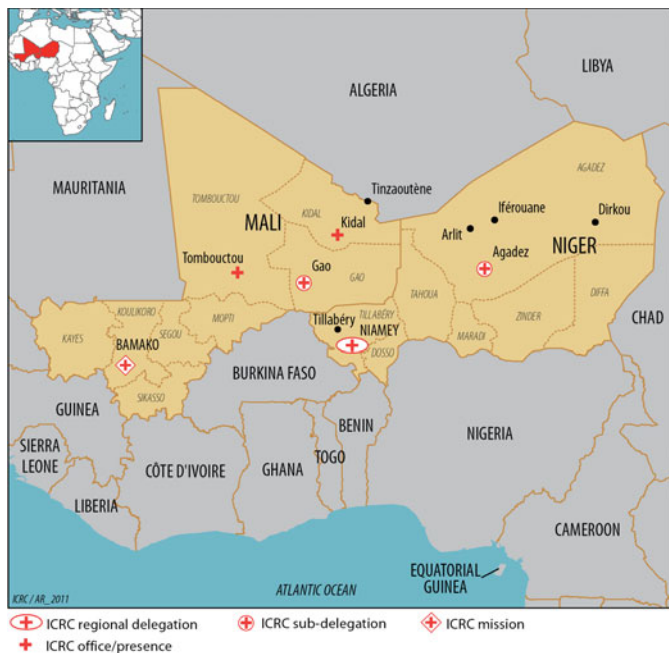


NIAMEY (regional)

COVERING: Mali, Niger



EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)	
Protection	1,081
Assistance	15,031
Prevention	2,423
Cooperation with National Societies	1,964
General	-

20,498
of which: Overheads 1,251

IMPLEMENTATION RATE	
Expenditure/yearly budget	70%

PERSONNEL	
Expatriates	28
National staff (daily workers not included)	162

KEY POINTS

In 2011, the ICRC:

- strengthened dialogue with authorities and weapon bearers in volatile areas, facilitating safe National Society/ICRC access to people in need
- with the National Societies and agricultural/veterinary authorities, boosted the food/economic security of 46,000 pastoralist and 752 crop-farming households (total: 281,840 people) through livelihood-support initiatives
- with the National Societies, provided food to sustain 41,975 families (272,591 people) affected by violence, security operations and/or natural disaster
- supported the National Societies in providing some 6,000 vulnerable migrants fleeing armed conflict in Libya, or stranded at the Mali-Algeria border, with shelter, food, medical care, transport and/or family-links services
- provided 20,915 people with easier access to clean water, helping meet domestic, irrigation and livestock needs
- through logistic/supervisory support, enabled health services to run vital immunization campaigns in remote areas

Continually present in the region since 1982, the ICRC opened its Niamey regional delegation in 2010 in response to the consequences of fighting between government forces and armed groups or of other situations of violence in northern Mali and Niger. It seeks to protect and assist people affected by violence and adverse climatic conditions and visits detainees, providing them with aid where necessary. It also promotes IHL among armed and security forces and armed groups and encourages its implementation by the authorities throughout the region. It works closely with the region's National Societies and helps them develop their operational capacities.

CONTEXT

Following the 2010 food-security crisis which devastated stock-breeding and crop production in northern Mali and in Niger, communities began reconstructing their livelihoods. However, conditions remained challenging in an environment prone to natural disaster and weakened by over-exploitation, poverty, poor infrastructure and insecurity. Indications that the 2011–12 harvest would be disappointing raised concerns of an imminent deterioration in food security.

Tensions and sporadic intercommunal violence persisted, fuelled partly by competition for scarce resources. Banditry and looting were commonly reported and mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) remained present in some areas. A network of armed Islamist groups claiming to belong to Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, reportedly based in northern Mali, remained active regionwide, claiming responsibility for several expatriate kidnappings. Associated security operations and general insecurity caused displacement and hindered humanitarian access and basic services.

Remote frontier regions remained a thoroughfare for migrants and traffickers. Both Mali and Niger felt the impact of the armed conflict in Libya, as people streamed across northern borders towards their countries of origin, exacerbating social/economic pressures. Reports of prolific weapon trading and the presence of former combatants made many uneasy.

In Niger, the transitional chapter that began with a coup d'état in February 2010 ended, with peaceful elections returning the country to civilian rule. International cooperation resumed as the new government embarked on efforts to restore stability and investor confidence.

In Mali, political circles geared up for elections in 2012. Although fighting between government forces and armed opposition groups in the north ceased in 2009–10, the emergence of new groups/alliances seeking greater independence put past peace agreements into question.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In the aftermath of the food-security crisis, the Niamey delegation initially shifted its focus away from emergency aid, developing a diversified approach intended to consolidate livelihood recovery. It concentrated on assisting communities in northern Mali

Main figures and indicators		PROTECTION	Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)					
RCMs collected			21	UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs distributed			14		
Phone calls facilitated between family members			1,319		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families			19		
People transferred/repatriated			1,146		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons					
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered			2	Women	Minors
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2011 (people)			2		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)¹					
ICRC visits					
Detainees visited			6,165	Women	Minors
Detainees visited and monitored individually			32		
Detainees newly registered			12		
Number of visits carried out			23		
Number of places of detention visited			12		
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected			2		
RCMs distributed			2		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative			24		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

Main figures and indicators		ASSISTANCE	Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)¹					
Economic security, water and habitat					
Food		Beneficiaries	278,624	35%	43%
		<i>of whom IDPs</i>	73,334		
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	11,611	30%	40%
		<i>of whom IDPs</i>	10,450		
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives		Beneficiaries	294,542	34%	1%
		<i>of whom IDPs</i>	29,455		
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	20,915	30%	50%
Health					
Health centres supported		Structures	9		
Average catchment population			56,249		
Consultations		Patients	4,972		
		<i>of which curative</i>		1,410	1,706
		<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>		459	
Immunizations		Doses	153,132		
		<i>of which for children aged five or under</i>	122,285		
		<i>of which for women of childbearing age</i>	30,847		
Referrals to a second level of care		Patients	22		
Health education		Sessions	100		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
Economic security, water and habitat					
Essential household items ¹		Beneficiaries	7,011		
Water and habitat activities ²		Beneficiaries	1,385		
WOUNDED AND SICK¹					
Water and habitat					
Water and habitat activities		Number of beds	149		

1. Mali, Niger 2. Niger only

and in Agadez and Tillabéry (Niger), weakened by long-standing insecurity and poor services/infrastructure, where few other humanitarian actors were present. Towards year-end, however, the delegation prepared to resume urgent interventions as food security looked, again, to be threatened.

As in 2010, the ICRC sought to overcome logistic and staffing challenges caused by regional security risks using creative working/monitoring procedures to pursue its activities, occasionally via remote management. Many were conducted by ICRC national staff and National Society personnel alongside local partners. Despite persistent insecurity, especially in northern Mali, this approach allowed the ICRC to initiate activities in hitherto inaccessible areas.

The ICRC embarked on diverse initiatives designed to bolster the fragile economic/food security of those hardest hit in 2010. Implemented with the National Societies and local agricultural/veterinary authorities, these initiatives facilitated the establishment of sustainable livelihood-support mechanisms. Pastoralists were provided with free veterinary services and the opportunity to sell off their weakest animals, boosting livestock health and productivity, while crop farmers were supplied with seed to diversify and increase their sources of income. Affordable, community-managed fodder and/or cereal banks were set up as additional support.

ICRC/National Society teams responded swiftly to new emergencies, providing food and/or household essentials to struggling farmers, IDPs and victims of natural disaster. To better prepare

communities against future threats, the ICRC improved water infrastructure for urban dwellers in northern Mali and for pastoralists in Niger and launched cash-for-work projects to enhance agricultural infrastructure while boosting household economies.

The ICRC strengthened support to health authorities in northern Mali and Niger's Agadez region, renovating infrastructure, donating medical supplies and equipment, and facilitating immunization campaigns and health-worker training.

With the influx of arrivals from Libya, the delegation increased its support to the National Societies, particularly by constructing a transit centre in Niger. Accordingly, they stepped up existing activities for migrants, providing valuable assistance and family-links services to new arrivals.

The ICRC developed dialogue with the new leadership in Niger and with the Malian authorities, deepening their understanding of the Movement's work, particularly regarding IHL- and detention-related matters. Both governments took tangible steps to advance national IHL implementation, while their armed/security forces pursued the integration of IHL/international human rights law into training, doctrine and operations with ICRC input. Briefings for peacekeepers and, particularly, military/police troops and other weapon bearers in volatile areas helped gain their support for ICRC/National Society activities. These, combined with high-profile media coverage and extensive contact with religious/community leaders, contributed to broad acceptance of the Movement, facilitating its operations.

Delegates visited detainees, obtaining wider access to those in Mali. Discussions with authorities in both countries aimed at further broadening ICRC detention-related activities progressed. Inmates in seven facilities benefited from improved water/sanitation infrastructure.

By partnering the National Societies in the field and providing financial, material, logistic and training support, the ICRC strengthened their operational capacities. Besides expanding their activities for migrants, they reinforced their emergency response and communication capacities.

Coordination with other humanitarian actors, including Movement partners, ensured needs were met without duplicating efforts.

CIVILIANS

Given persistent insecurity, the ICRC reminded authorities and weapon bearers in volatile areas of their responsibilities to respect civilians, including migrants, and humanitarian workers in conformity with relevant international/national law.

Vulnerable migrants and children receive relief and family-links services

With fighting escalating in Libya, thousands of migrants arrived in Mali and especially Niger. In coordination with relevant authorities and humanitarian organizations, the National Societies stepped up existing activities for migrants to respond to the influx, backed by ICRC logistic, material and financial support.

On reaching Agadez from the Libya-Niger border crossing, some 5,000 people broke their journey at a purpose-built National Society-run transit centre. As needed, they obtained help to travel onward. Meanwhile, at the Algeria-Mali border, people, including stranded migrants turned away from Algeria and people fleeing Libya, received accommodation and medical attention. The most vulnerable were transferred to a safe location to recuperate. In both countries, migrants contacted relatives using Movement telephone/RCM services, and some 6,000 received food.

Elsewhere in Mali, 200 children who had become isolated after leaving home for their education received help from the National Society to reconnect with their families through an initiative expanded since its launch in 2010. Nineteen rejoined their families.

Violence- and disaster-affected civilians receive emergency aid

In northern Mali and Niger's Agadez and Tillabéry regions, people affected by intercommunal violence, security operations, flooding or fire, mainly IDPs, received food from National Society/ICRC teams, helping sustain them in precarious conditions. Farmers weakened by the 2010 food crisis and beset by fresh challenges, such as erratic rainfall, received similar assistance, as in Niger, where 30,286 farmers expecting a disappointing yield received food to help support their families (195,800 people). In total, 272,591 people (41,975 households) received food aid. In both countries, 5,611 residents and IDPs (860 households) struggling without belongings were given blankets, cooking equipment and other essentials. ICRC-donated stocks facilitated a swift response to emergencies, enabling the National Societies to distribute essential household items to 1,000 households (6,000 people).

CIVILIANS			MALI	NIGER
Economic security, water and habitat				
Food		Beneficiaries	77,937	200,687
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	53,754	19,580
Essential household items		Beneficiaries	9,162	2,449
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	8,246	2,204
Agricultural, veterinary and other micro-economic initiatives		Beneficiaries	14,343	151,115
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries	14,443	15,112
Water and habitat activities		Beneficiaries	11,750	9,165
Health				
Health centres supported		Structures	4	5
Average catchment population			17,933	38,316
Consultations		Patients	4,972	
	<i>of which curative</i>	Patients	3,116	
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>	Patients	459	
Immunizations		Doses	42,803	110,329
	<i>of which for children aged five or under</i>	Doses	42,502	79,783
	<i>of which for women of childbearing age</i>	Doses	301	30,546
Referrals to a second level of care		Patients	22	
Health education		Sessions	100	

Where livelihoods had been undermined by insecurity and creeping desertification, 12,702 people (2,117 households) received cash assistance in return for deepening reservoirs or rehabilitating pasture. These activities benefited the whole community while rewarding workers with a welcome cash injection.

Crisis-affected people work to reconstruct and protect their livelihoods

Nomadic crop farmers and herders struggling to overcome the 2010 food crisis in northern Mali and Niger's Agadez and Tillabéry regions benefited from various National Society/ICRC initiatives to consolidate livelihood recovery and strengthen local capacities to withstand future challenges. Many were implemented in partnership with local agricultural authorities, associations and communities, encouraging ownership and durability. Their input ensured the relevance of National Society/ICRC activities in light of environmental/security developments.

Farmers' food and economic security boosted

In both countries, 752 families (5,114 people) received ICRC-supplied seed, tools and fertilizer, helping boost production. While some grew staples, others began to diversify their sources of revenue by growing cash crops, mainly vegetables, thereby enhancing their diet and generating additional income. Market gardeners were similarly provided with vegetable seed, tools, fertilizer, training and upgraded irrigation infrastructure (see below) to maximize yield.

In Agadez, farming families took the opportunity to buy their staple, millet, at subsidized prices from cereal banks after the ICRC renovated and donated initial stocks to six such banks. Nearly 700 community members, grouped in committees, received training in cereal-stock management to ensure a reliable service year-round.

Pastoralists reconstruct their livelihoods

To boost animal health and productivity, regional veterinary services and livestock authorities, a specialist consultancy and the National Societies/ICRC cooperated to provide free outreach services and training in animal husbandry to pastoralists reliant on stockbreeding. In total, 46,014 herders and their families (276,726 people) benefited from such initiatives.

Between January and June, through a campaign launched in December 2010 with ICRC logistic and financial support and veterinary drugs/equipment, the herders vaccinated and/or treated their animals against common parasites/diseases, boosting the health and market value of over 2.25 million animals. Around 14,600 chose to sell weaker animals to the ICRC at competitive prices, leaving them with smaller, healthy herds and funds to buy food and other essentials. The weak animals were slaughtered and any edible meat cured and donated to schools and health and detention facilities to feed people under their care.

In parallel, 34,470 herders underwent training in livestock and natural resource management, learning to identify animal diseases among other skills. Some formed committees to run fodder banks, which allowed pastoralists to buy fodder at affordable rates just as cereal banks served crop farmers (see above). Once trained in stock management, 61 such committees were supplied with fodder and salt licks to kick-start their services, sufficient to cater for 30,000 herders for up to three months.

Towards year-end, given indications of an imminent deterioration in food security regionwide, preparations to mitigate the threat began with additional, large-scale cereal distributions and veterinary campaigns. In support, 12 veterinary assistants in Agadez were selected for ICRC-funded training.

Vulnerable communities gain easier access to quality water and health care

In Mali's violence-prone north, 11,750 urban residents gained improved access to clean water after the ICRC repaired/constructed 17 water points in Gao, extending the network to areas populated by IDPs, and rehabilitated a sub-surface dam in Kidal. Similarly, in Niger, pastoralists and market gardeners (see above) were better able to meet domestic, farming and livestock needs thanks to well-repair/irrigation initiatives in rural Agadez and Tillabéry.

In both countries, health authorities in northern regions received assistance in delivering services to government-recommended standards. Several communities gained easier access to health care with the construction/renovation of eight health centres (149 beds) equipped with water/sanitation facilities. Of these, three in Agadez reopened for the first time since 2007 with six months' worth of essential drugs/equipment.

Health workers benefited from supplies, training and supervision, notably to reduce health risks surrounding pregnancy and, in Mali, to improve medical stock management and the handling of HIV/AIDS. Eight Malians qualified as skilled traditional midwives on a nine-month, ICRC-funded course. With malaria and food insecurity commonplace, health workers offered malaria treatment and nutritional guidance during community-based education sessions prepared in consultation with ICRC delegates.

With ICRC vehicle, financial and supervisory support, including advice on storing/transporting vaccines in optimum conditions, health workers made vital immunizations (e.g. against poliomyelitis or meningitis) available to remote, nomadic communities that had missed out during years of insecurity. In Niger, for example, teams administered 110,329 vaccine doses, including 79,783 for children aged five or under. Children at risk of malnutrition received vitamins.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM	MALI	NIGER
ICRC visits		
Detainees visited	2,371	3,794
Detainees visited and monitored individually	25	7
Detainees newly registered	10	2
Number of visits carried out	14	9
Number of places of detention visited	6	6
Restoring family links		
RCMs collected		2
RCMs distributed	1	1
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	3	21

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees in Mali and Niger received visits from the ICRC, according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Those serving sentences in Mali under the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda were visited in liaison with the ICRC's Nairobi delegation (see *Nairobi*). Some chose to send news to relatives using the Movement family-links network. Following visits, delegates shared feedback with the authorities confidentially.

Changes within the penitentiary administration in Mali resulted in the ICRC obtaining wider access to detainees there. Delegates pursued efforts to ensure such access was full and systematic. Around 160 prison personnel improved their grasp of the organization's activities at Justice Ministry/ICRC workshops, helping gain their support. A round-table with relevant ministry officials served to review the progress made by the authorities towards ensuring detainees' access to adequate food, health care and outdoor recreational spaces.

In Niger, too, the authorities and delegates had constructive dialogue about the shortcomings in the judicial/penitentiary system, and agreed, for example, to work together on reducing lengthy pre-trial detention. The Justice Ministry was invited to formalize the agreement governing ICRC visits to detainees on the strength of its work to date. A seminar intended for prison directors had to be postponed owing to ICRC staffing constraints.

To reduce their exposure to health risks aggravated by dilapidated penitentiary infrastructure, 1,385 inmates in Niger benefited from ICRC repair/construction work on sanitation, water and waste-disposal facilities in four prisons. Similar work had begun in other facilities in both countries. To facilitate safe hygiene practices, detainees also received hygiene/cleaning materials, and under a new agreement with the Red Cross Society of Niger hygiene teams were to be trained and equipped in 15 prisons.

WOUNDED AND SICK

In Niger, where no physical rehabilitation centre existed to provide quality care to victims of mines/ERW, the ICRC undertook to support Niamey national hospital in reactivating its orthopaedic department from 2012.

As no medical emergencies arose, hospitals had no need for ICRC material support.

AUTHORITIES

Senior ministers, diplomats, representatives of international bodies (including the UN, the IOM and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation) and the ICRC met regularly to discuss regional humanitarian/security concerns. Such contacts facilitated humanitarian coordination in responding to, for example, the needs of arrivals from Libya and recurring threats to food security. Niger's incoming civilian government readily engaged in dialogue with delegates on IHL- and detention-related matters, progressively consolidating their cooperation.

In areas where National Society/ICRC assistance operations were under way (see *Civilians*), interactive presentations for local

authorities contributed to wider acceptance of the Movement, its emblems, and humanitarian principles, thereby facilitating access to needy communities.

Both Mali and Niger took tangible steps to advance IHL implementation. At round-tables in each country gathering relevant decision-makers, the authorities committed to ratifying outstanding treaties and establishing national IHL committees. In particular, Mali worked towards ratifying the African Union Convention on IDPs, and both countries sought ICRC legal expertise in revising their penal codes and developing legislation on weapon use and the repression of war crimes. Additionally, Malian parliamentarians and magistrates learnt about their role in facilitating IHL implementation at workshops organized with the National Society and the Institute of Judicial Training respectively. Plans to sponsor other officials to attend an IHL seminar in Abuja fell through following the event's cancellation for security reasons (see *Nigeria*).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The fragile humanitarian and security situation affecting northern Mali and Niger's Agadez and Tillabéry regions underscored the importance of obtaining the support of all weapon bearers for Movement activities. In these parts, military/police field commanders maintained contact with the ICRC regarding prevailing conditions, including potential threats to civilians/humanitarian workers. Over 300 troops stationed locally learnt about National Society/ICRC operations and their responsibilities under IHL/international human rights law, as applicable, at presentations facilitated by delegates/National Society personnel. In Agadez, many such sessions were conducted by officers drawing on previous ICRC training. A greater ICRC field presence in volatile areas allowed delegates to strengthen their dialogue with other weapon bearers.

Military authorities in both countries welcomed ICRC support as they pursued the integration of IHL into their forces' doctrine, training and operations. Three senior officers deepened their IHL knowledge at international training events with ICRC funding, and Mali's army training unit worked with delegates to revise train-the-trainer course content. Major training facilities were provided with up-to-date manuals to help instructors teach IHL and troops to better adhere to humanitarian principles.

Upon request from Niger's chief of army staff, several hundred peacekeepers bound for Côte d'Ivoire learnt about Movement operations there. Trainees at Bamako Peacekeeping School, meanwhile, examined the relevance of IHL to peace-support operations through ICRC-devised exercises/courses.

To better integrate international human rights law into Niger's police curriculum, 20 police instructors reinforced their understanding of international standards of law enforcement at a national police school/ICRC seminar.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Through fora and/or bilateral contacts, NGOs, women's associations, academic circles, and community and religious leaders, including Mali's High Islamic Council, exchanged views on topical

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM		MALI	NIGER
Economic security, water and habitat			
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	2,145	4,866
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries		1,385

humanitarian and security concerns; some learnt first aid from National Society instructors. The region's foremost religious university, in Niamey, and the ICRC organized a conference on the protection of vulnerable communities, prompting animated discussions on universal humanitarian principles. Students in both countries enjoyed access to ICRC reference materials and advice to prepare IHL-related dissertations, and teams from 11 institutions tackled IHL-related scenarios at moot court competitions organized by key universities with National Society/ICRC input. Lawyers and trainee magistrates examined means of repressing IHL violations at ICRC presentations.

National/international media helped broaden awareness of IHL, humanitarian issues and the Movement, taking up National Society/ICRC footage, press releases and interviews to report on their operations. An ICRC film highlighting its assistance to violence-affected people in Tillabéry, for instance, generated prime-time television coverage. More locally, community radio stations contributed to the success of human/livestock vaccination campaigns (see *Civilians*) by ensuring that this news reached the nomadic populations. In Niger, 25 journalists specializing in human rights gained greater insight into ICRC-related activities at a discussion session, encouraging accurate humanitarian reporting.

This interaction, alongside National Society/ICRC assistance (see *Civilians*), helped build strong support for the Movement, even in violence-prone regions where few international actors are present.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The region's National Societies benefited from ICRC funds, guidance, materials and logistic back-up to strengthen their emergency response, family-links, communication and management capacities. Branches in Kidal (Mali) and Tillabéry (Niger) moved into ICRC-renovated premises designed to facilitate efficient humanitarian action. Regular meetings of Movement components working locally ensured coordination, reinforcing cross-border cooperation.

Both National Societies played an integral role in the successful implementation of ICRC assistance and communication activities (see above), reinforcing their visibility and operational experience. To support them in this, nearly 500 volunteers benefited from tailored ICRC courses, for example to enhance their needs-assessment skills. Given widespread insecurity, branch managers in Niger devised standard security procedures reflecting the Safer Access approach and trained personnel to apply them systematically. The Mali Red Cross established additional first-aid teams in six high-risk areas.

With financial and material support, both National Societies expanded family-links activities for children and vulnerable migrants, providing valuable support to people fleeing Libya (see *Civilians*). Family-links personnel enhanced their skills at a regional workshop (see *Dakar*).

After honing presentation techniques and information materials with ICRC training and funds, communication officers were better equipped to promote the Movement and humanitarian principles. Besides campaigning for respect for the Movement's emblems, the National Societies focused on stimulating youth interest. The Niger Red Cross, for example, trained 120 teachers running Red Cross school clubs to administer first aid, and created 20 new clubs.