

# GUINEA



+ ICRC delegation   
 + ICRC sub-delegation   
 + ICRC office

\* Sierra Leone is covered by the ICRC delegation in Guinea

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	<b>1,275</b>
Assistance	<b>3,503</b>
Prevention	<b>1,418</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>1,499</b>
General	-

**▶ 7,694**

of which: Overheads 470

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>86%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	<b>18</b>
National staff (daily workers not included)	<b>103</b>

## KEY POINTS

### In 2011, the ICRC:

- ▶ established constructive dialogue with Guinea's new administration, and helped it address penitentiary challenges posed by multiple arrests linked to violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces in Conakry
- ▶ in Guinea, through training/material support to National Society first-aiders and reinforced cooperation with hospitals, helped ensure the prompt treatment of the weapon-wounded during intercommunal clashes/violent protests
- ▶ conducted a seminar for military/security personnel leading Guinea's military/security sector reform on integrating relevant aspects of IHL/international human rights law into the security services' training, doctrine and operations
- ▶ provided life-saving food supplements to 1,444 malnourished detainees in 27 Justice Ministry-run facilities, significantly reducing cases of severe malnutrition
- ▶ with the Guinean water authorities, improved access to drinking water for some 90,000 and 119,000 residents in urban and rural areas respectively
- ▶ in Sierra Leone, with the National Society, successfully lobbied ministers to approve cabinet papers recommending implementation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions at national level and the creation of a national IHL committee

The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, opening its delegation in 2001. It seeks to protect people affected by situations of violence, restore links between separated relatives, enhance the capacity of the health system and improve water supply. It visits detainees and advises the authorities on detention-related matters. It also promotes IHL and humanitarian principles among the armed and security forces, authorities, and civil society. Since 2009, the delegation has supported the ICRC office in Sierra Leone. The ICRC works with each National Society to strengthen its capacities to respond to emergencies and to promote the Movement.

## CONTEXT

Following elections in late 2010, Guinea's new government took office in January to pursue the country's democratic process. With the population eagerly awaiting tangible benefits, the government embarked on measures to stabilize the economy, address poverty and, with international support, reform the justice, military and security sectors. While national transition mechanisms were in place, the task of organizing legislative elections remained pending, leaving the country without a national assembly and causing antagonism between the ruling party and opposition groups. A July attempt on the president's life underlined the fragility of the situation, with both civilians and military officers arrested. In September, an opposition-led demonstration in Conakry culminated in violent clashes with security forces, leading to numerous arrests and injuries and several deaths. Outside the capital, sporadic eruptions of intercommunal violence caused material damage, temporary displacement, injuries and fatalities. Aiming to reconcile social divisions and address grievances, the government announced plans to establish a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. Meanwhile, widespread unemployment and poverty, combined with limited access to basic services, continued to make living conditions difficult for much of the population.

Refugees continued to arrive in south-eastern Guinea fleeing hostilities in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire (see *Abidjan*), adding strain on local resources. In March, the outbreak of armed conflict in Libya (see *Libya*) prompted several thousand Guineans living there to return home.

In Sierra Leone, the government pursued efforts to consolidate peace and tackle corruption, poverty and unemployment ahead of elections planned for 2012.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Given the change of government and residual insecurity in Guinea, the ICRC focused on building respect for humanitarian principles and the Movement's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action among civil and military authorities and other actors with influence in situations of violence. It pursued initiatives to protect and assist vulnerable civilians and detainees, while strengthening the capacities of health services and the Red Cross Society of Guinea to respond effectively in emergencies.

Delegates established constructive dialogue with Guinea's new administration. Following violent demonstrations in Conakry, they

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION		Total	
<b>CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)</b>				
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>				
RCMs collected		167	UAMs/SCs*	35
RCMs distributed		192		26
Phone calls facilitated between family members		91		
<b>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</b>				
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		48	Women	13
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		5		14
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)		69		15
<b>UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</b>				
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		92	Girls	27
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		13		2
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at 31 December 2011		57		12
<b>Documents</b>				
People to whom travel documents were issued		12		
Official documents relayed between family members across borders/front lines		1		
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>				
<b>ICRC visits</b>				
Detainees visited		3,893	Women	
Detainees visited and monitored individually		109		1
Detainees newly registered		109		1
Number of visits carried out		275		
Number of places of detention visited		56		
<b>Restoring family links</b>				
RCMs collected		211		
RCMs distributed		2		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		174		

\* 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>					
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	209,806	50%	30%	
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>					
<b>Economic security, water and habitat</b>					
Food	Beneficiaries	1,444			
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,945			
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	7,402			
<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>					
<b>Hospitals</b>					
Hospitals supported	Structures	7			
<b>Water and habitat</b>					
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	834			

shared with relevant ministries two confidential reports regarding alleged human rights abuses documented during the events. This aimed to support the authorities in managing any future incidents effectively, focusing on appropriate use of force when maintaining public order and on proper arrest/detention procedures. Regular field briefings for military, *gendarmerie* and police troops also focused on these issues. In the context of military/security sector reform, the ICRC began helping military/police training commands to develop strategies to ensure systematic respect for IHL/international human rights law among the reformed forces. More widely, National Society/ICRC teams raised awareness of IHL and the Movement among representatives of political parties and other civil society members and stimulated media coverage on these topics.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees held by Guinea's Justice Ministry, and some by the police/*gendarmerie*. Following the submission of a report highlighting key issues identified during visits to facilities under Defence Ministry jurisdiction, it obtained authorization to visit all detainees held by the *gendarmerie*. To assist the authorities in coping with the repercussions of long-standing

neglect of Guinea's penitentiary system and of overcrowding exacerbated by the multiple arrests made in connection with the violence in Conakry, the ICRC stepped up its existing support to help ensure that detainees had access to adequate food, health care, water and sanitation. Meanwhile, it worked alongside the authorities to improve the monitoring of health in prisons and enhance health care standards by establishing guidelines on basic medical protocols and organizing related seminars for prison health workers.

The ICRC pursued efforts to ensure the care of the weapon-wounded in case of violence. In Guinea, it continued to strengthen the capacities of three previously supported hospitals while expanding its assistance programme to four others. Staff benefited from guidance, training, medical supplies and equipment, better preparing them to handle influxes of patients. In parallel, the National Society received training and equipment to consolidate its first-aid network. War-surgery training for military health professionals and medical students at Conakry University aimed to enhance national surgical capacities. Such preparations enabled medical services to respond efficiently when violence erupted.

With the Guinean water authorities, the ICRC improved access to clean water for thousands of urban and rural dwellers and supported facility maintenance training for water board staff to ensure sustainability.

With ICRC training, funds, materials and logistical support, the National Societies in both Guinea and Sierra Leone strengthened their management and their capacities to respond to any election-related violence, promote the Movement and IHL/international human rights law to diverse audiences and respond to family-links needs. In Guinea, such support enabled thousands of refugees fleeing hostilities in Côte d'Ivoire, including separated/unaccompanied children, to obtain help in reconnecting with relatives left behind.

Coordination with other actors helped ensure humanitarian needs were covered while avoiding duplication.

## CIVILIANS

Throughout the year, meetings with Guinea's authorities served to remind them of their responsibilities to respect civilians. Following September's demonstrations in Conakry, the administration received two confidential ICRC reports regarding alleged human rights abuses documented during the events. These aimed to ensure the effective management of future such incidents, focusing on appropriate use of force when maintaining public order and proper arrest/detention procedures.

Dialogue initiated with the transitional administration in 2010 regarding a demonstration suppressed on 28 September 2009 – an incident from which many people remained unaccounted for – was not pursued as the new government's priorities lay elsewhere.

To strengthen Guinean capacities to manage human remains, a local forensic specialist, the National Society and the ICRC convened to coordinate their respective activities. Twenty National Society family-links volunteers improved their skills in registering, identifying and burying human remains during an ICRC-supported course.

### Conflict-affected refugees/returnees receive help to contact relatives

In south-eastern Guinea, refugees/returnees fleeing armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire benefited from National Society/ICRC first-aid services (see *Wounded and sick*) and help to locate/contact relatives left behind. Among the separated/unaccompanied children registered by National Society/ICRC teams, 13 rejoined their families, while others returned home independently after the ICRC had located their families and/or provided the necessary travel documents. Regular contact with the authorities and humanitarian actors involved in responding to the influx, such as UNHCR, served to identify unmet needs and avoid duplication.

Additionally, Guineans who left Libya following the onset of armed conflict contacted family on arrival at Conakry airport, thanks to National Society teams.

### Guineans and Sierra Leoneans consulted regarding their family-links needs

In both Guinea and Sierra Leone, family-links services remained available to people dispersed by violence, migration or other causes, including Guineans uprooted by intercommunal clashes. National Society/ICRC teams toured both countries to assess

family-links needs, developing contacts with children sent abroad for their education, migrants and other potentially isolated groups. The National Societies' capacities to meet identified needs were examined in parallel, and reports produced to help them determine their future family-links policies/strategies.

### Vulnerable communities gain access to clean water

After years of underinvestment in public services, many Guineans had limited access to clean water. With ICRC training, advice and financial back-up, the Guinean water authorities improved the water supply in urban and rural areas, benefiting some 90,000 and 119,000 people respectively. Thirty-six water-board engineers underwent expert maintenance training, applying previously acquired theoretical knowledge during practical exercises.

In Mali town, the completion of the three wells begun in 2010 doubled the water supply available to some 17,000 residents. Around 73,000 people in six other towns benefited similarly from repairs to pump installations, donations of generators/components or connections to electrical networks, reducing the risk of disruption to water services.

Rural residents gained easier access to clean water thanks to the construction/rehabilitation of water points nearer their homes. Village water committees underwent training in maintaining the facilities and promoting good hygiene practices, helping to sustain the improvements and reduce health problems associated with water-borne diseases.

The Guinean National Society saw its capacity to respond to humanitarian needs enhanced with the completion of three ICRC-constructed branch offices. No situations arose requiring the ICRC to distribute emergency supplies of water or essential household items.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Guinea held by the Justice Ministry, and some by the police/*gendarmérie*, received visits from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Among those visited were people arrested in connection with violence in Conakry and intercommunal clashes elsewhere. Security detainees benefited from individual follow-up by delegates, who also closely monitored other vulnerable inmates, including women, minors, foreigners, and people sentenced to death.

Detainees, including the newly arrested, made use of Movement family-links services to contact their relatives/consular representatives.

Following visits, the ICRC shared feedback confidentially with the authorities. The Justice Ministry was notified where detainees' trials were overdue, resulting in the release or sentencing of some individuals, and thereby encouraging greater respect for judicial guarantees. After receiving an ICRC report highlighting issues identified during visits to facilities under its jurisdiction, the Defence Ministry granted the organization access to all detainees held by the *gendarmérie*.

The appointment of new penitentiary officials progressed, with the aim of enhancing prison management and ensuring systematic respect for detainees' legal rights. Over 680 officials learnt more about the humanitarian principles to be observed during arrest/detention at ICRC briefings.

## **Detainees benefit from vital nutritional and medical care and improved hygiene**

Detainees in prisons continued to suffer the repercussions of long-standing neglect of Guinea's penitentiary system, with overcrowding straining infrastructure and the authorities' capacity to provide adequate food, medical attention and hygiene. Multiple arrests linked to the violence in Conakry in July and September exerted further pressure. To help them cope and minimize any adverse impact on inmates, the authorities received ICRC reports containing concrete recommendations (see *Civilians*), along with sustained advice and, as needed, increased material/financial support to expand existing assistance initiatives.

As insufficient meals continued to threaten detainees' health, the most vulnerable benefited from an emergency-feeding programme launched with the authorities in 2010. While undergoing regular health monitoring, 1,444 malnourished detainees in 27 facilities had their official meals supplemented with high-energy biscuits. Cases of severe malnutrition decreased significantly, with no associated deaths reported. The authorities received advice on managing the programme properly to ensure maximum impact.

With ICRC encouragement, health monitoring improved, thanks partly to the increased presence of prison health workers. This helped mitigate the risk of epidemics and ensure that detainees diagnosed with serious illnesses could obtain timely referrals to appropriate medical facilities. Twenty-four such detainees had their treatment paid for by the ICRC. Detainees with less serious complaints could receive on-site treatment thanks to ICRC-provided drugs, medical supplies and equipment.

To improve their general health, hygiene and well-being, some 5,400 inmates benefited from pest-control campaigns, and over 2,900 received hygiene and recreational items. Nearly 2,000 benefited from ICRC upgrades to water/sanitation facilities, kitchens, infirmaries and/or roofing in 10 prisons, including an overhaul of the sewage system in Conakry's main prison.

## **Authorities work to bring about long-term improvements to detainees' conditions**

Meanwhile, the penitentiary administration and the Health, Justice, Defence and Security Ministries worked alongside the ICRC to bring about sustainable improvements to detainees' conditions.

To enhance national prison health care standards, they promoted new guidelines on basic medical protocols produced by the penitentiary administration/ICRC in 2010. Prison health workers reviewed the guidelines and discussed their approach to common health problems at ICRC-supported seminars and were encouraged to include detainees in national disease-prevention programmes. Although the authorities put on hold plans to construct new prison accommodation, the penitentiary administration, with ICRC encouragement, investigated the possibility of allocating a budget for penitentiary maintenance.

## **WOUNDED AND SICK**

Guinean hospitals benefited from expanded ICRC support to strengthen their capacities to provide quality care to weapon-wounded patients. At three previously supported hospitals, including Conakry's main Donka hospital, existing and newly hired staff underwent on-the-job assessments and received

training to consolidate surgical/dressing techniques and/or enhance intensive-care practices. To practice handling mass casualties, staff at Donka and N'Zérékoré hospitals and local National Society first-aiders/stretchers-bearers engaged in emergency simulation exercises organized with ICRC input. Donka's management refined its contingency plans in consultation with delegates.

Four newly supported hospitals, including Conakry's military hospital, received basic equipment required for more efficient treatment of the weapon-wounded, while staff received training in handling the injured in emergencies and participated in contingency-planning workshops.

The above-mentioned efforts enabled medical services to respond efficiently when violence erupted. During September's demonstrations in Conakry, for example, 113 victims received prompt attention from ICRC-equipped National Society first-aiders, with the seriously injured transferred to hospital.

Hospitals (in total 834 beds) also benefited from ICRC renovations to infrastructure and upgraded medical/surgical supplies and equipment, improving operating procedures and conditions of care. The donation of two 2,000-litre water tanks to the military hospital doubled its water storage capacity, ensuring a reliable supply. Other hospitals had generators/solar panels installed, minimizing disruptions linked to unstable power.

Twenty-four military health professionals studied war surgery during an ICRC course, enhancing national surgical capacities. An ICRC-taught module at Conakry University, run for the second year, enabled 44 medical students to acquire similar skills.

## **AUTHORITIES**

Members of Guinea's new administration, at central and local level, increased their understanding of IHL and ICRC/National Society activities during ICRC briefings. These served to strengthen cooperation on detention-related matters (see *People deprived of their freedom*) and to impress upon officials the importance of safeguarding civilians (see *Civilians*) and of better integrating IHL into Guinean legislation, particularly the military justice code. While the delay in holding legislative elections hampered IHL implementation, the defence, foreign affairs and justice ministers established a working group, in consultation with the ICRC, to coordinate such work once legislative bodies were in place.

International community representatives supporting Guinea's democratic process, including the European Union, and humanitarian agencies assisting refugees/returnees from Côte d'Ivoire (see *Civilians*) maintained contact with the ICRC to discuss and coordinate their activities.

In Sierra Leone, efforts continued to accelerate the incorporation of IHL treaty provisions into national legislation and to mobilize government support for the revision of the 1962 Red Cross Act. With National Society/ICRC encouragement, ministers approved cabinet papers on the Geneva Conventions Act and on a proposed inter-ministerial IHL committee.

Plans to sponsor Guinean/Sierra Leonean officials to attend an IHL seminar in Abuja fell through after the event was cancelled (see *Nigeria*).

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As part of military/security sector reform, Guinea's army, *gendarmerie* and police training commands discussed how the ICRC might contribute to training initiatives to embed respect for IHL/international human rights law throughout the restructured forces. Besides meeting ICRC delegates regularly to strengthen coordination, members of technical working groups (including officers responsible for IHL training) and international partners involved in the reform process studied the rules applicable during armed conflict/other situations of violence at an ICRC seminar. Together they developed recommendations on better integrating relevant aspects of IHL/international human rights law into the security services' training, doctrine and operations.

At field level, over 2,000 army, *gendarmerie* and police officers, including new recruits, deepened their understanding of IHL/international human rights law at briefings/seminars conducted jointly by military IHL instructors and National Society/ICRC personnel. Besides examining their responsibilities when maintaining public order and, where relevant, during arrest and detention, participants refined their grasp of the Movement's distinctive work.

In Sierra Leone, the armed forces welcomed an ICRC training proposal for 2012 intended to build the capacity of their training unit to assume full responsibility for IHL instruction. Meanwhile, troops enhanced their knowledge of the Movement and humanitarian principles through National Society presentations.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

In Guinea, efforts to build widespread support for the Movement and humanitarian principles continued. National Society communication officers enhanced their techniques through ICRC workshops, better preparing them for such activities.

At community level, religious leaders and representatives of NGOs, political parties, trade unions and youth associations raised their awareness of these topics at National Society/ICRC briefings, backed by publications. Sixty young people of various nationalities improved their understanding of the Movement and similarities between IHL and Islamic law at a conference co-organized by the Organization of Muslim Youth in West Africa and the ICRC.

Law faculties worked with the ICRC to stimulate IHL interest among students through presentations/events. Teams from eight universities tackled IHL scenarios at a national competition, with the winners sponsored to compete at regional level (see *Abidjan*). While lecturers/students deepened their IHL knowledge using the ICRC's library, courses for lecturers were postponed after the authorities, prioritizing election preparations, shortened the academic year.

National/local media helped encourage public support for Movement activities. Journalists observed ICRC water/hospital initiatives (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*) during field trips, and two radio reporters participated in a workshop abroad, helping enhance humanitarian reporting. These events, alongside National Society/ICRC briefings and information materials, generated numerous articles/broadcasts.

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Besides gaining operational experience by partnering delegates (see above), the Guinean and Sierra Leonean National Societies received ICRC training, funds and materials to strengthen their capacities to promote the Movement and IHL/international

human rights law, develop youth initiatives and provide family-links services. Meetings of Movement components working locally facilitated coordination.

Benefiting from ICRC guidance, funds and improvements to infrastructure (see *Civilians*), the Guinean Red Cross pursued its internal reorganization, strengthening its governance and management and, to boost revenue, developing its commercial first-aid curricula. It refined its contingency plans in case of election-related violence, reinforcing cooperation with hospitals. Emergency-response teams received equipment/training enabling them to provide effective first-aid/family-links services to victims of violence and to refugees/returnees (see *Civilians* and *Wounded and sick*).

Using the Guinean model, the Sierra Leonean Red Cross prepared election contingency plans with ICRC help. With sustained back-up, it mobilized support for national IHL implementation and briefed military/police personnel (see *Authorities* and *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

Both National Societies worked on enhancing their family-links services (see *Civilians*), including human remains management, while increasing the efficiency of such services through ICRC-supported workshops on disaster preparedness.