

THE ICRC DELEGATION IN ETHIOPIA

# FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2019



ICRC President, Peter Maurer, accorded warm welcome up on his arrival at Jijiga airport as part of his visit to Ethiopia.

The ICRC is present in Ethiopia since the beginning of the 1977 Ethio-Somalia armed conflict. Its current main activities in the country are: addressing the humanitarian needs of the people affected by conflict and violence through an integrated multi-disciplinary response, and reinforced protection dialogue with weapon bearers, visiting places of detention so as to ensure both the treatment and conditions of detainees are matching international standards. Helping people with physical disabilities (PWDs) get access to quality and sustainable physical rehabilitation services. It also works closely with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS) to restore family links among people separated by armed conflict and other situations of violence and provides assistance mainly to people displaced by ethnic conflict. The ICRC also promotes the knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) among members of defense and police forces as well as higher learning institutions, legal professionals and policy makers.

## DETAINEES

In agreement with the national authorities, the ICRC visits federal and regional prisons as well as police stations so as to improve both the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees, in accordance with international norms and standards.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Visited more than 51,100 detainees in 66 different places of detention, including federal and civilian prisons in Amhara, Oromia, Benishangul-Gumuz, Dire Dawa Somali, Tigray and Addis Ababa regions as well as police stations and juvenile centers.
- Helped detainees exchange 92 Red Cross Messages (RCMs) to restore/maintain contacts with their families, and 207 oral greetings.
- Provided material assistance, including blankets, clothes, and hygienic, educational and recreational items benefiting nearly 36,800 detainees across the country.
- Enabled over 7,500 detainees in five regional prisons to have better access to water and sanitation facilities through construction/maintenance works undertaken in partnership with prison authorities.
- Assisted detention authorities in five regions in undertaking the design of seven new prisons, nine drainage systems and 15 existing places of detention in Amhara, Oromia and Southern regions enabling them to improve their operation and maintenance management plans.
- Assisted detention authorities in five regions in kitchen design and supported eight other prisons in improving their fuel saving stoves.
- Provided medical and technical assistance for 19 prison clinics in federal and regional prisons in Addis Ababa, Oromia, Amhara, Somali and Benishangul-Gumuz to improve the service delivery of detainees. Also gave similar regular assistance to one referral prison clinic in Oromia region benefiting 2,242 detainees.
- Supported the Amhara regional detaining authorities to upgrade and run its medium prison clinic benefiting 1,143 detainees.
- Handed over a pilot project (aimed at upgrading a primary clinic to a medium one) to the Amhara Region Prison Commission for replication in its 10 new prison clinics.
- Gave trainings on mental health and challenges for 129 prison managers and health staff from various regions enabling them to improve detection and management of detainees with mental disorder.
- Provided medical and non-medical items (mobility device, personal hygiene items, and dignity kits) to 72 vulnerable detainees in different federal and regional prisons enabling them to respond to their specific needs.

## SEPARATED FAMILIES

The ICRC, in cooperation with the ERCS, strives to restore family links between family members separated by conflict, violence and migration through the tracing services of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as through the provision of free phone calls and the exchange of Red Cross Messages (RCMs).



Red Cross social worker reading a letter (Red Cross Message) to a South Sudanese refugee which was sent by recently traced sister, at a refugee camp in west Ethiopia, 2019.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Received 564 new tracing requests from people looking for their missing relatives in Ethiopia and abroad and located 454 sought persons.
- Exchanged, in close cooperation with ERCS, over 2,100 RCMs between family members separated by conflict/violence or other humanitarian situations.
- Provided, together with ERCS, over 108,000 free phone calls to refugees in Ethiopia (mostly Eritreans and South Sudanese) and returnees mainly from Saudi Arabia who could exchange family news with their relatives.
- Published two new booklets with 934 pictures of South Sudanese refugees looking for relatives.

## Health

The ICRC works with local authorities to ensure that civilian residents, wounded and sick receive timely pre-hospital and hospital care during emergency. It also supports health facilities through provision of medical assistance and enhancing the capacity of health professionals.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Provided basic medical supplies and emergency kits to 20 primary health care units and 13 hospitals in different regions with an objective of enhancing their emergency responding capacity.
- Donated basic post-delivery maternal and child non-food items to six health centers in East Haraghe Zone (Oromia), Fafan and Erer zones (Somali region) and West Gondar Zone (Amhara region) benefiting 1,000 mothers who delivered their babies in the health facilities.
- Supported ERCS in organizing two trainings on dead body management and provision of psychosocial support and care to bereaved families in time of tragic accident for its 73 staff and volunteers.
- Supported five referral/university hospitals in different regions with necessary medical equipment and supplies to enable their emergency departments to provide quality services to patients.
- Provided, in collaboration with local health authorities, capacity building trainings on infection prevention and patient safety to 55 health professionals from health facilities existing in Fafan and Erer zones and East Haraghe Zone.

## PERSONS AFFECTED BY DISPLACEMENT

The ICRC and the ERCS jointly provide support to people affected by inter-communal clashes and ethnic violence in different regions of Ethiopia.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Distributed plastic shelters, sleeping mats, blankets, jerry cans, soaps and cooking utensils to more than 68,800 people displaced by violence in East Wellega zone (Oromia Region), in Fafan Zone (Somali Region), in North and West Gondar zones (Amhara Region) and in Humera (Tigray Region).
- Provided financial assistance to about 79,700 people affected by ethnic violence in Moyale town (Somali and Oromia regions), Harolimu and Gimbi districts in East and West Wellega zones (Oromia Region), and Tikildingay district of North Gondar Zone (Amhara Region). Also gave similar assistance to 165 children of ex-combatants and underage combatants (in Tigray region) enabling them to go back or continue schooling.
- Distributed seeds and agricultural tools to 82,100 people affected by ethnic violence in East Hararghe and East Wellega zones (Oromia Region), Fafan Zone (Somali Region) and in Kamashi Zone (Benishangul-Gumuz Region) to help them restore their livelihoods.



People affected by ethnic violence getting registered to receive cash assistance (from Red Cross) aimed at restoring their livelihood, Moyale town, 2019.

- Provided livestock vaccination to more than 167,000 animals belonging to semi-pastoralist people and support access to livestock health services benefitting an estimated 196,800 people affected by ethnic violence in Meyumuluke district in East Hararge Zone (Oromia Region) and in Meyumuluko and Qubi districts in Erer Zone (Somali Region).
- Assisted 117 repatriated households in Mekelle town with grants to help them to engage them in income generating activities.
- Helped 13,900 internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltered in Metema and Iyemba (Amhara Region) to have access to water and sanitation services by upgrading or constructing water and sanitation facilities.
- Enabled more than 32,000 returnees in Babile, Chinaksen and Gursum districts in East Hararge Zone (Oromia Region) to have access to water and sanitation services by rehabilitating spring water, hand-dug and deep-water wells.

## WATER

The ICRC works with local authorities and communities to improve access to clean water and sanitation services.



Returnees fetching water from water point built in Tuluguled town, East Hararghe Zone by ICRC, 2019.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Completed the rehabilitation of 29 hand-dug and shallow wells enabling nearly 27,000 people affected by ethnic conflict in East Hararghe (Oromia Region) to have access to water and sanitation services.
- Completed the rehabilitation of water supply systems in Tuluguled and Sarirta towns in Fafan zone (Somali Region) enabling nearly 9,000 people affected by ethnic violence to have access to water and sanitation services.
- Helped 61,000 people affected by inter-communal clashes in Meyumuluke and Gursum districts in East Hararghe (Oromia Region) to have access to water and sanitation services through the construction/upgrading of water and sanitation facilities.
- Supported water authorities in Tigray region to make use of their online water points' database (Majella platform) enabling them to extract water supply coverage information at woreda and regional levels, to plan and allocate budget for the construction of new water points, and to provide water point data to stakeholders.

## PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

The ICRC Physical Rehabilitation Program aims at promoting equal access to quality and long-term sustainable rehabilitation services to Persons with Physical Disabilities (PWDs) through support to national and regional actors to enable them recover mobility, play an active role in society and live in dignity.



Winners of 5th National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament conducted with support of the ICRC celebrating their triumph, Addis Ababa, 2019.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Enabled 10, 441 PWDs access to physical rehabilitation services in nine ICRC supported physical rehabilitation centers (PRCs). Out of the total, 264 economically vulnerable individuals had their transport and food costs covered by ICRC.

- Provided material and technical support for the establishment of a physical rehabilitation center in Jigjiga town, Somali Region which will give physical rehabilitation services to PWDs living in the region.
- Assisted the Ethiopian Wheelchair Basketball Association in organizing the 5th National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament.
- Provided permanent counselling to build the capacity of the Ministry of Health in leading the physical rehabilitation sector through consistent presence within the ministry team.
- Donated 170 wheelchairs to the newly established Ethiopian Wheelchair Basketball Association.
- Organized an awareness raising sessions on provision of physical rehabilitation services for 357 health extension workers.
- Provided comprehensive physical rehabilitation services, including mobility devices, wheelchairs, crutches, compensation shoes, prosthesis and orthotics for 58 detainees

## PROMOTING THE LAW

The ICRC promotes the knowledge of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) amongst various interlocutors such as military and police forces, national authorities, and academic circles and supports efforts to domesticate IHL and IHRL.



Special Operation Force of ENDF officers participate at a seminar organized by the ICRC to discuss IHL, in partnership with the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, Addis Ababa, 2019.

### In 2019, the ICRC:

- Organized four seminars on international standards applicable to the use of force for 495 members of joint security force comprising the Ethiopian National Defense Force (ENDF) and federal and regional police forces in Nekemte, Dembidolo and Gimbi towns of Oromia Region, and Central Gondar Zone of Amhara Region.
- Provided two seminars on IHL and human rights standards for 111 officers of Special Operation Forces of ENDF. Also conducted three trainings of trainers on the same subjects for 91 instructors and Contingent commanders from Hurso Contingent Training School, and instructors of West Command Training School and Birshelleko Basic Soldiers Training Center.
- Conducted IHL seminar for 76 ENDF's senior officers enrolled at Defense Command and Staff College.
- Organized three seminars on IHL and human rights standards for 75 officers from Military Justice, Military Police, and Military Court directorates of ENDF.
- Conducted different seminars on IHL and human rights standards with emphasis on the use of force and firearms as well as crowd management for 617 special police officers from federal and regional police commissions.

- Provided trainings on crime investigation techniques including on sexual violence, for 61 investigation police officers from Southern and Gambella regional police commissions.
- On the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Geneva Conventions (GCs), organized a seminar highlighting the continued relevance of the GCs for 31 representatives of the Ministries of Peace, Foreign Affairs,

National Defense, Office of the Attorney General, academicians and others.

- Organized, together with Wollo University, the 4<sup>th</sup> National international humanitarian law (IHL) Moot Court Competition in which 17 universities participated.
- Organized a training on humanitarian reporting for 35 journalists drawn from Hawassa Town and different zones of Southern Region.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (ERCS)

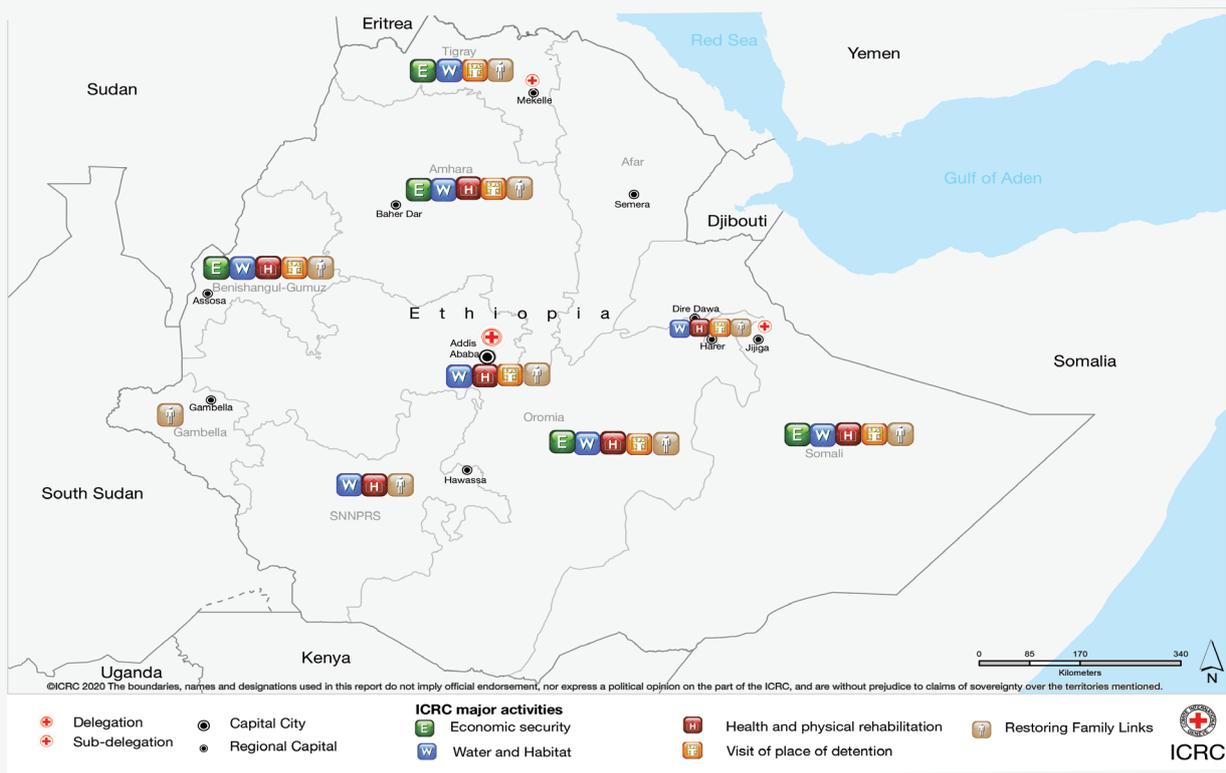
In addition to joint programming highlighted above:



Head of the ICRC delegation in Ethiopia, Julien Lerisson (right), and Deputy Secretary General of the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), Abera Lulesa (right) signing a Memorandum of Understanding, Addis Ababa, 2019.

In 2019, the ICRC:

- Supported 17 conflict prone branches of ERCS in organizing first-aid trainings to its 1,200 volunteers and ambulance attendants.
- Donated 738 First-Aid kits to 16 ERCS' branches with an aim to enhance their humanitarian provision capacity,
- Provided 3,000 kits (containing essential household items) to ERCS that can cover the needs of 3,000 families,
- Assisted the organization of three consultative meetings aimed at enhancing existing information sharing and cooperation works between ERCS and ICRC.
- Supported ERCS in organizing relevant training for its 1,650 youth volunteers.
- Helped ERCS in organizing awareness raising sessions on safer access, health care in danger and disaster response for its staff and volunteers.



The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, doing everything it can to protect their dignity and relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.



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