the Convention. The delegation assisted by providing technical information on the contents of the Convention.

Discussions on the revision of the law on the red cross emblem continued between the Ministry of Health, the Rwandan Red Cross and the ICRC. The National Society was provided with model laws to pass on to the Ministry of Health.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Rwandan Defence Force was assisted by the ICRC in its efforts to integrate IHL into military procedures and training. Cooperation continued with the bimonthly army publication *Ingabo Magazine*, which featured articles on IHL and the ICRC in every other issue.

The training department of the Rwanda National Police received copies of a Kinyarwanda version of the ICRC booklet, *To serve and to protect*.

- ▶ 100 Rwandan officers and 1,000 troops assigned to peacekeeping duties in Darfur, Sudan, attended 7 information sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ 300 Darfur-bound police officers attended similar information sessions
- ▶ 30 instructors trained in IHL and assigned to the country's military training institutions and several services within the Ministry of Defence
- ▶ 438 new agents of the National Prison Service attended an information session on the objectives and standard procedures of the ICRC's work in places of detention

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media was kept abreast of the ICRC's activities and IHL-related issues, such as the protection of women in armed conflict and the situation in Darfur, through regular contact with the delegation.

Some media, at their own initiative, reported on the entry into force of Protocol V to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war, indicating a growing awareness of the issue.

The delegation continued to support various associations and local NGOs interested in IHL.

IHL in schools

The preparation and revision of programmes and textbooks containing chapters on human rights and IHL, to be used in civic education classes, fell behind schedule because of administrative reforms earlier in the year.

IHL in universities

A law professor from Kigali Free University was sponsored to attend the regional IHL course for French-speaking countries held in Burkina Faso as part of the ICRC's support to law lecturers teaching IHL.

Students engaged in research on IHL-related topics obtained appropriate documentation and advice; a team from the National University in Butare attended an international IHL moot court competition in Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania (see *Nairobi*).

In light of the high turnover of IHL lecturers and the increasing involvement of visiting lecturers, higher education institutions and the ICRC discussed ways to ensure that IHL courses were not disrupted.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Cooperation between the Rwandan Red Cross and the ICRC continued. This included ICRC support to ensure the sustainability of the National Society's programmes to restore family links, promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles and bolster its emergency preparedness and response.

Certain National Society activities benefited from ad hoc ICRC support:

- ▶ 20,000 families in drought-stricken regions received 1,500 tonnes of food from the government, which the National Society distributed with ICRC logistic support;
- ▶ Rwandan nationals expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania were assisted by the National Society in the Kirehe transit camp; the ICRC contributed 9 bladder tanks, 2,000 jerrycans, 3,000 blankets, 1,000 kitchen sets and 2 tents.

The National Society's emergency stocks were replenished thanks, in part, to contributions from the ICRC.

As part of a countrywide training programme put in place in 2002, 265 volunteers were trained in the provision of the RCM service. This programme culminated in the Rwandan Red Cross assuming full responsibility for the service to the civilian population at the end of 2006.