



ICRC / AR, 2013
 + ICRC delegation * Dominican Republic is covered by the ICRC delegation in Haiti

The ICRC opened a fully fledged delegation in Haiti in 2004. It responds to acute humanitarian situations in prisons and supports national authorities in improving conditions of detention and respect for judicial guarantees. It seeks to mitigate the effects of social unrest throughout the country, particularly in violence-prone neighbourhoods in Port-au-Prince. It supports the security forces in integrating human rights norms applicable to the use of force into their doctrine, training and operations. With other Movement partners, the ICRC helps strengthen the emergency response capacity of the Haitian National Red Cross Society and the neighbouring Dominican Red Cross.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2013:

- ▶ owing to other government priorities, little progress was made in penitentiary reform despite the revival, with ICRC support, of a Haitian-led working group for tackling the issue
- ▶ with ICRC support, judicial officials accelerated legal procedures for some inmates held in prolonged detention, which resulted in some of them being released from overcrowded prisons
- ▶ as part of an ICRC-backed health project, some 6,000 detainees in 5 prisons underwent complete medical checkups, and when necessary, appropriate treatment, including for malnutrition
- ▶ the inhabitants of Cité Soleil had a regular supply of water following the completed rehabilitation of its water distribution system, and the assumption by local authorities of maintenance responsibilities, with ICRC support
- ▶ over 3,000 wounded people received timely treatment at ICRC-supported Haitian Red Cross first-aid posts in violence-prone neighbourhoods, including in Cité Soleil before posts there were closed owing to internal constraints
- ▶ despite strong will expressed by the Haitian authorities to establish a national IHL committee, changes in key posts within the Foreign Affairs Ministry impeded further progress

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

Protection	1,039
Assistance	2,290
Prevention	431
Cooperation with National Societies	776
General	-

4,536

of which: Overheads 272

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	91%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	6
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	69

YEARLY RESULT

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
Phone calls facilitated between family members	240
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	8,071
Number of visits carried out	36
Number of places of detention visited	13

ASSISTANCE	Targets	Achieved
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	207,000
		60,000

CONTEXT

The Haitian government remained relatively stable, although vacancies in the Senate hampered legislative work. The establishment of an electoral council and the ratification of an electoral law helped clear the way for municipal and senatorial elections, which were yet to be scheduled. The Defence Ministry laid out plans to create a civil defence force and to introduce obligatory civic service, thus putting off, for the time being, the formation of a new military force; a group of officer-engineers and Haitian soldier-technicians completed training abroad.

Demonstrations against the rising cost of living, perceived delays in the provision of public services and other socio-economic issues increased. Following an extension of its mandate, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), although scaled down, continued to support the Haitian National Police in responding to crime and public disorder. Violence and gang-related crime rates declined overall, but were not matched by judicial follow-up, which exacerbated overcrowding in prisons.

Cholera remained a concern, particularly in prisons and rural areas, even in the dry season.

Mass deportations of Haitians from the Dominican Republic, and changes in visa arrangements, strained that country's relations with Haiti early in the year; the government of the Dominican Republic pledged to make its migration policies more transparent. However, tensions flared anew following a court decision stripping citizenship from thousands of people of foreign descent, including Haitian, who were born in the country.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

Generally, ICRC activities in Haiti slowed down during the second half of the year, owing to decreased engagement by the authorities, including in pursuing penitentiary and judicial reforms, because of the political situation (see *Context*); and a security incident which resulted in the rotation of all ICRC mobile staff. Regular meetings enabled the ICRC to coordinate its activities with local and international stakeholders and discuss ways to encourage the authorities to keep detention-related issues high on the government's agenda.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions; afterwards, it shared its findings and recommendations confidentially with the authorities concerned. It focused on mobilization efforts and structural support for penitentiary authorities to improve respect for detainees' judicial guarantees and reduce overcrowding. It also provided direct assistance for improving detainees' living conditions, upgrading water/sanitation facilities, constructing bunk beds to mitigate the effects of overcrowding, and facilitating access for detainees to health care. It regularly donated essential drugs/medical supplies to prison dispensaries and helped the authorities deal with cholera outbreaks and treat malnourished detainees. ICRC representations to the authorities enabled ailing detainees at the Petit-Goâve police station to receive medical treatment following their transfer to other facilities; this also helped alleviate overcrowding at the police station. Within a health project carried out by the ICRC and other partners, inmates of the civil prison of Port-au-Prince (PCPP) and four other prisons benefited from complete medical check-ups and suitable treatment. Training and other activities by the ICRC's

hygiene-promotion team for prison staff/detainees helped improve hygiene conditions in the country's largest prisons.

In the Port-au-Prince neighbourhood of Cité Soleil, the water authorities and the ICRC completed the refurbishment of water distribution points, helping improve residents' access to safe drinking water. As the ICRC's support wended down, local capacities for managing the water supply system were enhanced.

The Cité Soleil and Martissant branches of the Haitian National Red Cross Society received support to ensure that first-aid posts were functional and ready to respond to the needs of injured/sick people; owing to internal constraints, however, the posts in Cité Soleil were closed in October.

Regular contact with the authorities, weapon bearers and members of civil society helped increase their understanding of IHL and humanitarian principles and gain support for Movement activities. In Cité Soleil and Martissant, dialogue with dissemination sessions for gang members paved the way for the Haitian Red Cross/ICRC to safely conduct their activities. Support continued for the national IHL committee of the Dominican Republic, which established a sub-committee to follow up legislation protecting the Movement's emblems. Haitian government officials expressed interest in establishing a national IHL committee; however, in both countries, further efforts to advance IHL implementation stalled owing to their governments' priorities.

The Dominican and Haitian Red Cross Societies, with support from Movement partners, strove to strengthen their operational capacities and legal bases.

CIVILIANS

Authorities assume responsibility for Cité Soleil water distribution system

In densely populated Cité Soleil, some 60,000 impoverished residents had better access to a safe and regular supply of water after 18 water kiosks were refurbished. This marked the end of the ICRC's projects, undertaken with local water authorities, to rehabilitate Cité Soleil's water distribution system. Cooperation continued to help ensure the sustainability of the system. The water authorities increased their involvement in the supervision of work, implemented management reforms and responded proactively to maintenance and distribution issues.

Some 3,000 wounded people receive treatment at ICRC-supported first-aid posts

The security situation in Haiti remained relatively stable, but gang-related incidents occurred in certain neighbourhoods, which resulted in casualties. In Cité Soleil and Martissant, some 3,000 injured people received treatment at four ICRC-supported Haitian Red Cross first-aid posts, and were evacuated to hospital when necessary. Internal constraints led to the closure of the first-aid posts in Cité Soleil in October; National Society leadership/staff and the ICRC discussed ways to reactivate them or remobilize volunteers. Meanwhile, over 16,000 people learnt more about hygiene, cholera prevention, and preparing for the hurricane season through campaigns conducted by the National Society, with ICRC support.

During information sessions, gang members were encouraged to respect the rights of the resident population, including access

to medical services, and learnt more about the ICRC's activities (see *Authorities, armed forces and other bearers of weapons, and civil society*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Severe, chronic overcrowding in Haiti's prisons continued to affect detainees' access to essential services, including legal and social assistance, and had led to the deterioration of existing infrastructure. In addition, the penitentiary services and judiciary often lacked the human/material resources to adequately address detainees' needs. Health/nutritional/sanitation conditions and the drinking water supply in Haiti's prisons, particularly at police stations used as places of detention, remained below national and internationally recognized standards, increasing the risk of cholera outbreaks. Detecting and treating TB and HIV/AIDS remained a challenge.

National and international stakeholders are mobilized to revive efforts at penitentiary reform

Over 8,000 inmates in 13 places of detention received ICRC visits conducted according to the organization's standard procedures. Delegates monitored their treatment and living conditions, particularly respect for their judicial guarantees and access to medical care, paying close attention to vulnerable detainees, such as women and minors. Following such visits, findings and recommendations were discussed confidentially with the authorities. Inmates at the newly built prison in Croix-des-Bouquets also received visits; recommendations following from these visits were shared confidentially with the penitentiary authorities and the Canadian government, which funded construction of the prison.

In the first half of the year, the authorities convened regular meetings with national and international stakeholders, including the ICRC, to coordinate activities for detainees and to secure the penitentiary administration's commitment to bringing treatment and living conditions in detention in line with internationally recognized standards. With ICRC support, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security revived a working group for tackling penitentiary reform, which discussed reports on issues related to health, conditions in places of detention, legal reforms, and the situations of detained women and minors. The group explored possibilities for future action and invited partners to form a technical group for addressing detainees' health and living conditions. However, owing to other government priorities, these efforts were not sustained in the latter half of the year. Following mobilization efforts by the ICRC, international stakeholders, including MINUSTAH, discussed ways to encourage the authorities to follow up the work mentioned above, revive coordination and keep detention-related issues on the government's agenda.

Eligible detainees are released from overcrowded prisons

Judicial reforms to address overcrowding and prolonged detention progressed slowly. During discussions, the judicial authorities were encouraged to create mechanisms for monitoring the judicial process and to recruit more legal staff. Existing legal staff, with ICRC support, lobbied the judicial authorities to expedite the resolution of detainees' cases – for instance, by scheduling hearings and reviewing the cases of those who had already served their sentences. Legal assistants prepared lists of cases for consideration and made individual representations on behalf of detainees; this led to the release of 94 detainees. Two more lists – of 700 detainees who had spent more than three years in preventive detention – were also prepared for submission to the authorities.

Following news of the PCPP's possible closure, the ICRC, together with other international stakeholders, held discussions with the authorities and advocated effective planning to prepare for/mitigate the adverse effects of transferring over 4,000 inmates to already overcrowded detention facilities.

Detainees' access to medical care in main places of detention improves

The ICRC reminded the authorities of their responsibilities towards detainees and fostered cooperation among partners working on issues related to health care in detention. It also supported the country's four largest prisons with periodic donations of essential drugs and supplies, and ad hoc assistance during emergencies.

At the authorities' request, the ICRC responded swiftly to cholera outbreaks at prisons in Cap-Haïtien, Carrefour, Jacmel and Port-au-Prince, mobilizing partners and providing direct support/essential drugs to bring the situation under control within a week. Following ICRC representations to the pertinent officials, some 30 ailing detainees at the Petit-Goâve police station received medical follow-up after their transfer to health facilities at other prisons. This also helped reduce overcrowding at the police station.

The systematic screening of inmates under a pilot health project with the penitentiary authorities and other partners – which enabled early diagnosis and treatment of the most prevalent infectious diseases at the PCPP – was extended to four other prisons. The penitentiary authorities and other partners drew on the ICRC's advice – for improving coordination among stakeholders, for instance – to implement and expand the project. Medical files were created for some 6,000 detainees, who were also given complete medical check-ups and treatment for scabies and intestinal parasites, and screened for malnutrition. Some inmates found to be moderately/severely malnourished began receiving medical treatment and ICRC-provided high-calorie food supplements. Discussions with the penitentiary authorities also tackled ways to improve the provision of food and medicines for detainees.

Hygiene programmes and upgraded infrastructure help improve living conditions for detainees

Penitentiary engineers, with ICRC support/guidance, drew up plans for improving the infrastructure at the country's three main prisons. At the Les Cayes prison, living conditions for 637 inmates improved with the construction of a men's toilet block, the rehabilitation of the water system and upgrades to the exercise yard. Female detainees stood to benefit from the construction of new cell blocks and a sanitation facility. At the Cap-Haïtien prison, 830 inmates had a better supply of water, and over 500 stood to benefit from the construction of bunk beds to mitigate the effects of overcrowding. The installation of bunk beds for 478 inmates in the PCPP was completed, as were repairs to the water supply system through the replacement of two main pumps and refurbishment of parts, which benefited the entire prison population of over 4,000 inmates.

Over 6,000 detainees/prison staff at the Cap-Haïtien, Les Cayes and PCPP prisons and other places of detention learnt more about hygiene and protected themselves against illnesses through campaigns conducted by ICRC teams, during which disinfectants and sanitation materials were distributed. Local detention authorities applied ICRC recommendations, which led to improved hygiene conditions at their prisons and a decrease in cholera cases. The ICRC stepped in on an emergency basis during cholera

outbreaks, disinfecting cells and reintroducing appropriate preventive measures (see above).

Representatives of the embassy of the United States of America's International Narcotics and Law Enforcement office took ICRC recommendations into account while planning construction of two new prisons in Haiti. Delegates emphasized the need to adapt the buildings to the Haitian context and to the specific needs of detainees, especially women and minors.

The situation of vulnerable new detainees, particularly those awaiting deportation, was eased through the provision of hygiene kits/clothes, and by enabling them to restore/maintain contact with relatives using phone cards provided by the ICRC through the Office of the National Ombudsman.

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

Engagement with the authorities, weapon bearers and members of civil society helped increase understanding of IHL and humanitarian principles and promote interest in and support for ICRC activities, particularly those related to detention (see *People deprived of their freedom*). Despite constructive discussions with the Haitian authorities, political issues – for example, parliamentary disagreements – sometimes hampered efforts to transform dialogue into reforms. Interviews on local radio and the distribution of a topical newsletter raised awareness of detention-related issues among key stakeholders and the general public, and helped reinforce calls for reforms to improve conditions of detention.

Weapon bearers increase understanding of the ICRC's role in gang-controlled areas

Amid sporadic clashes between gangs in Cité Soleil and Martissant, dialogue/dissemination sessions with gang members, including leaders, enabled them to learn about Haitian Red Cross/ICRC activities, which helped ensure that first aid could be provided, and water/sanitation projects carried out safely.

Over 280 MINUSTAH officers supporting the Haitian National Police learnt more about basic humanitarian principles and the roles of Movement partners through briefings. Over 1,000 cadets from the Haitian National Police School furthered their understanding of the proper use of force during law enforcement operations, and of the policing concepts of proportionality, legality, accountability and necessity. Others familiarized themselves with such concepts through printed materials in Haitian Creole that were displayed at the school. In addition, at their request, the ICRC included an IHL module in a train-the-trainer course in human rights for 20 police commissioners and officers serving as training relays throughout Haiti. Offers of technical support to the Haitian Ministry of Defence, for the possible reconstitution of a national army, were not taken up (see *Context*).

In the Dominican Republic, the authorities requested ICRC input for drafting legislation related to internationally recognized standards on the use of force. Lecturers from the Dominican armed forces' Graduate School of Human Rights bolstered their knowledge of IHL; one professor attended an IHL course in San Remo, with ICRC support.

Haitian authorities request guidance for forming national IHL committee

Following discussions, the prime minister and foreign affairs minister of Haiti agreed, in principle, to the establishment of a national IHL committee. At their request, the ICRC provided a model draft law and supporting documents to facilitate the process. Haitian representatives also attended an IHL conference in Costa Rica (see *Mexico*). However, changes within the Foreign Affairs Ministry hindered further progress. In the Dominican Republic, the national IHL committee convened in March to draw up its yearly plan of action, with ICRC support. It also created a sub-committee to follow up legislation on protecting the Movement's emblems. However, further efforts to advance IHL implementation in both countries stalled owing to their governments' priorities.

Students and future leaders continued to learn more about IHL through ICRC events. Over 90 Haitian lawyers added to their knowledge of IHL – in particular, regarding protection for vulnerable people during armed conflicts – at an ICRC-facilitated course at the School of Magistrates. Lecturers, students and junior diplomats did likewise during conferences at universities and national academies; two universities in the Dominican Republic expressed interest in including IHL in their curricula.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Society branches bolster operational capacities with Movement support

The Haitian Red Cross remained the ICRC's primary partner in carrying out assistance activities in Cité Soleil and Martissant (see *Civilians*). Rescue workers in these neighbourhoods participated in meetings co-organized with the Haitian Red Cross, which helped advance implementation of a national volunteering policy. With ICRC encouragement, some Movement partners began including violence-prone neighbourhoods in their activities to build up the National Society's capacities. The Canadian Red Cross Society organized training sessions for 45 Haitian Red Cross volunteers in disseminating humanitarian principles and raising awareness of the consequences of violence for communities; it also financed other related activities.

Newly elected branch-level and regional National Society leaders learnt more about IHL, the Safer Access Framework and the goals of the Health Care in Danger project through ICRC modules. Working groups made up of National Society representatives and Movement partners helped regional branches boost their capacities and supported the modernization of the National Society through various financial tools.

In line with the development of its tracing services, the Haitian Red Cross completed an assessment of its family-links capacities, with ICRC support. At the Dominican Red Cross, the drafting of action plans for family-links services and communication activities was pending. Both National Societies agreed to explore the possibility of renewing a bilateral cooperation agreement and participated in a meeting to this end.

Cooperation slowed in the second half of the year, as the Haitian Red Cross regrouped following elections (see above). Internal constraints led to the closure of National Society first-aid posts in Cité Soleil (see *Civilians*).

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total		
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Red Cross messages (RCMs)				
Phone calls facilitated between family members		240	UAMs/SCs*	
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
ICRC visits				
			Women	Minors
Detainees visited		8,071	130	100
Number of visits carried out		36		
Number of places of detention visited		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	60,000	33%	30%
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	6,620		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	6,465		
Health				
Number of visits carried out by health staff		83		
Number of places of detention visited by health staff		10		