

RWANDA

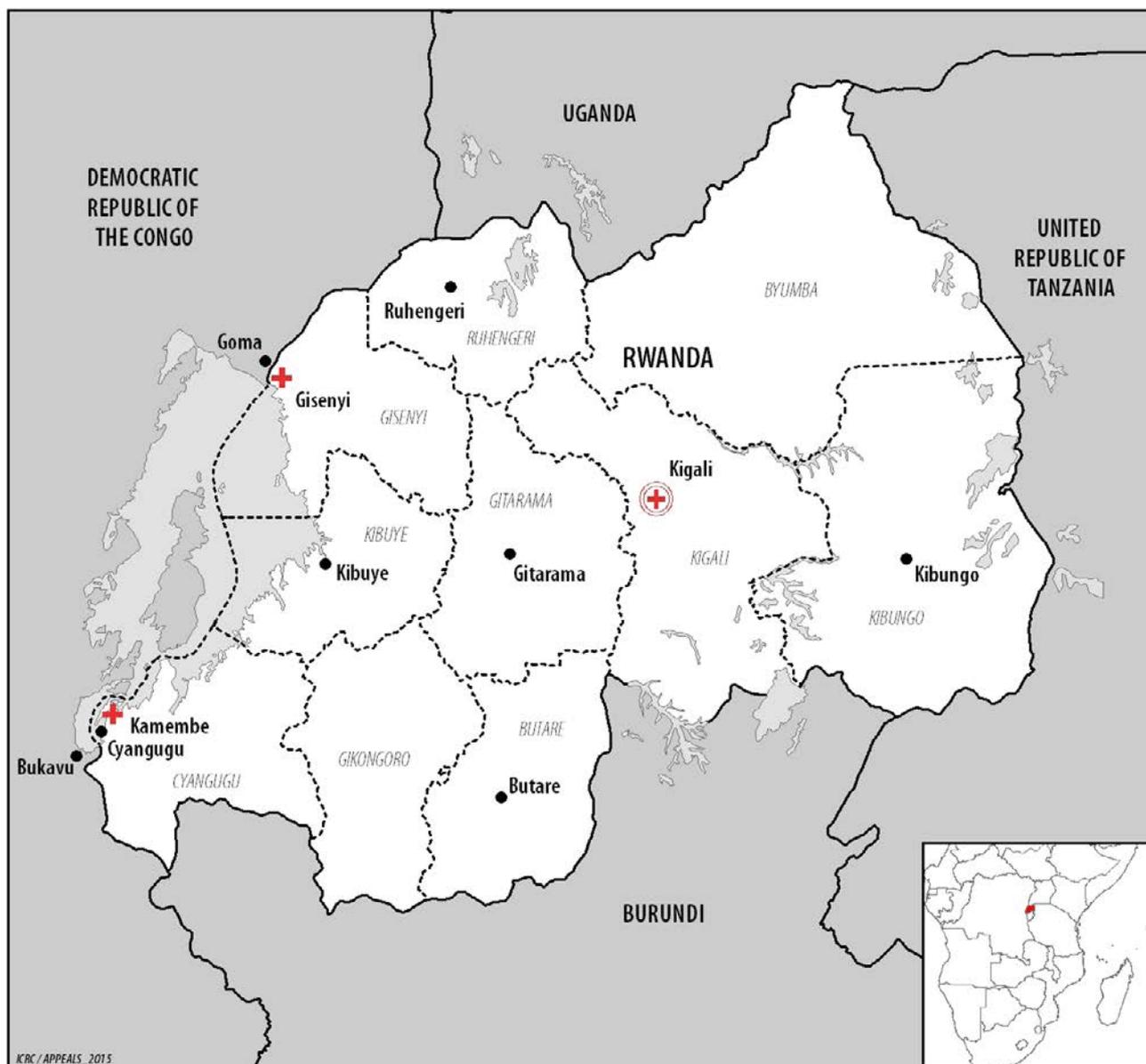
Having worked in the country since 1960, the ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990. It visits detainees held in central prisons and places of temporary detention such as police stations and military facilities, while supporting the authorities in improving detainees' living conditions. It helps reunite children and their families who were separated in relation to the genocide and its aftermath or the conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The ICRC works with the authorities to incorporate IHL into domestic legislation. It supports the development of the Rwandan Red Cross.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	3,268
Assistance	1,615
Prevention	796
Cooperation with National Societies	508
General	66
Total	6,253
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	382

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	15
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	73



ICRC / APPEALS_2015

ICRC delegation ICRC office/presence

MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ detainees in Rwanda improve their health, thanks to system-wide reforms made with the help of the results/findings of ICRC projects aimed at enhancing nutritional monitoring and facilitating access to health care in 2 prisons
- ▶ vulnerable detainees, including those held for reasons of State security, benefit from treatment and living conditions in line with internationally recognized standards, as a result of ICRC dialogue with the pertinent authorities
- ▶ the special needs of unaccompanied minors, including those previously associated with weapon bearers, are addressed by ICRC assistance/services, such as family reunification and/or psychosocial support
- ▶ the authorities advance the incorporation in their domestic legislation of signed/ratified IHL treaties, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, aided by technical advice/financial support from the ICRC
- ▶ the Rwanda Defence Force and the Rwanda National Police continue the incorporation of IHL and of other norms applicable to law enforcement in their training curricula, with the help of workshops/training sessions
- ▶ with ICRC support, the Rwandan Red Cross trains and equips volunteers for 24 additional local disaster response teams throughout the country

CONTEXT

Owing to persistent insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (hereafter DRC), refugees, including unaccompanied minors/separated children, are seeking safety in Rwanda. Former weapon bearers, including children, continue to be repatriated to the country as part of the DRC's demobilization process, facilitated by the UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). People are also arrested in the country in relation to State security.

Reforms to the penitentiary system are in progress; in this connection, the Rwanda Correctional Service (RCS) is striving to improve detainees' living conditions, including their access to health care. The government continues its efforts to realize the potential of the Rwandan economy: it is pursuing greater integration within the East African Community, particularly through joint infrastructure projects and enhanced security cooperation, including the development of an Eastern Africa Standby Force.

Rwanda contributes troops to various peacekeeping missions.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC delegation in Rwanda will focus on monitoring the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their freedom and, with the Rwandan Red Cross, on helping refugees, returnees and other civilians – unaccompanied minors among them – to restore/maintain contact with their families.

While seeking to expand its access to all security detainees, including those held in connection with the armed conflict in the DRC, the ICRC will continue to visit and monitor the treatment and living conditions of people held in central prisons, military camps, police lock-ups and other places of temporary detention. It will pay special attention to the situation of particularly vulnerable detainees, such as women, minors and security detainees. After its visits, the ICRC will communicate its feedback and recommendations confidentially to the detaining authorities. It will help the RCS bolster its managerial capacities in a sustainable way. To help enhance detainees' living conditions, including their health and hygiene, the ICRC will undertake joint efforts with the authorities: implementation of health projects in two prisons, construction/rehabilitation of infrastructure, and briquette/chlorine/soap production. It will also help

the authorities gradually take over the management of these projects.

The National Society will receive support for strengthening its family-links services to enable it to meet the needs of refugees and returnees in the country. In addition, close coordination will be fostered among the National Societies and ICRC delegations operating in Rwanda and in neighbouring countries, and among other parties concerned, to bolster family-links services. Special attention will be paid to particularly vulnerable refugees and returnees, such as unaccompanied minors/separated children, including those formerly associated with weapon bearers. The ICRC will facilitate their access to counselling and other forms of support. Through cross-border cooperation, the ICRC will continue, where appropriate, to repatriate these children and reunite them with their families, and to monitor/facilitate their social reintegration, providing one-off material assistance when required. The ICRC will also work with the authorities and the centres housing these children to explore long-term solutions to the predicament of those whose families cannot be traced.

The ICRC will work with the police/armed forces and the security authorities to raise awareness of and gain support for its activities and mandate, as well as for humanitarian principles, international human rights law and standards applicable to law enforcement/detention. It will conduct predeployment briefings on IHL and the Movement for peacekeepers. It will seek to define its cooperation with the Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) and the Rwanda National Police (RNP), to help them incorporate IHL/international human rights norms in their training. With the RNP, the delegation will co-organize workshops and training sessions for senior officers to familiarize them with internationally recognized standards applicable to law enforcement, including those governing the use of force during arrest and detention. The ICRC will also continue to support IHL instruction in university law faculties by enabling lecturers and students to participate in national and regional IHL-related events. Through its dialogue with key public officials, the delegation will continue to promote incorporation of IHL provisions in domestic legislation and accession to treaties of humanitarian pertinence.

The ICRC will continue to support the National Society in becoming a national source of reference for first aid – by helping it expand its national network of first-aiders, bolstering its ability to conduct emergency aid operations safely, and through other means. It will also help the Nation-

al Society strengthen its capacity to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC will coordinate its activities with those of Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors in areas of common interest in order to ensure effective and complementary action.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Refugees from the DRC, in flight from the fighting in the North and South Kivu provinces, often lose contact with relatives who have stayed behind or are also on the move. Returnees, refugees and other civilians in Rwanda, as well as Rwandan refugees abroad, need help to restore links with their families or locate relatives, some of whom went missing during the period of armed conflict and genocide and are still unaccounted for.

Unaccompanied minors, including those formerly associated with weapon bearers, have particular needs, notably in relation to contact with their families and reintegration into society and/or within the family unit.

Objective

People separated from their families during armed conflict, other situations of violence, natural or man-made disaster or migration restore/maintain family links or receive information on the fate of their relatives. Children separated from their parents, abroad or in Rwanda, are reunited with their families, when appropriate, and/or sustainable solutions help ensure their protection and well-being.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

Restoring family links

- ▶ assist the Rwandan Red Cross to expand its capacities – via training and financial/material support – to deliver family-links services independently, in particular by helping it to enhance its technical/managerial skills and use of specialized tools, such as Family-links Answers online services

With the National Society:

- ▶ enable Rwandans abroad, refugees in Rwanda and Rwandan returnees, including demobilized weapon bearers, to restore/maintain contact with their relatives via RCMs, telephone calls and tracing services
- ▶ in partnership with other ICRC delegations, National Societies and other parties concerned, pay particular attention to the needs of unaccompanied minors/separated children, including those formerly associated with weapon bearers, by:
 - facilitating their access to counselling, mediation and other protection programmes run by the local authorities or to organizations providing appropriate support
 - providing tracing services to help them locate their relatives; and, when appropriate, repatriating and/or reuniting them with their families, easing the process for economically vulnerable minors by providing a one-off kit of essential items, for instance
 - encouraging the authorities and local centres housing these children to find long-term solutions for those

whose families cannot be traced, notably the children's reintegration into society

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Most people detained in Rwanda are held under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Security, particularly under the RNP and RCS; they include people convicted by the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) and serving their sentences in Rwanda, and those accused of involvement in the genocide and transferred to Rwanda by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) to stand trial. Others are held under the authority of the RDF and/or the National Intelligence and Security Services. M23 members who fled the fighting in the DRC are held under the authority of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs. People are also arrested in relation to State security.

Overcrowding, poor access for detainees to health care, and inadequate infrastructure remain pressing issues in prisons, partly because of the prison and police administrations' continued lack of resources and limited managerial capacities.

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 detainees in central prisons, military camps, police lock-ups and other places of temporary detention to monitor their treatment and living conditions, including respect for their judicial guarantees, while individually following the situations of:
 - security detainees, including former M23 members
 - detainees transferred or convicted by the SCSL or the ICTR and serving their sentences in Rwanda
 - other vulnerable detainees, such as the elderly, the mentally ill, foreigners, minors, and women and their infants
- ▶ on the basis of these visits, give the authorities confidential oral/written feedback, particularly concerning treatment issues reported by detainees, and make recommendations for improvements; in addition, offer them expert advice/training to address structural, organizational or managerial challenges and to develop long-term plans to improve detainees' living conditions (see below)
- ▶ pursue efforts to conduct visits to all detainees of ICRC concern according to the organization's standard procedures; to this end, maintain/establish contact with the various detaining and security authorities, and increase their understanding of the ICRC's mandate and secure support for its activities (see *Actors of influence*)
- ▶ offer family-links services to detainees, including minors at 1 prison, to enable them to re-establish/maintain ties with their families; urge the detaining authorities to notify families of their relatives' detention, or in the case of foreigners, their embassies

Assistance

Health

- ▶ assist the prison authorities in their efforts to directly enhance detainees' access to health care by:

- implementing – at the RCS-run Muhanga and Nyarugenge central prisons – health projects for improving nutritional monitoring and the quality/availability of basic health services, through routine health screenings for detainees upon arrival, support for improving file/pharmacy/waste management capacities, and other means; encourage the authorities concerned to make countrywide reforms to the prisons' health system on the basis of the aforementioned projects and their results
- monitoring the health status of those held at detention facilities run by government authorities other than the RCS, and providing ad hoc medical assistance during emergencies
- ▶ provide training/technical support for the prison authorities, by facilitating a seminar on health in detention, organizing quarterly coordination meetings, establishing a formal health monitoring mechanism – to bolster the prison health system's capacities to independently manage health services – and through other means

Water and habitat

- ▶ contribute to sustainable improvements in the detaining authorities' capacity to ensure adequate conditions of hygiene and infrastructure at the 14 central prisons, by:
 - helping to develop practical/centralized norms and management/maintenance procedures
 - providing sustained technical support/training to enable them to assume responsibility for water supply and biogas systems already installed in prisons; offer similar support for chlorine production projects at up to 10 central prisons
 - supporting the prison services in producing/distributing a sufficient monthly supply of soap to detainees, and by organizing a vector-control campaign every six months, as well as a hygiene-promotion seminar
 - working with the authorities to rehabilitate/maintain kitchen facilities, by installing briquette production units, and through other means
- ▶ repair the health facilities at the Muhanga and Nyarugenge prisons to facilitate implementation of the pilot health projects (see above)
- ▶ during emergencies, such as fires, provide ad hoc structural assistance

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Rwanda is a major contributor of troops to UN peacekeeping operations abroad. Domestically, the RDF and RNP play a central role in law enforcement operations.

The Rwandan government is taking steps to ratify IHL treaties, including the Arms Trade Treaty, and to accede to others, such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions. However, it has not yet established a national IHL committee, and domestic implementation of ratified IHL treaties remains slow.

Rwanda's academies provide most of the army, police and prison officers hired by the government. Four universities have law faculties that teach IHL as a core subject.

Objective

National authorities, the police 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. Ac-

ademics help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among 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

- ▶ raise awareness of and support for the ICRC's activities and mandate, and for humanitarian principles, international human rights law and standards applicable to law enforcement/detention; discuss, with the RDF/RNP, the treatment of detainees under their authority and impress upon them the need to respect detainees' judicial guarantees
- ▶ continue to assist the police/armed forces to incorporate IHL and other applicable norms in their training and to ensuring respect for these norms in the conduct of their activities; pursue efforts to define the scope of cooperation with these bodies; in particular:
 - provide IHL training for RDF training institutions with the specific aim of developing or expanding their curricula, and sponsor training for RDF officials in advanced/instructors' IHL courses abroad (see *International Law and Cooperation*)
 - conduct workshops/training sessions for selected RNP officers on international norms applicable to law enforcement, including norms governing the use of force in arrest and treatment in detention, and follow up previously trained instructors
 - conduct predeployment briefings for RDF/RNP troops bound for peacekeeping missions in countries such as Mali, South Sudan and Sudan
- ▶ enhance IHL instruction at 4 Rwandan universities by:
 - enabling law lecturers to attend national/regional meetings – particularly a regional faculty round-table – to share experiences and best practices with fellow academics (see *Nairobi*)
 - organizing 3 conferences at 3 law faculties and sponsoring the participation of students/academics in national/regional IHL moot court competitions
- ▶ engage the authorities in dialogue to: advance incorporation in domestic legislation of signed/ratified IHL instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty and the African Union Convention on IDPs; and accede to other treaties, such as the Convention on Cluster Munitions; assist them in doing so, by:
 - sponsoring officials' participation in IHL events abroad, including the annual regional IHL seminar (see *Pretoria*) and a meeting on the "Strengthening IHL" process
 - providing technical support and advice for ongoing IHL incorporation projects, such as the Rwanda Law Reform Commission's compatibility study covering domestic legislation and the IHL instruments to which Rwanda is party
- ▶ with the Rwandan Red Cross, raise awareness of issues of humanitarian concern and the Movement's activities, emphasizing the need for laws on the National Society's legal basis and the Movement's emblems

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Rwandan Red Cross is the main humanitarian actor in the country, thanks to a countrywide network of trained

volunteers. It works in partnership with the ICRC, notably in restoring family links and assisting unaccompanied/separated children (see *Civilians*). It continues to strengthen its operational capacities in various fields, with support from Movement partners, including the ICRC.

Objective

The Rwandan 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 financial backing, including coverage of overhead costs and administrative expenses, training and technical/material support to help the National Society:
 - follow through on pledges made at the 31st International Conference
- promote the Movement's Fundamental Principles, through radio/TV spots, publications and other means
- maintain/establish a network of public contacts, including government representatives, to discuss issues such as a law on the use of the emblem in Rwanda
- strengthen its emergency response capacities, by enhancing its application of the Safer Access Framework, conducting contingency planning, training up to 480 volunteers to man 24 new local disaster response teams, developing its overall first-aid response, and by other means
- improve its organizational capability, particularly its financial management and reporting system.
- ▶ encourage coherent Movement action, particularly by organizing regular coordination meetings