

RWANDA



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	3,051
Assistance	1,722
Prevention	306
Cooperation with National Societies	655
General	-

▶ **5,734**

of which: Overheads 350

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	93%
---------------------------	-----

PERSONNEL

Expatriates	13
National staff (daily workers not included)	82

KEY POINTS

In 2010, the ICRC:

- ▶ visited over 68,000 detainees held in civilian and military places of detention, including 8 people convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and serving their sentences in Rwanda
- ▶ signed an agreement with the National Prisons Service (NPS) to better coordinate joint projects constructing and rehabilitating water and sanitation infrastructure in prisons
- ▶ supported the NPS in collecting, managing and analysing data on inmates' health and nutrition
- ▶ welcomed the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion's integration of ICRC recommendations on unaccompanied minors into a new national policy on vulnerable children
- ▶ helped families dispersed during past conflict to restore and maintain contact with relatives in Rwanda and across international borders

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 makes regular visits to people held in places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities. It helps 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.

CONTEXT

Following elections held in August 2010, the incumbent president, who was voted in for his second seven-year term of office, continued to reorganize both the government and the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF).

The completion of Rwanda's *gacaca* trials, mandated to try approximately 1.5 million cases of people accused of crimes related to the 1994 genocide, was postponed. The process to replace the National Prisons Service (NPS) with the Rwanda Correctional Services progressed slowly. At year-end, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, had not transferred anyone sentenced for or charged with genocide to Rwanda as per its 2008 decision.

Amid ongoing military operations in the Kivu provinces of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), former weapon bearers, including children, continued to be repatriated from the DRC to Rwanda through the Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) process facilitated by the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO).

Rwanda formally entered the Commonwealth in March and started the transition from a civil to a common law system. It continued to develop its economy and infrastructure in accordance with its "Vision 2020" agenda, although the implementation of a five-year land reform programme was a source of discontent among the rural population.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
PROTECTION				
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages		Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		3,696	81	
RCMs distributed		3,204	28	
Names published in the media		137		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations		Total		
People reunited with their families		61		
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	45		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons		Total	Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		88	19	28
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		31		
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	9		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2010 (people)		95	21	36
UAMs/SCs,* including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers		Total	Girls	Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		65	7	39
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		62	20	2
	<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	46		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at 31 December 2010		227	62	36
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits		Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited		68,430		
Detainees visited and monitored individually		105	2	2
Detainees newly registered		44		2
Number of visits carried out		217		
Number of places of detention visited		90		
Restoring family links		Total		
RCMs collected		372		
RCMs distributed		143		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		11		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

ASSISTANCE				
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	65,037		

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2010, the ICRC continued to visit detainees in Rwanda, including those held in civilian prisons, military camps and police jails, monitoring their living conditions and treatment and providing the authorities with confidential feedback. Delegates also visited former weapon bearers in camps under the authority of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission, as well as a group of people convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and serving their sentences in Rwanda.

In parallel, the delegation assisted the authorities in improving living conditions for detainees. NPS health personnel worked alongside the ICRC to monitor the nutritional status of detainees and detect potential epidemics by collecting, managing and analysing data on inmates' health. The NPS and the ICRC also rehabilitated and constructed water and sanitation facilities and other infrastructure in prisons on the basis of a 50/50 cost-sharing agreement. To further reduce health risks, delegates supplied inmates and the prison authorities with hygiene and cleaning materials.

With ICRC financial support, materials and training, the Rwandan Red Cross ran the tracing and RCM services, helping refugees, returnees and former weapon bearers restore and maintain contact with their families. The ICRC continued to assist children separated from their families in tracing their relatives, reuniting the family when appropriate, and supporting their reintegration into family and communal life. In coordination with various ministries and local partner organizations, the ICRC also boosted managerial capacities at a centre hosting unaccompanied children.

Meanwhile, the National Society continued to strengthen its capacities to maintain family links, respond to emergencies and promote the Movement and its Fundamental Principles, with ICRC support. To maximize the impact of aid, Movement partners working in Rwanda met regularly to coordinate their activities and their support to the National Society.

Throughout the year, the ICRC continued to promote IHL and acceptance of the Movement within Rwandan political, military and academic circles. However, the ICRC and the RDF were not able, as planned, to assess the level of IHL integration into their doctrine, training and operations.

CIVILIANS

People separated from their families during past conflict, including Rwandan returnees, refugees from neighbouring countries, and other civilians, restored and maintained contact with relatives within and across borders through the tracing and RCM services provided by the Rwandan Red Cross, with ICRC technical and financial support (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Former weapon bearers, including children, who had been demobilized in the DRC and repatriated to Rwanda through the MONUSCO-run DDRRR process, contacted relatives via family-links services offered in the Doha and Mutobo camps, which

were under the authority of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission. Contacts were maintained with ICRC delegations in neighbouring countries and other actors providing services to refugees or repatriating them to Rwanda, with a view to coordinating activities and raising awareness of the Movement's family-links services.

During the year, 62 unaccompanied children were reunited with their relatives. Following reunification, the family received visits from ICRC representatives, who monitored how the child was settling back into home and community life. Some 30 children identified as experiencing social or economic difficulties received support through mediation and counselling services. The names of children who were still seeking their parents were broadcast on local radio stations and published in newspapers.

In the meantime, unaccompanied children still seeking their parents or awaiting reunification who were living in the Rusayo Centre for Unaccompanied Minors saw improvements in their care after various ministries, local partner organizations and the ICRC worked together to boost managerial capacities there. Over 300 boarders also received clothing, school supplies and hygiene items.

In July, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion produced a draft "Integrated Child Policy" as part of efforts to address the needs of vulnerable children in Rwanda. The final draft incorporated many of the recommendations of a 2008 ICRC report submitted to the authorities and highlighting the needs of unaccompanied minors on the basis of nearly 1,000 cases.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over 68,000 people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Internal Security, the Rwandan National Police and the RDF received regular visits, conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures, enabling delegates to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Those detained in connection with the armed conflict in the DRC and those held for other reasons of State security were followed individually. Eight people convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone and transferred to Rwanda at the end of 2009 were also visited. Particular attention was paid to vulnerable detainees, such as the elderly, minors, women, foreigners and those awaiting trial. Where needed, minors, newly imprisoned detainees and individuals claiming foreign citizenship were given the opportunity to contact their relatives and/or embassies. Following visits, the relevant detaining authorities received confidential feedback on the ICRC's findings. Dialogue continued with the detaining authorities, notably high-level military officials, to obtain access to all detainees in their custody.

In parallel, the detaining authorities, including the NPS, pursued dialogue with the ICRC aimed at ensuring detainees' living conditions met internationally recognized standards. This included follow-up to recommendations made in two ICRC reports submitted following visits in 2009 concerning the treatment of detainees in police custody and of minors in detention. With the

full agreement of the authorities, cases of minors with no legal representation or of detainees held for a long period without trial were referred to appropriate organizations for legal follow-up. Over 430 detained minors continued their education with the help of ICRC-provided school materials.

Former weapon bearers, including children, in camps under the authority of the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission received visits from ICRC delegates. The relevant authorities and the ICRC pursued a dialogue on the subsequent findings.

Authorities assisted in improving detainees' health and nutrition

The relevant authorities continued to receive ICRC support in improving inmates' health and nutrition. With technical back-up from the delegation, the NPS health unit continued to monitor and address epidemics in central prisons and to record and analyse prison health data, using a system established in 2009 with ICRC input. The unit was also advised on how to carry out regular nutrition surveys to detect vitamin deficiencies and other signs of malnutrition among inmates. Prison health staff underwent training by ICRC medical personnel to tackle specific health issues, including practical measures to prevent outbreaks of disease. To complement this, prison dispensaries received medical supplies, when needed, to ensure the proper treatment of inmates. Meanwhile, the NPS health unit, the Health, Internal Security and Local Government Ministries, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the ICRC coordinated efforts to incorporate prison health care into national health policies.

Inmates see improvements in infrastructure and hygiene

Some 65,000 detainees benefited from a range of joint projects carried out by the authorities and the ICRC on the basis of a 50/50 cost-sharing agreement. For example, as part of efforts to address overcrowding, around 7,500 vulnerable detainees in three prisons had their dormitories rehabilitated and enlarged. Similar works were ongoing for inmates in three other prisons. Hygiene conditions improved for nearly 15,500 detainees after water supply systems were upgraded in six prisons, and some 12,400 living in three other prisons benefited from kitchen repairs and new cooking materials. The prison authorities and the delegation also started rehabilitating latrines in three prisons and installed new biogas systems (waste management combined with energy production) in two. With ICRC advice, the authorities maintained the biogas systems previously installed, improving sanitation and reducing wood consumption and costs. In November, the NPS and the ICRC reinforced the coordination of these joint projects by signing a working agreement outlining their respective financial and technical responsibilities.

All 65,000 detainees were supplied with soap and other hygiene items for personal use, and the prison authorities received the necessary cleaning materials. To further reduce the spread of disease, inmates participated in ICRC-supported and -supervised pest-control programmes, and selected staff from all 14 central prisons were trained in fumigation techniques.

AUTHORITIES

Politicians, civil servants and local authorities learnt more about humanitarian issues and the Movement's activities in Rwanda and the sub-region during meetings, presentations and briefings conducted by the ICRC and, where possible, the National Society (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). This helped foster understanding of IHL and acceptance of the Movement.

At the national level, the relevant authorities were offered technical assistance in ratifying IHL treaties to which Rwanda was not yet party, such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions and Additional Protocol III, and in drafting national laws implementing their provisions. The government was also offered technical expertise in integrating IHL during its changeover to a common law system (see *Context*) and in considering revisions to the country's penal code.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Owing to internal restructuring (see *Context*), the RDF High Command was not in a position to assess the level of IHL integration into RDF doctrine, training and operations with the ICRC, as planned. Nonetheless, in bilateral meetings, high-level defence officials and the delegation discussed ways of potentially resuming cooperation. Meanwhile, RDF officers attending an ICRC presentation at a military academy reinforced their understanding of how IHL applied to peacekeeping operations.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To identify ways to better support the integration of IHL at university level, ICRC delegates developed contacts with a lecturer from the National University of Rwanda in Butare. He received regular updates on relevant legal developments and participated in a round-table abroad, with ICRC sponsorship. In the meantime, students and lecturers kept abreast of developments in IHL at law libraries and documentation centres, which the delegation stocked with up-to-date reference materials.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Rwandan Red Cross remained one of the principal humanitarian actors in the country, thanks to its countrywide network of trained volunteers and its partnership and coordination with other Movement components. As a key partner for the ICRC in restoring and maintaining contact between dispersed family members (see *Civilians*), it received 30 bicycles and a motorcycle to run its decentralized family-links network. With ICRC material, financial and technical support, it also continued to develop its capacities to respond to emergencies and raise awareness of IHL and the Movement.

To boost the National Society's emergency response capacities, 14 members of disaster response teams were trained by the ICRC as Safer Access focal points. This placed more than 700 members and volunteers in a better position to operate safely in situations of violence.

Meanwhile, the National Society worked to increase understanding of IHL and garner support for the Movement through its network of 60 trained and equipped communication volunteers, including by producing and distributing newsletters on Rwandan Red Cross activities. It also held information sessions for over 15,000 personnel, local authorities and members of the general public, which had the dual aim of raising awareness of humanitarian issues and expanding the National Society's network of public contacts. These activities prompted nearly 1,000 people to volunteer for the Rwandan Red Cross. Owing to a lack of availability of key stakeholders, however, no progress was made on drafting a law to protect the emblem.