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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection</th>
<th>4,947</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistance</td>
<td>10,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevention</td>
<td>3,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperation with National Societies</td>
<td>1,954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,863</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Of which: Overheads</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,273</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERSONNEL**

| Mobile staff     | 42    |
| Resident staff (daily workers not included) | 180 |
Main Targets for 2015

- communities boost their resilience to the effects of conflict/violence following improvements to water/sanitation facilities and provision of livelihood support, such as agricultural inputs and micro-economic initiatives
- people affected by conflict/violence, including IDPs, refugees and returnees, benefit from family-links services and emergency relief provided by the Ethiopian Red Cross Society in partnership with the ICRC
- the Ethiopian authorities permit the ICRC to resume its activities for conflict-affected people in the Somali Regional State, and restore its access to detainees held under the jurisdiction of the Federal Police Crime Investigation Sector
- detainees, including those with physical disabilities or mental disorders, benefit from appropriate health-care services and repairs/improvements to water, sanitation and energy-supply facilities
- the authorities move to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly by developing a supply chain for physical rehabilitation services and by including pertinent training in college curricula
- the Ethiopian Red Cross strengthens its capacities for assisting people affected by conflict/disaster, particularly through first-aid and ambulance services

CONTEXT

Tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia persist, but no clashes have been reported since 2012. No progress has been made in demarcating the sealed Eritrea-Ethiopia border; both countries maintain a military presence in the disputed areas.

People affected by instability in neighbouring countries have crossed over into Ethiopia: in Benishangul Gumuz, refugees from Sudan; in Gambella, refugees from South Sudan; in Oromia, people fleeing intercommunal violence in Kenya; and in Tigray, refugees from Eritrea. Intercommunal clashes in Oromia have also forced thousands of Ethiopian refugees (particularly Benishangul Gumuz). To help them rebuild their livelihoods, farmers will receive seed and tools; vulnerable households, including the families of missing persons and repatriated Ethiopians, will benefit from micro-economic initiatives. To ease access to clean water and reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases, the ICRC will work with local authorities and rural communities to construct/repair water and sanitation facilities; strengthen their

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The ICRC will maintain efforts to build trust and secure acceptance for its mandate and work among the authorities, weapon bearers and civil society. Through its dialogue with the authorities, it will strive to gain wider access to conflict-affected people, particularly in the SRS, where it has been unable to conduct activities since 2007. It will aim to further understanding of humanitarian principles, IHL and international human rights standards among the federal and regional authorities and armed/police forces, and remind them of their legal obligations to protect and respect civilians during armed conflict and other situations of violence. It will continue to provide technical support for incorporating international human rights standards in the training of police forces, and to organize IHL briefings for ENDF personnel departing on peacekeeping missions.

In federal and regional prisons where it has access, the ICRC will monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees and share its findings and recommendations with the authorities confidentially. It will focus on helping the authorities build their capacities to maintain/improve infrastructure and ensure that vulnerable detainees, including those with physical disabilities or mental disorders, have access to suitable care. It will organize round-tables/workshops to increase detaining authorities’ understanding of internationally recognized standards on the treatment of detainees. The ICRC will also seek to visit, in accordance with its standard procedures, all detainees within its purview, including those held under the jurisdiction of the Federal Police Crime Investigation Sector (CIS).

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society will receive funds, materials and technical backup to strengthen its capacities to restore family links and respond to emergencies. National Society/ICRC teams will contribute to building civilians’ resilience to the effects of conflict/violence, particularly in areas affected by border tensions between Eritrea and Ethiopia (North Afar and Tigray) and areas hosting refugees (particularly Benishangul Gumuz). To help them rebuild their livelihoods, farmers will receive seed and tools; vulnerable households, including the families of missing persons and repatriated Ethiopians, will benefit from micro-economic initiatives. To ease access to clean water and reduce the incidence of water-borne diseases, the ICRC will work with local authorities and rural communities to construct/repair water and sanitation facilities; strengthen their

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT</th>
<th>TARGETS (UP TO)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essential household items</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 48,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Productive inputs</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 54,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water and habitat activities</td>
<td>Beneficiaries 150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WOUNDED AND SICK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects supported</td>
<td>Structures 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patients receiving services</td>
<td>Patients 7,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The National Society/ICRC will continue to facilitate the exchange of news between family members dispersed by conflict/violence, including refugees and people separated by the sealed Eritrea-Ethiopia border. When appropriate, minors and other vulnerable people will be reunited with their families. The ICRC will remain ready to assist in the voluntary repatriation of civilians from Eritrea (see Eritrea).

The authorities will benefit from the ICRC’s technical expertise in implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which Ethiopia ratified in 2010. The ICRC will help the authorities in their efforts to make sustainable physical rehabilitation services available through a countrywide supply chain for prosthetic/orthotic materials and the incorporation of pertinent training in college curricula. The ICRC will continue to provide material/technical assistance to enable 10 physical rehabilitation centres to treat disabled persons free of charge. It will also support local professional associations and training institutions assisting disabled persons, as well as government organizations promoting the social inclusion of disabled people through sports.

The ICRC will continue to coordinate its activities with those of Movement partners, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors working in Ethiopia.

**HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES**

**CIVILIANS**

Many people remain separated from their families as a result of the 1998–2000 armed conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia and the subsequent border closure. Several thousand people of Eritrean origin are living in Ethiopia, and the Eritrean authorities continue to repatriate them through Sudan (see Eritrea). Families remain without news of the fate of relatives who went missing during the conflict. Often without a breadwinner, many of them face economic hardship. Refugees often lack the means to contact/rejoin their families.

Intercommunal clashes in Oromia have led to displacement and loss of livelihood assets. The arrival of people from neighbouring countries (see Context) is an additional strain on already limited resources.

People in areas near militarized zones along the border with Eritrea (North Afar and Tigray) and in areas hosting refugees (notably Benishangul Gumuz) have to walk long distances to fetch water, because of inadequate water infrastructure; poor sanitation facilities increase the risk of disease.

Often, migrants who have been deported or have returned to Ethiopia voluntarily – some of them victims of human trafficking – need humanitarian assistance upon arrival.

**Objective**

Civilians are respected and protected in accordance with humanitarian principles and, where applicable, IHL. They cover their basic needs and restore their livelihoods. Separated family members exchange news. If they so wish, they are reunited, and people of Eritrean or Ethiopian origin are repatriated. Families are informed of the fate of missing relatives and receive appropriate support.

**Plan of action and indicators**

**Protection**

- to help protect and assist conflict/violence-affected people:
  - through dialogue and dissemination sessions, remind the authorities and weapon bearers of their obligation to safeguard civilians during armed conflict and other situations of violence
  - continue to seek access to the SRS through trust-building dialogue with the authorities, armed/security forces and armed groups on the ICRC’s neutral, impartial and independent approach
  - monitor the situation of vulnerable groups, such as people repatriated from Eritrea, refugees from Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, and migrants returning to Ethiopia; when necessary, make confidential representations to the relevant parties or coordinate with the ICRC delegations and other parties concerned
  - discuss the plight of the families of missing persons with the authorities, and encourage them to provide information on people still missing in relation to the 1998–2000 armed conflict with Eritrea

**Restoring family links**

- by providing funds, equipment and training, support the Ethiopian Red Cross in developing/running an efficient family-links service and in coordinating with Movement partners, including National Societies in neighbouring countries

With the National Society:

- facilitate communication between family members separated by conflict/violence, including people of Eritrean origin, refugees and Ethiopians repatriated or returning from other countries, through phone calls, oral messages and/or RCMs and, where appropriate, family reunification; at their request:
  - retrieve and forward education certificates to enable them to pursue employment/studies
  - issue travel documents to allow them to return to their home countries or resettle in third countries
  - refer the families of missing persons to local institutions for assistance, providing the most vulnerable of them with livelihood support (see below)

**Assistance**

**Economic security**

With the National Society:

- help vulnerable households become more resilient to the effects of conflict/violence by:
  - providing shelter/household items to up to 8,000 households (48,000 people), including displaced Ethiopians and Kenyans taking refuge in Oromia, enabling them to improve their living conditions for 12 months
  - distributing seed and tools for six months to up to 9,000 households (54,000 people) hosting refugees, helping them restore/boost food production to 75% of pre-crisis levels
  - assisting up to 200 heads of vulnerable households, including the families of missing persons and repatriated Ethiopians, to start small-scale businesses through grants and training (benefiting 1,200 people),
enabling them to cover at least 75% of average household expenses

\textit{Water and habitat}

- in coordination with the water authorities, build/repair water points and supply systems to restore/ensure access to water and reduce disease risks for up to 140,000 people, including Sudanese refugees in Benishangul Gumuz and communities affected by border tensions in North Afar and Tigray
- facilitate sustainable access to water for up to 30,000 people in North Afar and Tigray by providing the water authorities and communities with technical, material and financial support to maintain/upgrade their water facilities; improve sanitation practices through hygiene-promotion activities
- in case of displacement or other emergency, repair/install essential facilities to cover the immediate water and sanitation needs of up to 10,000 IDPs

\textbf{PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM}

Some detainees of Eritrean origin are held at regional prisons in Afar and Tigray; some of them are held at police stations before being transferred to these prisons. Other detainees continue to be held on security-related charges, usually under the authority of the CIS, before being transferred to federal prisons. The ICRC visits detainees in federal and regional prisons, as well as people under temporary detention in Tigray, but has no access to people held by the CIS or detainees in the SRS.

As part of a prison reform process, the authorities are working to reduce overcrowding and enhance the quality of health services and infrastructure, albeit with limited resources.

Inmates held far from home are often unable to maintain contact with their relatives or, in the case of foreign detainees, to inform their embassies of their arrest.

\textbf{Objective}

People deprived of their freedom are afforded treatment and living conditions, including access to health care, that comply with internationally recognized standards and, where applicable, IHL. They are able to maintain contact with their families.

\textbf{Plan of action and indicators}

\textbf{Protection}

- during visits, monitor the living conditions and treatment of detainees in federal and regional prisons, individually following up POWs, detainees of Eritrean origin and other vulnerable detainees; afterwards, communicate findings and recommendations confidentially to the authorities
- through dialogue with the authorities, seek to visit, in accordance with standard ICRC procedures, all detainees within the organization’s purview, including people held by the CIS, detainees in the SRS, security detainees and people in places of temporary detention
- ensure that POWs are afforded treatment and living conditions in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention; request the Ethiopian authorities to notify the ICRC of newly captured POWs and facilitate ICRC visits to them

- issue attestations of detention to former POWs/detainees to help them apply for legal/administrative procedures
- through round-tables/workshops, raise awareness among federal and regional police officers of internationally recognized standards on the treatment of detainees in their custody
- enable detainees to contact their relatives/consular representatives through family-links services
- in coordination with the organizations concerned, establish referral mechanisms for vulnerable detainees to obtain legal assistance and for former detainees to receive support for social reintegration
- provide the authorities with technical assistance and training in prison management/construction, infrastructure maintenance and prison health care, to help them carry out prison reforms

\textbf{Assistance}

- with the authorities, contribute to the health and well-being of detainees in federal and regional prisons, including women, minors and those with disabilities or mental disorders, by:
  - encouraging prison and health officials to strengthen their cooperation in improving inmates’ access to health services, and helping them improve their referral system for detainees needing medical care
  - providing equipment, reference materials and training for prison health teams to administer first aid, provide mental-health care and, with ad hoc support, control disease outbreaks
  - building/repairing water, sanitation and energy-supply infrastructure for up to 9,500 detainees
  - distributing ad hoc assistance to detainees, such as hygiene items, blankets, clothes and educational/recreational materials

\textbf{WOUNDED AND SICK}

According to the Central Statistical Agency of Ethiopia’s estimates, about 270,000 people in the country have physical disabilities, including conflict-related disabilities. The government is working to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including by developing a supply chain for the physical rehabilitation sector. Current numbers of prosthetic/orthotic centres, skilled staff and mobility devices are insufficient to meet demand. Some people with disabilities cannot afford to pay for treatment or for transport to the nearest centre.

\textbf{Objective}

Physically disabled people have access to good-quality prostheses/orthoses and physiotherapy and are aware of opportunities for socio-economic reintegration.

\textbf{Plan of action and indicators}

\textbf{Assistance}

- to promote accessibility and sustainability of physical rehabilitation services in the country:
  - give the authorities technical support for developing/implementing a countrywide supply chain for prosthetic/orthotic materials and equipment and for incorporating related training in college curricula
  - provide equipment and training support for professional associations of prosthetic/orthotic technolo-
gists and physiotherapists, and for local institutions offering related courses

- provide material and technical assistance for improving patient care, provision of devices and service management at 10 physical rehabilitation centres – with a special focus on 3 centres that began operations in 2014 – allowing them to serve up to 7,500 persons free of charge; cover food and transport costs for up to 3,000 vulnerable persons living in rural areas, enabling them to access these centres

- identify existing services for disabled persons and facilitate appropriate referral; support government organizations promoting social inclusion for disabled persons by donating basketball wheelchairs and funding their participation in tournaments

**ACTORS OF INFLUENCE**

The support of the national and local authorities remains essential to enable conflict-affected people – such as people fleeing conflict/violence in neighbouring countries, communities in the SRS, and detainees – to benefit from neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action (see *Citizens and People deprived of their freedom*).

Ethiopia is party to many of the main IHL treaties, but some have not yet been incorporated in domestic legislation. In 2013, the authorities decided to revive the national IHL committee.

The ENDF has troops stationed along the border with Eritrea, and contributes troops to peace-support missions. Police officers are deployed in situations of violence, sometimes alongside the ENDF.

Traditional/community leaders and the media influence public opinion. Universities with law faculties offer IHL courses, but often lack teaching materials.

**Objective**

National and local authorities, security forces and other weapon bearers, and traditional/community leaders know and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these into their decision-making processes. The media, academics and other opinion-makers help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among all those involved in these situations and among the wider public, thus achieving greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC’s mandate and support its work.

**Plan of action and indicators**

**Prevention**

With the National Society:

- to foster respect for IHL/international human rights norms and acceptance of the ICRC’s mandate among the authorities and weapon bearers:
  - maintain dialogue with federal and regional authorities, particularly regarding access to the SRS and to all detainees within the ICRC’s purview; reinforce these discussions with IHL seminars and publications for officials in federal ministries, parliamentarians, judges, regional authorities and traditional/community leaders
  - conduct briefings on IHL and the Movement’s work for ENDF troops before their deployment on peacekeeping operations, and seminars for military legal advisers who request them

- organize seminars for police officers, including female officers, investigators and special forces, on the ICRC’s activities and on humanitarian principles applicable to law enforcement

- help regional police training centres incorporate humanitarian principles and international human rights standards in their curriculum by organizing round-tables for instructors, providing teaching aids, and helping them conduct briefings on these subjects

- give the government technical support for ratifying and implementing IHL treaties, including the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, and for helping the national IHL committee resume its work

- to generate support for IHL and the Movement’s work among future decision-makers and the general public:
  - encourage journalists, through seminars/briefings and news releases, to cover humanitarian issues
  - support the teaching of IHL at universities by organizing seminars for law students/lecturers; sponsoring students/teachers’ participation in IHL/international human rights law courses/competitions abroad; and supplying reference materials

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT**

The Ethiopian Red Cross, the ICRC’s main partner in the field, is well-recognized across the country; however, it needs support to carry out certain activities. It continues to enhance its management skills and reinforce its capacities in emergency response, restoring family links and IHL dissemination (see above).

**Objective**

The Ethiopian Red Cross is able to provide emergency assistance in armed conflict or other situations of violence. It carries out effective activities to restore family links and promote IHL and the Movement’s Fundamental Principles. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

**Plan of action and indicators**

**Cooperation**

- provide funds, training and logistical/technical backing to help the National Society strengthen its capacities in:
  - assisting people affected by conflict/disaster (see *Citizens*), including through ambulance and first-aid services during emergencies
  - operating effectively in sensitive environments using the Safer Access Framework, including during emergencies (see above)
  - promoting IHL, the Fundamental Principles and the Movement’s work in civil society (see *Actors of influence*)
  - developing its abilities to manage human resources and projects, in order to become more effective and accountable
  - coordinating with Movement partners, to broaden the Movement’s access to people affected by conflict/disasters