

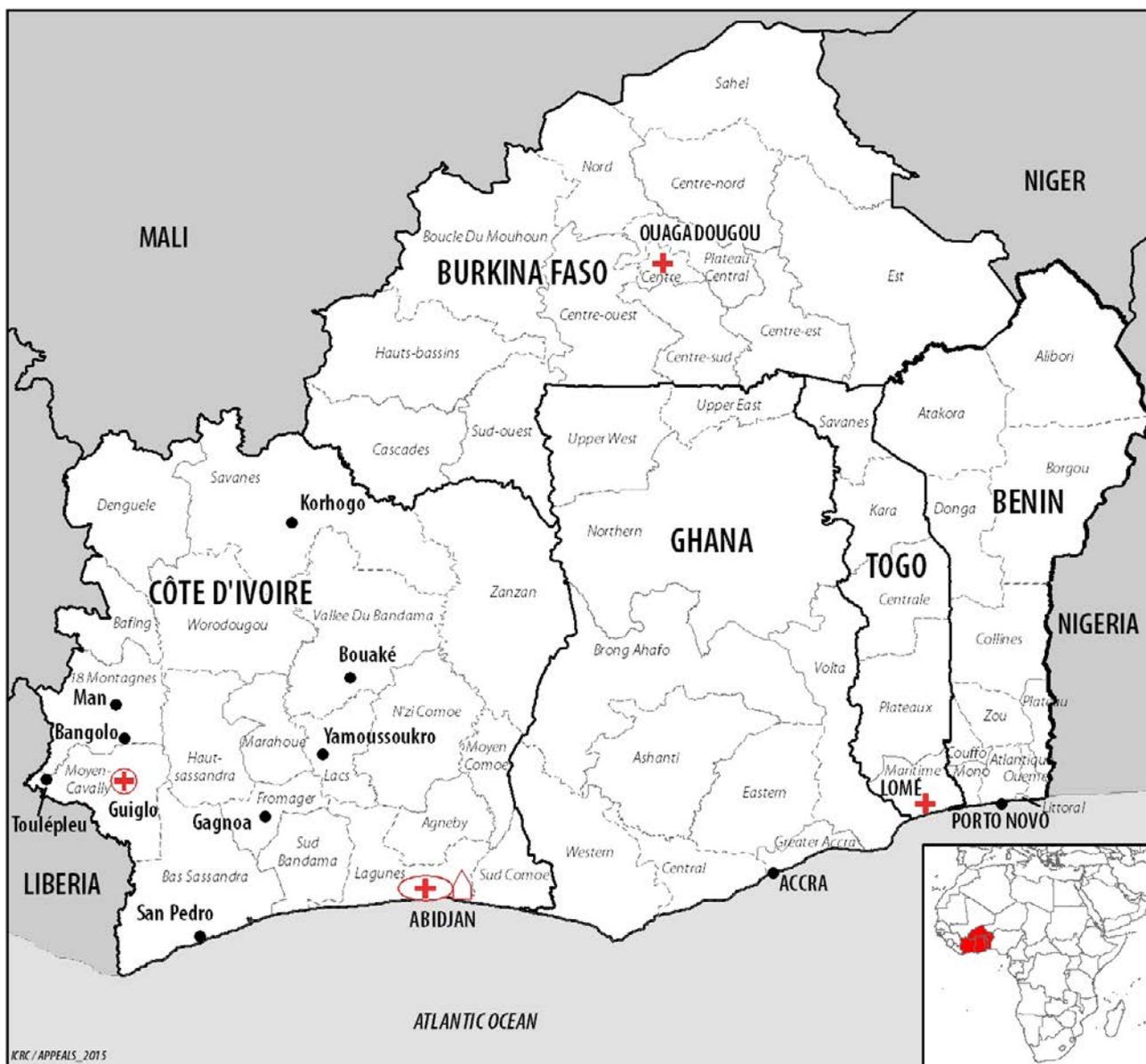
ABIDJAN (REGIONAL)

COVERING: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo

In the countries covered by the delegation, established in 1992, the ICRC supports the authorities in implementing IHL, encourages armed/security forces to respect that law and visits detainees. It works with and supports the development of the region's National Societies. The delegation focuses on responding to the protection and assistance needs of people, including refugees, affected by the lasting consequences of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire that began in 2002 and of the 2011 post-election conflict, as well as of armed conflicts and other situations of violence in the greater region.

BUDGET IN KCHF	
Protection	2,694
Assistance	6,167
Prevention	1,968
Cooperation with National Societies	1,856
General	121
Total	12,806
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	782

PERSONNEL	
Mobile staff	34
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	192



KRC / APPEALS_2015

+ ICRC regional delegation
 + ICRC sub-delegation
 + ICRC office/presence
 + ICRC regional logistics centre

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ people held for security reasons, in relation to electoral violence, and/or in places of temporary detention are treated according to applicable norms, after ICRC feedback to authorities and armed/security forces commands
- ▶ detainees in Ivorian prisons benefit from health service reforms implemented by the authorities with insights gleaned from a multidisciplinary pilot project in 3 prisons and ICRC technical advice on updating health/nutrition policies
- ▶ in western Côte d'Ivoire, people protect their health, aided by 6 ICRC-supported health facilities, upgrades to water infrastructure and hygiene-promotion sessions done with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire
- ▶ families dispersed by armed conflict, incidents of violence and detention reconnect through Movement family-links services, with Malian refugees sending RCMs or making phone calls with the Burkinabé Red Cross Society's help
- ▶ weapon bearers take steps to prevent abuses following dialogue on documented allegations and briefings on IHL, the issues covered by the Health Care in Danger project and international norms on the use of force during arrests

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	500
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	1,000
Cash	Beneficiaries	900
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	36,000
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	33,500
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures	4
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	2

CONTEXT

In Côte d'Ivoire, the security situation is relatively stable, but occasional incidents of violence linked to land tenure issues have caused displacement. Armed/security forces continue to maintain a presence in the area, backed by troops from the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), which extended its mandate until June 2015. National reconciliation is stalled, owing to perceptions of bias in the prosecution of IHL/human rights law violators and in the military restructuring process; weapons proliferation remains a problem in Côte d'Ivoire and in the region. Thousands of Ivorians displaced by the 2011 conflict, and by violence in western Côte d'Ivoire, remain in neighbouring countries; the outbreak of Ebola fever in neighbouring countries further complicates the return of refugees (see *Liberia*).

Partly because of the precarious security situation in Mali, thousands of Malian refugees remain in UNHCR camps or with host families in northern Burkina Faso; pressure on limited resources creates tensions among residents and refugees.

Upcoming presidential elections in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo raise tensions and may lead to violence. All five countries covered by the delegation participate in peacekeeping missions in Mali or elsewhere abroad.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC delegation in Abidjan will focus on addressing the needs of detainees throughout the region. As a priority, delegates will visit people detained for security reasons, in relation to potential electoral violence, and/or held in places of temporary detention. Dialogue on treatment of detainees and conditions of arrest, and briefings on international norms governing the use of force during arrest, will help the authorities and armed/security forces ensure that these people are treated in line with applicable norms.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the authorities will continue to benefit from ICRC guidance/expertise for improving overall penitentiary services, including in relation to overcrowding,

budgeting and staff training. Efforts to improve health care, nutrition and living conditions for detainees will be supported directly, particularly in 16 selected prisons. At these prisons, the ICRC will help penitentiary staff monitor detainee health – including by conducting regular body mass checks – and assist them in caring for malnourished and sick detainees through direct supervision and the provision of medical supplies and food supplements. The staff of three selected prisons will be supported more regularly, as part of multidisciplinary pilot projects by the ICRC. Along with technical advice in developing health/nutrition protocols, this project will serve to provide the authorities with insights on improving the health care system as a whole.

Families separated by armed conflict – for example, the conflict in Mali – situations of violence, detention or other circumstances will reconnect or, where appropriate, reunite through Movement family-links services. In Côte d'Ivoire, a photo tracing campaign will help families locate minors separated from them during the 2011 post-electoral conflict. In addition, the Ivorian medico-legal institute will receive material/technical support from the ICRC, to help them clarify the fate of missing persons and inform their families accordingly. The authorities will also be given advice for updating legislation pertaining to these families.

The ICRC will help the National Societies of Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo strengthen their emergency response, in readiness for election-related violence, outbreaks of disease and other emergencies. ICRC assistance for vulnerable people in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire will continue, with help from the National Societies concerned. In western Côte d'Ivoire, people will protect their health through good-quality care at six ICRC-supported health facilities; people suffering emotional trauma in relation to the 2011 conflict or abuses will receive basic psychological care at these centres or from trained community members. People will also be protected more effectively from water-borne illnesses, following upgrades to water/sanitation infrastructure and hygiene-promotion sessions. In Burkina Faso, partly because of free vaccination services and the Na-

tional Society's efforts to improve/maintain existing water infrastructure, refugee and resident herders will preserve their livestock's health during the hunger gap period.

The ICRC will continue to strive to raise support for IHL and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, to facilitate the activities mentioned above. In violence-prone areas, local leaders will be made aware of ICRC activities and the use of the emblem through information sessions, and with help from the media and National Societies. The ICRC will engage the Ivorian authorities in dialogue on its activities for the families of missing people and detainees. In addition, the region's authorities will, with technical advice from the ICRC, continue to advance ratification/implementation of IHL treaties, such as the Arms Trade Treaty. Briefings and support for IHL instruction will enable military/security forces to add to their knowledge of IHL; through dialogue on documented allegations, they will also be urged to prevent abuses.

The delegation will continue to provide logistical support for ICRC operations in Central, North and West Africa.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

In western Côte d'Ivoire, rural areas continue to be poorly served by State services; weapon bearers are said to impede access to health facilities at times. People suffering from psychological trauma linked to sexual violence or the 2011 conflict cannot easily obtain suitable treatment. Families who lost breadwinners face poor livelihood prospects and may be at risk from sexual violence.

In Burkina Faso, Malian refugees living outside UNHCR camps, and communities hosting them, are particularly vulnerable during the hunger gap period because of the overuse of water sources, pastures and other local resources, and because little humanitarian aid is available outside UNHCR camps.

Malian and Ivorian refugees may require help to reconnect with relatives. In Côte d'Ivoire, families are still without news of relatives missing since the 2011 conflict.

Objective

Vulnerable people, including refugees, can meet their basic needs. Dispersed family members can restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, reunite. Families are informed of the fate of relatives missing in relation to the 2011 Ivorian conflict.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ through information sessions and dialogue on documented allegations, remind the authorities and weapon bearers to facilitate people's access to health care during incidents of violence, and encourage them to prevent abuses
- ▶ monitor abuses committed in western Côte d'Ivoire by using a multidisciplinary approach and drawing on communities' help; exchange information regularly with the Ivorian National Society and other institutions such as UNOCI

Restoring family links

- ▶ particularly in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, support National Society family-links services with equipment

and training, and help to coordinate activities for refugees with humanitarian agencies and the National Societies concerned

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ enable families dispersed by armed conflict in Mali or elsewhere, by incidents of violence or for other reasons to reconnect through the Movement family-links network; in particular:
 - where appropriate, reunite refugee minors with their families and conduct follow-up visits
 - provide tracing services to help people locate missing relatives, including photo tracing services for unaccompanied minors in Côte d'Ivoire; with the families' consent, refer unsolved cases to other actors or the authorities
- ▶ develop and promote – with the Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese National Societies and civil society organizations – measures to prevent the dispersal of families during incidents of violence

Côte d'Ivoire

- ▶ to address the needs of the families of people missing since the 2011 conflict:
 - facilitate efforts to identify human remains by: supporting the medico-legal institute with technical expertise, equipment and sponsorship for specialized training; and encouraging systematic information-sharing among all actors involved
 - help the authorities with advice for updating the legal framework applicable to missing persons and their families, for example, through an expert workshop, and by consolidating recommendations from past studies
 - share the findings of a 2014 assessment with the authorities and humanitarian organizations, and encourage them to support these families

Assistance

- ▶ help National Societies respond to sudden displacement, election-related violence, outbreaks of contagious diseases and other emergencies, by upgrading up to 3 National Society branches/offices, and through other means

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ in case of violence/natural disasters, help the people affected meet their urgent needs by providing:
 - safe water and shelter for up to 18,000 people (3,000 households) and household essentials for 1,000 others, and, in particular, helping IDPs protect themselves from the elements
 - rations/vouchers for 2 meals a day for 1 month, to some 500 people
 - medical supplies to help health facilities cope with sudden influxes of patients

Health

Côte d'Ivoire

- ▶ provide material and technical support for 4 health centres, 2 district hospitals and community workers in the west, to help ensure that vulnerable people can obtain preventive, ante/post-natal and curative care that meets national standards, and first-aid services, particularly so that:
 - people, especially women and children, are protected from contagious diseases
 - patients needing further care are rapidly transferred to specialized facilities

- victims of sexual violence receive care from personnel knowledgeable about their needs
- patients are treated on site or stabilized until they can receive hospital treatment
- ▶ to help ensure that people suffering emotional trauma, including in relation to the 2011 conflict and sexual violence, have easier access to psychological support:
 - continue training health workers and community members in basic psychological care and in referral procedures
 - with health authorities, discuss appointing additional mental-health professionals at health facilities
 - encourage communities to form peer-support groups

Water and habitat

- ▶ help ensure that people have easier access to safe water and are less vulnerable to water-borne diseases, by:
 - in Côte d'Ivoire, installing motorized water pumps in rural areas, repairing public fountains in urban centres and training local maintenance teams, for the benefit of some 15,500 people; conducting hygiene-promotion sessions for over 42,000 people
 - in Burkinabé communities hosting refugees, providing support for the Burkinabé National Society to improve/maintain water/sanitation infrastructure and promote good hygiene

Economic security

- ▶ help up to 6,000 refugee/resident herders (36,000 people) in northern Burkina Faso maintain healthy herds, including during the hunger gap period, through free vaccination/deworming services provided with local partners
- ▶ in Côte d'Ivoire, help up to 150 female heads of households (900 people) increase their income by 50%, through cash grants for starting small businesses

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People throughout the region are arrested and held for security reasons, including in connection with the 2011 Ivorian conflict and a 2011 coup attempt in Burkina Faso. Some people convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda are serving their sentences in Benin. In three countries (see *Context*), electoral violence may result in mass arrests.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the authorities have increased the penitentiary budget and taken steps to improve the treatment of detainees. However, the prison population is growing, and overcrowding continues to strain limited resources and staff and increase the risk of violence among detainees. The authorities have announced the construction of new prisons.

Objective

Detainees are afforded treatment and living conditions that meet internationally recognized standards, including respect for their judicial guarantees.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ conduct standard ICRC visits to people detained for security reasons or election-related violence, and/or held in places of temporary detention, and discuss their treatment and living conditions with the authorities; particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, carry on dialogue with armed/security forces commands and the Defence or Interior Ministry (see *Actors of influence*), and help them ensure that:

- the treatment and length of detention of inmates – particularly those under interrogation or in preventive detention – comply with applicable norms and legal counsel is available regularly
- the arrests of foreigners are systematically reported to consular representatives
- women and minors are detained separately from other inmates
- ▶ enable inmates, notably security detainees in solitary confinement, to contact their families or consular representatives through family-links services
- ▶ in Côte d'Ivoire, visit detainees in 16 prisons regularly; afterwards, share findings confidentially with the authorities, and give them technical advice for reducing overcrowding, redrafting penitentiary standards and managing the penitentiary budget more effectively

Assistance

Health

- ▶ to deal with outbreaks of disease or damage to prisons during emergencies: upgrade water/sanitation infrastructure, benefiting up to 5,000 and 2,000 detainees in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo respectively; in Côte d'Ivoire, fumigate cells for some 7,800 detainees and provide on-the-job training for penitentiary staff

Cote d'Ivoire

- ▶ assist the authorities in reforming penitentiary services; in particular:
 - organize training for some 100 penitentiary managers and staff, including an advanced course abroad for the prison health focal point, to bolster their capacity to maintain infrastructure and care for sick/malnourished detainees
 - help them develop/implement health protocols governing, among other things, care for malnourished detainees and referral of ill/injured detainees to hospital
 - advise them on improving food supply management, particularly in implementing a standardized menu at 16 prisons
 - by setting up a multidisciplinary pilot project in 3 prisons (see below), provide them with examples for making system-wide changes
- ▶ work with the authorities in 16 prisons to monitor detainees' health, including through regular body-mass index checks, and provide direct support for treating sick/malnourished inmates; in particular:
 - provide medical supplies and cover hospitalization costs; supplement the daily food rations of up to 500 malnourished detainees for 3 months
 - set up a pilot project in 3 selected prisons housing 7,000 detainees, so that inmates receive care from health personnel supported by the ICRC with direct supervision and monthly supplies of medicines
- ▶ to ease living conditions and reduce hygiene-related health risks for up to 14,000 detainees in up to 33 prisons, with the authorities:
 - provide hygiene items, eating/kitchen utensils and sleeping mats for 4,000 detainees
 - upgrade water/sanitation facilities: for example, install, in a prison camp, a system for producing biogas from waste

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Countries in the region deploy armed/security forces to maintain order – during elections, for example – and contribute troops to peacekeeping missions abroad. All five countries covered by the delegation have incorporated elements of IHL in military training; however, some Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese law enforcement officers and penitentiary staff lack training in international norms applicable to their duties.

The countries in the region are taking steps to combat the proliferation of weapons: all have signed the Arms Trade Treaty, and Burkina Faso has ratified it. However, progress in ratifying and implementing key IHL treaties is uneven.

IHL is taught at institutions of higher education throughout the region; in some instances, academics are involved in the implementation of IHL. Students and members of youth associations take part in protests occasionally. The media and religious/traditional leaders influence public/political opinion.

Objective

Political decision-makers and all weapon bearers understand IHL and support the ICRC's work. International actors, the media, NGOs, academics and religious leaders understand and support the work of the ICRC and assist it in increasing awareness of humanitarian issues among the public, thus securing greater respect for human dignity.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ raise awareness and respect for IHL, human rights principles and issues covered by the Health Care in Danger project among weapon bearers by:
 - briefing Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese police/*gendarmérie* on international norms applicable to their duties, carrying on dialogue on the treatment of people under their purview, and reinforcing complaint mechanisms
 - organizing information sessions on IHL norms applicable to peacekeeping for troops deploying abroad, and encouraging them to support Movement activities in their places of deployment
 - helping Beninese, Ivorian and Togolese military forces instruct their troops in IHL, by providing technical guidance/expertise for developing teaching manuals and workshops for instructors
 - sponsoring officers to attend advanced courses abroad, in San Remo, for example
- ▶ to facilitate ICRC activities in the region, maintain dialogue with parties of influence on key humanitarian issues and neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action; in particular:
 - with the authorities and armed/security forces commands in Côte d'Ivoire, discuss expanding the ICRC's access to people held in places of temporary detention, and, with the authorities alone, the situation of the families of missing people
 - through workshops and regional seminars for journalists (see *Dakar*), promote accurate reporting on humanitarian action, such as the ICRC's protection activities; support the communication efforts of the Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese National Societies

- in violence-prone areas, clarify the ICRC's mandate and the use of the emblem, through information sessions for local authorities, traditional/religious leaders and members of youth associations
- stimulate academic interest in IHL through information sessions, IHL reference materials for universities, and moot court competitions for students of law (see also *Niger*)
- ▶ help parliamentarians, members of national IHL committees, small arms commissions and military forces' IHL offices throughout the region further their understanding of IHL and the ratification/implementation process, through information sessions, workshops and regional seminars (see for example *Nigeria*); with their help:
 - advise the authorities in ratifying/implementing weapons-control treaties – particularly the Arms Trade Treaty and a regional convention on small arms – and, in Côte d'Ivoire, in adopting a law pertaining to the proper use of the red cross emblem
 - assist the authorities in updating existing sanctions for IHL violations, sexual violence, ill-treatment of detainees and attacks on health personnel and patients, in line with penal reforms in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo
 - encourage further incorporation of IHL in military doctrine, training and operations

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

As recognized auxiliaries to State services, the region's National Societies carry out a wide range of humanitarian activities. With the ICRC, they deliver assistance to people affected by violence or armed conflict, particularly in Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire. They are strengthening their capacities, and their organizational structure, with the support of the Movement.

Objective

The region's National Societies have a strong legal basis for independent action and carry out their core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ with the International Federation, contribute financial/material/logistical support to help, in particular, the Burkinabé, Ivorian and Togolese National Societies:
 - enhance their capacity to provide family-links services, first aid and material assistance (see *Civilians*), and respond to emergencies such as election-related violence and the outbreak of Ebola fever; conduct these activities in accordance with the Safer Access Framework
 - strengthen their governance, legal base and statutes, by participating in statutory meetings abroad and through other means
 - foster support for the Movement and encourage volunteerism among the public
 - coordinate their activities with Movement components active in the region, thereby avoiding duplication of effort and maximizing impact