

RWANDA



Having worked in the country since 1960, the ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It visits detainees held in central prisons and places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities, while supporting the authorities in improving detainees' living conditions. It helps reunite children and their families who were separated in relation to the genocide and its aftermath or the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation. It supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ detainees held in prisons and military/police facilities received visits from the ICRC, which continued to engage the authorities in dialogue about access to all detainees within its purview
- ▶ prison authorities dealt with emergencies with ICRC support, enabling 96 wounded former fighters interned in Rwanda to receive treatment, and helping inmates at prisons partly gutted by fire cope with their situation
- ▶ detainees gained more sustainable access to water and fuel and enjoyed better hygiene conditions, thanks to water treatment, soap production and biogas systems that were built/maintained with ICRC support
- ▶ minors, including those formerly associated with armed groups, rejoined their relatives, thanks to family-links services, and had their welfare monitored following their reunification
- ▶ the Rwandan Red Cross expanded its network of first-aiders to 10 districts by training over 600 new volunteers with ICRC support

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	3,691
RCMs distributed	2,778
Phone calls facilitated between family members	95
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	110
People reunited with their families	75
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	67
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	61,321
Detainees visited and monitored individually	508
Number of visits carried out	87
Number of places of detention visited	26
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	209
RCMs distributed	107
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	3

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	2,521
Assistance	1,795
Prevention	505
Cooperation with National Societies	599
General	-

5,420

of which: Overheads 331

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	96%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	11
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	70

CONTEXT

Persistent insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC) continued to cause people to flee to Rwanda. As part of the process of demobilization in the DRC (see *Congo, Democratic Republic of the*), former weapon bearers of Rwandan origin, including children, were repatriated. Former fighters of the M23 armed group continued to be interned in facilities run by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR).

Rwanda contributed troops to various peace-support missions in the Central African Republic, Haiti, Mali and Sudan. It led efforts to prepare the Eastern Africa Standby Force – composed of military, police and civilian components from 10 countries – for deployment as part of the African Standby Force.

Twenty years after the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, events honouring its victims were held throughout the country.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC maintained its focus on: visiting detainees and working with the authorities to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions; restoring family links, together with the Rwandan Red Cross; and helping the latter strengthen its operational capacities.

The ICRC engaged in dialogue with the authorities to gain/maintain access to all detainees within its purview. Detainees held in prisons, and at military and police facilities, received ICRC visits, during which their treatment and living conditions were monitored. Inmates detained on security-related charges, Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) convicts serving their sentences in the country, former weapon bearers, including minors, and former M23 fighters interned in Rwanda were among those regularly visited by delegates. After the visits, the ICRC communicated its findings and recommendations confidentially to the authorities. Detainees kept in touch with their families through Movement family-links services; foreign inmates notified their consular representatives of their situation via the ICRC. At the authorities' request, the ICRC issued attestations of detention for over 1,000 detainees, which made it possible to review their detention status.

The Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) and the ICRC carried out joint efforts to improve detainees' living conditions. For instance, detainees gained more sustainable access to water and enjoyed better hygiene conditions with the help of water treatment, soap production and biogas systems that were built/maintained with ICRC support. Wounded ex-M23 fighters received medical treatment from an ICRC surgical team or local health teams equipped with ICRC medical supplies. After fires partly gutted two prisons, the detainees affected received blankets and clothing; some of them were sheltered temporarily in ICRC-provided tents. During an annual round-table organized by the RCS and the ICRC, representatives of various government bodies, including the RCS and the Ministries of Health, Internal Security and Justice, drew up standards for prison health services.

Members of families separated by past and ongoing conflicts, such as those fleeing hostilities in the DRC as well as former weapon bearers and returnees, contacted their relatives through National Society/ICRC family-links services. As for unaccompanied minors, their welfare was monitored while their families were

being traced; where possible and appropriate, they were reunited with their relatives. Particular attention was paid to those previously associated with armed groups. The ICRC checked, through follow-up visits, the well-being of those who were reunited with their relatives. Such efforts were carried out in coordination with the local authorities, other organizations involved in child protection and other National Societies/ICRC delegations concerned.

Dialogue with the authorities and dissemination sessions for military and police officers sought to promote further support for IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention. At ICRC briefings prior to their deployment abroad, Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) and Rwanda National Police (RNP) officers furthered their knowledge of IHL and international human rights law. The Rwanda Law Reform Commission, with the ICRC's encouragement, commissioned an initial study for a project to harmonize Rwandan legislation with IHL. To reinforce such efforts in the long term, ICRC-organized conferences kept teachers and students of law abreast of IHL-related issues. The ICRC continued to work with the National Society to spread understanding of IHL and the Movement's work among a wider audience through public events, radio programmes and press releases.

The National Society, with ICRC support, continued to boost its capacities to respond to emergencies and promote the Fundamental Principles. Movement components coordinated their activities with each other, and with other humanitarian agencies, to maximize impact and avoid duplication.

CIVILIANS

Members of dispersed families re-establish contact

Members of families dispersed by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, the ongoing hostilities in the DRC, migration, or other circumstances used National Society/ICRC family-links services – such as tracing, RCMs and phone calls – to restore/maintain contact within Rwanda or abroad. Among them were Rwandan returnees, including those expelled from the United Republic of Tanzania, and former weapon bearers, including children, repatriated to Rwanda (see *People deprived of their freedom*). Some families had the names of their missing relatives (208 people) broadcast over national radio.

Tracing services enabled the whereabouts of 110 people to be made known to their relatives.

Children formerly associated with weapon bearers rejoin their families

With National Society/ICRC support, 67 children were reunited with their relatives; 20 of them were previously connected with fighting forces. Along with 35 others who were reunited with their families by other agencies, they received follow-up visits from the ICRC, which evaluated the progress of their reintegration. Most of them benefited from food, transportation and accommodation for their journey home, and received household items, food and/or cash to ease their transition back into family life.

By year-end, the cases of 151 unaccompanied minors were still being monitored and their families traced. Special attention was paid to 37 of them, who were formerly associated with weapon bearers.

The adoption in late 2013 of a law supporting repatriation and/or family reunification for unaccompanied minors/separated children paved the way for increased efforts to ensure the minors'

welfare. Close coordination with MIDIMAR and humanitarian agencies involved in child protection helped ensure that unaccompanied children received proper attention and support for their particular needs. Over 200 children at the Rusayo Centre for Unaccompanied Children – including those referred by the ICRC and awaiting family reunification – were able to participate in educational activities and sports with materials and equipment provided to them through a partnership between the centre, Joint Aid Management and the ICRC. They also received hygiene items.

The Rwandan Red Cross continued to boost its ability to restore family links, with the help of ICRC material support and training, including during joint visits to refugee camps. It incorporated family-links services in its emergency response approach, and had these services promoted through the ICRC's family-links website (familylinks.icrc.org). It continued to coordinate such activities with the local authorities, National Societies in neighbouring countries, and other humanitarian organizations.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Over 61,000 inmates have their welfare monitored

Detainees at 26 different detention facilities under the authority of the RCS, the RDF and the RNP received ICRC visits, conducted in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. ICRC delegates monitored their treatment and living conditions, paying particular attention to: people held for reasons related to State security; former weapon bearers, including minors, in camps run by the Rwanda Demobilization and Reintegration Commission; former M23 fighters interned in Rwanda; and other detainees with specific needs, such as the elderly, the mentally ill, foreigners and women. As a monitoring body, the ICRC visited eight detainees who were convicted by the SCSL and were serving their sentences in Rwanda.

After their visits, delegates submitted their findings and recommendations confidentially to the detaining authorities. These reports, and ICRC technical/material support, helped the authorities take further action to bring detainees' treatment and living conditions in line with internationally recognized standards. Two RCS officials learnt more about these standards at a prison management course in Geneva, Switzerland.

The ICRC engaged the authorities in dialogue to gain/maintain access to all detainees under its purview, and to promote ways to ensure respect for detainees' judicial guarantees. Over 1,000 inmates had their detention statuses reviewed after the ICRC had issued detention attestations for them, at the request of the National Prosecutor's Office.

Minors detained at the Nyagatare rehabilitation centre, and other inmates, restored/maintained contact with their families through Movement family-links services. Foreign detainees notified their consular representatives of their detention via the ICRC. Detainees were contacted after their release to check on their welfare.

Wounded former fighters interned in Rwanda receive medical treatment

Ninety-six wounded ex-M23 fighters received appropriate care at an ICRC-supported medical facility; 31 of them were treated by an ICRC surgical team, and 40 were referred to other hospitals for further care. In total, three hospitals treated them with the help of funds, supplies and equipment from the ICRC. Some of the injured fighters benefited from other ad hoc assistance, including the provision of crutches, clothes and hygiene materials.

After fires partly gutted two prisons, the authorities received assistance in maintaining humane conditions for the inmates affected. Detainees who were transferred to two prisons received blankets and clothes from the ICRC. Some of them were temporarily sheltered in ICRC-donated tents. Injured detainees were treated at the Gisenyi hospital, which received ICRC material support. Materials for the construction of bunk beds and for the clearing of debris were also provided.

Penitentiary, health and internal security officials define standards for prison health services

The RCS took steps to improve detainees' living conditions, including their access to basic health care. At an annual national seminar, officials from various government bodies formulated standards for prison health, particularly in relation to sanitation, nutrition and medical supplies/equipment. Prison directors, nurses and staff, and representatives from the Ministries of Health, Internal Security, and Justice, and from military and police hospitals contributed to the development of these standards, drawing on the expertise of representatives of international organizations and the ICRC. The draft set of standards was prepared for submission to the ministries concerned for their approval.

During workshops organized by prison health authorities, with technical and financial support from the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS and the ICRC, some 1,150 staff from the country's 14 central prisons, including Nyagatare, increased their knowledge of measures to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS. After a training session, 35 of them were able to pass on, to other prison personnel, what they had learnt.

Detainees stood to benefit from a project – in two pilot sites, the Huye and Nyarugenge central prisons – that aimed at addressing concerns linked to nutrition, hygiene and disease prevention and control. This project was in line with an RCS strategy, developed with ICRC support in 2012, to enhance the availability and quality of health care in prisons over a five-year period (2013–17). To clarify the roles of the ICRC and the government bodies involved in the project, a memorandum of understanding was submitted to the RCS and the Health/ Internal Security Ministries for their approval. Prison administrators and health teams discussed detainees' medical concerns, and received technical advice from the ICRC, during regular round-tables and bilateral meetings.

Inmates have sustainable access to water and fuel, thanks to water treatment and biogas systems

Over 50,000 detainees benefited from improved prison facilities following upgrades carried out within the framework of a cost-sharing arrangement; the aim of this arrangement was to prepare the authorities to gradually assume full responsibility for enhancing detainees' living conditions. Detainees at six prisons had better access to water for drinking and sanitation after the installation of chlorine-production machines that provided them with an in-house water treatment system. Prison staff operated and maintained water treatment and biogas systems with the help of training and materials provided by the ICRC; these systems improved the detainees' hygiene conditions and reduced fuel costs. Prison kitchens and a women's prison were refurbished.

Some 4,100 women and children at 12 prisons maintained their personal hygiene with rations of soap and other hygiene items. Such distributions were concluded in June, as the RCS took over the provision of hygiene items. A soap production unit was installed at

the Huye central prison, enabling the RCS to produce enough soap for all its detainees.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Military academies enhance peacekeepers' understanding of their obligations under IHL

The ICRC engaged the authorities, including police and military officials, in dialogue to promote further awareness of IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

The RDF welcomed the ICRC's support for incorporating IHL in its troops' training. To foster compliance with IHL among Rwandan peacekeepers, the commanders of RDF military academies agreed to plan their 2015 training for peace-support operations in consultation with the ICRC. At briefings before their deployment abroad, some 140 RDF commanders and 800 troops learnt more about IHL, and around 300 RNP officers, about IHL and international human rights norms, including those applicable to arrest and detention. RDF and RNP personnel acquainted themselves with the ICRC's work during these dissemination sessions.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force, composed of troops from various countries in the region, conducted a training exercise with IHL-related guidance from the ICRC. At an ICRC presentation, 60 senior police officers from various African countries, who were attending a year-long senior command course in Rwanda, learnt about the ICRC's activities to protect people affected by armed conflict.

Authorities take steps to harmonize Rwandan legislation with IHL

The authorities received legal advice, through regular dialogue and at regional conferences, for taking further steps to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (see *Nairobi*) and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which have both been signed by Rwanda, and for implementing IHL-related instruments to which Rwanda was already party, including the African Union Convention on IDPs and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention. The Rwanda Law Reform Commission and the ICRC agreed, under a memorandum of understanding, to cooperate in a project to harmonize Rwandan legislation with IHL. In December, the commission hired a consultant to conduct an initial study for this project.

To ensure that the Rwandan Red Cross had a strong legal basis for its humanitarian work, the ICRC provided guidance for drafting a revised law recognizing the National Society as an auxiliary to the government, and for finalizing a draft law regulating the use of the emblem.

Students and teachers of law keep abreast of issues linked to IHL

University instructors became more adept at teaching IHL, and students refined their knowledge of the subject, by participating in ICRC-organized events and by making use of ICRC-provided IHL reference materials. During a national IHL round-table, lecturers from private and State-run universities exchanged views on a number of subjects: developments in the classification of armed conflicts; new technologies in warfare; the status of combatants; multinational forces; detention; and other issues of humanitarian concern. Over 100 law students from the University of Rwanda learnt more, during a conference, about IHL-related issues, mainly with regard to the classification of conflicts. With financial assistance from the ICRC, selected university lecturers participated

in an annual regional academics' round-table (see *Nairobi*), and student teams demonstrated their knowledge of IHL at a moot court competition abroad. A local NGO, with ICRC support, organized a similar competition for students from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda.

With ICRC support, the National Society continued to raise awareness of humanitarian concerns and the Movement's activities, through public events, radio programmes, press releases and other means.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Rwandan Red Cross trains volunteers in emergency care, including psychological first aid

With ICRC financial, technical and material assistance, the Rwandan Red Cross continued to develop its capacities to restore family links, respond to emergencies and promote support for the Movement (see above). Movement partners met regularly to coordinate their activities.

Over 600 volunteers acquired skills in first aid and received basic equipment at ICRC-supported training sessions, thereby extending the national first-aiders' network to 10 districts. National Society trainers organized their own first-aid courses countrywide. Young people became certified first-aiders and learnt about the Fundamental Principles through these courses. Following training sessions supported by the Health Ministry, 149 volunteers stood ready to lend emergency assistance and handle cases of psychological trauma during events marking the 20th anniversary of the genocide in Rwanda (see *Context*).

Also in line with the commemoration of the 1994 genocide, the National Society built houses for 12 particularly vulnerable families of survivors with the help of construction materials provided by the ICRC. Plans to build a new logistics centre for the National Society were cancelled, as it was not possible to obtain a construction permit in the area initially identified.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*		
RCMs collected		3,691	54		
RCMs distributed		2,778	28		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		95			
Names published in the media		208			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		75			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	43			
People transferred/repatriated		7			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		179	38	26	35
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	58			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		110			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	20			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		255	24	56	77
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	96			
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		48	21		11
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		67	25		20
	<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	42			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		151	62		37
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		61,321	2,758	87	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		508	56	1	5
Detainees newly registered		256	48	1	5
Number of visits carried out		87			
Number of places of detention visited		26			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		209			
RCMs distributed		107			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		3			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1,018			

* 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)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	60		100%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	15		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	215		100%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	71		
Cash	Beneficiaries	93	6%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	4		
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	61		100%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	11		
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 ¹	Beneficiaries			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	50,250		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		9		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		5		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	3		
Patients whose hospital treatment has been paid for by the ICRC	Patients	40		

1. Owing to operational and management constraints, figures presented in this table and in the narrative part of this report may not reflect all activities carried out during the reporting period.