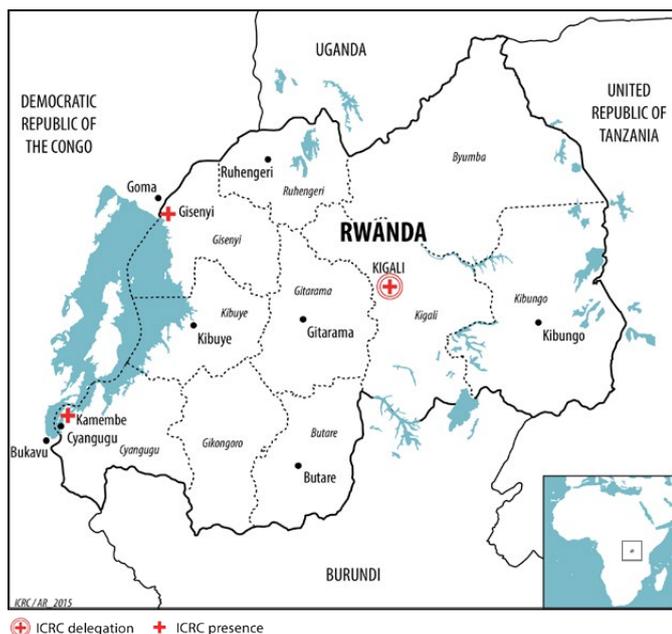


# RWANDA



KRC/AP 2015  
 ⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC presence

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 2015

- ▶ Detainees had sustainable access to clean water and better living conditions, owing to water treatment, production of chlorine/soap/briquettes, and biogas systems built/maintained/ repaired with ICRC support.
- ▶ Detention authorities took steps to improve prison health care; they finished surveying the nutritional status of inmates at 2 prisons and created a medical screening form for new arrivals.
- ▶ People who had fled Burundi, minors formerly associated with fighting forces, and other persons separated from their families contacted/rejoined their relatives through the Movement's family-links services.
- ▶ The Rwandan Red Cross consolidated its network of first-aiders by training 24 emergency teams, consisting of more than 480 volunteers, with ICRC support.
- ▶ Rwandan authorities completed the final steps to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions and acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

PROTECTION	Total
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>	
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	4,443
RCMs distributed	2,914
Phone calls facilitated between family members	63,726
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	127
People reunited with their families	145
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	128
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>	
<b>ICRC visits</b>	
Detainees visited	56,300
Detainees visited and monitored individually	314
Number of visits carried out	69
Number of places of detention visited	22
<b>Restoring family links</b>	
RCMs collected	253
RCMs distributed	152
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	40

## EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	3,014
Assistance	1,655
Prevention	807
Cooperation with National Societies	398
General	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,920</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<b>361</b>

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>95%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	16
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	70

ASSISTANCE	2015 Targets (up to)	Achieved
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>		
<b>Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	180
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	421
Cash	Beneficiaries	57
Services and training	Beneficiaries	2

## CONTEXT

Rwanda continued to host thousands of people who had fled neighbouring countries. Over 70,000 people were estimated to have sought refuge in Rwanda from the violence that erupted in Burundi in April 2015 (see *Burundi*). Most of them were sheltered in transit centres and at a newly established refugee camp in Kirehe district, Eastern Province managed by the government and the UNHCR. Some 75,000 refugees who had fled persistent insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC; see *Congo, Democratic Republic of the*) were also in Rwanda.

Former weapon bearers of Rwandan origin, including children, were repatriated from the DRC as part of the demobilization process in that country. Former fighters from 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, South Sudan and Sudan. It also sought closer cooperation with others in security matters; to this end, it led efforts to prepare the Eastern Africa Standby Force for deployment as part of the African Standby Force.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to 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 to strengthen its operational capacities.

Detainees held in prisons and military facilities received ICRC visits, during which their treatment and living conditions were monitored in accordance with the organization's standard procedures. Inmates detained on security-related charges and former weapon bearers – including minors and former M23 fighters interned in Rwanda – were among those followed up individually by delegates. After its visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations confidentially to the authorities concerned. 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 that enabled detainees to have their status reviewed. The ICRC also continued to engage the authorities in dialogue to gain/maintain access to all detainees within its purview.

The Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) and the ICRC carried out joint efforts to improve detainees' living conditions. Chlorine/soap/briquette-production facilities and biogas systems built/maintained with ICRC support, and repairs to sanitation/other prison infrastructure, improved living conditions for detainees and gave them sustainable access to clean water. The RCS began to implement a project to improve nutrition, hygiene and disease prevention/control in two prisons with ICRC support; this included an assessment of the nutritional status of some 16,500 inmates, which was to serve as a baseline for monitoring and for planning activities. Building on work begun last year at the annual round-table organized by the RCS and the ICRC, representatives of various government bodies, including the RCS and the health, internal security and justice ministries, reviewed and revised standards for prison health services.

Members of families separated by past or ongoing conflicts or other situations of violence – among them, former weapon bearers,

returnees and people fleeing the situation in Burundi – contacted their relatives through National Society/ICRC family-links services, which included provision of phone credit and charging services at transit centres and refugee camps. The ICRC monitored the welfare of unaccompanied minors while their families were being traced, and reunited them with their relatives where possible and appropriate. Particular attention was paid to minors previously associated with fighting forces. Minors reunited with their relatives received material assistance for their reintegration; the ICRC checked on them through follow-up visits. 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, including military and police officials, sought to promote further support for IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention. With the ICRC's encouragement and technical guidance, Rwandan authorities completed the final steps to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions; Rwanda also acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Rwanda Law Reform Commission pursued efforts to harmonize the country's legislation with IHL; it set out a detailed work plan based on the conclusions of a study they begun in 2014. At ICRC briefings, Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) officers and troops furthered their knowledge of IHL before leaving for peace-support missions abroad. To sustain long-term interest in IHL, ICRC-organized conferences kept students and teachers of law abreast of IHL-related issues.

The ICRC continued to help the National Society boost its capacity to respond to emergencies – working with the latter's teams to respond to the ongoing influx of people from Burundi, notably by providing family-links services – and to promote to a wider audience, through public events and multimedia productions, the Fundamental Principles and the Movement's work.

## CIVILIANS

### Minors and people who fled Burundi re-establish contact with relatives

People separated from their families by events in Burundi and the DRC, migration or other circumstances, as well as members of families dispersed by the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, used National Society/ICRC family-links services – including those available on the ICRC's family-links website ([familylinks.icrc.org](http://familylinks.icrc.org)) – to restore/maintain contact with relatives in Rwanda or abroad. Among them were former weapon bearers, including children, repatriated to Rwanda (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

Some families had the names of their missing relatives (212 people) broadcast over national radio. Others filed tracing requests, as a result of which the whereabouts of 127 people were made known to their relatives.

As waves of Burundians sought refuge in Rwanda, the National Society/ICRC stepped up the provision of family-links services, progressively scaling up such activities in response to growing needs. Of the 1,667 unaccompanied/separated minors registered by the National Society/ICRC during the reporting period, most were Burundian. Some of them, along with thousands of other refugees, made over 63,700 phone calls to their families back home or elsewhere. People who had fled Burundi contacted their families on their own mobile phones; they made use of credit and phone

charging services offered at transit centres and refugee camps through a partnership involving a mobile network, solar energy companies and the ICRC.

With the ICRC's support, some people wounded during their journey from Burundi were able to obtain health care and basic assistance.

### **Children previously connected with fighting forces rejoin their families**

With National Society/ICRC support, 128 children, of whom 14 were formerly connected with fighting forces, rejoined their families. Most of them received aid – food, transportation and accommodation – for their journey home; they were also given household items, food and/or cash to ease their return to family life. They received follow-up visits from the ICRC, to gauge the extent of their reintegration.

At year's end, the cases of 1,131 unaccompanied minors were still being monitored and their families traced. Special attention was paid to 39 of them who were formerly associated with weapon bearers. The National Society/ICRC maintained close coordination with MIDIMAR and humanitarian agencies involved in child protection to ensure that unaccompanied children received proper attention and that their particular needs were met.

Having incorporated family-links services in its emergency response, the National Society continued to boost its capacities in this area; it did so with material support/training from the ICRC, including during joint visits to and joint provision of services at refugee camps and transit centres. The National Society coordinated these activities with the local authorities, National Societies in neighbouring countries and other humanitarian organizations.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

Inmates at 22 detention facilities under the authority of the RCS and the RDF 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 and former M23 fighters interned in Rwanda; and other detainees with specific needs, such as the elderly, the mentally ill, foreigners and women. Visits to people convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone were postponed to early 2016.

After these visits, delegates submitted their findings and recommendations confidentially to the detaining authorities. Their reports, together with ICRC technical/material support, helped the authorities take further action to bring detainees' treatment and living conditions in line with internationally recognized standards.

The ICRC continued to engage the authorities in dialogue to gain/maintain access to all detainees within its purview, and to promote ways to ensure respect for detainees' judicial guarantees. It finished issuing attestations of detention – which it began to do in 2013 at the request of the National Prosecutor's Office – to some 1,500 detainees, enabling them to have their detention status reviewed.

Detainees, including minors detained at the Nyagatare rehabilitation centre, restored/maintained contact with their families through RCMs. Foreign detainees notified their consular representatives of

their detention via the ICRC. Some detainees were contacted by the ICRC after their release to check on their welfare.

Former M23 fighters received ad hoc medical assistance from the ICRC.

### **Authorities take steps to improve health care in prisons**

The RCS pursued efforts to improve detainees' living conditions, including their access to basic health care. As part of its strategy to improve the availability and the quality of health care in prisons over a five-year period (2013–17), the RCS, with ICRC support, pursued a project to tackle issues related to nutrition, hygiene and disease prevention/control in two pilot sites (Huye and Nyarugenge central prisons). Implementation began after the signature of a memorandum of understanding that established the roles of the ICRC and the government bodies involved. With ICRC guidance, correctional staff conducted a survey of 16,500 detainees in the two prisons to assess their nutritional status; the survey revealed that the incidence of malnutrition had decreased by at least 6% since 2014. These findings helped RCS officials monitor conditions in the facilities more closely and gave them a baseline from which to shape future activities, for instance the planting of vegetable gardens. Prison staff and the ICRC developed a medical screening form for new arrivals. Renovation of the dispensary at the Huye central prison got under way.

During regular round-tables and bilateral meetings, prison administrators and health teams discussed detainees' medical concerns and received technical advice from the ICRC, for instance on the creation of an RCS unit focused on health issues.

Building on work begun at the 2014 annual national seminar organized by the RCS and the ICRC, officials from various government bodies reviewed and revised standards for prison health care, particularly in relation to sanitation, nutrition and medical supplies/equipment. Prison directors, nurses and staff, and officials from the health, internal security and justice ministries, and from military and police hospitals, helped to develop these standards, with the aid of experts from the ICRC and other international organizations. The revised draft of the standards went through a technical review in March and was being readied for a final review in early 2016. Its adoption will mean the alignment of national with international standards; the standards will incorporate specific indicators to enable better planning, provision and monitoring of health care in places of detention.

The authorities, NGOs and others working on detention issues continued to discuss challenges and best practices in the management of health-related issues at various ICRC-supported meetings, including the 2015 annual national seminar, which health/detention officials from Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon and Madagascar also attended. RCS officials developed their administrative capacities at prison-management seminars in Kenya (see *Nairobi*) and Geneva, Switzerland. Over 315 new RCS recruits learnt about detention issues and the ICRC's work at briefings.

### **Inmates have sustainable access to clean water**

Over 51,000 detainees benefited from upgrades to prison infrastructure, carried out as part of the ICRC's cost-sharing agreements with the prison authorities, which aimed to encourage them to gradually assume full responsibility for enhancing detainees' living conditions. Detainees in 12 prisons benefited from repairs to sanitation and other facilities. The ICRC's installation of

chlorine-production machines in 11 prisons provided the RCS with a sustainable in-house water treatment method, and detainees with clean water for drinking and sanitation. Through training, 20 prison personnel learnt how to use the machines. The RCS installed, with ICRC support, units to produce soap and briquettes for use in all Rwandan prisons, with a view to improving the level of hygiene and kitchen facilities, respectively.

RCS staff upgraded their skills in facilities upkeep after attending a refresher course in operating/maintaining previously installed biogas systems, and seminars on infrastructure maintenance and hygiene promotion.

## **ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

### **Troops prepare for peace-support missions with ICRC briefings on IHL**

Dialogue with the authorities, including police and military officials, broadened awareness of IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement and detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*), and stimulated discussion of the humanitarian consequences of regional issues, such as the events in Burundi and the DRC.

The RDF welcomed the ICRC's support for incorporating IHL in training for its staff. Predeployment briefings for RDF units assigned to peace-support missions continued; RDF officers and thousands of troops learnt more about IHL and the ICRC's work. Key messages about sexual violence and the need to protect health-care services were conveyed at each briefing. The ICRC maintained contact with the Rwanda Peace Academy, and provided support for distributing a module on peacekeeping, in order to foster compliance with IHL among peace-support troops from Rwanda and the surrounding sub-region. Engagement with senior RDF officers improved, but the ICRC was unable to secure regular teaching slots at the Command and Staff College, the country's main military academy.

At an advanced military workshop abroad (see *International law and policy*), an RDF officer learnt more about humanitarian considerations in operational planning.

An ICRC course for police trainers enabled 25 RNP instructors to strengthen their ability to teach people at their institutions about international norms and principles applicable to law enforcement. They were added to the pool of instructors for future information sessions.

### **Rwanda ratifies/accedes to key conventions**

Rwanda completed the final steps to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions; it also acceded to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The process was aided by dialogue between the authorities and the ICRC on matters related to IHL implementation. The authorities received legal advice and other pertinent information – through regular contact with the ICRC, and at certain events – for ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty as well as other instruments to which Rwanda was already party, including the African Union Convention on IDPs and the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and for the eventual implementation of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

### **Authorities conclude study to harmonize Rwandan legislation with IHL**

A study analysing Rwanda's current laws in relation to its IHL-related commitments was completed. The authorities prepared a detailed work plan based on its results and, together with the ICRC, sought partners for implementing a project to harmonize the country's legislation with IHL.

Regular meetings with the Rwandan Red Cross followed up on the progress of draft laws on the National Society's status as an auxiliary to the government and on the proper use of the emblems protected under IHL. Over the course of a series of preparatory meetings before the 32nd International Conference, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the National Society assembled a report on Rwanda's implementation of the commitments it had made at the previous International Conference, and prepared a document on new pledges.

With financial assistance from the ICRC, university lecturers participated in round-tables for academics held locally and abroad (see *Nairobi*). Students and teachers refined their knowledge of IHL with the help of reference materials provided by the ICRC and through various ICRC presentations at their universities; they put this knowledge to the test on various occasions, such as an essay-writing contest and a regional moot court competition (see *Nairobi*).

The general public learnt about issues of humanitarian concern and the Movement's Fundamental Principles and activities through various events (such as those held to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day), television/radio programmes and newsletters produced by the National Society with ICRC support.

## **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

### **National Society deploys teams to address violence-affected people's needs**

The Rwandan Red Cross continued – with financial/technical/material assistance from the ICRC – to develop its capacity to restore family links, respond to emergencies and promote support for the Movement (see above). Movement partners provided support for the National Society, in line with a clearly defined set of responsibilities.

Over 480 National Society volunteers organized into 24 emergency teams acquired skills in first aid and received the necessary equipment at ICRC-supported training sessions; they were part of the 114 emergency teams (2,265 members) operating countrywide. These teams, together with other volunteers trained specifically in restoring family links and health/disaster management, extended assistance to people escaping the violence in Burundi (see *Civilians*). Students received certification in first aid; they also learnt about the Fundamental Principles at courses organized by National Society trainers.

Training and simulation exercises, supported by the health ministry/ICRC, prepared 150 volunteers to respond to emergency needs and deal with people traumatized by violence, for instance during events marking the anniversary of the 1994 genocide.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>			UAMs/SC*		
RCMs collected		4,443	654		
RCMs distributed		2,914	375		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		63,726			
Names published in the media		212			
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>					
People reunited with their families		145			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	29			
People transferred/repatriated		12			
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		288	41	89	73
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	44			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		126			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	29			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		377	54	93	101
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	108			
<b>UAMs/SC*, including demobilized child soldiers</b>			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		1,667	643		6
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		128	52		14
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	24			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		1,131	383		39
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		56,300	3,738	360	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		314	27		3
Detainees newly registered		45	1		1
Number of visits carried out		69			
Number of places of detention visited		22			
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected		253			
RCMs distributed		152			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		40			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		17			

\*Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	180	1%	99%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	2		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	421		100%
Cash	Beneficiaries	57	2%	75%
Services and training	Beneficiaries	2		100%
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	51,500		
<b>Health</b>				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		27		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		2		