

# DAKAR (REGIONAL)

**COVERING: Cabo Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal**

The objectives and plans of action are valid for two years, while the budget presented applies to one year only.

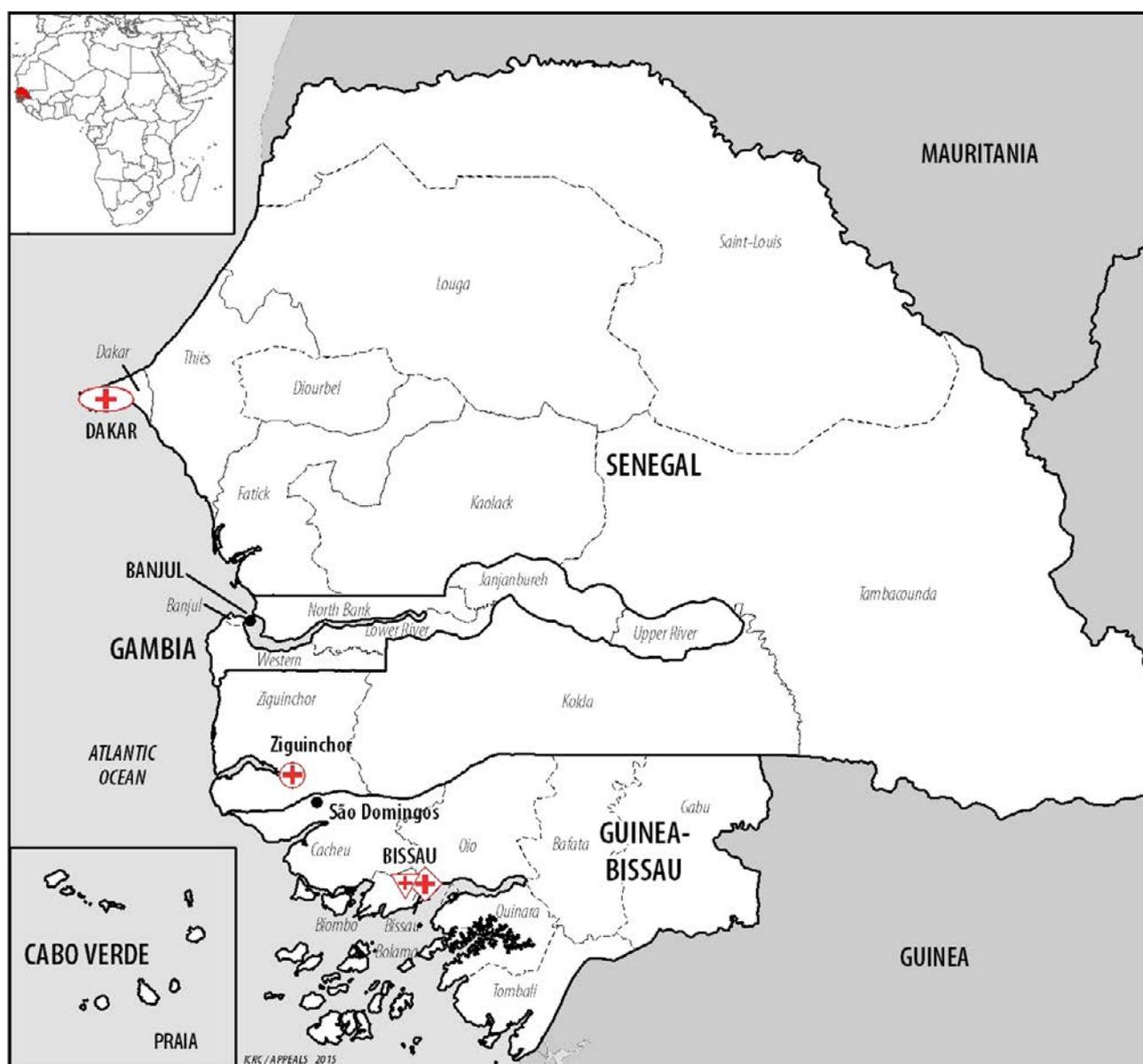
The ICRC opened a regional delegation in Dakar in 1989, although it had already worked in the region for several years. It focuses on promoting IHL among the armed forces and other weapon bearers and on encouraging implementation of that law by the authorities throughout the region. It supports the activities of the National Societies, assists people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence in Casamance, Senegal, and in Guinea-Bissau, and visits detainees of ICRC concern, providing them with material aid where necessary.

## BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	1,764
Assistance	3,601
Prevention	2,208
Cooperation with National Societies	1,152
General	194
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,921</b>
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>544</i>

## PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	17
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	128



ICRC regional delegation    
 ICRC sub-delegation    
 ICRC mission    
 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic project

## MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015–16

- ▶ the authorities in Casamance, Senegal and in Guinea-Bissau assume full responsibility for 8 health facilities previously supported by the ICRC, with the latter covering treatment costs for patients at the physiotherapy centre in Bissau
- ▶ returnees, long-time IDPs and residents ease their difficult living conditions in Casamance with construction materials, agricultural supplies/equipment and upgrades to water points provided with the Senegalese Red Cross Society
- ▶ weapon bearers in Casamance – including the Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance – take steps to prevent abuses and facilitate people’s access to essential services, after IHL briefings and role-playing exercises
- ▶ family members dispersed by armed conflict, detention or migration restore contact through Movement family-links services, with the families of missing migrants in Senegal also receiving psychosocial and legal support
- ▶ by 2016, the region’s authorities, with ICRC technical advice and support, take steps to ratify/implement a regional convention on IDPs, another on small arms, the Arms Trade Treaty and, in Guinea-Bissau, the Rome Statute

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
<b>CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)</b>		
<b>Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)</b>		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	700
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	700
Productive inputs	Beneficiaries	6,100
Cash	Beneficiaries	1,800
Work, services and training	Beneficiaries	49,500
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	13,700
<b>Health</b>		
Health centres supported	Structures	5
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>		
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>		
Projects supported	Structures	1
Patients receiving services	Patients	600

## CONTEXT

There has been a decline in armed violence in Casamance, even though peace negotiations between the authorities and factions of the Mouvement des forces démocratiques de Casamance (MFDC) have not yet borne fruit. However, the presence of weapon bearers and mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW), and the precarious security conditions, continue to restrict the movement of civilians, impede access to essential services/humanitarian aid and farmland, and discourage displaced people from returning. MFDC factions have agreed to allow some demining along the construction route of a national highway; however dialogue on doing the same elsewhere is stalled. Access to conflict-affected areas in Casamance is limited; in addition, other humanitarian actors have curtailed their operations, reportedly because of funding issues.

Presidential elections took place in mid-2014 in Guinea-Bissau. In the impoverished north-west, many people have no access to State services, particularly water supply and health care; they also have to deal with the adverse consequences of the spillover from the conflict in Casamance.

People from these four countries, or from sub-Saharan Africa, pass through the region in search of economic/personal security in Europe or elsewhere.

Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal contribute troops to peacekeeping missions abroad.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The ICRC delegation in Dakar will remain focused on responding to the needs of people affected by the conflict in Casamance. Weapon bearers concerned – both the MFDC and Senegalese troops – will be reminded of their obligations under IHL to respect civilians through information sessions, dialogue on documented abuses and mine/ERW incidents, and other means. At the same time, people at risk

of abuse – particularly sexual violence – will be alerted to potential dangers, and helped to develop/implement measures for self-protection. Dialogue will also bear upon obstacles blocking access to farmland, essential services and health care for residents and returnees.

In Casamance, State health teams report having easier access to conflict-affected areas, and thus no longer needing to be regularly accompanied by ICRC staff during vaccination campaigns. Senegalese authorities are preparing to take over five ICRC-supported health facilities by the end of 2015; in the meantime, these facilities will continue to deliver care of government-approved standard to vulnerable people, including victims of sexual violence, with ICRC-provided medical supplies, training and upgrades to infrastructure. In Guinea-Bissau, the authorities have assumed full responsibility for three health facilities previously supported by the ICRC, and have begun covering treatment costs for some mine/ERW victims at the physiotherapy centre in Bissau.

Focusing on areas where no other humanitarian organizations are working, the ICRC, the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau and the Senegalese Red Cross Society will help vulnerable communities build their resilience to violence. In Casamance, the priority will be to help returnees rebuild their homes and livelihoods with ICRC-provided construction materials, agricultural supplies/equipment and livestock. People at risk of abuse will set up market gardens within their villages – thus also reducing their need to pursue livelihood activities made hazardous by the threat of violence or mines; others, including long-time IDPs, will supplement their incomes through cash-for-work projects or small businesses. Free veterinary services for livestock, agricultural supplies/equipment and water infrastructure constructed/upgraded with help from local communities and water boards will enable herders and farmers to safeguard their livelihoods. In Senegal, the families of migrants will receive psychosocial and legal support. They and other families dispersed by armed conflict, migration, detention

or other circumstances will stay in touch with relatives through Movement family-links services.

In Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, the ICRC will visit detainees and communicate its findings confidentially to the authorities concerned; it will also give them technical advice for improving treatment and living conditions for detainees. The Senegalese penitentiary authorities will take steps to reduce overcrowding and monitor the treatment of detainees; ICRC backing for these efforts will include such things as information sessions to reinforce understanding of international norms in detention among penitentiary staff.

In Senegal, the ICRC, the authorities and the MFDC will discuss expanding its access to areas under MFDC control, its role as a neutral intermediary and the needs of families of missing migrants. Dialogue with the Gambian authorities will centre on the resumption of ICRC visits to detainees under their jurisdiction. National IHL committees and the ICRC will continue to advise the region's authorities on ratifying and implementing IHL treaties – such as the Arms Trade Treaty – and revising/updating legislation pertaining to arms control and to military/penal codes. At international fora, regional conferences and other events – including those held at its documentation centre in Dakar – the ICRC will raise awareness of IHL and Movement action in the region and elsewhere among religious leaders, the international community and other influential actors.

The regional training unit in Dakar will provide ICRC delegations with training support.

## HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

### CIVILIANS

In Casamance, mine contamination and the presence of weapon bearers limit people's access to essential services and their livelihood prospects; cases of sexual violence during harvests have been reported. In Ziguinchor, Senegal, or neighbouring Gambia, people displaced from Casamance are reluctant to return home, surviving for years in precarious conditions. Those who do return are often destitute, requiring assistance to rebuild their houses and restore their livelihoods.

In largely impoverished north-western Guinea-Bissau, the authorities are taking steps to improve residents' access to health services. However, water quality remains poor, posing serious health hazards, such as the spread of cholera.

Some families remain without news of relatives who migrated or who went missing in the 1990s, in connection with the conflict in Casamance.

#### Objective

Civilians are respected by weapon bearers in line with IHL and other applicable law. Conflict or violence-affected people meet their basic needs and are able to restore/preserve their livelihoods. Dispersed family members re-establish contact with or receive news of relatives who went missing, including in relation to conflict in Casamance.

#### Plan of action and indicators

##### Protection

- ▶ document alleged abuses, mine/ERW incidents and restrictions on movement, and make representations to parties concerned, so that weapon bearers:

- take steps to prevent abuses, including sexual violence
- facilitate residents' and returnees' access to essential services and farmland (see also *Actors of influence*)
- ▶ in line with an assessment conducted in 2014, alert people at risk of sexual violence to potential dangers, and help them develop/implement measures for self-protection

##### Restoring family links

- ▶ train and equip National Society volunteers to deliver effective family-links services, for example gatherings of people; organize workshops for National Society volunteers across Africa, with a view to improving coordination of activities for migrants

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ enable families dispersed by armed conflict, migration, detention and other circumstances to restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, reunite; provide travel assistance for migrants heading home and people visiting relatives resettled in Cabo Verde after detention/internment abroad (see *Paris*)
- ▶ promote coordination among State and local organizations – in data management, for example – to facilitate efforts to locate missing people
- ▶ in Senegal, provide psychosocial and economic support for over 200 families of missing migrants, and legal advice for securing official recognition of the disappearance of a relative; discuss, with the authorities, the possibility of setting up a national support mechanism for these families

##### Assistance

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ in an emergency:
  - help evacuate people needing urgent/specialized care to/from 5 ICRC-supported health centres (see below) or other appropriate facilities (see also *Wounded and sick*)
  - provide safe water and household essentials for some 5,000 people, and, for up to two weeks, food rations for about 700 people (100 households)

##### Economic security and Water and habitat

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ to ease the resettlement of destitute returnees in their home communities:
  - provide some 200 households (1,800 people) with agricultural supplies/equipment and/or goats, and construction materials, to help them increase their income by 33% and rebuild their homes
  - provide 3 cereal mills to 3 associations consisting of some 150 female heads of households (1,350 people), to reduce the time needed to grind cereal by 60%
- ▶ to build their resilience to violence, assist vulnerable people to increase/safeguard their sources of food/income, by:
  - helping – through free vaccination services provided by ICRC-supported animal health workers – up to 3,500 stockbreeding households in Senegal (31,500 people) and 2,000 (18,000 people) in Guinea-Bissau maintain healthy herds and reduce animal mortality by 15%
  - boosting the harvests of: some 100 households by 15% by providing seed and constructing/repairing dikes for retaining rainwater and protecting crops against saltwater; around 150 female heads of house-

holds by 20% through material support/installation of irrigation systems for setting up market gardens; 150 market gardeners through the provision of solar-powered water pumps

- supplementing the income of vulnerable people – long-time IDPs in Ziguinchor or Casamance residents facing security risks – through: a cash-for-work project for 150 heads of households, set up with the Ministry of the Environment, to reforest illegally logged areas; and cash grants for 50 breadwinners to set up small businesses
- ▶ with local communities, water boards and ICRC-trained water technicians:
  - reinforce dike systems, to help up to 5,600 farmers in Casamance and 2,800 in Guinea-Bissau irrigate and protect their crops
  - construct/upgrade water points and promote good hygiene practices in Casamance and Guinea-Bissau, so that a total of 5,300 people have access to safe water and reduce their exposure to water-borne diseases

#### Health

- ▶ through infrastructure upgrades, logistical support, medical supplies and training, assist up to 5 health facilities in Casamance, State health teams conducting vaccination campaigns, and community health workers in delivering preventive and curative care of government-approved standard to vulnerable people, and helping ensure that:
  - pregnant women or those of child-bearing age can obtain good-quality ante/post-natal care and family-planning services
  - victims of sexual violence receive the necessary treatment, including basic psychological care, from health personnel knowledgeable about their specific needs
  - children under the age of 5 are protected from contagious diseases
- ▶ gradually reduce support for the 5 Senegalese facilities in preparation for their takeover by the authorities at the end of 2015; in Guinea-Bissau, help the authorities assume full responsibility for 3 health facilities previously supported by the ICRC – including the São Domingos facility – by consolidating lessons learnt during the three years of ICRC support

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Senegal, some detention facilities are ill-adapted to their functions or overcrowded, which affects health care and living conditions for detainees, and the authorities' ability to enforce discipline. The authorities, aided by the international community, are endeavouring to reform penitentiary management and staff training; a UN-backed national mechanism monitors detainees' treatment.

Senegalese armed/security forces detain people in connection with the conflict in Casamance and, like their Bissau-Guinean and Gambian counterparts, during political instability or unrest.

#### 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 by the Senegalese authorities or the MFDC, and security detainees in Guinea-Bissau, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures; seek to resume visits to detainees in Gambia (see *Actors of influence*)
- ▶ through Movement family-links services, enable foreigners and security detainees to contact relatives and/or consular representatives
- ▶ help the authorities concerned – through confidential feedback based on the findings of prison visits, and technical advice – improve detainees' treatment and living condition; in particular:
  - support efforts to reduce the number of people in preventive detention, by encouraging proper application of detention procedures, reactivation of the probation office, and use of alternative sentences for minor offences; facilitating visits to detainees for magistrates/judges to speed up legal proceedings
  - through seminars and other means, enable State officials charged with monitoring detainee treatment, penitentiary staff, and, where applicable, MFDC units add to their knowledge of IHL and human rights
  - improve penitentiary management – in particular, the functioning of the food supply chain – and encourage the creation of complaint mechanisms
- ▶ during an emergency, assist the authorities in upgrading prison infrastructure in Casamance

### WOUNDED AND SICK

Health services in Casamance have not reported needing support to tend to wounded people. The physiotherapy centre in Bissau provides specialized care for people throughout the region; the Bissau-Guinean authorities cover treatment costs for some mine/ERW victims. There are only five certified physiotherapists in Guinea-Bissau.

#### Objective

Amputees and other disabled people have access to good-quality physiotherapy/orthopaedic services.

### Plan of action and indicators

#### Assistance

With the relevant National Society:

#### Physical rehabilitation

- ▶ to enable disabled people to obtain good-quality care at the physical rehabilitation centre in Bissau:
  - inform potential patients of the services available, through media and outreach programmes, and by other means; cover travel/accommodation/treatment costs for some 100 patients
  - help technicians boost their capacities through short courses and seminars, and continued on-the-job training and supervision by 2 ICRC technicians
  - cover the costs of producing prostheses/orthoses
- ▶ to help the centre in Bissau prepare to operate independently:
  - provide management advice to its administration and Health Ministry officials, to ensure, for example, that ICRC-trained technicians continue working in the centre
  - gradually reduce financial/material support, while encouraging others to back the centre

## ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

All four countries in the region endeavour to incorporate key IHL treaties in domestic legislation or in the doctrine, training and operations of armed/security forces. People in Casamance have better access to health care but continue to feel the consequences of weapon bearers' lack of knowledge of and/or respect for IHL.

The influence of community/religious leaders and the media extends to remote communities and to armed groups. With its large international community and influential academic institutions, Dakar is a hub for regional dialogue on humanitarian issues.

### Objective

The authorities and weapon bearers in the region understand and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these in their decision-making processes. The media and community/religious leaders assist in increasing awareness of humanitarian issues among parties involved in armed conflict or violence and among decision-makers, thus securing greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the work of the Movement.

### Plan of action and indicators

#### Prevention

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ in Senegal, to facilitate ICRC action and learn more about the humanitarian/security situation in Casamance or elsewhere in the region, dialogue with:
  - parties to the Casamance conflict on protection issues, the ICRC's role as a neutral intermediary, and expansion of ICRC access to areas under MFDC control
  - Senegalese authorities and other humanitarian organizations on the needs of the families of missing migrants
  - vulnerable people on Movement action; for example, use radio services to inform remote communities of National Society/ICRC activities for them
  - community/religious leaders on the common ground between IHL and Islam, through conferences (see also *Iran, Islamic Republic of*) and other means
  - the Health Ministry and health personnel on issues covered by the Health Care in Danger project
- ▶ continue discussions with the Gambian authorities on resuming visits to detainees in Gambia
- ▶ raise awareness of humanitarian issues in the region through workshops and events at the ICRC's IHL documentation centre in Dakar, particularly among:
  - journalists, to encourage accurate reporting on humanitarian affairs; organize field trips for those working in Senegal
  - humanitarian workers, to discuss IHL and the effects of armed conflict on women, for example
  - representatives from governments and international organizations, during an international forum in Gambia and an ICRC-organized regional seminar on the humanitarian impact of the use of anti-vehicle mines, and other occasions
  - academics, primarily through free access to the IHL documentation centre's library and sponsorship to participate in moot court competitions (see also *Niger*)

- ▶ in Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, further knowledge of and respect for IHL and human rights principles among weapon bearers through information sessions and other means; for example:
  - role-playing exercises for MFDC units in Casamance; briefings on international norms governing the use of force during arrest for police/*gendarmes* and on IHL applicable to peacekeeping operations for troops deploying abroad
  - technical support to Senegalese military officers developing a teaching manual, and encouragement for the creation of an IHL office to oversee the process of furthering incorporation of IHL in military doctrine, training and operations
  - advanced training abroad for senior officers
- ▶ by 2016, through technical advice, information sessions and other events for parliamentarians, law-makers and human rights/IHL committee members, help the authorities in all four countries:
  - ratify/implement a regional convention on IDPs, and another on small arms and the Arms Trade Treaty – including by sponsoring officials' attendance at an experts' seminar abroad (see *Nigeria*) – and the Rome Statute in Guinea-Bissau
  - revise: arms control legislation; the military justice code and a law pertaining to missing people and their families in Senegal; and the penal and military justice codes in Guinea-Bissau
  - adopt a law protecting the Red Cross emblem in Cabo Verde

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies assist people affected by flooding, migration or contagious diseases, and work to foster support for IHL and Movement action. With the ICRC, the Bissau-Guinean and Senegalese National Societies provide assistance for people affected by armed conflict and violence.

### Objective

The National Societies have a strong legal base 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, provide the National Societies logistic/material/technical support to help them:
  - respond to emergencies and provide family-links services/first aid/material assistance (see *Civilians*) in line with the Safer Access Framework
  - promote respect for IHL and the Movement's emblems
  - strengthen their statutes and legal base through workshops for National Society legal advisers, sponsorship for representatives to attend statutory meetings abroad, and by other means
  - coordinate activities between themselves and with other Movement components, particularly cross-border activities, to avoid duplication and maximize impact