The ICRC’s presence in Sudan has been its largest in the world for five consecutive years. In 2008, the ICRC maintained its operations despite the tense security situation in some parts of the country.

In Darfur, the ICRC continued to promote respect for civilians, reminding parties to the conflict of their obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). It provided access to clean drinking water and health services and helped maintain and restore traditional livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians by providing seeds, tools and livestock vaccinations in rural and nomadic areas.

The organization maintained its capacity to respond to emergency situations. In cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), it responded, among other emergencies, to intense fighting in Omdurman (Khartoum’s twin city) and Abyei (central Sudan) in May and to the heavy flooding in Aweil (Southern Sudan) in mid-September.

Across Sudan, the ICRC supported 6 physical rehabilitation centers, including a newly built and equipped modern facility in Juba.

► Respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

The ICRC widely promoted awareness, respect for, and implementation of IHL at all levels. It maintained its confidential dialogue with the Sudanese authorities and the different armed groups to protect civilians and prevent violations. In this regard the ICRC did the following:

- In February 2008, it signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), covering 2008-2011, to help integrate IHL in their doctrine, training and operations;
- Addressed different units of the SAF, the Border Guards, and over 800 members of the Central Reserve Police (CRP) in various Darfur locations, with a specific focus on their responsibility to protect civilians during operations;
- Signed a 3-year MoU at the end of 2007- went into effect in 2008- to assist the SPLA in integrating IHL into its training curriculum, orders and doctrine;
Organized the first IHL training for 20 SPLA officers in Juba in December 2008;
Held numerous communication sessions to prepare the ground for possible future protection activities with the SPLA;
Addressed more than 1,000 members of the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) through different sessions on the ICRC, its activities, mandate and basic principles of IHL;
Addressed more than 800 members of armed groups including militias and different opposition groups in Darfur on ICRC modalities, basic principles of IHL, and the security of humanitarian teams in the field;
Briefed more than 600 incoming UN observers and peacekeepers on the ICRC, its activities, mandate, humanitarian action and their obligations towards civilians under IHL;
Facilitated the handover of nine detainees held by armed groups in Darfur to the authorities or their families;
Visited 137 detainees in 12 detention places, collected 11 Red Cross Messages (RCMs) from detainees to send to their families, and delivered 32 RCMs to them;

**Re-establishing family links**

The ICRC helped maintain links between families separated by conflict. RCMs, Salamat (verbal family greetings) as well as phone calls from Sudan (starting from July) have allowed news to travel between Sudan and the US detention facilities in Guantanamo, Bagram (Afghanistan) and Iraq. The ICRC also continued to facilitate contact or reunification of unaccompanied children and vulnerable people separated from their loved-ones by:

- Transmitting more than 26,000 RCMs to family members separated by the conflict, including nearly 200 to and from unaccompanied/separated children;
- Locating 153 people in Sudan at their families’ request (582 people are still being sought);
- Registering 89 unaccompanied/separated children and reuniting 49 children with their families (53 cases of unaccompanied/separated children are still pending);
- Visiting 99 minors following the hostilities in Omdurman in May, tracing their families and enabling them to exchanges RCMs with them. Later, and following a presidential amnesty, the ICRC organized the reunification of 43 minors of them with their families.

**Maintaining and restoring livelihoods**

The ICRC assisted hundreds of thousands of farmers and nomadic herders in Darfur in preserving their economic security through agricultural, veterinary and other livelihood-support projects.

**Seeds and tools**

- 220,000 families (44,000 people) received seeds, tools and food rations;
- 24,000 households (4,800 people) benefited from small-scale livelihood interventions through the provision of tools, off-season seeds and fuel-efficient stoves.

**Veterinary Services**

- 145 herders were trained and equipped to provide basic veterinary services to their communities in rural areas. Nearly 8,000 livestock-owning households benefited from such services;
- 464,000 animals were vaccinated against 5 common diseases.

The ICRC coordinated with the Ministry of Animal Wealth the vaccinatation of hundreds of thousands of animals in remote areas, where such services are lacking.
In 2008, the ICRC provided access to clean drinking water for 635,000 people and their livestock.

The ICRC supports 6 prosthetic and rehabilitation centres across Sudan to help people walk again.

In response to emergencies, the ICRC provided emergency assistance to people in various parts of Sudan.

- Supporting 4 hospitals, two of them military facilities, in Khartoum with surgical and medical supplies to treat 400 wounded people in May 2008;
- 104,611 recently displaced people (20,473 households) all over Sudan received essential household items, including 1,870 that were distributed to more than 24,000 displaced persons in Almujlad, Kadugli and Malual Aleu. Additionally, 10,320 people of those were provided with food;
- Donating medical and surgical supplies to South Kordofan and Southern Sudan hospitals (mainly Almujlad, Bentiu, Juba Teaching Hospital and the Juba Joint Integrated Units Military Hospital) following the Abyei fighting;
- Deploying the Field Surgical Team (FST) to operate on 128 wounded civilians and fighters in Darfur, Southern Sudan, and the central region;
- Supporting a centre in Yambio to shelter 43 unaccompanied Congolese refugee children.
In 2008, ICRC handed over the general food distribution in Gereida camp to WFP. It continues to provide access to healthcare, water, nutrition and sanitation.

In order to meet the essential needs of some 135,000 IDPs in Gereida, the ICRC extended its annual budget by an additional US$ 19 millions to cover:

- Over 68,000 Primary Health Care consultations and 93,000 vaccinations to pregnant women and children at the ICRC clinic;
- Water and sanitation projects providing more than 260,000 m³ to over 100,000 IDPs, thus ensuring 70% of the water supplies in the camp;
- Rehabilitating 5,760 of the 6,000 existing latrines and building 421 new ones;
- Regularly collecting and disposing of rubbish and solid waste;
- Providing monthly food rations and essential household items to more than 135,000 people (27,000 IDP families);
- Treatment for malnourishment or ready-to-eat foods as a preventative measure to 22,000 children under five years.

By the end of the year, the ICRC succeeded in handing over the general food distribution to the World Food Programme (WFP) and CARE in order to concentrate its effort on rural areas.

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The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical resources to support its strategic partner, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Aimed at strengthening the SRCS’ capacities to respond to emergencies and to carry out programs or activities in partnership with the ICRC, this support included:

- Financial costs of some 60 positions at headquarters and in branches;
- Training team leaders and instructors of the “Emergency Action Teams” and supplying them with first aid equipment in South and North Darfur, South Sudan and Greater Khartoum;
- Training 75 volunteers in emergency preparedness in Aweil, Agok and Bentiu in Southern Sudan;
- Training over 1,200 staff and volunteers in first aid and stocking SRCS branches with basic supplies.

With ICRC support to the SRCS, the two partners:

- Mobilized 250 volunteers and mounted an effective first-aid operation for victims of hostilities in Omdurman by administering first aid, evacuating the wounded, collecting dead bodies, helping the ICRC deliver relief goods and running the tracing and RCM services;
- In the north-south border region, distributed relief goods to IDPs and opened new branches for the SRCS in Aweil and Warab;
- Provided 1,200 families affected by floods in Aweil, Southern Sudan, with essential household items and carried out a hygiene promotion campaign, in coordination with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- Collected and buried 87 dead bodies in Abyei in clearly marked burial sites;
- Collected and distributed over 3,000 Red Cross Messages within the country.

The ICRC supports its strategic partner, the Sudanese Red Crescent, to respond to emergencies and implement joint activities.