

ABIDJAN (regional)

COVERING: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo



In the countries covered by the delegation, established in 1992, the ICRC supports the authorities in implementing IHL, encourages armed and security forces to respect that law and visits detainees, working with the authorities to improve conditions for detainees. It works with the region's National Societies and supports their development. The delegation focuses on responding to the protection and assistance needs of people, including refugees, affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the greater region.

YEARLY RESULT

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

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2016

- ▶ Ivorian detention staff worked on improving detainees' treatment and living conditions: health workers and food-supply managers attended ICRC workshops and, advised by the ICRC, took steps to streamline their services.
- ▶ Victims of violence in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire were cared for and evacuated to hospital by National Society first-aiders. National Societies and some Ivorian hospitals used ICRC-provided supplies for treating casualties.
- ▶ Following the reopening of the Ivorian-Liberian border, Ivorian children who had been living in Liberia were reunited with their families through the joint efforts of the pertinent National Societies and the ICRC.
- ▶ ICRC briefings helped Ivorian and Togolese troops, notably peacekeepers, strengthen their grasp of IHL and international policing standards. Military and police instructors drew on ICRC expertise to create teaching materials.

| PROTECTION | Total |
|---|--------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | |
| Restoring family links | |
| RCMs collected | 218 |
| RCMs distributed | 162 |
| Phone calls facilitated between family members | 748 |
| Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established) | 4 |
| People reunited with their families | 31 |
| <i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i> | 31 |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | |
| ICRC visits | |
| Detainees visited | 13,752 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | 293 |
| Number of visits carried out | 80 |
| Number of places of detention visited | 36 |
| Restoring family links | |
| RCMs collected | 64 |
| RCMs distributed | 16 |
| Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative | 143 |

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Protection | 1,994 |
| Assistance | 3,963 |
| Prevention | 2,199 |
| Cooperation with National Societies | 1,711 |
| General | 68 |
| Total | 9,935 |
| <i>Of which: Overheads</i> | <i>606</i> |

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Expenditure/yearly budget | 95% |
|---------------------------|-----|

PERSONNEL

| | |
|---|-----|
| Mobile staff | 33 |
| Resident staff (daily workers not included) | 168 |

ASSISTANCE

| ASSISTANCE | | 2016 Targets (up to) | Achieved |
|--|---------------|----------------------|----------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | |
| Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | |
| Food commodities | Beneficiaries | 3,000 | 2,016 |
| Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 4,500 | 3,866 |
| Services and training | Beneficiaries | 36,000 | 39,600 |
| Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 75,900 | 32,976 |

CONTEXT

Communal, political and socio-economic tensions in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso led to isolated incidents of violence. In Grand-Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire, gunmen attacked a hotel and killed 19 people. In western Côte d'Ivoire, armed clashes over land tenure also caused death and injuries; subsequent security operations resulted in dozens of arrests. In the north-east, hundreds of people fled fighting between herders and farmers in Bouna and sought refuge in Burkina Faso. In Burkina Faso, armed attacks on two hotels and a cafe in Ouagadougou also caused injuries and death, and electoral violence in one province displaced hundreds of people.

As reports of Ebola in West Africa subsided, Côte d'Ivoire reopened its border with Liberia, enabling hundreds of Ivorian refugees to return home through a voluntary repatriation process led by UNHCR. However, thousands of Ivorian refugees remained in Ghana. In northern Burkina Faso, thousands of Malian refugees continued to live in UN camps or host communities, further straining limited resources.

The presidential elections in Benin and Ghana passed off without incident.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC visited detainees in accordance with its standard procedures. After these visits, delegates discussed their findings confidentially with the authorities, to help them improve detainees' treatment and living conditions. Particular attention was paid to security detainees, notably: in Côte d'Ivoire, people arrested in relation to attacks and past conflict; and in Burkina Faso, people detained in relation to the 2014 protests and the 2015 coup attempt.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the penitentiary authorities drew on material and technical support from the ICRC to implement reforms related to nutrition and health care in prisons. The ICRC helped them organize workshops for health staff on medical ethics and nutrition in places of detention, guided managers in streamlining the food-supply chain, and conducted a workshop where senior detention officials refreshed their managerial skills. Detainees were screened by ICRC and health ministry staff; where necessary, they were included in ICRC-backed therapeutic feeding programmes or referred to ICRC-supported prison infirmaries for further care. The ICRC also donated essential items, including hygiene kits, to help ease detainees' living conditions. Inmates at certain prisons benefited from improvements to infirmaries and to water, sanitation and cooking facilities.

The ICRC helped the Burkinabé Red Cross Society and the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire respond to emergencies in their countries. It assisted National Society personnel in evacuating casualties of the attacks mentioned above, and also helped to evacuate the wounded during communal violence in north-eastern Côte d'Ivoire. Ivorian hospitals were provided with medical supplies to deal with influxes of patients. In Burkina Faso, people who had fled Côte d'Ivoire and people displaced by electoral violence met their urgent needs with the help of Burkinabé Red Cross/ICRC aid distributions. ICRC-trained volunteers from the Burkinabé and Ivorian National Societies promoted good hygiene practices among vulnerable people, and upgraded some water/sanitation infrastructure; this helped people protect themselves against hygiene-related illnesses. Vulnerable herders in Burkina

Faso, including Malian refugees, maintained the health and market value of their livestock; this was made possible by the free vaccination/deworming services provided by the ICRC and local actors.

People separated from their families by armed conflict and other violence, detention or other circumstances – mainly Malian refugees in Burkina Faso – restored or maintained contact with their relatives through the Movement's family-links services. After the Ivorian-Liberian border was reopened, Ivorian children who had been living in Liberia rejoined their families in Côte d'Ivoire with the help of the ICRC and the pertinent National Societies.

Throughout the region, the ICRC sought to reinforce support for IHL and humanitarian action. ICRC briefings for Ivorian and Togolese peacekeepers – for example, troops and police officers bound for missions abroad, under the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) – helped them learn more about IHL. Ivorian military and Togolese police instructors drew on ICRC expertise to develop teaching materials on IHL and international policing standards. Military officers from Togo, Mali, Niger, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire were briefed on their role in preventing sexual violence during armed conflict. Academics, journalists and community leaders broadened their understanding of IHL at workshops and other events.

Coordination with government bodies, Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations facilitated the activities mentioned above. National Societies, notably in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, strengthened their capacities.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC monitored the situation in western Côte d'Ivoire, in coordination with UN agencies, NGOs and the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire. Humanitarian issues – access to health care, for example – were raised with the authorities and other parties concerned, to facilitate efforts to help the people affected (see *Actors of influence*).

Violence-affected people in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire obtain urgent aid from National Societies

Casualties of attacks in Grand-Bassam and communal violence in western Côte d'Ivoire were given first aid by Ivorian Red Cross volunteers equipped with ICRC-provided supplies. Some casualties were referred to hospitals, including those supplied by the ICRC with bandages and other medical supplies. The ICRC also installed a generator at a health centre in a volatile area, to help ensure its functioning during emergencies. In Burkina Faso, casualties of an attack in Ouagadougou were cared for and evacuated to hospital by the Burkinabé Red Cross Society. The Burkinabé and Ivorian National Societies drew on ICRC support for tending to casualties (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

Over 2,000 people who had fled Bouna for Burkina Faso met some of their food needs with rations distributed by the Burkinabé Red Cross and the ICRC. People displaced following electoral violence eased their living conditions, in part with household essentials distributed to them by the ICRC. The Burkinabé Red Cross replenished its emergency stock with ICRC-provided household items good for around 3,300 households.

In Burkina Faso, some 6,600 herding households (39,600 people), including Malian refugees, took advantage of free vaccination/deworming services offered by local agencies and the ICRC to

maintain the health and market value of their livestock, particularly during the hunger gap period.

Ivorian children rejoin their families

People in the countries covered – mainly Malian refugees in Burkina Faso – maintained or restored contact with relatives through Movement family-links services. After the Ivorian-Liberian border was reopened, 31 children who had been living in refugee camps in Liberia (see *Liberia*) or in Ghana rejoined their families in Côte d'Ivoire with the help of the Ivorian Red Cross and other National Societies concerned, and the ICRC. With ICRC technical support, National Societies strengthened their volunteers' capacities in restoring family-links: a family-links workshop was held for 28 Burkinabé Red Cross volunteers.

Two people who resettled in Ghana after their release from the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba benefited from ICRC support. One of them spent time with his relatives during an ICRC-facilitated family visit.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the national medico-legal institute – which exhumed and identified human remains from unmarked gravesites – and the ICRC organized the fifth annual conference of the African Society of Forensic Medicine. At this event, over 100 people from 25 countries discussed the role of forensics in mitigating the consequences of armed conflicts.

People learn more about good hygiene practices from the Burkinabé and Ivorian National Societies

The Burkinabé and Ivorian National Societies drew on ICRC assistance to train volunteers in the management of water- and sanitation-related activities. Afterwards, Burkinabé Red Cross volunteers promoted good hygiene practices among some 4,550 people in Burkina-Faso, including 1,550 Malian refugees; households benefited from 80 showers and latrines constructed by the National Society. In Côte d'Ivoire, Ivorian Red Cross volunteers promoted good hygiene practices among over 28,300 people in rural and peri-urban areas, and replaced several hand pumps. These efforts helped make vulnerable people safer from hygiene-related illnesses; however, there were fewer beneficiaries than planned.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Security detainees receive ICRC visits

Over 11,700 detainees in Côte d'Ivoire and around 2,000 detainees in Burkina Faso were visited by the ICRC in accordance with its standard procedures. Afterwards, the detaining authorities received confidential feedback based on these visits and other technical input, which helped them improve detainee living conditions and treatment, relating to judicial guarantees, for example.

Some detainees were monitored individually. In Côte d'Ivoire, these included: inmates in solitary confinement or preventive detention, or under interrogation; people arrested in relation to the 2011 conflict and violence in the west (see *Context*); and detainees held by intelligence services and the armed/security forces. In Burkina Faso, the ICRC visited political figures and people detained in relation to the 2014 protests and the 2015 coup attempt. A few detainees in Benin serving their sentences under the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (see *Paris*) also received visits.

Detainees maintained contact with their families via ICRC family-links services. Foreign inmates notified their consular representatives of their situation through the ICRC.

Ivorian authorities take steps to improve food supply and health care in prisons

In Côte d'Ivoire, efforts to reform penitentiary services continued. With ICRC technical support, the health and justice ministries: organized workshops on medical ethics and nutrition for 42 health staff; updated and created tools for managing detainees' health information, and promoted their use in prison clinics; and revised a manual on health care in places of detention. Health staff worked directly with the ICRC to: screen thousands of detainees; refer sick inmates to ICRC-supported prison infirmaries for further care; treat inmates suffering from vitamin-deficiency illnesses; and conduct therapeutic feeding for severely malnourished detainees.

To help make the food-supply chain more efficient, the ICRC advised supply managers in identifying and resolving recurring issues. They were encouraged to implement standardized menus and the findings of medical screenings and technical assessments were shared with them. Eleven managers attended an ICRC workshop on health care and nutrition.

To improve prison infrastructure, the authorities worked with the ICRC to: upgrade infirmaries and water, sanitation and cooking facilities at seven prisons housing almost 5,000 detainees; and launch a pilot project to produce biogas for cooking in two prisons housing about 1,540 detainees. The authorities also drew on ICRC expertise to plan the construction of a high-security prison. Another 2,400 inmates benefited from ICRC-supported fumigation campaigns, which helped reduce risks of hygiene-related illnesses. All these detainees also received hygiene kits; moreover, around 7,500 detainees eased their living conditions with ICRC-donated household essentials and recreational materials.

Seventeen senior prison managers from Côte d'Ivoire and other African countries exchanged best practices in prison management at a four-day advanced course, organized by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research and the ICRC, in Abidjan.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Ivorian and Togolese military and police instructors create teaching materials with the ICRC's help

Over 1,500 Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese military and police officers strengthened their grasp of IHL and international policing standards at various dissemination sessions conducted by the ICRC. Among them were: troops deploying as peacekeepers; military officers attending ECOWAS military exercises in Burkina Faso; members of the Ivorian mixed police/*gendarmérie*/military unit and three Ivorian generals. Commanders and high-ranking officials discussed how to apply IHL to their operations, guided by the ICRC and drawing on what they had learnt at courses and meetings abroad (see *International law and policy* and *Nigeria*). At an ICRC briefing in Togo, 50 military commanders from Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali and Niger learnt more about their role in preventing sexual violence during armed conflict.

Drawing on the ICRC's expertise, 9 Ivorian military instructors and 10 Togolese police instructors developed IHL exercises and teaching materials on international standards applicable to arrests, detention and the use of force, respectively.

Civil society leaders and military doctors discuss facilitating access to humanitarian or medical aid

Interaction with influential parties aimed to raise awareness of humanitarian issues, including the plight of detainees and the

families of missing people, and to foster support for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

Members of the Pan-African Committee of Military Medicine were updated by the ICRC on the dangers faced by health-care providers in volatile areas. In Côte d'Ivoire, dialogue with weapon bearers and health personnel stressed the importance of ensuring unhindered access to health care, in line with the goals of the Health Care in Danger project. The Ivorian military assigned a focal point for implementing the ICRC's recommendations.

Over 610 members of Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese civil society – including local, political and youth leaders – and 60 soldiers in western Côte d'Ivoire learnt more about the Movement at first-aid sessions and other events organized by National Societies and the ICRC. In Burkina Faso, 160 Islamic leaders and other influential actors discussed the similarities between Islam and IHL.

The public learnt more about humanitarian issues and Movement action through the media: for instance, the reunion in Côte d'Ivoire of Ivorian children from Liberia with their families. Journalists and journalism students developed their ability to cover such subjects by attending ICRC workshops in Benin, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire.

Government officials strengthen their ability to implement IHL

Government officials across the region attended various events that the ICRC organized or supported to encourage and assist them in advancing IHL implementation. At ICRC-supported events: around 80 Burkinabé parliamentarians were briefed on their role in IHL implementation; and Burkinabé and Ivorian government officials learnt more about incorporating the Arms Trade Treaty in domestic legislation. Eight officials from the countries covered by the delegation went abroad to attend either a seminar (see *Nigeria*) or a national IHL committee meeting in Switzerland.

In Côte d'Ivoire, at a regional seminar that the ICRC organized with the justice and foreign ministries and the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, 29 magistrates – including directors of magistrates' schools – refreshed their knowledge of IHL applicable to their duties. The authorities continued to draw on ICRC technical input to: amend the penal codes in Benin, Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire; and update the legal framework applicable to missing persons and their families.

Some 960 students of diplomacy, journalism or law learnt more about IHL through information sessions conducted by the ICRC in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo with the goal of reaching future decision-makers. The ICRC strove to foster academic interest in IHL: lecturers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo learnt more about teaching IHL-related topics at a course abroad (see *Yaoundé*); and lecturers and libraries were also provided with reference materials.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Burkinabé and Ivorian National Societies build new offices and expand their operational reach

ICRC training and technical guidance helped the region's National Societies enhance their emergency response: the Burkinabé and Ivorian National Societies tended to casualties of violence (see *Civilians*); and the Beninese, Burkinabé, Ivorian and Ghanaian National Societies pre-positioned staff and resources during electoral periods. First-aiders from the Beninese, Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese National Societies developed their skills at a regional workshop (see *Tunis*).

With assistance from the ICRC, the Ivorian Red Cross built two offices in western Côte d'Ivoire and the Burkinabé Red Cross constructed a new office in eastern Burkina Faso, enabling them to respond quickly to emergencies, including violent incidents, in these areas.

National Societies' public-communication efforts were backed by the ICRC; a dozen Burkinabé Red Cross volunteers trained to promote IHL and the Movement in violence-prone areas.

Aided by the International Federation and the ICRC, the organizational development of the National Societies continued. The Ghana Red Cross launched its 2016–20 strategy, with ICRC support.

| MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION | | Total | | | |
|---|---|--------|---------|--------|----------------------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | | |
| RCMs and other means of family contact | | | UAMs/SC | | |
| RCMs collected | | 218 | 14 | | |
| RCMs distributed | | 162 | 3 | | |
| Phone calls facilitated between family members | | 748 | | | |
| Reunifications, transfers and repatriations | | | | | |
| People reunited with their families | | 31 | | | |
| | <i>including people registered by another delegation</i> | 29 | | | |
| Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons | | | Women | Girls | Boys |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered | | 16 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | <i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i> | 5 | | | |
| Tracing cases closed positively (subject located or fate established) | | 4 | | | |
| Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people) | | 169 | 19 | 13 | 18 |
| | <i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i> | 26 | | | |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) /separated children (SC), including demobilized child soldiers | | | Girls | | Demobilized children |
| UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society | | 1 | 1 | | |
| UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society | | 31 | 12 | | |
| | <i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i> | 29 | | | |
| UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period | | 15 | 7 | | |
| Documents | | | | | |
| Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines | | 1 | | | |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | | | | | |
| ICRC visits | | | Women | Minors | |
| Detainees visited | | 13,752 | 312 | 413 | |
| | | | Women | Girls | Boys |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | | 293 | 7 | | 2 |
| Detainees newly registered | | 123 | 6 | | 2 |
| Number of visits carried out | | 80 | | | |
| Number of places of detention visited | | 36 | | | |
| RCMs and other means of family contact | | | | | |
| RCMs collected | | 64 | | | |
| RCMs distributed | | 16 | | | |
| Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative | | 143 | | | |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued | | 2 | | | |

| MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE | | Total | Women | Children |
|--|---------------|--------|--------|----------|
| CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.) | | | | |
| Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | | |
| Food commodities | Beneficiaries | 2,016 | 1,008 | 504 |
| Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 3,866 | 1,938 | 846 |
| Services and training | Beneficiaries | 39,600 | 11,880 | 19,800 |
| Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 32,976 | 9,893 | 13,190 |
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses) | | | | |
| Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme) | | | | |
| Essential household items | Beneficiaries | 7,507 | 157 | 176 |
| Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme) | | | | |
| Water and habitat activities | Beneficiaries | 8,736 | 262 | 175 |
| Health | | | | |
| Visits carried out by health staff | | 57 | | |
| Places of detention visited by health staff | Structures | 18 | | |
| Health facilities supported in places of detention visited by health staff | Structures | 10 | | |