

# YAOUNDÉ (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

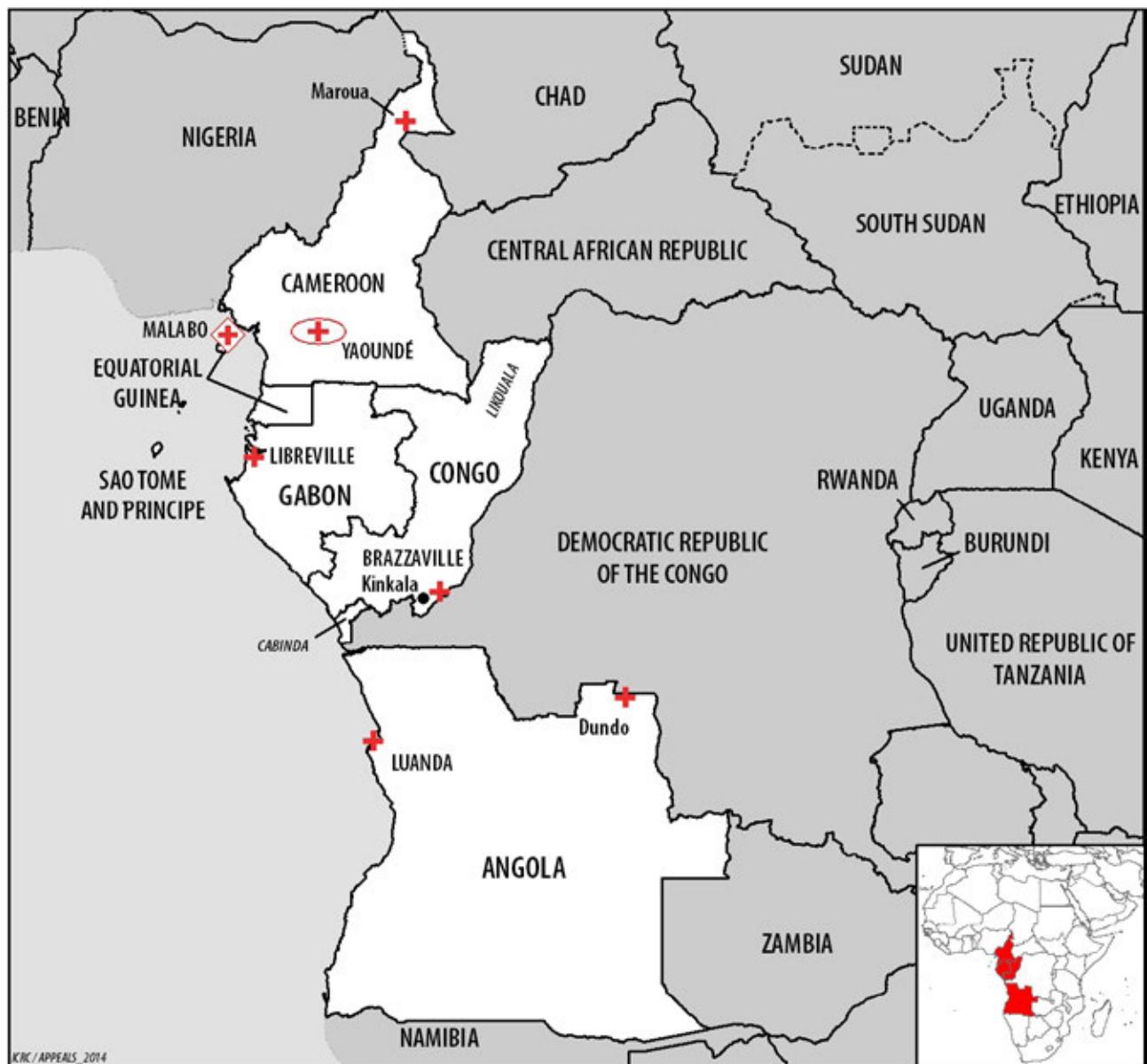
The ICRC set up its Yaoundé regional delegation in 1992 but has been working in the region since 1972. It monitors the domestic situation in the countries covered, visits security detainees and helps restore contact between refugees, migrants and their families. It pursues longstanding programmes to spread knowledge of IHL among the authorities, armed forces and civil society, and supports the development of the region's National Societies.

## BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,603
Assistance	424
Prevention	1,835
Cooperation with National Societies	1,229
General	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,091</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>311</i>

## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	9
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	54



ICRC/APPEALS\_2014

ICRC regional delegation

ICRC mission

ICRC office

## MAIN TARGETS FOR 2014

- ▶ detainees in 2 prisons in Gabon benefit from a pilot project implemented jointly with the authorities to address health, hygiene and nutritional issues, contributing to wider reform of the penitentiary system
- ▶ migrants, notably people awaiting deportation in retention centres in Angola's Lunda Norte province, as well as in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon, restore/maintain contact with their families through Movement family-links services
- ▶ the integration of IHL, human rights and other relevant norms into the training of armed and security forces progresses as a result of ICRC cooperation with regional academies and participation in a regional military exercise
- ▶ in northern Cameroon, the needs of local residents and/or refugees affected by the situation in neighbouring Nigeria are addressed by the Cameroon Red Cross Society, with ICRC support
- ▶ the region's National Societies enhance their emergency response capacities, notably by training/refreshing the skills of some 400 volunteers/team leaders/instructors in first aid



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## CONTEXT

The region remains generally stable and free of armed conflict. However, insecurity spilling over from neighbouring countries has prompted governments to adopt additional security measures, for instance in northern Cameroon.

In Angola's Cabinda enclave, tensions persist between the armed forces and alleged members of the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda. The Angolan government continues to deport some allegedly illegal economic migrants, mostly Congolese nationals, from Lunda Norte to Kasai Occidental, Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC). However, tens of thousands of migrants

are reportedly returning voluntarily following the recent official opening of border posts as a result of agreements between the two countries.

People fleeing recent violence in the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR) have sought refuge in eastern Cameroon and north-eastern Congo, and some 3,000 refugees from Nigeria have arrived in northern Cameroon.

Economic and social concerns, notably the unequal distribution of wealth, high youth unemployment and rising food prices, generate social discontent and, in Congo, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe, have led to recurring strikes.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2014, the ICRC Yaoundé delegation will aim to respond to emergencies arising in the countries covered or to the spillover effects of conflict or other situations of violence in neighbouring States. To this end, the region's National Societies will receive support in the form of training, equipment and funds to sustain their operational capacities, particularly in the fields of first aid, family links and the promotion of humanitarian principles. The ICRC will maintain its multidisciplinary approach, including further developing its activities in northern Cameroon where it will open an office in Maroua, better enabling it to monitor the humanitarian situation and respond to the needs of local residents and/or refugees affected by the situation in north-east Nigeria, in partnership with the Cameroon Red Cross Society. By mid-2014, it will close its office in Dundo, Angola, given decreasing humanitarian needs in the area.

The ICRC will visit detainees in Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It will pay special attention to security inmates and other vulnerable detainees such as migrants. Following visits, delegates will provide the authorities with confidential feedback, including recommendations where necessary. In Gabon, based on an agreement signed with the Justice Ministry in 2013, the ICRC will continue supporting the authorities in improving detainees' health, hygiene and nutritional status countrywide through a pilot project in two prisons. It will furthermore provide ad hoc assistance to vulnerable inmates.

Detainees, refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and their family members will be able to restore/maintain contact through the family-links network run with the National Societies. The ICRC will follow up the situation of unaccompanied children and, where appropriate, reunite them

with their families. In Angola, it will assist the authorities in putting in place procedures enabling such children to rejoin their relatives after their deportation. The ICRC will pursue dialogue with these authorities, as well as with others in the region, on the treatment and rights of migrants, particularly during deportation.

To foster dialogue on humanitarian principles and garner support for IHL and international human rights law, the ICRC will sustain contacts with national and local authorities, armed and security forces and key civil society actors, notably in violence-prone areas. This will include briefing future officials at the National School of Penitentiary Administration in Cameroon and at a school for the judiciary in Equatorial Guinea on internationally recognized standards relating to detention and on ICRC activities. Similar sessions for armed and security forces, particularly those deployed to maintain law and order, for instance Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) units in northern Cameroon and students at the International School for Security Forces (EIFORCES), will aim to deepen their understanding of humanitarian principles and internationally recognized standards applicable to law enforcement, including arrest and interrogation. Meetings/events and publications notably for the media, Islamic organizations, youth clubs and academic circles will aim to stimulate humanitarian dialogue, interest in IHL and its instruction in higher-education institutions.

Together, the National Societies and the ICRC will provide the region's governments with input to assist in the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. In Congo and Gabon, they will promote the adoption of a law on the emblem.

The ICRC will continue to facilitate coordination among Movement partners in the region.