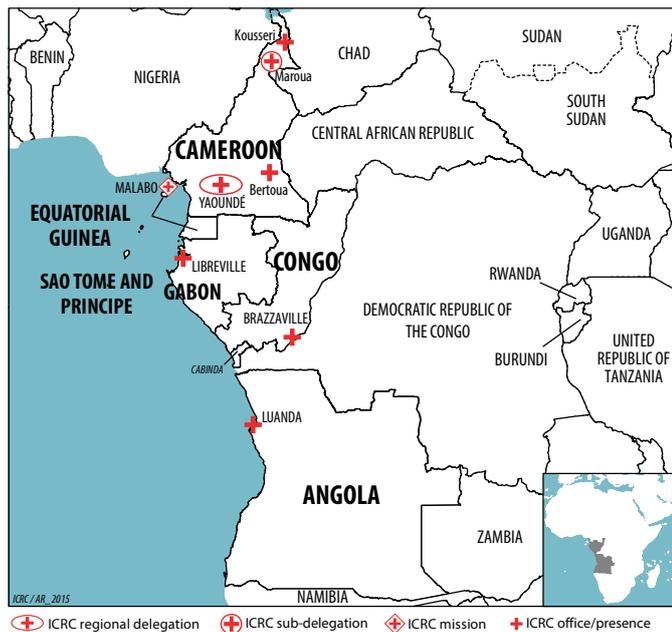


YAOUNDÉ (regional)

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



KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ IDPs and their hosts in northern Cameroon better coped with their situation with the help of ICRC-distributed food, household essentials and agricultural support for staple food production.
- ▶ Owing to uncertain security conditions and administrative constraints, water and habitat projects in northern Cameroon were delayed. Nevertheless, some people benefited from the repair of water points.
- ▶ Refugees from the Central African Republic and Nigeria contacted their relatives through the Movement's family-links services. Some unaccompanied/separated minors were reunited with their families.
- ▶ Detainees, including those linked to armed groups, received ICRC visits, with varying access in Congo and Equatorial Guinea. Inmates in Cameroon and Gabon improved their health with ICRC support.
- ▶ The region's security forces, notably in northern Cameroon, learnt more about IHL/other applicable norms owing to ICRC efforts. Cameroon's military included sanctions for war crimes in its justice code.
- ▶ The National Societies in the region promoted IHL and the Movement and strengthened their emergency response capacities, particularly in first aid, restoration of family links and communication.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,851
Assistance	7,613
Prevention	2,237
Cooperation with National Societies	1,608
General	15
Total	14,324
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	874

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	94%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	23
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	93

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, responds to the emergency assistance and protection needs of refugees and IDPs in northern Cameroon, 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.

YEARLY RESULTS

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

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	1,052
RCMs distributed	334
Phone calls facilitated between family members	42
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	411
People reunited with their families	19
<i>of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children</i>	17
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	8,987
Detainees visited and monitored individually	395
Number of visits carried out	52
Number of places of detention visited	24
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	27
RCMs distributed	5
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	6

ASSISTANCE	2015 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	68,500
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	54,800
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	45,000
Services and training	Beneficiaries	15
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	12,000
		2,000

CONTEXT

The conflict in connection with the activities of the Nigeria-based armed group that calls itself Islamic State's West Africa Province (also known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad or Boko Haram), intensified throughout the Lake Chad region. This prompted Cameroon, along with its neighbours Chad and Niger, to send troops to combat the armed group (see *African Union*). Efforts towards a coordinated security response were carried out alongside those of the Cameroonian military, *gendarmerie* and the Rapid Intervention Battalion. The spillover from this conflict brought Nigerian refugees into northern Cameroon, and displaced residents. A food shortage, caused by the poor harvest in 2014, compounded humanitarian needs. The Cameroonian government expelled Nigerians who lacked the necessary papers or were not registered as refugees.

The situation in the Central African Republic (hereafter CAR) led to the continued influxes of refugees into eastern Cameroon and north-eastern Congo.

Occasional tensions persisted between the Angolan armed forces and alleged members of the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC).

Socio-economic concerns and upcoming elections in 2016 were sources of tension in most countries in the region; in Congo, a constitutional referendum led to sporadic outbreaks of violence.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Yaoundé delegation revised its set-up and programmes as it strove to respond to rising humanitarian needs in Cameroon. The ICRC established its presence in Bertoua, in eastern Cameroon, which enabled refugees from the CAR to restore/maintain contact with their relatives, with the help of Cameroon Red Cross Society volunteers. The ICRC's office in Maroua was upgraded to a sub-delegation, with a view to building up its capacity to meet the growing needs of IDPs and residents. Conflict-affected people coped with the help of National Society/ICRC-distributed food, household essentials and livelihood support in the form of supplies/equipment. The ICRC launched a budget extension appeal in April to cover the expansion of its activities in Cameroon and other countries affected by the Lake Chad conflict (see also *Chad, Niger and Nigeria*).

The delegation continued to visit detainees in Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon with a view to monitoring and helping improve their treatment and living conditions. After these visits, delegates submitted their findings confidentially to the detaining authorities. Various issues were covered, such as the need to respect international norms and principles applicable to arrests and detention. Dialogue with detaining authorities in the region aimed to secure/improve/maintain access to detainees – especially security detainees in Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea – and to ensure that visits could be conducted in accordance with the ICRC's standard procedures. In Cameroon, the increase in the number of people detained in relation to the Lake Chad armed conflict put additional pressure on already-strained detention facilities and services. The ICRC stepped in with nutritional and health support at Bertoua and Maroua central prisons, water-trucking and rehabilitation of water infrastructure. The ICRC continued its advisory role to Gabonese detaining authorities – particularly in the first half of the year – and encouraged

them to better respond to detainees' health needs. ICRC activities at the Libreville prison, implemented in coordination with the health and justice ministries, helped improve detainees' hygiene, nutrition and access to health care; responsibility for the health programme in prisons was gradually handed over to the authorities over the course of the year.

The ICRC maintained its dialogue on IHL and other applicable norms with military/police forces throughout the region; it focused on personnel in northern Cameroon as an increasing number of operational troops were deployed to fight Boko Haram. Security forces were trained in IHL and encouraged to incorporate it in their doctrine, training curricula and operations. With ICRC encouragement and support, Cameroon's armed forces integrated sanctions for war crimes and military commanders' responsibilities in their justice code. During seminars/workshops, military officers from the region learnt more about the ICRC's work, the Health Care in Danger project and sexual violence in armed conflict.

Regular contact with national/regional authorities and members of civil society – including religious/traditional leaders, academic circles and the media – helped further their understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement. The ICRC continued to encourage the region's governments to ratify/implement IHL-related treaties. In January, Cameroon became party to the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (also known as the Kinshasa Convention).

In light of the situation in northern and eastern Cameroon, and tensions/violence related to the upcoming presidential elections in Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, the ICRC strengthened its partnership with the National Societies in the region. It also provided them with support to ensure that they could carry out their activities safely. ICRC training and material support helped the National Societies to strengthen their capacities in communication, first aid, emergency response and restoration of family links. Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities.

CIVILIANS

Despite security curtailing the ICRC's access to some areas, the ICRC pursued dialogue, including on the protection of civilians, with the authorities in the countries covered by the regional delegation. This was especially the case in northern Cameroon, where people continued to endure the effects of the Lake Chad conflict.

The ICRC and the region's authorities also discussed security forces' compliance with international rules governing the use of force and crowd control, for example, following referendum-related violence in Congo.

Refugees and IDPs in Cameroon and Congo restore family links thanks to Movement efforts

In light of the influx of refugees from the CAR and Nigeria, and the displacement of people in northern Cameroon, the relevant National Societies and the ICRC helped members of dispersed families – including Nigerians sent back to their country from Cameroon (see *Context*) – restore/maintain contact with their relatives through telephone calls, RCMs and tracing requests. Some 330 unaccompanied minors and separated children were newly registered and helped to locate their relatives. A total of 18 children were reunited with their families in Cameroon; others were reunited with their families in neighbouring countries, in

particular the CAR, Chad and Nigeria. The Congolese Red Cross/ICRC helped one unaccompanied minor rejoin his relatives in Rwanda. Members of families dispersed by other circumstances, such as detention, kept in touch via RCMs. Volunteers and/or focal points from the region's National Societies participated in an ICRC-organized workshop for improving family-links services in emergencies.

National Societies in the region – notably those responding to humanitarian needs in northern and eastern Cameroon and referendum-related violence in Congo – strengthened their emergency response/first-aid capacities through ICRC training and with the help of ICRC-donated materials. Volunteers from the Congolese National Society also received training in the management of human remains. To facilitate its access to people in need, the Cameroonian National Society, with ICRC support, conducted a workshop for medical authorities/personnel on the proper use of the red cross emblem; at dissemination sessions run by trained volunteers, community members learnt more about the emblems protected under IHL.

Conflict-affected people in Cameroon cover their basic needs IDPs and their host communities benefited from National Society/ICRC assistance activities that began in the second half of the year, backed by a budget extension issued in April (see also *Chad, Niger and Nigeria*). Fewer rounds of food distribution than planned were carried out because of poor security conditions and logistical constraints. Nevertheless, over 100,000 people (14,000 households), more than half of whom were IDPs, in northern Cameroon – Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga and Logone Chari, specifically – coped with their situation with the help of National Society/

ICRC-distributed food. A total of 6,948 households (around 57,150 people, mostly IDPs) also received household essentials. About 5,100 host households (around 40,000 people) in Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga grew staple crops using ICRC-donated seed and fertilizer, which helped to increase their food supply.

Initial lack of direct access to the affected communities and administrative constraints delayed the implementation of water and habitat projects in northern Cameroon. Nevertheless, 2,000 people benefited from the repair of some water points in Mayo Tsanaga; other such projects were ongoing at the end of the reporting period.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon received visits from ICRC delegates, who monitored their treatment and living conditions. Following visits, the ICRC shared its findings and recommendations – including those related to international norms and principles applicable to arrests and detention – confidentially to the authorities concerned.

Dialogue with the detaining authorities also aimed to secure/improve/maintain the ICRC's access to detainees and to ensure that visits could be conducted in accordance with its standard procedures. Such dialogue facilitated the ICRC to conduct visits in line with its standard procedures; discussions to improve access to security detainees in Cameroon, Congo and Equatorial Guinea were ongoing at the end of the reporting period.

Detainees in some facilities restored/maintained contact with relatives via RCMs.

CIVILIANS	Angola	Cameroon	Congo	Equatorial Guinea	Gabon
Red Cross messages (RCMs)					
RCMs collected	1	794	255	2	
<i>including from UAMs/SC*</i>	1	175	1		
RCMs distributed		94	237	2	1
<i>including from UAMs/SC*</i>		23			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		38	4		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		18	1		
<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>		14			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		1,593	20		
<i>of whom women</i>		326	4		
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>		292	9		
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>		184	4		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		320	1		
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		394	17		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		40	2		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)	2	3,416	227		
<i>of whom women</i>		618	81		
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - girls</i>		724	43		
<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance - boys</i>		232	20		
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		421	17		
UAMs/SC*, including demobilized child soldiers					
UAMs/SC* newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	1	322	3		
<i>of whom girls</i>		107	2		
UAMs/SC* reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		16	1		
<i>of whom girls</i>		6	1		
<i>of whom demobilized children</i>		2			
<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>		12			
UAM/SC* cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period	1	370	21		
<i>of whom girls</i>		121	12		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

Inmates in Cameroon see some improvements in their living conditions

In Cameroon, people continued to be arrested in growing numbers as the conflict in the Lake Chad region intensified. This put additional pressure on already-strained prison facilities/services and affected the living conditions of inmates. Malnourished inmates in the Bertoua and Maroua central prisons received nutritional supplements, enabling most of them to improve their health. People in both prisons – some 2,200 detainees – had better access to clean water thanks to ICRC infrastructure upgrades/repairs, and daily water-trucking for several months for inmates in Maroua prison. In parallel, discussions with the water board and prison authorities centred on making water accessible to detainees in a sustainable manner. Prison and health authorities and the ICRC strengthened their dialogue on improving detainees' access to health services. Justice ministry officials, with ICRC support, participated in a regional seminar on the subject (see *Rwanda*).

Gabon's detaining authorities were encouraged to better respond to detainees' health needs. Some detainees in the Libreville prison benefited from modest improvements in their hygiene, nutrition and access to health services, owing to a pilot project supported by the ICRC since 2013. The project consisted of the following: training courses for prison staff; coordination with pertinent authorities to facilitate detainees' access to health care; hygiene promotion among staff and inmates; and pest-control activities implemented in coordination with the health and justice ministries. Prison authorities gradually assumed greater responsibility for the project, as the ICRC phased out its support in 2015. The same project could not be implemented in the Oyem prison as planned, owing to administrative constraints and the shifting priorities of the delegation in light of the situation in northern Cameroon.

Over 1,700 detainees held in detention facilities in Angola and Congo received ad hoc assistance, including hygiene items, which helped ameliorate their living conditions.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The delegation carried out an in-depth assessment of the medical needs in northern Cameroon as it scaled up its organizational

capacities (see *ICRC action and results*); plans to launch a health programme were set for early 2016. In addition, during an ICRC-organized dissemination session in Cameroon, some 80 health workers familiarized themselves with the ICRC, its mandate and activities, and the Health Care in Danger project. They were also reminded of their rights and obligations, in their capacity as medical personnel, while assisting people during conflict.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Cameroonian armed forces incorporate sanctions for war crimes in justice code

In light of the general situation in the region – especially the conflict in the Lake Chad region, by which Cameroon was particularly affected, and tensions in Congo – the ICRC intensified its dialogue with national/regional authorities and weapon bearers. This helped strengthen their understanding of and support for humanitarian principles, IHL/other norms applicable to their duties and the ICRC's role and mandate.

Through dissemination sessions, operational troops in Cameroon – including those of the multinational force, the Rapid Intervention Battalion and *gendarmerie* – learnt more about the applicability of IHL and/or human rights norms to the conduct of hostilities, law enforcement operations and command responsibility (see *Context*). Similar sessions were conducted for the police and troops at the International School for Security Forces, which conducts peacekeeping courses mainly for officers from member countries of the Economic Community of Central African States. At ICRC seminars/workshops, officers and officers-in-training from the armed and security forces of Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon learnt more about the protection afforded to civilians and received other key messages on the Health Care in Danger project and sexual violence in armed conflict. Military magistrates in Cameroon attended training sessions in IHL, which also furthered their understanding of the ICRC's work.

Dialogue with the region's armed forces continued to promote the incorporation of IHL in their doctrine, training and operations. With ICRC encouragement, Cameroon's armed forces integrated sanctions for war crimes and the responsibilities of military commanders in their justice code.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	Angola	Cameroon	Congo	Equatorial Guinea	Gabon
ICRC visits					
Detainees visited	1,899	5,114	969	1,005	
<i>of whom women</i>	19	76	41	31	
<i>of whom minors</i>		115	27	4	
Detainees visited and monitored individually	39	288	62	6	
<i>of whom women</i>		9			
<i>of whom girls</i>		2			
<i>of whom boys</i>		12	2		
Detainees newly registered	23	280	43	2	
<i>of whom women</i>		9			
<i>of whom girls</i>		2			
<i>of whom boys</i>		11	2		
Number of visits carried out	6	27	8	11	
Number of places of detention visited	4	8	5	7	
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		11	16		
RCMs distributed		1	4		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative			3	3	

Cameroonian and Congolese civil society increase their awareness of humanitarian issues

Increased engagement with the region's civil society – the media, academe and religious/traditional leaders – helped broaden their awareness of humanitarian concerns, IHL and the ICRC's humanitarian activities (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*), and sought to facilitate access for National Societies/the ICRC to people in need.

Religious leaders, with ICRC support, attended a regional conference where they strengthened their understanding of the similarities between Islam and IHL. During meetings with the ICRC, members of the Cameroonian media learnt more about their roles and responsibilities while covering armed conflict, and of the protection afforded to them by IHL. Cameroonian and Congolese journalists also added to their knowledge of these matters at seminars held locally and abroad. In Cameroon, press events and radio programmes broadened awareness of the ICRC among the general public.

Cameroonian and Congolese students learnt more about IHL, the Movement and the ICRC's mandate and activities at National Society/ICRC-organized events (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*). Some of them demonstrated their knowledge at national/regional moot court competitions, with ICRC sponsorship.

Sustained contact with authorities leads to Cameroon's ratification of an IHL-related treaty

Governments in the region and the ICRC discussed the ratification and implementation of IHL-related treaties, in particular the African Union Convention on IDPs, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (Kinshasa Convention). Ministers/parliamentarians in Cameroon and Congo learnt more about these treaties during ICRC workshops. Sustained contact with key stakeholders yielded some results: Cameroon became party to the Kinshasa Convention in January 2015. With help from the ICRC's legal experts, Gabonese authorities produced a draft law ensuring respect for the emblems protected under IHL; it was submitted to higher authorities for their approval.

The ICRC continued to encourage, and stood ready to support, the region's authorities in the establishment of national IHL committees.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region strengthen their family-links and first-aid capacities

As political tensions increased in view of upcoming elections in many of the countries covered by the delegation (see *Context*), the National Societies boosted their emergency response capacities through first-aid training/refreshers courses and sessions on the Safer Access Framework. These sessions led the Cameroonian and Congolese National Societies to create committees to implement the Safer Access Framework, with ICRC technical help. With ICRC support, the Congolese National Society also learnt to draft contingency plans. This was to ensure the safety of its activities' implementation.

In light of the humanitarian needs in northern and eastern Cameroon (see *Context*), the Cameroonian National Society, the International Federation and the ICRC strengthened their operational partnership, especially in the restoration of family links and in activities linked to economic security and communication (see *Civilians*); a Movement coordination mechanism helped ensure a cohesive response. Volunteers were trained and, later, integrated into ICRC teams. The National Society also benefited from ICRC-supported renovation of one of its branch offices.

Representatives from all six National Societies attended regional meetings on strengthening Movement coordination and promoting the Fundamental Principles. These meetings led them to undertake various activities, such as: a national dissemination campaign in Congo; publications and television spots in Gabon; and in Cameroon, a lecture for National Society volunteers and members of the media, and a forum and first-aid demonstrations for students.

Movement components met regularly to coordinate their activities and avoid duplication of effort.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SC*		
RCMs collected		1,052	177		
RCMs distributed		334	23		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		42			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		19			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	14			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		1,613	330	301	188
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	321			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		411			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	42			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		3,645	699	767	252
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	438			
UAMs/SC*, including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SC newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		326	109		
UAMs/SC reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		17	7		2
	<i>including UAMs/SC registered by another delegation</i>	12			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		392	133		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		8,987	167	146	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		395	9	2	14
Detainees newly registered		348	9	2	13
Number of visits carried out		52			
Number of places of detention visited		24			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		27			
RCMs distributed		5			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		6			

*Unaccompanied minors/separated children

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	104,959	19%	59%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	86,491		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	57,281	20%	61%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	57,159		
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	39,881	20%	64%
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,000	21%	15%
Health				
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	10,448		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,704		
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,200		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		2		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		4		