

rwanda



(○) ICRC delegation (□) ICRC sub-delegation (●) ICRC office/presence
 (◻) ICRC sub-delegation for NE region

The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990, prior to which it had covered the country from its regional delegation in Kinshasa. In Rwanda, the ICRC visits detainees held in civilian prisons, military facilities and district *cachots* (lock-ups), helps reunite children with the families from whom they were separated during the exodus of 1994 or the mass repatriations in 1996–97, assists vulnerable genocide survivors and victims of the 1990–94 internal conflict (predominantly widows and orphans) and rehabilitates water-supply systems. It also supports the Rwandan Red Cross in developing its activities.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

3,442,163

Assistance

11,660,960

Preventive action

988,099

Cooperation with National Societies

434,537

General

37,261

▶ **16,563,021**

of which: Overheads **1,010,889**

PERSONNEL

35 expatriates

229 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ The ICRC visited 90 places of detention, monitoring over 74,000 detainees to ensure their conditions of detention met minimum standards.
- ▶ In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC delivered 8,743 RCMs and reunited 115 children with their families.
- ▶ The ICRC paid the school fees of some 1,400 children.
- ▶ The ICRC supplied 30% of food needs in prisons and 70% of medicines to prison dispensaries (quantities were reduced from the previous year as part of a strategy to encourage the detaining authorities to fulfil their obligations).
- ▶ Repairs to or construction of water supply and sanitation systems provided nearly 190,000 people (civilians and detainees) with access to clean water and sanitation.
- ▶ The ICRC made significant progress in integrating IHL and international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into army and/or police training; it helped draft a second teaching guide for schools integrating concepts from the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

CONTEXT

In 2004, ten years after the genocide in Rwanda, the government moved ahead with a reform of the legal system designed to advance the dual processes of reconciliation and justice. A new penal procedure code was adopted to simplify and ultimately speed up trials, while the government appointed and trained new magistrates/judges and public prosecutors across the country. A new law on the *gacaca* system was introduced in the hope that these traditional courts would relieve the ordinary courts of much of the burden of trying some 86,000 detainees mainly charged with genocide-related offences. The courts started compiling lists of the accused and categorizing the detainees. By the end of the year, however, no case had yet been heard by a *gacaca* court, owing to delays caused by the reform of the judicial system. As part of the new penal procedure code, measures to protect minors were introduced, such as the appointment of special staff to cater to their needs and the issuing of a decree ordering separate quarters for minors in prison.

The government marked the 10th anniversary of the genocide in April with a call for less “divisionism” within the country. Later in the year it released a report stating that genocidal tendencies and “divisionism” were still prevalent. Moreover, it declared on several occasions that armed opposition groups based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were a threat to security in Rwanda. It made frequent calls for their disarmament and arrested suspected infiltrators whom it accused of sympathizing with the armed groups. Tensions between

Rwanda and the DRC were also strained by various armed incidents that occurred close to their common border. The two governments established a joint verification system to improve border controls and monitoring.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to provide complementary food, hygiene materials and medical supplies for tens of thousands of detainees and to upgrade prison infrastructure where necessary. The level of assistance was nonetheless reduced during the year to encourage the detaining authorities to take on more of these responsibilities themselves. The ICRC initiated or completed eight water-supply and sanitation projects for some 190,000 civilians and detainees.

The Red Cross message (RCM) and tracing network continued to operate, enabling large numbers of Rwandans to locate and restore contact with their families. In 2004, in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross, the ICRC reunited 115 children with their families. Through women's associations, it supported micro-projects to help destitute women achieve self-sufficiency, although it planned to phase out its support in March 2005. It also paid the school fees of hundreds of orphans or destitute children.

The ICRC made significant progress in ensuring that instruction in international humanitarian law (IHL) was included in the training of the armed forces. After more than four years of negotiations, it was able to hold a major training seminar for high-level military personnel. It also held its first training session on international human rights standards and humanitarian principles for senior police officers.

With the ICRC's help, the Ministry of Education drafted a second teaching guide for upper secondary schools integrating concepts from the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The ICRC also continued to promote the teaching of IHL in academic institutions.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

With many people still without contact with their families as a result of the conflict and genocide, the ICRC continued to offer its RCM service to Rwandan refugees and ex-fighters, including child soldiers undergoing demobilization.

The ICRC continued to repatriate dozens of children, mostly from the provinces of North and South Kivu in the DRC. Many of them, and others previously repatriated, were reunited with their families. The national Demobilization Commission handled the

reunification of child soldiers with their families, after the ICRC had located the relatives.

To ensure the welfare of children whose families could not be traced, the ICRC encouraged the Ministry of Gender and the Promotion of the Family to monitor the minors in reception centres and foster homes. In December it provided certain centres caring for children with basic supplies.

- ▶ 7,849 RCMs collected and 8,743 delivered in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross
- ▶ 133 children repatriated by the ICRC
- ▶ 115 children reunited with their families by the ICRC
- ▶ 83 demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families by the Demobilization Commission, based on information supplied by the ICRC
- ▶ 737 cases of children separated from their parents still being actively pursued
- ▶ 20 orphanages and reception centres received food (rice, beans, oil, salt) and soap for 3,806 children
- ▶ since 1994 a total of 81,541 children registered and 70,660 reunited with their families with the help of the ICRC and other organizations

Assisting children and women

In order to ensure children orphaned by conflict or the genocide received an education, the ICRC continued to pay their school fees. A government decision to put off the start of the new school year to January 2005 meant that the ICRC paid a one-off supplementary fee for its pupils for the last quarter.

To bolster the economic security of widowed or destitute women, the ICRC provided women's associations with training, follow-up support and goods such as goats, seeds, tools and fertilizer.

- ▶ 1,399 orphans or destitute secondary-school children in 281 schools had their school fees paid; 482 pupils had their exam fees paid
- ▶ 24 agricultural micro-projects for 777 beneficiaries supported by the ICRC (benefiting 3,885 people indirectly), including 19 projects initiated in 2004
- ▶ 64 follow-up visits made to monitor the micro-projects
- ▶ 460 goats distributed

Improving access to water for residents

Ten years after it first started water projects in Rwanda, the ICRC continued to rehabilitate or build water systems in partnership with the government, the local water boards and the communities to ensure adequate supplies of clean water for the population.

In 2004 water projects were under way in Nyarukombe-Nsinda (48,000 residents and detainees), Remera (43,200 beneficiaries), Nyanza (18,300 beneficiaries) and Gitarama (9,000 beneficiaries). In Gikongoro province, the ICRC had nearly completed a project with the Mudasmwa district authorities and water committee to rehabilitate or construct 28 springs (8,600 beneficiaries). It completed a project to build a 12-km water network for the rural town of Mushubi (11,000 beneficiaries).

In Kabarondo (Kibungo), the ICRC decided to participate in a project to build a 12-km extension to a water network (15,000 beneficiaries). In Karaba (Gikongoro), it invited engineering companies to bid for contracts to rehabilitate six water sources and build a new catchment (14,000 beneficiaries). In Gihogwe (Kigali Ngali), preparations began on constructing reservoirs, sewage systems and water fountains (20,100 beneficiaries).

The ICRC continued to support the water committees set up to manage completed projects in Gashora, Kagohe, Mushubi, Mudasmwa and Nyanza.

- ▶ 47 public tap-stands installed or repaired
- ▶ 83 spring catchments constructed or repaired
- ▶ 187,200 people (civilians and detainees) provided with access to safe water

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Protecting detainees

The ICRC continued to monitor conditions in 90 places of detention, looking specifically at the treatment of detainees, their living conditions, nutritional status, health, access to medical care and length of time spent awaiting trial. It encouraged the authorities to undertake improvements where necessary and made its RCM service available for detainees to maintain contact with their families.

- ▶ 74,179 detainees (suspected of participating in the genocide or needing individual monitoring) visited

- ▶ 308 visits made to 17 central prisons, 42 visits to 17 municipal *cachots*, 85 visits to police stations/posts and 34 visits to military prisons and detention sites
- ▶ 725 RCMs between detainees and their families collected and 700 delivered

Ensuring detainees' access to medical care

The ICRC accompanied health workers on their visits to prisons to monitor conditions. It collected and analysed epidemiological data, suggested procedures to enable staff to respond quickly to outbreaks of disease and recommended the hospitalization of sick detainees. It also supplied 70% of the medicines needed in a dozen prisons, a decrease from 100% the previous year.

Also during the year, the ICRC extended an AIDS prison project in Nsinda to four other prisons (Gitarama, Rilima, Gisovu and Kibungo), in conjunction with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA). On the invitation of the National Council on HIV/AIDS, it participated regularly in strategy meetings aimed at countering not only the spread of HIV but also other infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and tuberculosis.

- ▶ 12 prisons provided with 70% of the medicines and medical materials needed; district dispensaries close to 10 *cachots* received ad hoc supplies of medicines and medical supplies
- ▶ World AIDS Day in December marked in four prisons where the SWAA/ICRC had AIDS projects in progress

Rehabilitating prison infrastructure

The ICRC maintained its commitment to rehabilitate prison infrastructure, such as water supply and storage, kitchens, latrines and living quarters for minors. It shared the costs of this work with the prison administration and encouraged the detainees to maintain the facilities.

In conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior, the ICRC built separate blocks for minors in Kigali and Cyangugu prisons. The government released funding in December for structural improvements to Butare, Gikongoro and Cyangugu prisons.

- ▶ 35 ovens and accessories supplied to 7 prisons (Cyangugu, Gitarama, Kigali, Nsinda, Nyanza, Remera, Ruhengeri)
- ▶ 8 kits for plumbing, brickwork, upkeep of ovens and infrastructure delivered to prisons

- ▶ 2 separate blocks for minors being constructed in 2 prisons (separate blocks already constructed with ICRC help in 5 other prisons)

Access to clean water for detainees

Water supply in the prisons was often poor owing to a lack of infrastructure and resources, a large prison population and frequent power cuts. The ICRC had various water-supply and sanitation projects under way in Nsinda, Remera, Butare, Ruhengeri, Gitarama and Kibungo prisons, including a biogas (sustainable energy project) in Gitarama.

- ▶ 63,000 detainees provided with access to clean water through upgrading of existing water systems
- ▶ 2 septic tanks and 120 latrines built or rehabilitated, 1 biogas system installed in conjunction with the authorities

Adequate hygiene and sanitation for detainees

After the first quarter the ICRC stopped supplying hygiene materials (chlorine and soap) and adopted a monitoring and advisory role. It also began training the penitentiary authorities to maintain hygiene standards.

- ▶ 85,604 detainees regularly provided with soap, 2,759 sanitary towels distributed to women
- ▶ 65 prison staff trained in hygiene management

Monitoring nutrition in prisons

In 2004 the ICRC handed over responsibility for providing food for inmates in five central prisons – Gisenyi, Ruhengeri, Cyangugu, Miyove (Byumba) and Kibungo – to the authorities. However, it continued to provide 70% of all detainees with half their food needs. The ICRC checked on detainees' nutritional status and alerted the authorities to any problems identified. It continued to support prison agricultural projects.

- ▶ 59,919 detainees (around 70%) in the central prisons supplied with 50% of their food requirements, amounting to 30% of all food needs for the total detainee population in Rwanda
- ▶ 382 minors provided with books and pens for education organized in the prisons
- ▶ 600 detainees in 3 prisons given seeds and farming tools to create fields for cultivation

WOUNDED AND SICK

First-aid courses

From January to April the ICRC held first-aid courses for staff of the military hospital to ensure that it could cope with any sudden influx of war-wounded. The courses were geared to training of trainers.

- ▶ 51 staff members given 12 weeks of first-aid training at the military hospital in Kanombe
- ▶ emergency medical supplies past their expiry dates replaced

AUTHORITIES

Promoting IHL treaties and their implementation

The ICRC encouraged the government to adopt national implementation measures for IHL treaties to which Rwanda was party. During the year it pursued a dialogue with the Ministry of Defence on the implementation of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and measures related to missing persons. It also promoted the ratification and implementation of other IHL treaties, such as the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. In early December Prime Minister Bernard Makuza attended the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL in army training

The ICRC organized a seminar in July for high-ranking officers (brigadiers to majors) to further promote the integration of IHL into the Rwandan Defence Force's (RDF) doctrine and training. The seminar was attended by the general chief of staff and the minister of defence, as well as senior representatives of law faculties, the State prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Justice.

During the year the ICRC was also consulted by the RDF on issues relating to army medical services and identity tags for soldiers. It organized IHL events for a cross-section of RDF officers and members of the local defence forces, and held information sessions for contingents leaving to join the African Union's peace-support operations in Darfur, Sudan.

The ICRC worked with the army to publish regular articles on IHL and the role of the ICRC in the RDF's bi-monthly publication *Ingabo*.

- ▶ 36 senior army officers and politicians took part in a joint ICRC-RDF seminar on IHL
- ▶ 1,708 RDF personnel attended information sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ 776 members of local defence forces attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC

Promoting human rights standards/humanitarian principles in police training

The ICRC held a workshop for a dozen senior officers in August on integrating IHL and international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into police training. The same month it held a session for 37 warders from Gisovo prison, which included information on its protection/detention-related activities.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting the ICRC's image

The ICRC held two workshops on IHL for 55 journalists in 2004. This helped promote coverage of ICRC activities such as family reunifications and enabled it to explain its policy of gradually withdrawing its food support to the prisons.

Promoting Exploring Humanitarian Law in secondary schools

As agreed in August 2002, the Ministry of Education continued to incorporate the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the six-year civic education curriculum for secondary-school pupils. The body drawing up the curriculum, the National Centre for Development of the Programme (NCDP), produced a second teaching guide for upper secondary education. The ICRC funded four training seminars for 148 teacher-trainers, headmasters and civic education teachers. It paid for a representative of the Burundian Ministry of Education to come to Rwanda to share experiences and help train the Rwandan authorities/teachers in the programme. It also financed the participation of an NCDP representative in its second Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

Promoting IHL in universities

At the ICRC's instigation, the faculty of law of the National University of Rwanda made

it obligatory for all law students to follow its 30-hour course on IHL. The ICRC also encouraged the Free University of Kigali and the Université Laïque Adventiste de Kigali to make their IHL courses obligatory for law students. It established contacts with the faculty of political science and administration and the school of journalism at the National University and with the new Catholic University of Kabgayi (Gitarama) to promote the inclusion of IHL courses in their curricula.

As part of efforts to support higher-education institutions, the ICRC sponsored a representative of the National University to take part in a round-table in Nairobi bringing together universities in the region committed to promoting IHL. It also donated IHL reference books to the National and Free universities and opened its library in Kigali to students doing research. The ICRC sponsored a team of three students to participate in the IHL moot-court competition in Arusha.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Rwanda Red Cross and the ICRC formed committees in four provinces – Butare, Byumba, Kibuye and Ruhengeri – to provide services in the event of an emergency. They also worked on plans for RCM posts in Kigali city, Byumba and Gikongoro and developed communication activities across the country.

Boosting the capacity of the Red Cross

The ICRC held regular meetings with the Rwandan Red Cross to look at ways of enhancing its humanitarian activities. It organized exchanges with other partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the German and Spanish Red Cross Societies (present in Rwanda) and the Belgian, British and Norwegian Red Cross Societies (funding programmes in Rwanda).

Ensuring a rapid response to crises

The ICRC participated in several training sessions for Rwandan Red Cross emergency teams. The basis of the training was to prepare the branches, particularly in border areas, to deal with an influx of refugees. For example, in May and September the teams were in a position to assist refugees fleeing the DRC and Burundi, in cooperation with UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Local Government,

Community Development and Social Affairs.

The ICRC encouraged the National Society to participate in planning meetings with other partners to harmonize response efforts. It also encouraged it to include the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) in all its training sessions.

Restoring family links

The ICRC helped organize an evaluation of tracing activities to improve efficiency of the service, particularly as the National Society formed part of an international network. It trained volunteers as the RCM network was extended to the provinces of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi.

Promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC and the National Society jointly organized meetings to monitor and assess the progress of dissemination activities. During the year Red Cross staff approached both the military and the media to discuss IHL principles. The ICRC paid for a Red Cross representative to attend the annual meeting of National Society legal advisers and IHL experts in Geneva. It assisted in the production of dissemination materials, such as a promotional video on the National Society's activities.