



COOPERATION

PREVENTION

The ICRC supports activities of the National Red Cross Societies in Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal, in favour of the vulnerable people.

Emergency preparedness and response

As meeting the needs of the vulnerable people is at the heart of its priorities, the ICRC helps strengthen the operational capacity of National Societies' branches located in risk prone areas by the training and recycling of their volunteers in first aid.

Institutional capacity building

National Societies act as auxiliaries to the public authorities of their countries in the humanitarian field and embody the principles and ideals of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As such, the ICRC supports them with respect to amending their statutes and rules of procedures, as well as hiring and training qualified staff. The ICRC favours an approach aimed at encouraging the capacity building of the National Societies.

Promoting humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles

The ICRC provides support to countries covered by the regional Delegation for the ratification and national implementation of Treaties and Conventions on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) *.

The institution organizes awareness raising session for local and national authorities, members of armed and security forces, other weapon bearers, civil society and academic circles.

It also supports the incorporation of IHL by armed forces of Senegal and The Gambia, as well as in some institutions of higher education.

**IHL is a set of rules, which, in times of armed conflict, protects people who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities. This branch of law sets limits to the methods and means used in warfare. IHL aims at minimizing human suffering during armed conflicts.*

The ICRC is an impartial, neutral and independent organisation whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

It also endeavours to prevent human suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Founded in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



Names of countries and regions mentioned in this document are for reference purposes only, and have no particular political significance.

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DAKAR REGIONAL DELEGATION

For Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal



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PROTECTION

Protecting civilians in areas affected by armed violence

To protect the lives and dignity of civilians, the ICRC strives to engage in a constant dialogue with all weapon bearers (defence and security forces, and other armed groups), promoting respect for humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

Protecting people deprived of their freedom

To promote detention conditions that are compliant with national laws and international standards, the ICRC visits people deprived of their freedom in Senegal and Guinea Bissau. Detainees falling within its mandate are monitored individually, especially when these people are detained by authorities or armed groups, in connection with armed conflicts, situations of violence, or for reasons linked with State security.

Restoring family links

Family members separated by armed conflict, forced displacement, natural disaster or for other reasons such as migration can be assisted through the ICRC's Restoring Family Links programme.

This programme benefits also people deprived of their freedom who have lost contact with their families. The ICRC provides such detainees with the opportunity to restore contact through telephone calls or Red Cross Messages (RCM).



ASSISTANCE

The ICRC conducts assistance activities in areas affected by armed violence in Casamance and in northwestern Guinea-Bissau, which has also suffered the consequences of the violence.

Emergency assistance

In Casamance, the ICRC provides emergency aid to people rendered vulnerable (IDPs or returnees) by armed violence.

Access to basic health care

In Casamance, the ICRC is engaged in the rehabilitation, construction and equipment of health care facilities in rural areas. It also supports health authorities with the monitoring of health care facilities and training of medical staff.

Improving access to clean drinking water

In Casamance and Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC works to improve water access in rural areas through the rehabilitation or construction of water points and wells. In Senegal, it trains people to carry out maintenance work on these facilities.

Supporting agricultural production

In Casamance and Guinea Bissau, the ICRC provides support in setting up well-equipped market gardens for women to help them improve their incomes.

Micro-projects

In Ziguinchor, some micro-projects are carried out in order to support vulnerable people (IDPs and residents) develop income-generating activities.

Community prevention programme

In Casamance and Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC, health authorities and National Red Cross Societies conduct prevention activities with respect to STDs, cholera, malaria, diarrheal diseases, as well as hygiene and sanitation.

Veterinary projects

The ICRC provides training and equipment to veterinary assistants in Casamance, and to volunteers from the National Red Cross Society in Guinea-Bissau, to help with the vaccination and/or de-worming of livestock.