

ETHIOPIA



ICRC/AR_2013

+ ICRC delegation + ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office
 * ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre
 * The ICRC delegation to the African Union is also in Addis Ababa

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2013:

- ▶ detainees in regionally run prisons in Afar, Amhara, Harari, Oromia and Tigray received ICRC visits and, for the first time since 2005, so did detainees in all federally run prisons
- ▶ conflict-displaced people and Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia, including unaccompanied minors, re-established contact with their relatives through phone services provided by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society/ICRC
- ▶ vulnerable residents and refugees had better access to water and more hygienic conditions following efforts by the local water authorities and the ICRC to build/repair water and sanitation infrastructure
- ▶ thousands of physically disabled people, many of whom had been injured during armed conflicts or episodes of violence, received free rehabilitation services at seven ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- ▶ the ICRC remained without access to conflict-affected people, including detainees, in the Somali Regional State and to people held by the Federal Police Crime Investigation Sector

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	3,731
Assistance	8,975
Prevention	2,214
Cooperation with National Societies	710
General	-

15,629

of which: Overheads 954

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	90%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	34
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	167

Continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977, the ICRC prioritizes protecting and assisting people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea or by other armed conflicts. It helps to preserve the livelihoods of conflict-affected communities, which also often grapple with natural disaster, and supports physical rehabilitation services. It visits detainees and restores family links, particularly for relatives separated by the closed Ethiopia-Eritrea border, ensuring compliance with IHL with regard to any persons still protected by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. It supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action **HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	3,061
RCMs distributed	3,191
Phone calls facilitated between family members	39,496
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	60
People reunited with their families	3
of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children	2
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	30,619
Detainees visited and monitored individually	232
Number of visits carried out	29
Number of places of detention visited	25
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	238
RCMs distributed	33
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	17

ASSISTANCE	Targets	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 10,000	46,399
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries 5,000	4,675
Cash	Beneficiaries 2,125	942
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 100,000	230,000
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Centres supported	Structures 7	7
Patients receiving services	Patients 5,000	7,718

CONTEXT

Tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia persisted, but no clashes took place in border regions. Physical demarcation of the Eritrea-Ethiopia border remained stalled; both countries maintained a military presence in the disputed areas.

In the Somali Regional State (SRS), the armed conflict between regional special police forces, operating with the Ethiopian National Defence Forces (ENDF), and the Ogaden National Liberation Front continued. Intercommunal violence, related mainly to competition for resources, in Moyale and East and West Hararghe displaced thousands of people. Police forces, sometimes supported by the ENDF, were deployed to stabilize the situation.

The ENDF continued to play an active role in military operations abroad: in Sudan with the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei and the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, and in Somalia to support its federal government.

The increased influx of refugees in Ethiopia, particularly owing to upsurges in violence in South Sudan, further strained the resources of host communities.

From November to December, over 139,000 irregular Ethiopian migrants were deported from Saudi Arabia. Some of them were hosted at transit centres in Addis Ababa while arrangements were being made for transporting them home.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC remained in dialogue with the Ethiopian authorities to strengthen acceptance for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, while continuing to assist people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. During these discussions – which included meetings between the ICRC's president and Ethiopia's prime minister and newly elected president – the ICRC sought to regain access to detainees within its purview, including those held in places of temporary detention, and to conflict-affected civilians and detainees in the SRS.

Following a multidisciplinary assessment of all six federal prisons in 2012, the ICRC resumed visits to detainees at these prisons in January. It also began visiting people held at police stations in three regions and continued to expand its activities in regional prisons in Afar, Amhara, Harari, Oromia and Tigray. In cooperation with prison officials, and through an approach integrating capacity building and project implementation, the ICRC improved inmates' living/health conditions by renovating water, sanitation, kitchen and dormitory facilities, including separate cells for women, at several prisons. To advance reforms, prison authorities developed their knowledge of prison management, health, water and sanitation through ICRC-organized training courses in Ethiopia and Switzerland.

In regions bordering Eritrea and in places hosting refugees, the ICRC, with the authorities and rural communities, continued to improve access to water by building or rehabilitating water points. Communities improved sanitation practices and built latrines with ICRC-provided materials/training. Water bureau personnel in Tigray continued to receive ICRC technical support for managing water resources more efficiently with a jointly developed geographic information system.

Ethiopian Red Cross Society/ICRC teams stepped up their emergency response to needs arising from intercommunal violence

in Hararghe and Moyale, and to those created by the arrival of Ethiopian deportees from Saudi Arabia. IDPs and returnees received assistance for meeting their immediate needs through distributions of hygiene/household items, and for reconnecting with their families through phone calls/RCMs. Family members dispersed by conflict – Ethiopian/Eritrean civilians separated by the sealed border and Somali/South Sudanese/Sudanese refugees, including unaccompanied minors at a transit centre – restored contact through family-links services.

Vulnerable groups worked towards restoring their livelihoods with National Society/ICRC assistance. The National Society/ICRC provided cash grants/training for repatriated families and for families of people still missing from the Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict and of former POWs/internees, to help them become self-sufficient. Violence-affected returnees resumed or improved their food production with ICRC-supplied seed/tools. The ICRC facilitated the delivery of school transcripts and similar documents across the border to/from Eritrea, to enable both Eritreans and Ethiopians to apply for jobs or further studies.

Physical rehabilitation centres for disabled people, including those wounded during armed conflict or other situations of violence, continued to receive ICRC support in the form of funding, resources, on-the-job supervision and training. Trainees who graduated from an ICRC-run diploma course in prosthetics and orthotics returned to their respective regions, increasing the number of skilled technicians in those areas. ICRC-supplied basketball wheelchairs helped disabled people to build their self-confidence through sports.

The ICRC continued to promote IHL and humanitarian principles among the authorities, military/police forces and civil society. Following their participation in National Society/ICRC seminars, the authorities decided to revive the national IHL implementation committee. Backed by ICRC funds, training, materials and technical support, the Ethiopian Red Cross continued to strengthen its capacity to assist civilians affected by conflict/violence and to promote IHL.

CIVILIANS

Dialogue maintained to gain access to the SRS

Given the armed conflicts and other situations of violence, the ICRC reminded the authorities and weapon bearers concerned to protect civilians and allow humanitarian aid to reach those in need, including in the SRS. The ICRC's president met the prime minister and the newly elected president of Ethiopia separately to discuss the organization's request for access to the region's conflict-affected communities.

Having visited its Gode compound in the SRS in December 2012, the ICRC sought the government's permission to renovate the structure. The Ministry of Federal Affairs gave its preliminary approval, but permission from the regional authorities remained pending.

Rural communities have better access to water and improved sanitation

In the Afar and Tigray regions bordering Eritrea, and in Benishangul Gumuz, which hosted thousands of refugees from Sudan, some 230,000 people had access to clean water following the construction/rehabilitation of water points, saving them long treks to potentially polluted sources. Local water boards participated in these activities, increasing their technical capacities in the

process and contributing to the repair of more hand pumps than planned in Afar and Tigray. The Benishangul Gumuz water bureau, with ICRC-provided spare parts and technical assistance, installed a new generator for a water supply system serving over 3,300 people. Construction of latrines and training sessions on sanitation practices enabled nearly 57,000 people to reduce health risks.

To facilitate better management of water resources, the Tigray water bureau extended the coverage of a geographical information system, developed with the ICRC, from two pilot districts to the entire region. Based on the project's results, the Ministry of Water and Energy considered replicating it in all other regions.

Violence-affected people benefit from emergency assistance

In response to the displacement caused by clashes, mainly in East and West Hararghe and Moyale, and to the arrival of Ethiopian deportees from Saudi Arabia, National Society/ICRC teams increased their distributions of emergency supplies. Over 46,300 people, mainly IDPs, improved their living conditions with National Society/ICRC-supplied shelter/household materials. These beneficiaries included hundreds of people of Ethiopian origin repatriated from Eritrea via Sudan, who had their transportation and other costs covered by the ICRC. The ICRC continued to monitor their situation to ensure that they were repatriated voluntarily and humanely, in accordance with IHL.

As the National Society was able to independently assist people wounded during clashes, the planned donation of emergency supplies to medical facilities did not take place.

Families of missing persons and former POWs/internees start small businesses

Families with relatives reported as missing in relation to the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea had their requests for information followed up by the ICRC with the authorities concerned. To mitigate difficulties caused by the absence of their breadwinners, some 140 heads of household (840 people) began to engage in income-generating activities with the help of cash grants and training from the National Society/ICRC. Although these initiatives had fewer beneficiaries than planned, they received more substantial assistance for various activities, ranging from small-scale trade to livestock rearing. Their participation in these projects also allowed them to interact with and receive emotional support from other families of missing persons.

Another 17 households (102 individuals) of people taken prisoner or interned during the 1977–79 conflict between Ethiopia and Somalia improved their economic circumstances after receiving similar support. In Bench Maji, over 900 returnee households (4,675 people) whose livelihood assets had been destroyed by violence resumed/boosted their agricultural production after receiving seed/tools.

Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals were able to apply for jobs or further studies after having important documents, such as school transcripts, sent across the sealed border. People who had studied in Ethiopia had 22 official documents sent to them in Eritrea or elsewhere.

Family members separated by conflict restore contact

The Ethiopian Red Cross enhanced its capacity to restore family links in partnership with the ICRC, which provided training/funds/materials/technical support, and worked with National Societies in neighbouring countries to help refugees re-establish contact with their relatives. A specialist from the Swedish Red

Cross helped the Ethiopian Red Cross become more capable of providing such services independently.

People separated by conflict restored/maintained contact through RCMs. Among them were unaccompanied Eritrean minors hosted at the Indabaguna transit centre, who were registered with a view to locating their family members or, when appropriate, to repatriating them. Some people whose families lived in areas in Eritrea accessible to the ICRC (see *Eritrea*) sent messages informing their relatives that they had arrived safely. Through phone calls facilitated by the National Society/ICRC (39,496 calls made), South Sudanese/Sudanese refugees in camps and Ethiopian returnees, including children, from Saudi Arabia and Yemen reconnected with their relatives. Somali refugees in the SRS had the names of relatives read out on the “Missing Persons” radio programme on the BBC Somali service (see *Somalia*). Through tracing services, 60 people were located.

Twenty-one people resettled abroad or returned to their home countries using ICRC travel documents, issued in cooperation with the embassies concerned, immigration authorities and National Societies. Two unaccompanied minor siblings rejoined their mother abroad, and a vulnerable man repatriated from Egypt was reunited with his family.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Inmates of federal prisons receive ICRC visits for the first time since 2005

Access to people held at police stations was granted in three regions; and for the first time since 2005, the ICRC resumed visits, conducted according to its standard procedures, to all detainees at the six federal prisons in January, following a multidisciplinary assessment of these prisons in 2012. Inmates of regionally run prisons in Afar, Amhara, Harari, Oromia and Tigray continued to receive similar visits from delegates. In total, over 30,000 detainees, including four Eritrean POWs, received visits. Some of them got back in touch with their relatives through family-links services.

After the visits, the authorities received confidential feedback on the ICRC's findings and, where necessary, recommendations for improvement. The ICRC continued to engage in dialogue with them, with a view to gaining access to all detainees within its purview, particularly those held in the SRS and in places of temporary detention such as those run by the Federal Police Crime Investigation Sector.

Authorities take steps towards prison reform

With ICRC support, the authorities established working groups for implementing reforms in federal prisons and in regional prisons in Oromia. About 80 federal and regional prison stakeholders learnt about international human rights standards and prison management at a three-day conference organized by the Federal Prison Administration (FPA) with financial/technical ICRC support. In addition, four senior prison officials from the FPA and the Amhara Regional Commission attended a one-week course in prison management in Switzerland, organized in cooperation with the International Centre for Prison Studies.

Detainees' health risks reduced through medical aid and rehabilitation of infrastructure

Inmates of federal and regional prisons had their health monitored regularly by an ICRC doctor, who made recommendations to the authorities for improving health care. Ailing detainees were given ad hoc medical assistance, and over 12,000 inmates underwent

treatment for worms. Prison staff learnt how to treat mentally ill inmates from an ICRC expert.

Federal and regional prison health officials, including some from the SRS, tackled the challenges faced by the prison health system and identified solutions through a workshop organized by the FPA/ICRC. Following an assessment of the health and prison authorities' capacity to curb the spread of TB, the ICRC studied ways to support an existing national TB-control programme in lieu of initiating a pilot project in two prisons.

Over 10,000 inmates of nine regional prisons and some 13,000 at federal prisons had healthier living conditions following improvements to their water supply, sanitation, ventilation, and kitchen facilities. In Maychew regional prison, female detainees enjoyed greater security following the completion of separate cells for them. At federal prisons, inmates and staff used fuel more efficiently after receiving fuel-saving stoves and training. ICRC-distributed household, hygiene and recreational items eased detainees' living conditions.

Training courses and donations of equipment further enhanced federal prison authorities' ability to maintain infrastructure. In consultation with the ICRC, Oromia prison managers reviewed new standards for prison design and construction.

After their release, 49 detainees had their transport costs home covered by the ICRC.

WOUNDED AND SICK

People with disabilities improve their prospects for reintegration

Over 7,700 patients, many of them wounded during armed conflicts or episodes of violence, received treatment at seven physical rehabilitation centres supported by funding, materials, equipment, on-the-job supervision and training from the ICRC. Their transport, food and administrative costs were covered as well. Refugees and residents in Ethiopia's western border areas stood to benefit from three centres being set up in Assosa, Gambella, and Nekemte. Besides providing physiotherapy services and prosthetic/orthotic devices, staff at these centres assembled wheelchairs in accordance with international standards. ICRC-distributed sport wheelchairs enabled members of disabled people's associations in Amhara and Tigray to play basketball, which had a beneficial effect on their self-confidence.

Twenty-three prosthetic/orthotic technicians, who graduated in May from a nationally accredited three-year diploma course run by the ICRC, returned to their respective regions, adding to the pool of skilled local personnel at centres in those areas. Twenty-four staff members were selected for introductory/advanced training.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, with technical advice from the ICRC, continued to work on plans to implement a national physical rehabilitation strategy, which included establishing a training structure for prosthetic/orthotic technicians at an existing college and developing a national supply chain for orthotic and prosthetic materials.

AUTHORITIES, ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Authorities and community leaders familiarize themselves with the ICRC's mandate and work

Gaining access to conflict-affected communities in the SRS and to detainees at places of temporary detention required regular

dialogue with the authorities (see *Civilians and People deprived of their freedom*) and members of civil society, to ensure their understanding of and gain their support for the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. In violence-prone areas across Ethiopia, more than 950 local figures of authority – religious leaders, representatives of community-based organizations and volunteers – learnt about IHL and the Movement at National Society/ICRC dissemination sessions. Drawing on ICRC press releases, website updates and a consultative session organized with the National Society, journalists published media features on various events, such as the ICRC president's visit to Ethiopia and the revival of the national IHL committee.

Authorities agree to revive national IHL committee

To further their knowledge of IHL, mechanisms for its domestic implementation and the Movement's work, 45 federal parliamentarians and 40 representatives of federal ministries, along with 350 judges and prosecutors, participated in seminars organized by the ICRC or in cooperation with regional judicial training centres. Government officials added to their expertise in IHL implementation at seminars in Ethiopia and Kenya (see *Nairobi*). During a National Society/ICRC-organized seminar, the authorities decided to revive the national IHL committee – which was to be composed of 14 government institutions led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the Ethiopian Red Cross serving as the secretariat.

Police forces take steps to incorporate international human rights standards in training and operations

To facilitate the incorporation of international human rights standards and humanitarian principles in their doctrine/training/operations, some 1,000 members of the federal and regional police forces (including female officers) from across Ethiopia attended training sessions organized jointly with the regional police training centre. Instructors took train-the-trainer courses.

Meanwhile, 125 members of the Ethiopian Air Force attended a training course before their deployment to Sudan, to help ensure compliance with IHL during peace-support missions.

Universities help future decision-makers add to their knowledge of IHL

Some 500 senior law students and 50 instructors from five universities enhanced their understanding of IHL and their ability to do research on related subjects at dissemination sessions organized jointly with their respective law faculties. To encourage further studies, these institutions were also given IHL reference materials. Students demonstrated their knowledge of IHL during a national moot court competition; a team of three students also took part in a regional moot court competition in the United Republic of Tanzania after being sponsored by the ICRC.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society raises public awareness of Movement activities

The Ethiopian Red Cross worked with the ICRC to assist vulnerable communities, provide family-links services and promote IHL and humanitarian principles (see above). It reinforced its capacities in these areas with the help of ICRC training and financial and logistical support. It underwent a structural review and drew on ICRC expertise to improve its management, particularly in the areas of human resources, logistics, monitoring and evaluation. It enhanced its ability to respond to emergencies through the acquisition of 60 ambulances imported with ICRC assistance, the

organization of first-aid training courses for 343 youth volunteers and the construction of warehouses for emergency items.

The National Society promoted support for its activities through dissemination sessions for local authorities and community leaders; the formation of Red Cross clubs at five universities;

public events; and television and radio spots. Twenty staff members enhanced their communication skills at a workshop. Monthly coordination meetings between Movement partners, representatives of the National Society and the ICRC further strengthened their cooperation.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		3,061	169	
RCMs distributed		3,191	100	
Phone calls facilitated between family members		39,496		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations				
People reunited with their families		3		
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	1		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		216	89	33
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		60		
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	9		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		401	91	61
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers			Girls	Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		78	4	
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		2	1	
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		79	4	
Documents				
People to whom travel documents were issued		21		
Official documents relayed between family members across border/front lines		22		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		30,619	1,218	430
Detainees visited and monitored individually		232	10	6
Detainees newly registered		148	9	6
Number of visits carried out		29		
Number of places of detention visited		25		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		238		
RCMs distributed		33		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		17		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		86		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	46,399	26%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	43,126	17%
Productive inputs		Beneficiaries	4,675	43%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	4,675	25%
Cash		Beneficiaries	942	41%
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	230,000	23%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	34,500	45%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	32,318	
Cash		Beneficiaries	49	
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	23,900	
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff			23	
Number of places of detention visited by health staff			12	
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported		Structures	7	
Patients receiving services		Patients	7,718	1,657
New patients fitted with prostheses		Patients	737	104
Prostheses delivered		Units	1,934	314
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	391	155
New patients fitted with orthoses		Patients	872	225
Orthoses delivered		Units	2,179	563
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	9	375
Patients receiving physiotherapy		Patients	3,794	912
Crutches delivered		Units	6,589	812
Wheelchairs delivered		Units	560	