

# PARIS



✚ ICRC delegation

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	<b>91</b>
Assistance	-
Prevention	<b>1,169</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>190</b>
General	-

▶ **1,451**  
of which: *Overheads* 89

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	<b>85%</b>
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## PERSONNEL

Expatriates	<b>1</b>
National staff (daily workers not included)	<b>5</b>

## KEY POINTS

### In 2011, the ICRC:

- ▶ pursued humanitarian diplomacy aimed at garnering support for its operations worldwide, promoting IHL and its integration into national legislation, and stimulating debate on humanitarian issues
- ▶ raised awareness of IHL, humanitarian issues and its mandate through public events, including four web-based public debates and the creation of a photo-journalism award to promote the Health Care in Danger project
- ▶ launched the photo-book “11 Women Facing War” with a dedicated photographic exhibition in Paris
- ▶ briefed armed forces officers at military academies and Defence Ministry legal advisers on IHL
- ▶ continued cooperation with the French Red Cross in fields such as first aid and the Safer Access approach
- ▶ visited or monitored detainees transferred to France from abroad, including those convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and shared its findings confidentially with the authorities

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, focuses on promoting IHL, pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the French authorities, military and academic circles, the diplomatic community, representatives of third countries, economic interest groups, the media, and the French Red Cross.

## CONTEXT

France continued to play an important role in international affairs in 2011, undertaking high-profile diplomatic initiatives in contexts of interest to the ICRC and assuming the presidency of the G8 and G20 international fora. The French armed forces remained engaged in Afghanistan, played a key role in Côte d’Ivoire’s transition and were among the leading forces engaged in Libya, among other things, and participated in UN and European Union peace-keeping and military operations.

Given the country’s traditionally close ties with many African countries and its large Arabic-speaking community, France remained an important focus for humanitarian diplomacy, offering opportunities for the ICRC to intercede on behalf of victims of armed conflict in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

The second half of the year was dominated by the Eurozone debt crisis, which led to numerous meetings between the French and German heads of State aimed at resolving the issue. Campaigning for presidential elections scheduled for April/May 2012 started with several political personalities announcing their intention to run.

## ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The Paris delegation remained a key element of the ICRC’s humanitarian diplomacy network, through which the organization sought support for its operations worldwide, promoted IHL and its integration into national legislation, increased understanding of its mandate and stimulated debate on humanitarian issues. In France, this network included the French authorities (particularly the president’s staff, the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and Justice, the National Assembly and the Commission nationale consultative des droits de l’homme (CNCDDH), foreign opposition movements based in the country and Paris-based international organizations, as well as NGOs and the media.

Meetings between the French authorities and the ICRC focused on contexts where French armed forces were operating, including Afghanistan, Côte d’Ivoire or Libya. Contacts with members of the operational commands enabled the regular sharing of information on humanitarian issues in these contexts. Other topics discussed included matters of common concern, including the preparation of the 31st International Conference. During a visit to Paris, the ICRC president exchanged views with the French foreign and defence ministers on the situation in trouble spots and notably on the draft Protocol VI to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, asserting that it should not undermine the provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

In addition to work accomplished with parliamentarians and the CNCDDH on accession to and implementation of IHL treaties,

Main figures and indicators	PROTECTION		Total
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>			
<b>ICRC visits</b>			
Detainees visited and monitored individually		UAMs/SCs*	
Number of visits carried out	3		
Number of places of detention visited	3		

\* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

the delegation continued to assist the authorities in their efforts to train the French armed forces in IHL, briefing officers on the ICRC's mandate and operations. It also gave presentations on IHL at leading academic and research institutions and supported students in IHL research.

The delegation, together with the French Red Cross and other partners, allocated considerable resources to several projects to stimulate and inform public interest in humanitarian issues and the ICRC's mandate and activities. These included: developing its presence on social media (e.g. blog, Facebook page and Twitter account); setting up photographic exhibitions; and launching a special photographic award to promote the ICRC's Health Care in Danger project.

Delegates visited and monitored detainees transferred to France from abroad, including some convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), and shared their findings and recommendations confidentially with the detaining authorities.

The ICRC and the French Red Cross maintained their dialogue on practical issues regarding contexts in which both were working and continued to implement a cooperation agreement to make French Red Cross expertise in first aid available to ICRC operations. The delegation also organized a workshop on the Safer Access approach for staff at the French Red Cross branch in Mayotte.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees transferred to France from abroad, as well as people detained in France following their conviction by the ICTY and others held prior to their transfer to The Hague, were monitored or visited by the delegation. Visits included private interviews. Any findings and recommendations were shared confidentially with the detaining authorities.

Former internees transferred to France from the US internment facility at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba and ICRC delegates maintained contact, as did family members of people detained there.

### AUTHORITIES

In the framework of the broad discussions on multiple humanitarian issues between the French authorities and the ICRC, the ICRC president exchanged views with the French foreign and defence ministers, with a particular focus on contexts where French armed forces were operating. During these meetings, the ICRC president also broached thematic issues of concern; he notably asserted the need to ensure that the draft Protocol VI to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons did not undermine the provisions of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Parliamentarians and Defence, Foreign and Justice Ministry representatives worked closely with the ICRC on accession to and implementation of IHL treaties, in particular Additional Protocol III

and the Convention on Enforced Disappearance. They welcomed ICRC input into discussions on the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions and contributed to updating the ICRC customary IHL study. Some 50 French government, military, university, CNCDH and humanitarian NGO representatives participated in a debate around ICRC proposals for "Strengthening legal protection for victims of armed conflicts" (see *International law and cooperation*). Defence and Foreign Ministry officials and ICRC delegates reviewed topics of particular interest to the ICRC to be debated at the 31st International Conference, as well as the ICRC position on the Convention against Torture.

The CNCDH involved the delegation in its meetings as an observer and sought its advice on topics such as the operations of private military and security companies in armed conflict, arms treaties, the "responsibility to protect" and humanitarian action.

Meetings with representatives of four France-based foreign opposition groups from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya and the Syrian Arab Republic provided opportunities to enhance their understanding of and support for the ICRC's mandate and operations.

UNESCO received ICRC input at its informal meeting of the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, as well as at its workshops on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict and on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity.

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Defence Ministry and the ICRC regularly exchanged views on humanitarian issues of mutual interest (see *Authorities*). Meetings with members of the operational commands enabled the regular sharing of information on humanitarian issues in contexts such as Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and Somalia.

The ministry continued to organize training in IHL and worked on further integrating it into military curricula, drawing on ICRC expertise as needed. In parallel, it received support to raise awareness of IHL during information sessions for the military. Some 50 ministry legal advisers learnt more about IHL and the ICRC during briefings prior to their deployment abroad or nationally. Following this course, other armed forces divisions and the delegation discussed ad hoc IHL training for officers similarly deployed. Likewise, 400 high-ranking military officers improved their IHL knowledge during six courses at military academies in Lyon, Paris and Salon-de-Provence.

No French officer participated in the 2011 Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Military Operations.

### CIVIL SOCIETY

Media, academic and NGO circles received regular information on topics of ICRC concern. Relevant articles appeared in the French-language press, some based on 65 interviews on operational

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topics. Five new ICRC audiovisual productions on various humanitarian topics enriched the Paris-based International Radio and Television University, chaired by Radio France, which runs high-quality television and radio programmes on IHL-related subjects for an international audience.

Some 31,000 people in major French cities visited the ICRC's "Humanity in War" and "11 Women Facing War" photographic exhibitions. The latter in Paris illustrated the resilience of women affected by armed conflict and supported the launch of a photo-book on the same topic produced by an independent photographer. A journalist won a special photographic award – the "Visa d'Or humanitaire du CICR" created to promote the ICRC's Health Care in Danger project – for her work in Yemen, which was subsequently shown at the 31st International Conference. Two French journalists won the ICRC-sponsored prize at the 51st Monte Carlo Television Festival for their documentary on Tunisia's popular uprising.

Academics, journalists and the wider public discussed humanitarian issues and ICRC activities on the ICRC blog ([www.cicr.blog.lemonde.fr](http://www.cicr.blog.lemonde.fr)) and Facebook page, which featured 179 multimedia postings and received 8,740 visitors respectively. A newly launched ICRC Twitter account in French had 862 followers by year-end. Some 50 academics, researchers, journalists and representatives of the authorities, armed forces, National Society, NGOs and international organizations joined each of the four ICRC public debates on humanitarian issues, streamed live online at [www.lesinfos.com](http://www.lesinfos.com) and posted on the ICRC blog.

To boost IHL promotion in academic circles, the delegation began developing an interactive online IHL course and promoting it. At their request, some 15 students undertaking research on IHL at master's or doctorate level received input from the delegation.

French humanitarian NGOs and other relevant organizations invited the ICRC to participate in conferences and debates, contributing to improved coordination of humanitarian action.

### **RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The French Red Cross and the ICRC maintained their dialogue on practical issues regarding contexts in which both were working, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Libya, Mali, Niger and Sudan, including during talks in Paris between the ICRC and French Red Cross presidents. They worked together on staff training and restoring family links and organized IHL and Movement promotional events, such as photographic exhibitions (see *Civil society*).

The two organizations continued to implement a joint project making French Red Cross first-aid expertise available to National Societies and ICRC operations. At the request of the national headquarters, the delegation conducted a workshop on the Safer Access approach for 22 staff at the Mayotte branch.