

GUINEA

COVERING: Guinea, Sierra Leone

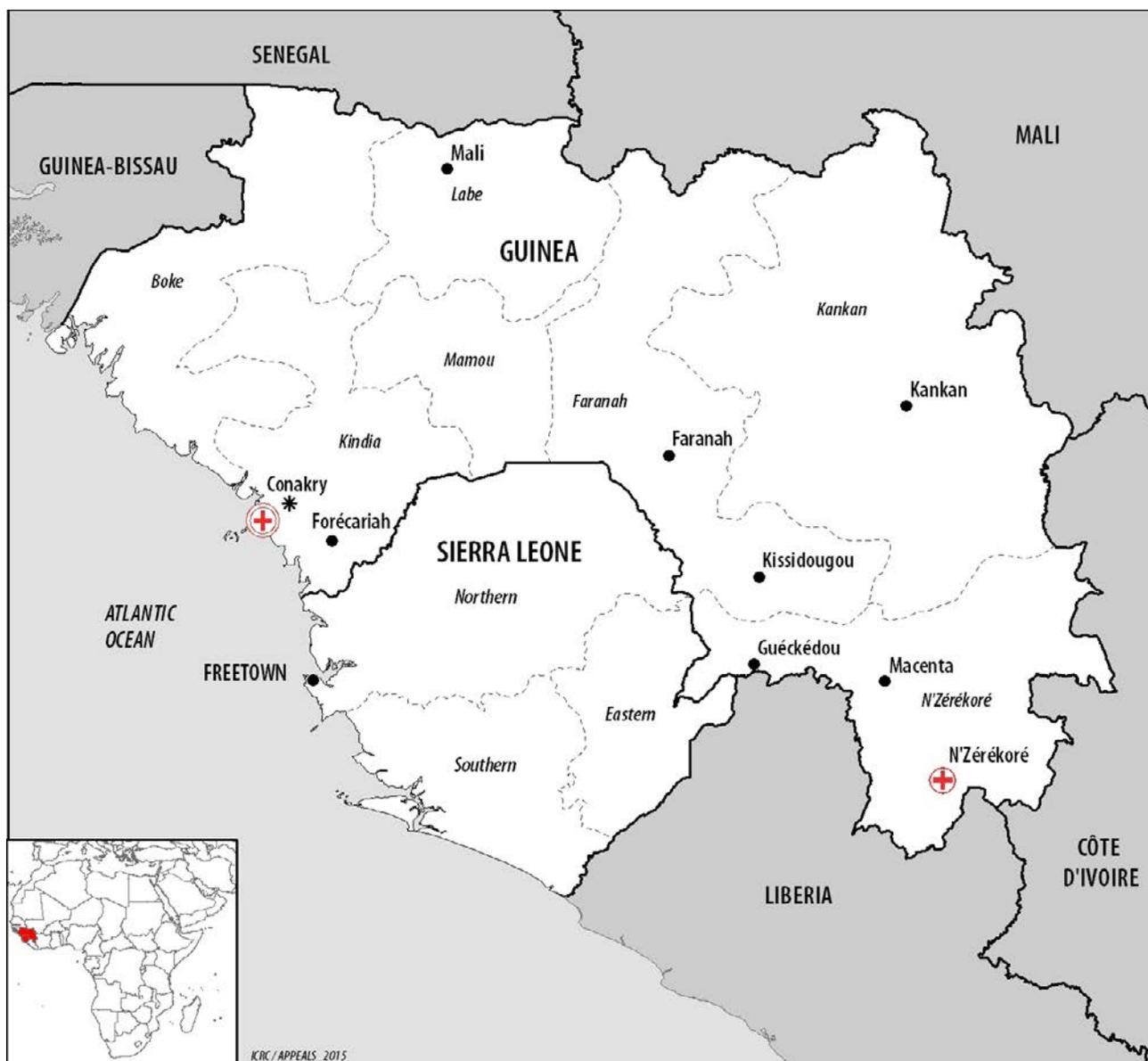
The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, opening its delegation in 2001. It seeks to protect violence-affected people, restore links between separated relatives, and improve the water supply and sanitation conditions. It visits detainees, monitoring their treatment and living conditions, and advises the authorities on detention-related matters. It promotes IHL and humanitarian principles among the armed and security forces, authorities and civil society. Since 2009, the delegation oversees the ICRC's cooperation and prevention activities in Sierra Leone. The ICRC works with each National Society to help it strengthen its capacities, including in emergency response, and to promote the Movement.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	2,101
Assistance	2,490
Prevention	1,101
Cooperation with National Societies	1,586
General	72
Total	7,350
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	<i>449</i>

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	10
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	84



-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC sub-delegation
- * Sierra Leone is covered by the ICRC delegation in Guinea

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ through financial, material and technical support, the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society boost their capacities to respond to emergencies, such as the regional Ebola outbreak
- ▶ detainees in Guinea benefit from increased access to health care, made possible by ICRC support in the form of therapeutic food/essential medicines for those suffering from malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies
- ▶ the authorities enhance their management of the prison system, following their appointment of a medical focal point and having received ICRC support for better coordination between the relevant prison and health authorities
- ▶ the armed forces increase the likelihood of civilians being respected during law enforcement operations by systematizing the inclusion of IHL and other applicable norms in their training sessions
- ▶ up to 20,000 Guineans in selected violence-prone rural areas have better access to clean water and improved sanitation via the construction/rehabilitation of water points and the promotion of good hygiene practices

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	20,000
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures	1

CONTEXT

Persistent political friction in Guinea, mainly related to the elections in 2015, exacerbate the socio-economic difficulties and structural deficiencies that affect the delivery of basic services, fuelling existing tensions between communities. The country relies primarily on support from international organizations and NGOs to address urgent humanitarian needs, including during the Ebola outbreak that continues to affect people throughout the region.

The government is in the process of reforming the justice and security sectors with support from the international community, though little progress has been made.

In Sierra Leone, the Ebola outbreak has been threatening the relatively calm political and socio-economic situation.

Both countries contribute troops to the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Sierra Leone participates in the African Union Mission in Somalia.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC will continue to focus on monitoring the conduct of law enforcement operations and the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom. It will coordinate its activities with other stakeholders working to ease the country's humanitarian needs, particularly those triggered by the Ebola outbreak; the ICRC will work alongside the Red Cross Society of Guinea, wherever possible.

The ICRC will remind the authorities and weapon bearers of the need to facilitate the work of medical/humanitarian workers, and draw their attention to abuses alleged by the civilian population or by detainees. It will also cultivate contacts among religious/traditional leaders, journalists and academics, to enlist their support in promoting humanitarian principles, IHL and the Movement.

In Guinea, the ICRC will visit detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions. It will – within the framework of justice sector reform – continue to support the authorities in tackling deficiencies in the penitentiary system, focusing on respect for detainees and their judicial guarantees, as well as on financial/administrative management and maintenance. It will advise the prison authorities on ensur-

ing the long-term provision of adequate food and medical care and the maintenance of sufficient hygiene conditions in prisons. The ICRC will also encourage them to include prisons in their overall response to the Ebola epidemic, in order to reduce detainees' risk of contracting the disease. It will provide technical and material support to help ensure that the health and nutritional status of inmates are regularly monitored and that those with diseases or nutritional deficiencies are properly diagnosed and treated. National Society personnel, backed by the ICRC, will help the authorities in conducting vector-control campaigns and promoting good hygiene practices.

Efforts will be pursued in Guinea and Sierra Leone to further understanding of and respect for IHL, international human rights law and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action. The ICRC will maintain dialogue with national authorities, including those involved in reforming the justice and security sectors, and support them in establishing/revising legal frameworks governing law enforcement and criminal/penitentiary procedures. It will advise the military, police and *gendarmerie* commands on integrating IHL/international human rights law, as appropriate, into their doctrine, training and operations. It will also provide technical support for ministerial and parliamentary authorities to advance the ratification and implementation of key IHL treaties.

The Guinean and Sierra Leonean National Societies and the ICRC will help family members separated by violence or natural disasters restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, reunite. The National Societies will also receive help for improving their family-links services, including their capacities to facilitate the search for the missing, manage human remains and inform families about the fate of their relatives.

By constructing/repairing water infrastructure, the ICRC will continue to support Guinea's water authorities in improving access to clean water for selected rural communities in violence-prone areas.

In coordination with Movement partners, the Guinean Red Cross will be given training and financial/material support to pursue its internal restructuring efforts and to strengthen its emergency preparedness and communication activities, particularly in connection with the response to the Ebola epidemic and IHL promotion. In Sierra Leone, the

ICRC will help the National Society prepare to assume full responsibility for its peacetime activities by developing its legal department and other means.

Meetings will be held regularly to facilitate coordination among Movement partners.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

People in Guinea have reported suffering from human rights violations, particularly during unrest and protests. In recent years, the number of people attending public demonstrations has decreased noticeably. Persistent tensions linked to ethnic/political differences and land tenure have caused intercommunal discord and violent confrontations with security forces.

Access to water remains a problem – particularly in violence-prone areas – owing to inadequate infrastructure, limited financial resources and poor management. National water authorities are working to improve coverage but require support in meeting people’s needs.

In Guinea, the demand for services reconnecting relatives separated by situations of violence or natural disasters remains low. The regional Ebola outbreak has weakened the country’s fragile public services, as the meagreness of its means to handle and identify human remains hampers its response to the epidemic.

Objective

Civilians are protected in accordance with applicable international and national law. People in violence-prone areas have access to clean water and adequate medical care. Family members dispersed by situations of violence or natural disaster are able to restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, are reunited.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ in Guinea, maintain dialogue with authorities and weapon bearers, particularly in violence-prone areas, on the need to respect and protect the population; document alleged misconduct by weapon bearers, making representations when necessary to the parties concerned to prevent the recurrence of such misconduct; back dialogue by training security forces in international norms applicable to law enforcement operations and by briefing them and civilians on the work of the Movement and the respect due to its emblems

Restoring family links

- ▶ train and equip the Guinean National Society to strengthen its family-links services, particularly in violence-prone regions
- ▶ provide the National Society with financial/material support to help develop its human remains management capacities, with a view to facilitating the search for missing persons and informing their families of their fates as well as mitigating public health risks, particularly those posed by the Ebola epidemic

With the National Society:

- ▶ enable family members, including children, separated by armed conflict in neighbouring countries or other

situations of violence to restore/maintain contact and, where appropriate, reunite

- ▶ where reunification is impossible or inappropriate, assist people in identifying alternative long-term solutions to their situations; coordinate with other organizations and provide limited *ad hoc* material assistance to ease these people’s conditions

Assistance

Health

- ▶ provide essential drugs and other medical supplies, for up to three months, to one referral medical facility in an area particularly affected by the Ebola outbreak so as to facilitate health care access for people within reach of the hospital; supply it with additional surgical material during emergencies, including situations of violence

Water and habitat

- ▶ with the Guinean water authorities and the National Society, construct/repair water points to provide up to 20,000 people with regular access to up to 25 litres of clean water a day; through material support, promote good hygiene practices, particularly the use of latrines, among up to 10,000 of them
- ▶ train and equip some 15 National Society volunteers to implement a community-led approach to sanitation

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Guinea, people are held in prisons under the Ministry of Justice and in places of temporary detention under the Ministries of Defence and Security.

The national prison administration lacks the expertise, personnel and financial resources to adequately manage the prison system and meet detainees’ needs, particularly in terms of food, water, sanitation, health care and infrastructure maintenance. Although malnutrition rates have declined on the whole, food supplies remain precarious and the detection/treatment of malnutrition far from adequate. Because of budgetary constraints, prison infirmaries are under-supplied and inmates in need of advanced care are not referred to hospitals; at present, insufficient access to health care is the chief cause of death among detainees. Dilapidated water and sanitation infrastructure contributes to the prevalence of diseases linked to poor hygiene.

The government’s action plan for the comprehensive reform of the justice system, including the penitentiary administration, continues to be held up by administrative delays.

Objective

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

Plan of action and indicators

Guinea

Protection

- ▶ visit detainees held by the Defence, Justice and Security Ministries, as well as those held by the police or *gendarmerie*; monitor their treatment and living conditions, paying particular attention to respect for their judicial guarantees, the cases of security detainees and vulnerable inmates such as women, minors, foreigners and people sentenced to death
- ▶ after these visits, provide the authorities with confidential oral/written feedback, notably in relation to treatment issues reported by detainees, and with any recom-

mendations for improvements; pursue dialogue with high-level political and penitentiary authorities and conduct dissemination/training sessions for security forces and penitentiary officials on national and international norms applicable to detention

- ▶ help the Health/Justice/Security Ministries, the penitentiary administration and others involved in the health, justice and security sector reforms in detention, to streamline their financial/administrative procedures and to put in place laws ensuring that detainees' rights are respected and perpetrators of abuse are sanctioned
- ▶ enable detainees to contact their families or, where relevant, their consular representatives, through the Movement's family-links network

Assistance

Health

- ▶ to reduce the incidence of malnutrition, vitamin deficiencies and associated health problems among detainees in prisons:
 - help the prison authorities and health workers to monitor detainees' health and nutritional status regularly, and to diagnose and treat them properly; provide equipment and medicines and, when necessary, referral to advanced care (see below)
 - provide supplementary/therapeutic food rations to malnourished detainees for up to 3 months; treat those suffering from vitamin deficiencies with food supplements and medicines
 - help the authorities establish procedures to manage the prison food supply chain independently and properly, to prevent misappropriation of supplies
- ▶ with the prison authorities, facilitate detainees' access to improved health care in places of detention and referral hospitals and prevent exposure to the Ebola virus, by:
 - helping reinforce coordination between the relevant ministries and health authorities – including through the reactivation of an agreement defining the responsibilities of the Ministries of Health and Justice in this regard – as well as between prisons and referral hospitals through the drafting of a cooperation contract
 - encouraging the appointment of a physician as a focal point within the prison administration and highlighting the need for more mechanisms and resources to detect and treat diseases among detainees, especially common and chronic illnesses; providing technical support for establishing such systems, including a budget for medical emergencies
 - organizing joint training sessions with the medical focal point for health staff, with an emphasis on personnel from 3 prison infirmaries
 - donating medicines/equipment and referring detainees in urgent need of specialized medical attention to hospitals; implementing early warning/surveillance systems and preventive measures to reduce the risk of emergencies such as epidemics/disease outbreaks
- ▶ offering training opportunities – locally held seminars and workshops abroad – to help the authorities tackle issues such as the management of the prison food supply chain

Water and habitat

With the National Society:

- ▶ with financial support from the Justice Ministry, support the prison and health authorities in improving detainees' living conditions, particularly by:
 - helping them upgrade dilapidated facilities, such as kitchens and water/sanitation infrastructure
 - supplying equipment and hygiene items to prison infirmaries and rehabilitating/constructing up to 3 of these facilities
 - promoting good hygiene practices among detainees, prison staff and health teams at up to 6 central prisons
 - providing funds and materials to facilitate vector-control campaigns at up to 31 prisons

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

The Guinean police/*gendarmerie* are charged with maintaining public order during unrest. The Defence, Justice and Security Ministries are responsible for reviewing the legality of the actions of law enforcement personnel under their authority.

The media, religious/traditional leaders, human rights NGOs, academics and other key members of Guinea's civil society influence public opinion. Private and State-run media outlets are well placed to promote humanitarian messages. Some Islamic groups are active in religious and academic circles. IHL is taught at several universities in Guinea. Some actors question the neutrality of the red cross emblem.

In Guinea and Sierra Leone, the authorities need support to ratify IHL treaties and integrate them into domestic law.

Objective

National authorities and the armed and security 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. The media, academics, religious/traditional leaders and other influential civil society groups help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and relevant rules among all those involved in these situations and the wider public, thus achieving 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

- ▶ provide the Guinean and Sierra Leonean National Societies with financial/technical/material support to strengthen their communication capacities to promote the Movement's work, particularly during crises

With the relevant National Society:

- ▶ to mobilize support for IHL/international human rights norms, particularly regarding protection for civilians, health-care services and detainees, and to gain support for neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action:
 - maintain dialogue – especially on allegations of excessive use of force – with the relevant authorities, including those involved in justice/security sector reforms, and hold awareness-raising sessions for the parties concerned (see *Civilians*)

- brief Islamic and other religious/traditional leaders in Guinea, including on the Movement's emblems; engage with political/youth activists, key regional/international actors and NGO/civil society representatives through events and presentations, and by providing support for attending IHL events abroad
- through publicity materials and other events, including a field visit, help journalists report accurately on humanitarian issues and the Movement's work
- encourage academic institutions, including Islamic universities, to incorporate IHL in law curricula by providing support for students/lecturers to attend national/regional IHL events
- ▶ to help systematize respect for and application of IHL/international human rights norms:
 - sponsor the participation of political/administrative/judicial officials in IHL seminars abroad and support the establishment/revision of legal frameworks governing law enforcement and criminal/penitentiary procedures (see *People deprived of their freedom*)
 - back military/security forces' efforts to incorporate IHL/international human rights law and respect for Movement emblems/personnel in their doctrine, training and operations, through: dialogue/workshops by ICRC-trained instructors (see *Civilians*), predeployment briefings, dissemination sessions for those stationed in violence-prone areas and support for developing educational tools
 - provide expertise, and support for training abroad, for the Guinean authorities and, in Sierra Leone, for the national IHL committee, to help advance the ratification/implementation of key IHL treaties; encourage the Guinean authorities in their efforts to integrate the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, as well as the Rome Statute, into domestic law
- ▶ through training for Guinea's national commission for the control of small arms and light weapons, help it enhance its capacities to support regional anti-proliferation efforts

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

With support from Movement partners, the Guinean Red Cross is undergoing a restructuring process to better respond to humanitarian needs. It gains operational experience by partnering with the ICRC and other Movement organizations. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society is consolidating its capacities in preparation for assuming full responsibility for peacetime activities. The National Societies play prominent roles in responding to the Ebola epidemic.

Both National Societies are working with the ICRC to enhance family-links services and boost IHL implementation (see *Civilians* and *Actors of influence*).

Objective

The National Societies have strong legal bases for independent action. They are able to carry out their core activities effectively. The activities of all Movement components are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ provide training/technical/financial/material support for the National Societies to:
 - carry out communication activities (see *Actors of influence*), particularly with regard to the emblems
 - develop their financial/managerial/technical capacities; in Sierra Leone, support the National Society legal adviser's training abroad
- ▶ help the Guinean National Society expand its emergency response, particularly against the Ebola outbreak, by:
 - working with it to enhance its operations' safety in up to 15 violence- and/or disaster-prone locations, through training in security regulations and other matters, and joint contingency planning
 - providing structural support for constructing a new building and/or rehabilitating an old one
- ▶ with the National Societies, coordinate activities with other Movement partners, particularly on programme management, organizational development, emergency preparedness and humanitarian diplomacy