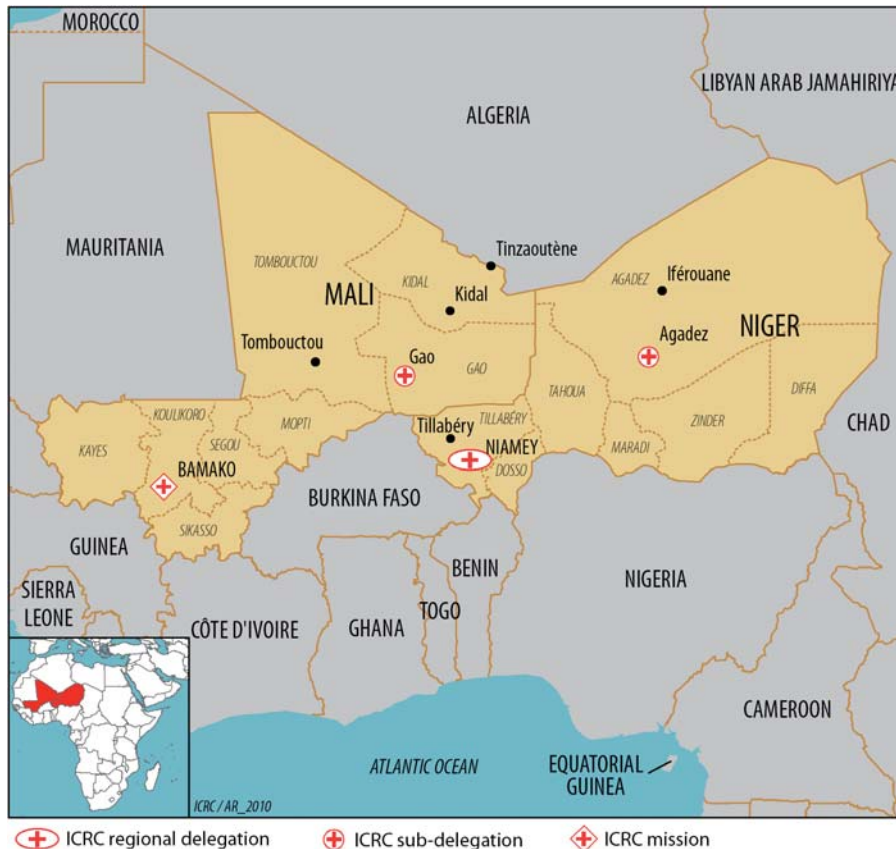


# NIAMEY (regional)

**COVERING:** Mali, Niger



## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	<b>1,500</b>
Assistance	<b>25,475</b>
Prevention	<b>2,434</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>1,663</b>
General	-

▶ **31,073**

of which: Overheads **1,896**

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>86%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	<b>24</b>
National staff (daily workers not included)	<b>107</b>

## KEY POINTS

**In 2010, the ICRC:**

- ▶ with the National Societies, provided food to 305,126 people affected by violence/adverse environmental conditions in northern Mali and in Niger, combined with livelihood support for 99,425 pastoralists and 76,095 crop farmers
- ▶ enabled 4 primary health care centres in Niger's Agadez region to resume services by providing them with medical supplies and equipment, while facilitating vaccination campaigns there for children and women of childbearing age
- ▶ enhanced care of the region's weapon-wounded, particularly by providing 18 mine-victims with artificial limbs in partnership with a local NGO in Niger
- ▶ with the Mali Red Cross, provided food, medical attention, transport and family-links support to over 5,100 vulnerable migrants stranded on the Mali-Algeria border, transporting the most vulnerable among them to the nearest town
- ▶ in Niger, carried out urgent renovations to water and sanitation infrastructure in prisons, backed up by maintenance training for prison directors
- ▶ with the National Societies, increased support for humanitarian principles and the Movement among the Malian authorities, Niger's transitional military administration, military and security personnel and civil society

The ICRC has been continually present in the region since 1982, opening its Niamey regional delegation in 2010 in response to the consequences of fighting between government forces and various armed groups in northern Mali and Niger. It seeks to protect and assist people affected by violence and adverse climatic conditions, and visits detainees of ICRC concern, providing them with material aid where necessary. It also focuses on promoting IHL among the armed forces and other bearers of weapons and on encouraging its implementation by the authorities throughout the region. It works closely with the region's National Societies and helps them develop their operational capacities.

## CONTEXT

During 2010, the economic, social and political environment of the Sahel region was dominated by a food-security crisis. Exceptionally erratic rainfall in 2009 had had a devastating impact on stockbreeding and crop production in northern Mali and in Niger, exacerbating conditions for communities already struggling with insecurity and poverty. Livestock grew weak and lost market value, food stocks dwindled and market prices soared, leaving millions of people unable to support themselves. Population movements were also reported. With international support, the authorities mounted a coordinated response to the crisis. These efforts, combined with higher-than-average rainfall in 2010, helped stabilize the situation towards year-end, although localized flooding subsequently contributed to difficult living conditions for some.

Meanwhile, fighting ceased between government forces and armed Touareg groups in northern Niger, enabling some displaced people to return home. Sporadic intercommunal violence persisted, however, fuelled partly by competition for scarce

resources. Banditry and looting were commonly reported and mines remained present in some areas. A number of kidnappings took place in eastern Mali and northern Niger. A network of armed Islamist groups claiming to belong to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, reportedly based in northern Mali and active regionwide, claimed responsibility. Associated security operations and widespread insecurity prompted fresh displacements and hindered humanitarian access and basic services. Remote frontier regions served as a thoroughfare for migrants.

Following the arrest of Niger's president and several ministers on 18 February on the grounds of unconstitutional conduct, the military junta responsible established a transitional government, pledging to restore democratic rule and to address the food-security crisis. Preparations progressed for elections aimed at returning the country to civilian leadership in 2011. The former president remained under arrest at year-end.

In Mali, political circles began to position themselves ahead of elections in 2012.

### MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

#### PROTECTION

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)			
Red Cross messages	Total	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected	20		
RCMs distributed	17		
Phone calls facilitated between family members	732		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) <sup>1</sup>			
ICRC visits	Total	Women	Minors
Detainees visited	3,560		
Detainees visited and monitored individually	36	1	
Detainees newly registered	17	1	
Number of visits carried out	18		
Number of places of detention visited	13		
Restoring family links	Total		
RCMs collected	24		
RCMs distributed	9		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	64		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

#### ASSISTANCE

CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) <sup>1</sup>				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Food	Beneficiaries	305,126	30%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	73,939		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	22,115	30%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	14,413		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	176,453	33%	16%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	12,569		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	618	36%	41%
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	10		
Average catchment population		34,906		
Consultations	Patients	17,646		
	<i>of which curative</i>		6,300	10,774
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>		497	
Immunizations	Doses	19,124		
	<i>of which for children aged five or under</i>	18,699		
	<i>of which for women of childbearing age</i>	425		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	147		
Health education	Sessions	243		

1. Mali and Niger

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS				
ASSISTANCE				
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) <sup>1</sup>				
Economic security, water and habitat		Total	Women	Children
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,098		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries	946		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	906		
WOUNDED AND SICK <sup>2</sup>				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	2		
Physical rehabilitation				
Centres supported	Structures	1		
Patients receiving services	Patients	18	3	
New patients fitted with prostheses	Patients	18	3	
Prostheses delivered	Units	18	3	
	<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	Units	13	

1. Mali and Niger

2. Niger only

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

With the opening of its delegation in Niamey covering Mali and Niger, the ICRC increased its operations in these countries, focusing on assisting violence-affected people in northern regions and on developing its contacts to better understand the challenges faced by local populations. It put in place working and monitoring procedures to carry out such activities via remote management, with many field activities conducted by ICRC national staff and National Society personnel. Such cooperation helped overcome logistical and staffing challenges caused by regional security risks. Security constraints nevertheless delayed the implementation of some initiatives.

As planned, the ICRC supported victims of violence in northern parts of Mali and Niger. It provided food, shelter materials and household necessities to people displaced by intercommunal violence and, through agricultural inputs, helped farmers affected by past fighting to rebuild their livelihoods. In April, as the scale of the food-security threat emerged, the ICRC increased its budget and appealed for additional funding. It reinforced the delegation’s staffing and, in cooperation with the National Societies, significantly expanded its assistance activities. It continued to concentrate its efforts on violence-prone regions where few other humanitarian actors were present. The ICRC’s response, combining food relief and support to stockbreeders and crop farmers, aimed to cover immediate needs while supporting long-term recovery. The ICRC adapted its operations as the situation evolved to target those most in need. It developed partnerships with local structures to facilitate large-scale distributions and the establishment of sustainable livelihood-support mechanisms.

The ICRC strengthened support to health structures in northern Niger, donating medical supplies, renovating infrastructure and facilitating vaccination campaigns and health-worker training. It began developing similar initiatives in Mali. To improve care of the weapon-wounded, it provided hospitals with surgical materials, sponsored war-surgery training and, with an NGO in Niger, launched an initiative to support the physical rehabilitation of people disabled by mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW).

The ICRC developed dialogue with the Malian government and Niger’s transitional leadership, deepening their understanding of its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work. It continued to support their efforts to implement IHL, while working with them to respond to the food-security crisis in coordination with other humanitarian actors.

Given regional insecurity, the ICRC conducted briefings on IHL/ international human rights law for military and security personnel, including peacekeepers, in both countries, while providing training, advice and encouragement to advance the integration of IHL into forces’ training, doctrine and operations. In parallel, delegates and National Society personnel expanded contacts among civil society, including religious and community leaders, building support for the Movement to facilitate assistance operations.

In both countries, the ICRC visited detainees, regaining systematic access to detainees in Mali following discussion with the authorities. In Niger, it supported the authorities in reducing inmates’ health risks through improvements to water supply and sanitation.

By partnering the National Societies in the field and providing them with financial, material and training support, the ICRC strengthened their operational capacities. In particular, it reinforced their first-aid and communication capacities and supported their activities in favour of vulnerable migrants and children.

## CIVILIANS

Given regional insecurity, the ICRC reminded relevant authorities and weapon bearers of their responsibilities to respect civilians at all times.

Such insecurity, combined with environmental challenges, meant that many people in parts of northern Mali and Niger struggled to support themselves even before the food-security crisis set in. They received assistance from the National Societies/ICRC to alleviate precarious conditions.

Following intercommunal violence in Niger's Tillabéry region, 10,780 IDPs and residents of host communities (2,156 households) received three months' food to tide them over until the next harvest; 1,780 IDPs were given shelter materials. In northern Mali, 2,000 people (400 households) uprooted during the Touareg confrontation and market sellers whose goods had been destroyed by fire received food and/or household essentials. In Gao and Tinzaoutène, market gardeners benefited from ICRC agricultural inputs and repairs to wells to improve irrigation, boosting productivity.

### Crisis-hit communities receive vital relief and livelihood support

With the National Societies, the ICRC stepped up activities to meet the needs of people affected by the food-security crisis. It maintained its focus on violence-prone regions: Agadez and Tillabéry in Niger, and Gao, Kidal and Tombouctou in Mali. Together they initiated a flexible response combining food relief with support to stockbreeders and crop farmers, aimed at covering victims' immediate needs while providing them with the means to recover their self-sufficiency and economic security. As the crisis unfolded, the ICRC modified its assistance according to emerging needs.

#### Immediate relief provided

Between June and August, 148,110 people (30,792 households) received three months' food to cover the lean period between harvests. The 2010 harvest proving broadly satisfactory, the ICRC then discontinued blanket food distributions to avoid any negative impact on market prices. It directed further relief to communities beset by new food-security threats.

In Niger, 11,760 farmers (2,352 households) in Tillabéry whose harvests failed owing to crop infestation received an additional one-month food ration to supplement their yield, while in Agadez 89,320 flood victims (17,864 households) received half-month food rations.

In northern Mali, 17,570 people (3,514 households) displaced by fresh intercommunal violence, and 32,230 IDPs (6,446 households)

living in Tombouctou having fled security operations in the north-west, received three months' food to ease strain on local resources, alongside household items as needed.

#### Pastoralists recover their livelihoods

With their herds decimated by the crisis, pastoralists reliant on stockbreeding activities were invited to sell their weakest animals at pre-crisis prices to the ICRC, which arranged for them to be slaughtered and for any edible meat to be cured. Accordingly, 59,940 herders (11,988 households) took advantage of this initiative. This stabilized market prices and left pastoralists with a healthy herd and a cash injection with which to buy essentials. Schools and health facilities received the cured meat, helping feed people under their care.

Regional livestock management authorities in Niger and the ICRC embarked on joint efforts to help pastoralists keep their animals healthy by restocking local fodder banks and launching an animal vaccination and treatment campaign. With ICRC guidance, logistical and financial support and veterinary equipment, the campaign began in December. By year-end, 39,485 stockbreeders (7,897 households) had benefited. Preparations began to launch a similar campaign in Mali.

#### Farming communities' economic security increased

To support crisis-affected farmers, including IDPs, refugees and returnees, regional agricultural authorities in Gao, Agadez and Tillabéry worked with the ICRC to mobilize large-scale seed distributions through local cereal banks. In total, 76,065 farmers (15,214 households) acquired tools and staple seed and/or cash-crop seed, helping them restart their activities while diversifying and increasing their sources of income. Owing to poor availability on the market, seeds were distributed later than foreseen, so planned training initiatives could not be organized by year-end.

#### Violence-affected communities regain access to health care

In parts of Niger's Agadez region where security had improved, four health centres resumed services thanks to ICRC medical supplies, equipment and renovations to water and sanitation

CIVILIANS			MALI	NIGER
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>				
Food		Beneficiaries	78,341	226,785
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	51,261	22,678
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	20,335	1,780
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	14,235	178
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives		Beneficiaries	84,613	91,840
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	3,385	9,184
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	48	570
<b>Health</b>				
Health centres supported		Structures	6	4
Average catchment population			14,018	20,888
Consultations		Patients	3,387	14,259
	<i>of which curative</i>	Patients	3,302	312
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>	Patients	185	13,947
Immunizations		Doses	14,911	4,213
	<i>of which for children aged five or under</i>	Doses	14,767	3,932
	<i>of which for women of childbearing age</i>	Doses	144	281
Referrals to a second level of care		Patients	22	125
Health education		Sessions	77	166

infrastructure. To reduce health risks during pregnancy and child-birth, 40 traditional birth attendants upgraded their skills through training from district health professionals, financed by the ICRC. With ICRC logistical and supervisory support, the health authorities relaunched vital vaccination campaigns that had stalled in recent years, enabling the immunization against measles of thousands of vulnerable women and children (4,213 doses) and thus reducing the threat of epidemics.

In northern Mali, where insecurity continued to impede service delivery, district health authorities and the ICRC developed similar initiatives in support of six health centres.

#### **Authorities supported in maintaining access to clean water**

Owing to security constraints, the ICRC delayed most planned water activities, focusing instead on responding to the food-security crisis. Small-scale initiatives took place, however, benefiting market gardeners in Mali (see above) and crisis-affected communities in Niger. In Agadez, where widely scattered animal corpses threatened to contaminate water sources, the water authorities received chlorine from the ICRC to purify the water supply, as well as laboratory equipment with which to monitor its quality.

#### **Vulnerable migrants and children receive vital relief and family-links services**

As few family members sought Movement help in contacting relatives from whom they had become separated, vulnerable migrants and street children became the focus of ICRC-supported National Society family-links initiatives to help ensure their well-being.

After being turned away from Algeria, 5,111 illegal migrants stranded on the Mali-Algeria border received food, accommodation and medical attention from the Mali Red Cross, which transported the most vulnerable to a safe location to recuperate and arrange their next move. In Niger, similarly vulnerable migrants obtained travel documents, transport and/or financial support from the ICRC to facilitate their onward journey. Migrants in both countries contacted relatives using telephone/RCM services provided by the National Societies with ICRC financial support.

In a Mali Red Cross pilot initiative to support street children in Mopti town, 23 were reunited with relatives, while 61 re-established family contact by telephone/RCM.

Such activities contributed to a greater understanding of migrants' needs among National Society/ICRC personnel, who shared their experiences at a regional meeting (see *Dakar*).

## **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Detainees in Mali and Niger, including members of the overthrown government and other security detainees arrested in Niamey on 18 February, received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Those serving sentences in Mali under the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda were visited in liaison with the ICRC's Nairobi delegation (see *Nairobi*). Following such visits, the delegates shared feedback with the authorities confidentially.

In October, after discussing with delegates the benefits of ICRC activities in favour of detainees, the Malian authorities granted the ICRC systematic access to detainees under their jurisdiction, including those held for reasons of State security.

During ICRC visits, detainees were able to exchange news with their families using RCMs. Those families that lacked the resources to visit detained relatives had their travel paid for by the ICRC.

Planned visits to detainees held by armed groups did not take place owing to their release in late 2009.

#### **Detainees' environmental health improved**

In light of health risks caused by dilapidated prison infrastructure and overcrowding, the ICRC stepped in to support the authorities in improving detainees' living conditions, primarily in Niger.

In total, 832 detainees in 7 of Niger's prisons benefited from ICRC improvements to water, sanitation and kitchen facilities. Although ICRC staffing constraints delayed some planned activities, including the donation of medical equipment to prison infirmaries, inmates in 38 prisons received hygiene items, further contributing to their health and well-being, as well as seed with which to grow vegetables.

Meanwhile, Niger's prison administration strengthened cooperation with delegates aimed at ensuring that ICRC support yielded

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	MALI	NIGER
<b>ICRC visits</b>		
Detainees visited	2,144	1,416
Detainees visited and monitored individually	14	22
	<i>of whom women</i>	1
Detainees newly registered		17
		<i>of whom women</i>
		1
Number of visits carried out	6	12
Number of places of detention visited	6	7
<b>Restoring family links</b>		
RCMs collected	19	5
RCMs distributed	5	4
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	64	

long-term benefits. At a seminar organized by the Justice Ministry, the security forces and the ICRC, 37 prison directors examined the importance of properly maintaining water and sanitation infrastructure. To support them in implementing ensuing recommendations, prison managers obtained tools, wheelbarrows and dustbins from the ICRC to facilitate routine repairs and solid-waste disposal.

In Mali, inmates in Gao enjoyed better comfort outdoors after the ICRC constructed a sun-shelter in the prison courtyard, and received hygiene items to reduce health risks. Planned ICRC renovations in Bamako's main prison were put aside after the authorities announced their intention to construct a new facility in its place.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The region's hospitals benefited from ICRC support to help ensure the care of weapon-wounded patients.

Victims of violence, including military personnel wounded on 18 February in Niamey, obtained adequate treatment after affected hospitals had surgical materials delivered to them from ICRC emergency stocks.

Five surgeons from Mali and Niger learnt techniques to treat the weapon-wounded at an ICRC war-surgery workshop in Senegal (see *Dakar*), thereby enhancing regional surgical capacities.

To support victims of mines/ERW in rebuilding their lives, the ICRC entered into partnership with a Niger-based NGO experienced in supporting physical rehabilitation. Subsequently, 18 amputees were fitted with prostheses and trained to use and maintain them, with the ICRC arranging and paying for their transport, accommodation and treatment.

## AUTHORITIES

Following initial contacts, Niger's transitional leadership engaged in constructive discussion with delegates, deepening their understanding of IHL and ICRC operations. High-level meetings with the Malian authorities, including the president, strengthened their cooperation with the ICRC. Both administrations demonstrated support for the ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, facilitating its work in detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

With the onset of the food crisis, the two governments invited the ICRC to participate in efforts to mobilize an effective response,

in coordination with regional bodies, the diplomatic community and other humanitarian actors. Together they established where to focus their respective assistance efforts to avoid duplication. Local authorities in violence-prone northern regions, where the ICRC undertook to concentrate its assistance (see *Civilians*), learnt about IHL and the Movement at National Society/ICRC briefings. Such cooperation enhanced mutual understanding and facilitated the smooth running of Movement operations.

Both countries made progress in accelerating national IHL implementation, welcoming ICRC expertise and sponsorship to help them do so. As such, government representatives explored ways forward at an Economic Community of West African States/ICRC seminar (see *Nigeria*). After reviewing pending treaties with delegates, Mali ratified the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Niger established a unit dedicated to promoting IHL and expressed interest in working with the ICRC to incorporate provisions on the repression of war crimes into the penal code and military justice system.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Several hundred armed and security personnel, including police officers, raised their awareness of IHL, international human rights law, the Movement and its emblems at ICRC briefings and seminars in volatile parts of Mali and Niger. Such events, alongside briefings for members of Touareg groups associated with past fighting, contributed to mutual understanding and safe access by Movement personnel to crisis-affected people.

Besides learning about IHL at ICRC presentations, trainees at Bamako's regional peacekeeping school practised applying its principles during simulation exercises devised with ICRC input.

Both countries' military and security commands maintained dialogue with the ICRC, drawing on its IHL expertise to encourage systematic respect for humanitarian principles among their forces. Mali's chief of defence staff issued a directive to incorporate IHL into military training and operations. Niger's IHL liaison officer requested ICRC guidance in establishing an IHL committee and revising its IHL manual.

Military and police instructors in Niger acquired the skills to teach IHL and international human rights law respectively at train-the-trainer courses organized by Niger's forces with ICRC input. Some officers were subsequently deployed to pass on their knowledge to peers in the field. With ICRC sponsorship, officers from both countries enhanced their IHL expertise at courses in Switzerland and Italy.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		MALI	NIGER
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>			
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	152	946
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives	Beneficiaries		946
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	74	832

## CIVIL SOCIETY

In preparation for National Society/ICRC assistance activities (see *Civilians*), affected communities attended presentations to familiarize them with the Movement, its emblems and its procedures for relief distributions and other support. Journalists, including local radio representatives, participated in these briefings and received ICRC press releases, enabling them to report widely and accurately on Movement initiatives, even among remote communities. Such efforts contributed to the smooth running of National Society/ICRC operations for victims of the crisis, despite many having had little prior contact with international organizations.

Through discussion sessions and bilateral contacts, NGOs and traditional and religious leaders, including Mali's High Islamic Council, exchanged views on humanitarian and security concerns and explored parallels between IHL and Islamic law. These helped build mutual understanding and expanded the ICRC's network of contacts, including in border regions of northern Mali and southern Niger where armed groups were reportedly active.

Academic circles, including religious institutions, cooperated with the National Societies and the ICRC to stimulate youth interest in IHL and promote its relevance. Rather than participating in competitions, students and lecturers attended Movement presentations and training respectively, prompting two institutions to establish on-site Red Cross committees. After learning about customary IHL and the repression of IHL violations at an ICRC briefing in Niger, 25 trainee magistrates requested more substantial ICRC training to enhance their skills.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

In accordance with cooperation agreements, the region's National Societies benefited from ICRC training, logistical, material and financial support to improve their emergency response, communication, family-links and management capacities, including through internal restructuring. Close coordination with the International Federation and other Movement partners enhanced cross-border cooperation.

Both National Societies were better equipped to respond to crises after the ICRC rehabilitated their offices in Diffa (Niger) and in Bamako and Gao (Mali). They also expanded their first-aid networks with ICRC training and equipment. Sixty instructors in each country enhanced their teaching technique at ICRC courses, enabling them to train hundreds of first-aiders in violence-prone areas.

Family-links coordinators in Mali and Niger benefited from ICRC refresher training, communications equipment and financial support, boosting their capacities to assist vulnerable migrants and children (see *Civilians*).

Aided by delegates, both National Societies worked to promote humanitarian principles, the Movement and its emblems among opinion leaders (see *Authorities* and *Civil society*) and the wider public. With ICRC backing, the Mali Red Cross established a website, produced a documentary highlighting its activities and conducted an internal communication workshop. Similarly, the Red Cross Society of Niger revised its publications, applying techniques acquired during professional communication training. Through well-publicized activities, such as school competitions, first-aid demonstrations and clean-up campaigns in flood-stricken districts, both organizations boosted their visibility and attracted new volunteers.

National Society personnel contributed significantly to ICRC assistance operations following the food-security crisis. On the strength of such field experience and ICRC needs-assessment training, both National Societies mobilized effective relief for flood victims, with ICRC support (see *Civilians*).