

BURUNDI

The ICRC has been present in Burundi since 1962, opening its delegation there in 1992 to help people overcome the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict. ICRC assistance activities focus mainly on working with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees are treated according to internationally recognized standards. The ICRC reinforces physical rehabilitation services, helps bolster the Burundi Red Cross's work, notably its efforts to restore links between separated family members, including refugees, and supports the armed forces' efforts to train their members in IHL.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,477
Assistance	1,851
Prevention	574
Cooperation with National Societies	644
General	47
Total	4,592
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	280

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	10
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	52



KRC/APPEALS_2015



ICRC delegation



ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic project

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ prison authorities, drawing on ICRC expertise, reinforce their capacities to resolve systemic issues, including maintenance of prison infrastructure and respect for judicial guarantees
- ▶ detainees with HIV/AIDS, mental illness and other ailments receive medical care, thanks to ICRC representations to the health authorities and support in the form of supplies/equipment, staff training and rehabilitation of prison clinics
- ▶ people with disabilities receive good-quality physical rehabilitation services at the Saint Kizito Institute, which continues to work on the sustainability of its services with the help of ICRC expertise, training and financial support
- ▶ the Burundi Red Cross strengthens its emergency response capacities to prepare for the possibility of election-related violence, through training in the Safer Access Framework and the development of contingency plans
- ▶ Burundi's National Defence Force, with technical support from the ICRC, trains its troops, including those bound for peace-support missions, in IHL and other relevant norms

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Physical rehabilitation		
Projects supported	Structures	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	2,500

CONTEXT

Burundi's overall security situation remains relatively stable, with isolated security incidents reported at the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC). The country continues to see arrivals of refugees, mainly from the DRC. The government passed two long-awaited laws: one establishing a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and another on land disputes. The national assembly adopted a new electoral code unanimously, amid tensions related to the elections in 2015.

Burundi remains reliant on international aid. The country is occasionally struck by natural disasters, such as heavy flooding in the capital in February 2014, which reportedly led to dozens of casualties and the displacement of thousands of people.

Burundi's National Defence Force (NDF) contributes troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC in Burundi will continue to focus on supporting the efforts of the prison authorities to improve conditions for detainees and address the residual needs of people affected by past conflicts. With the Burundi Red Cross, it will help refugees and returnees restore contact with family members and be ready to assist vulnerable people in the event of an emergency.

ICRC delegates will continue to visit people held at places of permanent and temporary detention, to monitor their treatment and living conditions and share feedback/recommendations confidentially with the authorities. Particularly vulnerable detainees, such as women, minors and foreigners, will receive special attention. The ICRC will provide the detaining authorities with technical expertise, material assistance and infrastructure upgrades to help them build their capacities to overcome systemic issues in the national prison system, in line with internationally recognized standards. ICRC expertise and donations of equipment will help prison authorities to manage detainees' case files more efficiently, to facilitate respect for their judicial guarantees. Prison staff will also receive training in diagnosing/treating HIV/AIDS and mental illnesses; this, together with the re-

habilitation of prison clinics and the provision of supplies for them, will improve detainees' access to medical care. In coordination with the detaining authorities, the ICRC will rehabilitate water/sanitation systems and living spaces, and promote good hygiene practices, to reduce health risks among inmates.

The Burundi Red Cross will continue, with ICRC support, to provide family-links services throughout the country to enable separated relatives to restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, unaccompanied/separated children to be reunited with their families. Travel documents, issued in coordination with the relevant authorities and international organizations, will help people resettle abroad.

The ICRC will continue to monitor the development of the transitional justice process. If the opportunity arises, it will stand ready to provide expertise for developing legal frameworks to ease the families' access to appropriate assistance. To prevent people from being unaccounted for, it will offer training in human remains management to police officers and sponsor the participation of a forensic expert in a seminar abroad.

The ICRC will continue to support the Saint Kizito Institute – with which it has an ongoing partnership – in delivering good-quality physical rehabilitation services to disabled people, by reimbursing treatment costs for the most economically vulnerable patients, for instance. To bolster the sustainability of the centre's services, it will continue to provide support for training its personnel and make its expertise available for developing standards for treatment and a strategy for fundraising.

The ICRC will help advance the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operations by supporting the efforts of the NDF to conduct IHL courses at all of its training centres. Briefings on IHL and the Movement will continue for troops bound for peacekeeping missions. The National Society/ICRC will continue to promote IHL/humanitarian principles and the work of the Movement among the authorities, the national armed forces and the wider public – highlighting issues of concern to the Health Care in Danger project. They will provide the national authorities with legal expertise for ratifying and implementing key IHL-related treaties.

The ICRC will support the National Society's efforts to build up its emergency response capacities, by developing con-

tingency plans and providing training in the Safer Access Framework. The ICRC will coordinate its activities with those of Movement partners and other aid agencies in the country in order to ensure an effective and complementary response to humanitarian needs.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Owing to Burundi's stabilizing security situation and the return of Burundian refugees from neighbouring countries, the number of people in need of help to locate or contact missing/separated relatives is gradually decreasing. However, people who have fled fighting in the DRC lack the means to restore contact with their families.

A law on the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission was passed in May 2014. The Commission is tasked with, *inter alia*, handling the cases of persons missing in relation to past conflict and the needs of their families. Proper management of human remains is necessary to prevent people from being unaccounted for during emergencies such as situations of violence or natural disasters.

Objective

Family members, including unaccompanied minors, separated by past conflict in Burundi, other conflicts in the region, other situations of violence and natural disaster locate their relatives, exchange family news and, where appropriate, are reunited. The needs of the families of missing persons are understood and addressed by the Burundian authorities and other stakeholders involved in the transitional justice process.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ provide the Burundi Red Cross with financial, material and technical support to help it enhance the quality of its family-links services and assume greater responsibility for them; in particular, conduct training in the provision of such services during emergencies and sponsor the participation of representatives in a regional meeting, to ensure better coordination with other National Societies

With the National Society:

- ▶ assist Burundians abroad and Burundian returnees, as well as refugees in Burundi, to restore/maintain contact with relatives by:
 - offering RCM and phone services and processing tracing requests for people looking for relatives missing as a result of armed conflict/other situations of violence or natural disasters
 - whenever possible and appropriate, reuniting unaccompanied/separated children with their families; facilitating their reintegration into the family unit through the provision of food, clothing or other essential items; and monitoring their progress
- ▶ in coordination with the authorities and international organizations, issue travel documents and detention attestations and/or facilitate the delivery of official documents, such as birth certificates and other identification papers, to enable asylum seekers, migrants, refugees and

former detainees to resettle abroad and/or obtain State benefits

- ▶ through training, familiarize police officers with the basics of human remains management in a manner that would facilitate the remains' future identification and the transmission of such information to the families; sponsor the participation of a Burundian forensic specialist in a conference abroad
- ▶ discuss the needs of the families of missing persons with the members of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and/or other relevant authorities, and stand ready to lend expertise in developing legal frameworks for easing the families' access to appropriate assistance; identify and offer assistance to local authorities/organizations that can provide the families with psychosocial support

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Owing to a number of factors, such as fewer arrests and more detainees being paroled or receiving presidential pardons, the number of detainees has decreased. The Ministry of Justice is also implementing a multi-year sectoral policy prioritizing the improvement of the criminal justice system and conditions of detention.

However, bringing detainees' treatment and living conditions, including respect for their judicial guarantees, in line with internationally recognized standards remains a challenging task for prison authorities. Financial and human resources are often lacking, and support from external donors and partners has declined. The problems are exacerbated by Burundi's lengthy judicial process, which contributes to overcrowding in prisons. Although conditions in places of temporary detention, including services to meet inmates' basic needs, need substantial improvement, there are no funds specifically set aside for these facilities.

Objective

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

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ visit people held at places of permanent and temporary detention to monitor treatment and living conditions; pay particular attention to the situation of especially vulnerable inmates, such as security detainees, women and minors; afterwards, communicate feedback and recommendations confidentially to the authorities
- ▶ enable detainees to exchange news with their families through RCMs
- ▶ provide the penitentiary directorate with technical/financial support for improving the administration of the prison system in line with internationally recognized standards, particularly in financial/human resources management, infrastructure maintenance and health care (see below); offer technical expertise and donate computers and other equipment/materials to help the prison authorities manage detainees' case files more efficiently and thus facilitate respect for detainees' judicial guarantees

Assistance*Health*

- ▶ help the Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS (MSPLS) provide inmates at up to 5 prisons with health care in line with domestic standards; in particular:
 - organize meetings between the Justice and Health Ministries, and encourage them to coordinate more closely to provide detainees with access to health services
 - conduct joint monitoring visits to prison clinics with health authorities
 - donate supplies/equipment for prison clinics on an ad hoc basis
 - cover treatment expenses for detainees needing specialized care
 - support training sessions in diagnosing/treating HIV/AIDS and mental illnesses among detainees, organized by the MSPLS for prison health staff
 - rehabilitate prison clinics (see below)
- ▶ assist the penitentiary directorate in reducing disease risks for detainees at Burundi's 11 central prisons, by:
 - providing technical support/training materials for disseminating information about good hygiene/disease prevention practices among detainees and prison staff
 - supplying prisons with soap and other hygiene items, in cooperation with the National Society
- ▶ stand ready to provide material assistance in case of medical or other humanitarian emergencies at prisons and places of temporary detention

Water and habitat

- ▶ work with the penitentiary directorate to improve living conditions in the national prison system, by:
 - rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities, kitchens, clinics and living areas for up to 5,000 detainees at 5 prisons, with the needs of vulnerable detainees taking precedence – the construction of separate quarters for minors at the Mpimba prison, for instance
 - giving them technical and material assistance to strengthen their capacities to identify critical infrastructural problems and the means to tackle them

WOUNDED AND SICK

The Ministry of Public Health, with encouragement from national authorities and international organizations, is taking steps to incorporate physical rehabilitation in national health services. However, government programmes for the disabled are hampered by the scarcity of funds and technical expertise.

The Saint Kizito Institute in Bujumbura is one of seven physical rehabilitation centres that provide services for disabled people in Burundi. Because of its improved facilities and services, it is able to treat more people from across the country, inpatients and outpatients. However, it needs more qualified staff and dependable sources of funding to cope with the demand for its services. Many disabled people lack the means to pay for treatment.

Objective

People with disabilities have access to quality physical rehabilitation services.

Plan of action and indicators**Assistance**

- ▶ continue to support the Saint Kizito Institute in providing up to 2,500 physically disabled patients – including up to 700 in need of assistive devices – with good-quality physical rehabilitation services and in building the long-term sustainability of these services; in particular:
 - reimburse treatment costs for the most economically vulnerable patients
 - increase the number of qualified specialists at the centre by continuing to finance studies abroad for two physiotherapists and two orthopaedic technicians, and by providing on-the-job training
 - sponsor participation for representatives from the centre in a conference organized by the African Federation of Orthopaedic Technicians
 - provide technical support, particularly for developing national physical rehabilitation standards and a strategy for fundraising
- ▶ refer patients to institutions implementing programmes to facilitate their social reintegration

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Burundi's armed forces are undergoing reform, a process that is expected to last several years. The reforms include the integration of IHL into national military training. The army continues to provide troops to peacekeeping missions, including AMISOM and MINUSCA.

Burundi continues to accede to and/or implement IHL treaties slowly. It ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014.

As a member of the East African Community, Burundi continues to harmonize its legal instruments with those of other member States.

Objective

The national authorities and armed forces know and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these into their decision-making processes. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

Plan of action and indicators**Prevention**

- ▶ help strengthen the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operations, by:
 - providing the NDF with technical support and reference materials for running IHL courses – including refresher courses for instructors – at all of its training centres, and enabling instructors to participate in IHL courses abroad
 - conducting briefings, supported by reference materials and a video in the local language, for troops bound on peacekeeping missions, as well as for senior military officers, on IHL, international human rights norms applicable to their work, the Movement's activities and humanitarian issues
- ▶ offer dissemination sessions for police officers on international human rights norms applicable to their work

With the National Society:

- ▶ to foster support for IHL and raise awareness of issues of humanitarian concern, such as those embodied in the Health Care in Danger project:
 - sponsor the participation of national authorities and media representatives in IHL workshops abroad
 - encourage universities – through meetings with professors – to offer IHL courses, and enable students to participate in a regional IHL competition
- ▶ provide legal expertise to help the authorities:
 - ratify IHL-related instruments, notably Additional Protocol III, the African Union Convention on IDPs and the Arms Trade Treaty
 - develop implementing laws for treaties to which they are already party, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on Cluster Munitions

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Burundi Red Cross, with a countrywide network of more than 450,000 volunteers, is well regarded by the general public for its work in behalf of vulnerable groups and for its management of disaster relief operations.

Objective

The Burundi Red Cross has a strong legal basis for independent action. It is able to carry out its core activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ provide the National Society with financial/logistical/material support and training to help it to:
 - build its capacities to respond to emergencies, with particular emphasis on addressing water/sanitation needs, restoring family links (see *Civilians*), incorporating the Safer Access Framework in its national/provincial training curriculum and formulating contingency plans
 - promote the Fundamental Principles, respect for the Movement's emblems and the importance of a law regulating its status, as well as other messages conveyed by the Health Care in Danger project, both internally and among the authorities and the general public, by means of its website, radio spots and informational materials
 - carry out its activities independently, notably by undertaking income-generating activities
- ▶ contribute to the coordination of activities by meeting regularly with other Movement partners