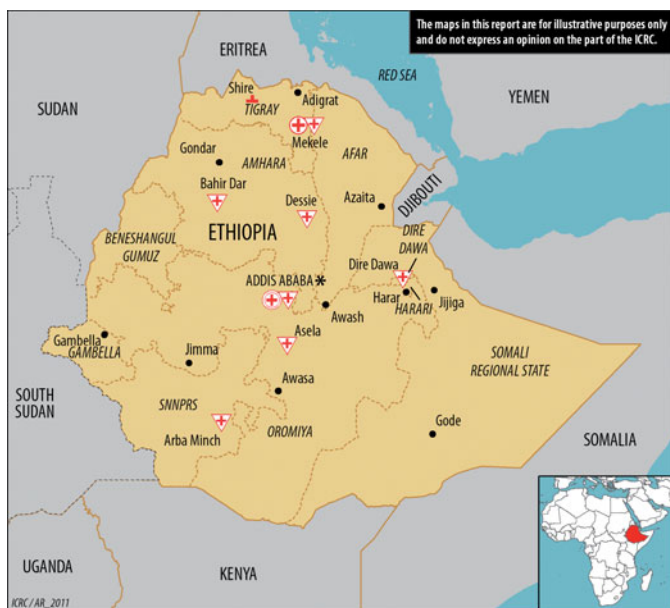


# ETHIOPIA



ICRC/AR\_2011  
 + ICRC delegation + ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC office  
 + ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre  
 \* The ICRC delegation to the African Union is also in Addis Ababa

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,689
Assistance	4,592
Prevention	2,053
Cooperation with National Societies	847
General	-

► **9,182**

of which: Overheads 554

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	79%
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	24
National staff (daily workers not included)	135

## KEY POINTS

### In 2011, the ICRC:

- received agreement in principle from the Ethiopian government for the resumption of ICRC visits to security detainees in federally run places of detention
- enabled people affected by armed conflict or violence to contact their families via RCMS and, for Sudanese refugees in camps, via telephone calls
- briefed some 6,000 Ethiopian troops on IHL prior to their deployment on peacekeeping missions
- ran IHL seminars for more than 1,200 judges, prosecutors, law students and university lecturers
- continued to support 7 physical rehabilitation centres, providing services to 8,939 people with disabilities
- supplied essential household items to more than 26,000 people displaced as a result of armed conflict, violence or drought

Continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977, the ICRC's priority is to protect and assist people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea or by other armed conflicts. Thus, it helps to preserve the livelihoods of communities affected by past conflict, often compounded by natural disaster, and supports physical rehabilitation services. It visits detainees and restores family links, particularly for relatives separated by the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border, ensuring compliance with IHL with regard to any persons still protected by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. It also supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

## CONTEXT

In Somali Regional State (SRS), non-international armed conflict persisted between the Ethiopian National Defence Force (ENDF), operating with regional special police forces, and the main grouping of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). There were reports of casualties.

Several other regions, including Afar and Oromia, saw episodes of fatal violence relating to disputes over access to natural resources and/or intercommunal and religious tensions. Following scant seasonal rains, many areas experienced drought, leaving large numbers of Ethiopians dependent on emergency food aid. From September, thousands of people fleeing fighting in Blue Nile State, Sudan, crossed the border into Ethiopia.

Internationally, relations remained tense between the governments of Ethiopia and Eritrea, as expressed in a number of critical public statements made by both parties. Meanwhile, the physical demarcation of the Ethiopia-Eritrea border remained stalled, with both countries maintaining a large military presence at their common border. Armed skirmishes were reported.

Some 4,200 ENDF troops formed the newly deployed UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (see *South Sudan and Sudan*). Ethiopian troops also comprised part of the African Union/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). In October, Ethiopian troops entered Somalia and engaged in military operations against armed groups.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

While its operations continued on a restricted basis, the ICRC met senior government figures – including the prime minister and minister of federal affairs – with a view to clarifying the organization's role within Ethiopia. Issues discussed included ICRC access to people in need in the conflict-affected SRS and to security detainees held under federal jurisdiction, neither of which had been granted by the authorities since 2007. The government agreed in principle to the resumption of visits to security detainees in federally run places of detention. To this end, a timetable of activities for 2012, beginning with an ICRC briefing of senior officials and an assessment of detention facilities, was agreed upon.

Meanwhile, ICRC activities continued to focus largely on the northern border regions of Tigray and Afar, the areas most affected by the 1998–2000 international armed conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea

Main figures and indicators		PROTECTION	Total		
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>					
RCMs collected			7,212	UAMs/SCs*	718
RCMs distributed			5,137		230
Phone calls facilitated between family members			2,060		
<b>Reunifications, transfers and repatriations</b>					
People reunited with their families			6		
		<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	3		
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered			137	Women	31
People located (tracing cases closed positively)			79		60
		<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	23		
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)			320		73
<b>UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</b>					
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society			2	Girls	1
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society			4		3
		<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	2		
<b>Documents</b>					
People to whom travel documents were issued			107		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines			14		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>ICRC visits</b>					
Detainees visited			8,572	Women	
Detainees visited and monitored individually			85		1
Detainees newly registered			34		1
Number of visits carried out			12		
Number of places of detention visited			10		
<b>Restoring family links</b>					
RCMs collected			17		
RCMs distributed			5		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued			84		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

Main figures and indicators		ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>					
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>					
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	27,031	64%	19%
		<i>of whom IDPs</i>	26,270		
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	273,541	25%	50%
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>					
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	9,261		
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	4,000		
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>					
<b>Physical rehabilitation</b>					
Centres supported		Structures	7		
Patients receiving services		Patients	8,939	1,996	1,925
New patients fitted with prostheses		Patients	1,029	170	72
Prostheses delivered		Units	2,127	325	174
		<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	528		
New patients fitted with orthoses		Patients	1,542	382	677
Orthoses delivered		Units	2,891	705	1,342
		<i>of which for victims of mines or explosive remnants of war</i>	9		
Crutches delivered		Units	6,914		
Wheelchairs delivered		Units	631		

and by ongoing border tensions. The ICRC worked with local water authorities and rural communities to repair water pumps, saving villagers the long daily trek to collect water from potentially polluted wells or ponds. In areas where water-borne diseases remained widespread, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society installed latrines and conducted workshops on good hygiene practices, training community representatives to pass on such advice to others.

Ethiopians newly repatriated from Eritrea via Sudan, and arriving in Tigray, continued to be met with blankets and hygiene materials

provided by the National Society/ICRC. Further south, the ICRC supplied emergency shelter materials and other essential items to communities displaced by intercommunal and religious violence. Weapon-wounded patients transferred to Assosa hospital, having been injured in fighting over the Sudanese border in Blue Nile State, were treated with ICRC-supplied medical materials.

Family members dispersed by conflict, including Ethiopian and Eritrean civilians separated by the sealed border, plus Somali and Sudanese refugees in camps, exchanged news through the

family-links network. Following a nationwide family-links needs assessment conducted in 2010, work commenced on strengthening services in priority areas, notably Tigray.

Also in Tigray and in northern Afar, the ICRC visited detainees of Eritrean origin held in regional facilities, monitoring general detention conditions and, if necessary, making confidential representations to the authorities. Detainees, both Eritrean and Ethiopian, received essential household and hygiene items as needed. Some 4,000 inmates in detention centres benefited from improved sanitation and water facilities following infrastructure improvements.

Physical rehabilitation centres for people with disabilities, including those injured during armed conflict or other situations of violence, continued to receive ICRC support in the form of funding, materials, on-the-job supervision and training. As the Ethiopian authorities worked to strengthen the country's physical rehabilitation services, the ICRC contributed technical advice to a working group tasked with drawing up standard guidelines for hospital-based units.

Raising awareness of and support for IHL, the Movement and its neutral, impartial and independent stance remained another priority. With ICRC input, the police force progressed towards the systematic integration of international human rights law and humanitarian principles into its doctrine, training and operations. More than 6,000 ENDF troops heading for peacekeeping missions in Sudan, ENDF legal and medical personnel and some non-commissioned officers attended ad hoc IHL briefings. Otherwise, the armed forces left on hold plans to reinforce the integration of IHL into training with ICRC assistance. Parliamentarians, representatives of regional authorities, village elders, judges, journalists and academics deepened their knowledge of IHL during ICRC/National Society-organized events.

Bolstered by ICRC funds, materials and technical support, the Ethiopian Red Cross continued to build its capacities, focusing on the provision of emergency and longer-term assistance and the promotion of IHL, in addition to running the family-links network.

## CIVILIANS

### Dialogue maintained over renewed access to the SRS

The ICRC remained concerned by the situation in the SRS. However, the organization was unable to resume its activities there and so had no first-hand knowledge of the situation on the ground. The ICRC had carried out its humanitarian activities in the SRS until 2007, when it was expelled from the region by the Ethiopian authorities and accused by them of supporting armed groups, an allegation it strongly denied. The ICRC pursued dialogue with the authorities with a view to clarifying these accusations, re-establishing trust and regaining access to protect and assist conflict-affected populations.

### Repatriated Ethiopians, IDPs and refugees receive emergency assistance

People repatriated from Eritrea or affected by violence in some regions received help from the National Society, acting together with the ICRC or with its support.

A total of 761 people of Ethiopian origin repatriated from Eritrea via Sudan, and arriving in Tigray, were met with blankets and hygiene items. The ICRC continued to monitor the situation, within the constraints, to ensure that people were repatriated voluntarily under humane conditions, in accordance with IHL.

Some 18,000 people displaced by ethnic clashes in Liben Zone and by cattle raids in Gambella improved their daily living conditions with the help of shelter materials, cooking implements and soap provided by the ICRC. In Jimma Zone, more than 5,000 people dispersed from their homes by religious violence were given tarpaulins, blankets and sleeping mats. Drought-affected people also benefited from essential household items, delivered with ICRC logistical support. To ensure that needs were met, ICRC assistance activities were coordinated with the relevant authorities and other aid organizations.

Weapon-wounded patients arriving at Assosa hospital in Benishangul-Gumuz, having been injured during fighting in Blue Nile State, Sudan, received treatment using ICRC-supplied medical materials.

### Rural communities access water and sanitation facilities

Over 50,000 people in Tigray and northern Afar secured access to clean and reliable water supplies, saving them long walks to potentially polluted wells or rivers, after the repair of 105 hand pumps and the construction of one new water point. Local community representatives received technical advice on maintaining recently constructed water points in working condition. Meanwhile, the regional authority and local technicians in two areas enhanced their ability to plan and implement future projects on a more autonomous basis by learning how to use Global Positioning Systems to plot water sources and compile them in a database. More than 187,000 people stood to benefit from this development. In a region where residents faced a continual threat from water-borne diseases, communities further reduced health risks by installing, with local water authorities and the ICRC, more than 600 latrines and attending 11 briefings on appropriate hygiene practices. Community health workers practised communicating such advice to others during training sessions, to the benefit of nearly 26,000 people.

### Civilians exchange news with their families

Ethiopian and Eritrean civilians separated by the sealed border, refugees, many from Eritrea – including an increasing number of unaccompanied children who had crossed the border and were living in Ethiopian refugee camps – as well as from Somalia and Sudan, continued to restore contact and/or exchange news with relatives through the family-links service. Refugees from Sudan contacted relatives via 2,060 telephone calls, facilitated by the National Society and the ICRC.

An elderly Eritrean living in Ethiopia for many years was repatriated to Eritrea with an ICRC travel document, one of 107 issued during the year. Eritrean nationals obtained their university/school transcripts through the ICRC, which allowed them to apply for further studies.

Having conducted a family-links needs assessment in 2010, the Swedish Red Cross, Ethiopian Red Cross and ICRC visited areas prioritized in the 2011 plan of action, with a view to enhancing the tracing skills of staff and volunteers. Visits focused on branches in Tigray, which consistently handled around 60% of the total RCM caseload in Ethiopia.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People continued to be detained in Ethiopia for reasons of State security. Those detainees did not receive visits from ICRC delegates, as the government had withdrawn authorization for such

visits in stages between 2004 and 2007. During talks, the Ethiopian government agreed in principle to the resumption of ICRC visits to security detainees in federally run places of detention. To this end, a timetable of activities, including an ICRC briefing for senior officials and an assessment of detention facilities early in 2012, was agreed upon.

Meanwhile, the ICRC focused on visiting detainees of Eritrean origin and monitoring general conditions in 10 regionally run detention centres in Tigray and Afar, according to its standard procedures. The authorities received confidential feedback on the ICRC's findings and, where necessary, recommendations for improvements. Detainees also used the RCM service to contact or stay in touch with relatives and received hygiene, education and leisure items as needed.

Some 4,000 detainees in 3 places of detention in the Tigray and Afar regions benefited from infrastructural improvements. An ICRC assessment of water, sanitation and kitchen facilities in all Tigray prisons was completed and the report handed to the regional prison administration and individual prison authorities for their consideration. Prison technicians who had been trained to maintain prison infrastructure reinforced their motivation and performance through follow-up meetings with ICRC staff.

### WOUNDED AND SICK

More than 8,900 patients, many of whom had been injured during armed conflict or episodes of violence, were treated at 7 physical rehabilitation centres, which continued to receive ICRC support in the form of funding, materials, equipment, on-the-job supervision and training.

In addition to producing and fitting prostheses and orthoses, staff at all the ICRC-supported centres continued to assemble wheelchairs for patients – an initiative begun in 2010. Twenty-three trainee technicians on the ICRC-taught nationally accredited three-year orthotics and prosthetics diploma course further developed their skills and so boosted the pool of skilled local personnel.

Following the validation of Ethiopia's national physical rehabilitation strategy, an implementation plan was discussed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, with ICRC technical input.

### AUTHORITIES

In April, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi met the ICRC president and head of delegation for dialogue aimed at clarifying the role of the ICRC within Ethiopia. A number of matters were discussed, including ICRC access to the SRS and federally run places of detention, neither of which had been granted by the authorities since 2007 (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their freedom*). The minister of federal affairs was among other government officials to hold meetings with ICRC representatives on IHL and humanitarian-related issues.

Almost 50 parliamentarians and 45 senior government officials boosted their knowledge of IHL during seminars organized by the ICRC, the latter with the Ethiopian Civil Service College. Meanwhile, about 450 regional government officials participated in National Society/ICRC briefings, enhancing awareness of humanitarian-related issues in regions prone to violence. Some 520 judges and prosecutors also deepened their knowledge of IHL during briefings.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Some 6,000 ENDF personnel participated in IHL training prior to their deployment on peacekeeping missions in Sudan. More than 100 legal officers, 80 non-commissioned officers and 60 medical personnel from the ENDF attended ad hoc ICRC briefings on IHL developments. Otherwise, the ENDF, which had halted cooperation with the ICRC following the expulsion of the organization from the SRS in 2007, left on hold plans to reinforce the integration of IHL into training with ICRC assistance.

The police continued to incorporate international human rights law and humanitarian principles into doctrine, training and operations, supported by ICRC-supplied teaching materials. More than 2,550 personnel – including commissioners and assistant commissioners, officers from special forces, crime prevention and regular police units, women officers and new recruits – participated in 11 ICRC-organized regional seminars on these themes.

### CIVIL SOCIETY

In violence-prone regions, more than 400 village elders and representatives of community associations learnt more about IHL and the work of the Movement, and so enhanced their ability to pass this information on to their own communities, after participating in National Society/ICRC-run briefings.

Some 720 students attended IHL briefings. With ICRC sponsorship, three students from Hawassa University took part in, and won, a regional moot court competition. Eighteen law lecturers from various universities completed a five-day intensive training course on IHL, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to boost their own research into this subject and to encourage interest among students through their teaching. Universities received IHL reference materials.

About 80 media representatives, including journalists and police communication officers, discussed conflict reporting, humanitarian issues and the Movement during two separate two-day seminars.

### RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Ethiopian Red Cross worked in partnership with the ICRC to assist struggling communities in violence- and drought-affected regions, run the family-links service (see *Civilians*) and promote IHL and humanitarian principles (see *Authorities* and *Civil society*).

To reinforce its skills in these areas, the National Society – which was undergoing a structural review – received ICRC funds, training, expertise and logistics back-up. For example, the core running costs of its headquarters and 28 branches were partially covered by the ICRC, which also paid the salaries of 43 key staff, including family-links specialists. During train-the-trainer sessions, to which the ICRC contributed, 28 National Society volunteers with medical backgrounds learnt how to disseminate their knowledge to volunteers training to become ambulance attendants. Meanwhile, 450 National Society volunteers from 21 branches underwent first-aid training run by the Ethiopian Red Cross with ICRC support, while personnel in seven branches refreshed their IHL knowledge through ICRC briefings.

In addition to monthly meetings between Movement partners, representatives of National Society headquarters, the 11 regional offices and the ICRC gathered in January to review the year's activities and plan ahead, further strengthening cooperation and coordination.