

GUINEA

COVERING: Guinea, Sierra Leone



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC office

* Sierra Leone is covered by the ICRC delegation in Guinea

The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, opening its delegation in 2001. It seeks to protect violence-affected people, restore links between separated relatives, help enhance the capacity of the health system and improve water supply. It visits detainees and advises the authorities and civil society. Since 2009, the delegation oversees the ICRC's cooperation and prevention activities in Sierra Leone. The ICRC works with each National Society to help it strengthen its capacities, including to respond to emergencies and to promote the Movement.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2013:

- ▶ people allegedly responsible for abuses perpetrated during violent protests in Guinea raised their awareness of humanitarian principles, with fewer casualties reported during demonstrations in the latter half of the year
- ▶ people wounded during protests in Conakry and ethnic tensions in N'Zérékoré received first aid from ICRC-trained Red Cross Society of Guinea volunteers, who evacuated the severely injured to hospitals
- ▶ hospitals developed their capacity to cope with influxes of the wounded with the help of previously established contingency plans and staff trained in war-surgery techniques, allowing the ICRC to withdraw its support at year's end
- ▶ the Red Cross Society of Guinea developed a first-aid education programme for the public, prompting the Ministry of Health, through an official act, to recognize it as the reference institution for first aid in the country
- ▶ while prison health staff remained in short supply, malnutrition rates in prisons in Guinea's interior decreased for the first time in years, following penitentiary authorities' efforts to improve prison food services
- ▶ urban and rural water authorities provided clean water for over 84,000 Guineans by upgrading/maintaining water infrastructure with ICRC support

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	1,827
Assistance	3,044
Prevention	1,272
Cooperation with National Societies	996
General	-
Total	7,139

of which: Overheads 436

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	101%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	16
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	92

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

HIGH

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	127
RCMs distributed	164
Phone calls facilitated between family members	105
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	11
People reunited with their families	1
of whom unaccompanied minors/separated children	1
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	3,500
Detainees visited and monitored individually	126
Number of visits carried out	204
Number of places of detention visited	55
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	290
RCMs distributed	66
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	84

ASSISTANCE	Targets	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 900	
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 65,000	84,455
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures 6	6

CONTEXT

The perceived lack of transparency in the preparations for Guinea's legislative elections held in September aggravated political tensions along ethnic lines, triggering demonstrations throughout the country early in the year. In the capital, Conakry, protests sometimes led to violence. Hundreds of people were reportedly injured or killed, both protesters and law enforcement officers. In these circumstances, access to the wounded was not always available to humanitarian workers. Guinea made little progress in reforming its justice and security sectors.

Despite overall economic growth in the country, many Guineans struggled with poverty, unemployment and meagre access to basic services. Water authorities faced significant hurdles in upgrading antiquated water infrastructure. Sierra Leone enjoyed relative calm and stability.

Both countries participated in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Sierra Leone contributed troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In response to election-related tensions in Guinea and in preparation for other emergencies, the ICRC worked closely with the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society as they enhanced their ability to provide rapid and effective assistance, particularly in administering first aid, managing human remains and restoring family links.

Trained National Society volunteers provided prompt on-site attention during demonstrations in Conakry and ethnic tensions in N'Zérékoré, evacuated the severely wounded to hospital and transferred human remains to morgues. Weapon-wounded people in hospitals were tended to by medical staff who had been trained in war surgery. ICRC-supported hospitals carried out simulation exercises to test their emergency action plans and improve coordination. As these hospitals reinforced their capacities to prepare for and respond to violence-related emergencies, the ICRC was able to withdraw its support by year's end.

The ICRC helped the National Societies of Guinea and Sierra Leone strengthen their capacities to deliver first-aid services, including through training. It supported the Guinean Red Cross in developing a first-aid education programme for the general public, prompting the Ministry of Health to recognize the National Society as the reference institution for first aid in the country.

Following violent protests in Guinea, victims reported abuses to the ICRC; dialogue with the alleged perpetrators on preventing recurrence was based on these reports. Through briefings and other contacts, police/*gendarmérie* units refreshed their knowledge of IHL and international norms applicable to law enforcement operations. Contacts with religious/community leaders, politically active young people and other influential civil society members enabled National Society volunteers to safely tend to the wounded. The National Society/ICRC reminded the public to respect the emblem through TV/radio messages and, indirectly, through briefings for media representatives.

People contacted/located dispersed relatives through family-links services provided by the National Societies in Guinea and Sierra Leone and the ICRC.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees in Guinea, including those held in connection with the protests. Delegates monitored their treatment and living conditions and afterwards, provided confidential feedback to the authorities. To help improve respect for detainees' judicial guarantees, cases of those who had been in custody longer than legally permitted were brought to the attention of the authorities concerned. Dialogue with prison/health authorities, on improving detainees' access to adequate health care, continued. Ailing detainees were referred to hospitals by the penitentiary authorities; some had their treatment costs covered by the ICRC. Pest-control campaigns and donations of hygiene/cleaning materials reduced health risks for detainees. New policies on food procurement and storage resulted in detainees being better fed and, for the first time in years, decreasing malnutrition rates.

Local water authorities, working with the ICRC, continued to upgrade water supply/treatment infrastructure, thus improving people's long-term access to safe water. Construction/rehabilitation of water supply systems increased the supply of water for over 84,000 inhabitants of both rural and urban areas. Community-based committees received training in the maintenance of these systems.

The authorities, with the ICRC's technical support, worked to integrate IHL into domestic legislation. The Guinean and Sierra Leonean authorities received ICRC input for integrating provisions of the Rome Statute and the Convention on Cluster Munitions into domestic legislation. The ICRC also lent its expertise to Guinean authorities involved in reforming the justice and security sectors, particularly to a European Union-supported working group in charge of reviewing pertinent legislation. At the same time, the Guinean military's IHL office finalized teaching manuals adapted to the various ranks. Guinean and Sierra Leonean troops bound for Mali and Somalia, respectively, learnt more about IHL through ICRC briefings. Contacts and activities with university professors, secondary school teachers and students helped stimulate general interest in IHL.

Owing to the marked decrease in urgent humanitarian needs in Sierra Leone, the ICRC closed down its office in Freetown in December.

CIVILIANS

Authorities and weapon bearers are reminded of their obligation to protect civilians

Following violent protests in Guinea (see *Context*), people provided first-hand accounts of abuses to the ICRC; oral and written representations were made to the alleged perpetrators on the basis of these accounts. Such representations, reinforced by dissemination sessions for armed/security forces and community leaders (see *Authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, and civil society*), helped increase respect for humanitarian principles and international norms applicable to law enforcement. The number of protest-related deaths and injuries reported declined during the latter half of the year. Owing to the public's acceptance of the emblem and the Movement's work, people wounded during violence received timely assistance from National Society/ICRC teams (see *Wounded and sick*).

Family members separated during violence in election-related protests locate/contact each other

Family members separated during emergencies, including election-related demonstrations in Guinea, restored/maintained contact or located each other using Movement family-links services. In Guinea, one unaccompanied child was reunited with his family.

Five others, including two who had fled the 2011 post-electoral crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, continued to have their situation monitored by the ICRC; three of them rejoined their families with ICRC financial assistance. National Society volunteers in Guinea and Sierra Leone improved their ability to provide family-links services – by participating in workshops, for instance.

In Guinea, the remains of people killed during the protests were transported to morgues by National Society volunteers, who, along with security forces personnel, had received ICRC training in managing human remains. To help identify the deceased – and inform the families concerned – key messages were broadcast on television and radio to reach the widest possible audience. One family identified their relative through these broadcasts; this enabled them to mourn the death and carry out funeral rites.

Guinean water authorities increase supply of water for over 84,000 people

The water authorities and the ICRC assessed the water needs of people in both urban and rural areas in order to prioritize upgrades to water infrastructure; places where unrest was likeliest and/or that had exceptionally poor access to clean water took precedence over others. In Pita prefecture, 30,000 residents had more water at their disposal after the authorities and the ICRC drilled two new boreholes: each person could access up to 50 litres of clean water a day. Community-based committees trained in the maintenance of these boreholes. Over 54,000 residents in rural areas had better access to safe drinking water following the construction of 10 wells in N'Zérékoré and the rehabilitation of 20 others in Guéckédou and Kankan; these activities were carried out with the rural water authorities within the framework of a cooperation agreement for improving water systems.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held in connection with protests receive ICRC visits

In Guinea, detainees held by the Justice Ministry or the police/*gendarmérie* – including in connection with the protests or in preventive detention in the country's interior – received visits from the ICRC, conducted according to its standard procedures, to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Vulnerable inmates, including women and foreigners, received special attention; 126 detainees were individually followed up. During visits, detainees contacted their relatives through Movement family-links services; at their request, 35 foreign detainees informed their consular representatives of their situation, which led to two of them being repatriated.

After these visits, the detaining authorities received confidential feedback from delegates, who had discussions with them about alleged ill-treatment in places of temporary detention, and other matters. Policemen/*gendarmes* and prison guards were briefed about IHL, other international norms applicable to their work and the ICRC's activities for detainees. To help improve respect for detainees' judicial guarantees, cases of those who had been in custody longer than legally permitted were brought to the attention of the authorities concerned. The support of relevant organizations was sought in this regard.

Administrative hurdles and other matters held up the authorities' efforts to tackle penitentiary reforms, which were to be carried out within the framework of a broader reform of the justice sector. Nonetheless, to help spur their efforts, they received the ICRC's

input for drafting a policy on prison regulations and management, and discussed how best to appropriate the ICRC's recommendations during a workshop organized for that purpose.

Prison authorities' new food management policies reduce overall malnutrition rates

Detainees benefited from a more stable food supply owing to the penitentiary authorities' efforts to improve prison food services, which included: appointing an official to manage the food supply, signing new contracts with private food suppliers and updating policies for managing the food supply chain. Some of these policies were developed with ICRC input. To increase storage capacity at Conakry's main prison, the authorities built a new storeroom with the ICRC's help. Since part of the area housing detained minors had been used to store food, the construction of this storeroom also allowed them to enjoy more spacious living quarters separately from the adults.

Monitoring by an ICRC nutritionist revealed that following the implementation of these measures, overall malnutrition rates in prisons in Guinea's interior decreased for the first time in years, from 21% in January to 13% in December. Complementing the authorities' efforts, over 2,200 malnourished detainees, of whom 154 suffered from severe malnutrition, supplemented their diets with high-calorie biscuits provided by the ICRC, resulting in about half of them being cured (the other half had served their sentences and were released before the data were collected). Rates of severe malnutrition in ICRC-supported prisons remained low, with no deaths from malnutrition reported.

Health and Justice Ministries receive continued encouragement to improve detainees' health access

The Health and Justice Ministries and the ICRC discussed ways to improve access for detainees to medical care: the hiring of a prison doctor and provision of funds for referring detainees to hospital, for instance. With ICRC input, the penitentiary authorities updated their list of standard essential drugs. The infirmaries of 22 prisons were fully stocked, and 26 detainees, out of 331 needing hospital-level care, had their treatment costs covered by the ICRC: these measures were undertaken to give an immediate boost to the level of medical attention given to detainees. There was virtually no progress in assigning health staff to prisons and training them; however, the prison authorities continued to receive ICRC advice on this matter and facilitated the referral of sick detainees for hospital care.

With technical support from the ICRC, the prison authorities took measures to sustainably rehabilitate and maintain prison infrastructure, which included: allocating budgets, appointing an official to oversee maintenance and signing a cooperation agreement with the ICRC. As a result, some 2,800 detainees in five prisons enjoyed a cleaner and more comfortable environment thanks to the construction and/or rehabilitation of kitchen and water/sanitation infrastructure. ICRC-trained maintenance teams in four prisons ensured the upkeep of these facilities.

Across the country, 10,590 detainees minimized their risk of disease and improved their general well-being with the help of cleaning and hygiene items supplied by the ICRC. The authorities cooperated with the National Society/ICRC to implement preventive measures against vector/water-borne diseases, including cholera. At the Conakry prison, the prison's hygiene committee, composed of detainees, and National Society/ICRC teams fumigated cells.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Weapon-wounded people receive first aid and urgent medical treatment

The National Societies of Guinea and Sierra Leone continued to work with the ICRC to enhance their emergency-response capacities, so that people injured during emergencies could receive timely medical assistance. People wounded during violence, such as the protests in Conakry and inter-ethnic tensions in N'Zérékoré, received first aid from National Society volunteers, who evacuated them to hospital as necessary, applying skills developed in ICRC workshops. In hospital, the wounded – 379 in the Donka national hospital, of whom 61 had gunshot wounds, and 102 in the N'Zérékoré regional hospital – received urgent attention from previously trained staff.

Hospitals' reinforced emergency-response capacities allow the ICRC to withdraw its support

Four hospitals, namely the Samoury Touré military hospital in Conakry and the regional hospitals of Kankan, Labé and Mamou, put their emergency action plans, previously established with National Society/ICRC help, into effect during simulation exercises carried out with National Society stretcher-bearers. Hospital staff sharpened coordination during these exercises with the help of monitoring tools developed jointly with hospital management.

Six ICRC-supported hospitals received medical supplies to replenish their stock for future emergencies. Hospital staff/interns continued, through training, to become more adept at treating weapon-wounded people. To help strengthen the country's overall capacity to treat wounded people, 43 doctors specializing in surgery took an ICRC-taught war-surgery module at Conakry University. In addition, 45 military health professionals from across the country underwent similar training, which also covered the Health Care in Danger project.

The strengthened capability of these hospitals to respond effectively to the needs of the injured during emergencies allowed the ICRC to completely withdraw its support for them at year's end.

AUTHORITIES, ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Broad acceptance of the Movement and the emblem facilitates humanitarian access in emergencies

Dialogue with religious/community leaders, politically active youth and other influential civil society members aimed at securing their support for humanitarian action. The general public learnt about the National Society/ICRC's neutrality and the importance of respecting the emblem through a televised interview with National Society/ICRC staff and messages broadcast on 10 radio stations, as well as through other events. Through ICRC workshops and information provided by the organization, representatives of the Guinean and Sierra Leonean media learnt about pressing humanitarian issues – including those raised by the Health Care in Danger project – and the National Society/ICRC's response to them, notably in the fields of water/sanitation and war surgery; this enriched their coverage of the Movement's work.

Policemen/gendarmes learn more about international standards applicable to their work

At ICRC briefings, *gendarmes* from Conakry and from Guinea's interior, police officers and instructors learnt more about international norms on law enforcement, including the use of force in arrest and detention (see *Civilians* and *People deprived of their*

freedom); they also learnt about the National Society/ICRC's working procedures in situations of violence, which facilitated access for wounded people to first aid/medical treatment. Guinean troops bound for Mali and Sierra Leonean peacekeepers bound for Somalia enhanced their knowledge of IHL through ICRC briefings.

Guinean military's IHL office finalizes teaching aids adapted to different ranks

With ICRC support, a commission set up within the Guinean military's IHL office in 2012 finalized IHL teaching manuals adapted to different military ranks. The head of the IHL office attended a course in San Remo, with a view to strengthening the military's capacity to teach IHL to troops.

IHL professors, law faculty heads and university students from around the country attended ICRC presentations aimed at stimulating interest in the subject. Around 700 students from eight universities tested their grasp of IHL at a national moot court competition. Some 20 teachers from five secondary schools developed lesson plans on the Movement's Fundamental Principles during a National Society-run workshop, with a view to incorporating them in a national educational programme and building support for the Movement among young Guineans.

Working group revising legislation as part of justice/security sector reform draws on ICRC expertise

Sustained dialogue with national authorities and the international community sought to advance the ratification and domestic implementation of IHL instruments. The Guinean and Sierra Leonean authorities drew on ICRC input for draft laws on the Rome Statute and the Convention on Cluster Munitions, respectively. Sponsored by the ICRC, officials from both countries attended IHL meetings abroad. Sierra Leone's national IHL committee benefited from ICRC expertise during meetings to discuss the implementation of its plan of action and other related matters.

Guinean authorities involved in reforming the justice and security sectors, particularly a European Union-supported working group in charge of reviewing pertinent legislation, drew on ICRC advice to revise the penal code, the code of criminal procedure and the code of military justice. They received recommendations, notably on incorporating the suppression of IHL violations in the code of military justice.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Volunteers prepare emergency-response plans for situations of violence

With ICRC technical, financial, material and logistical support, the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society enhanced their emergency-response capacities, especially in situations of violence, by developing/implementing contingency plans (see *Wounded and sick*). They sharpened their first-aid skills at ICRC-supported training sessions, both locally and abroad, and provided first-aid training for violence-prone communities. With ICRC support, the Guinean Red Cross developed a first-aid education programme for the public, prompting the Ministry of Health, through an official act, to recognize it as the reference institution for first aid in the country. This act also acknowledged the National Society's first-aid standards.

In Sierra Leone, the National Society and the authorities, with Movement support, signed an agreement with a mobile phone

company to facilitate the sending of SMS messages during emergencies. Both National Societies incorporated family-links services in their emergency-response plans. In Guinea, this was implemented during protests (see *Civilians*).

Through the above-mentioned activities, as well as dissemination sessions and interaction with the media, the National Societies promoted the Movement and humanitarian principles and awareness of the emblem and its use.

To support the implementation of their activities, both National Societies carried out organizational changes. With help from other Movement components, they began preparing their new plans of

action. The Guinean Red Cross revised its statutes, drawing on the expertise of other Movement components. It pursued efforts to improve its management capacities and identified income-generating activities, such as the provision of pest-control services, that could help finance its humanitarian activities.

Movement partners met regularly to exchange views and coordinate activities.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SCs*	
RCMs collected		127	9	
RCMs distributed		164	3	
Phone calls facilitated between family members		105		
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations				
People reunited with their families		1		
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	1		
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Minors
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		44	14	14
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		11		
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	8		
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		30	8	12
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers			Girls	Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society		1		
	<i>including UAMs/SCs registered by another delegation</i>	1		
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		5	1	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		3,500	148	328
Detainees visited and monitored individually		126	1	3
Detainees newly registered		79		3
Number of visits carried out		204		
Number of places of detention visited		55		
Restoring family links				
RCMs collected		290		
RCMs distributed		66		
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		84		
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		13		

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	84,455	49%	29%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	10,590		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,800		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		539		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		30		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	6		