



algeria

The ICRC in Algeria carries out visits to people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and, since 2002, to people remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries*. It cooperates closely with the Algerian Red Crescent Society, in particular in its efforts to assist women and children who have been victims of violence and to strengthen its national first-aid network. The ICRC also works to promote IHL among Algerian civil society, the authorities and the armed forces.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

580,771

Assistance

29,406

Preventive action

320,552

Cooperation with National Societies

420,143

General

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► **1,350,871**

of which: Overheads **82,448**

PERSONNEL

2 expatriates

4 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ The ICRC carried out visits to prisons, police stations and *gendarmeries* to assess the treatment and living conditions of persons detained by the Algerian authorities.
- ▶ ICRC financial, technical and training assistance was maintained for Algerian Red Crescent programmes providing psychological support, vocational training and psychosocial care for women and children traumatized by violence.
- ▶ The ICRC provided technical and financial support for a prosthetic/orthotic production unit using ICRC technology to fit Algerian amputees.
- ▶ The Algerian Red Crescent received material assistance and training to enhance its first-aid and tracing/family-links services.

CONTEXT

In April President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was re-elected to a second term of office by an 85% majority. Following his re-election, the Algerian president introduced a series of economic and social reforms and began the restructuring of the national judicial and penitentiary systems.

Attacks against civilians and clashes between government forces and armed groups persisted, although the number of civilian casualties was lower than in previous years. However, given the security situation that still prevailed in some parts of the country, the authorities maintained the state of emergency declared in 1992.

Algeria hosted several major conferences during the year, including the 6th Pan African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, a meeting of the African Parliamentary Union that focused on improving governance in African States, and an international conference of government experts to discuss ways of combating “terrorism” in Africa.

ICRC ACTION

ICRC activities in Algeria focused primarily on visits to persons deprived of their freedom to monitor their treatment and living conditions, on providing psychological support for women and children who have been victims of violence, and on strengthening the capacity of the National Society to respond to emergencies.

Families in Algeria benefited from ICRC tracing services and the Red Cross message (RCM) network to locate and maintain contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad or living in countries affected by armed conflict.

Training and technical support was maintained for a physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances for the disabled.

CIVILIANS

Alleviating the mental trauma of violence

The ICRC continued to support Algerian Red Crescent programmes for women and children suffering the effects of violence. ICRC involvement in these programmes consisted of: providing material aid to vocational training workshops for women, which also offered psychological support; financing courses to enhance the group-therapy skills of psychologists; and supporting the training of psychologists working with traumatized children in Algerian Red Crescent summer holiday camps.

Restoring family links

The ICRC tracing and RCM service enabled Algerians to locate and restore contact with family members detained/interned abroad or living in countries such as Iraq where communications remained difficult.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

The ICRC carried out visits to places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and to persons remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries* run by the Ministries of the Interior and of Defence respectively. Delegates monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees and gave presentations on the ICRC and its activities to prison staff.

- ▶ 22 visits made to 15 places of detention holding 14,683 detainees

WOUNDED AND SICK

Amputee fittings

Technical and financial support was maintained for the Ben Aknoun physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs.

- ▶ 76 physically disabled persons received fittings at the ICRC-assisted physical rehabilitation centre

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following the first seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) organized for Algerian military instructors in 2003, the ICRC pursued efforts to promote the integration of IHL into the theoretical and practical training programmes of the Algerian armed forces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC held meetings with the Algerian education authorities to discuss proposals to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme on an experimental basis in four schools at the start of the 2004–05 academic year. Training sessions were organized for teachers working in secondary schools selected for the pilot project. The head of the secondary-school education department attended an ICRC regional seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Pretoria in July.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC helped the Algerian Red Crescent Society to establish a nationwide tracing network after providing training in tracing and restoring family links for National Society staff and volunteers working in all of the country's 48 regions (*wilayats*). The Algerian Red Crescent tracing unit was in the process of creating a databank to store information on tracing requests received since 2001.

With ICRC support, the Algerian Red Crescent maintained its programmes offering psychological care for women and children affected by violence (see *Civilians*).

The ICRC conducted first-aid courses for Red Crescent instructors and staff and for personnel of the civil defence, health services and the *gendarmerie* to increase their capacity to respond to mass-casualty situations.