

**FOLLOW-UP REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION
FOR THE YEARS 2000-2003
ADOPTED BY THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT**

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present report has been compiled pursuant to Resolution 1 of the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which requested the ICRC and the International Federation to submit a report to the 28th International Conference on the implementation of the Plan of Action for the years 2000-2003.

The report provides an overview of the steps taken by members of the 27th International Conference to implement the Plan of Action, which they adopted in 1999. It is based for the most part on the 85 replies to the follow-up questionnaire received prior to 1 September 2003 by the ICRC and the International Federation from States party to the Geneva Conventions, National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation (see Annex I). Other sources of information include official notifications by States of their adherence to international humanitarian law treaties and various evaluation mechanisms set up within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and dealing with issues covered by the Plan of Action (such as the National Society self-assessment questionnaire).

The report analyses the follow-up to the Plan of Action from two angles. First, it briefly points out the lessons to be learned from a methodological perspective (the relevance of the scope and content of the Plan of Action, the effectiveness of follow-up mechanisms, etc.) and the importance of taking those lessons into account when drawing up action-oriented documents to be adopted by future International Conferences. Secondly, the report provides extensive coverage of the measures taken to implement the Plan of Action, highlighting best practices and a number of overall trends. This second part of the report is divided into Final Goals, in keeping with the structure of the Plan of Action. Under each Final Goal, sub-sections address specific areas of common concern. The report also contains text boxes illustrating concrete steps taken by Conference members.

Although it was impossible to reflect the full range of experience gained during the implementation period worldwide, the measures and trends pointed out should encourage all Conference members and others to review their own practices and take further steps as required. Moreover, even though the information provided by participants between 1 September and 2 December 2003 is not included in the present report, it can be consulted via a database on the follow-up to the 27th International Conference that is available on the ICRC's website (<http://www.icrc.org/>). Conference members are encouraged to consult this database so as to get a full and up-to-date picture of all the measures taken so far to implement the Plan of Action. The database also contains information on the implementation of individual pledges made at the 27th International Conference.

2. FINDINGS AND COMMENTS ON METHODOLOGY

Instead of adopting a series of resolutions on specific topics by consensus, as in the past, the 27th International Conference chartered a new course. First of all, members were invited to make individual pledges, whereby they undertook unilaterally to carry out significant humanitarian initiatives. Secondly, special workshops were held at which members exchanged opinions in a more informal manner than during plenary meetings. Lastly, the Conference adopted a single document – the Plan of Action for the years 2000-2003 – containing a series of comprehensive measures that participants agreed by consensus to promote and carry out in the coming four years.

The first lesson to be drawn from the negotiation and adoption of the Plan of Action is that **the concept of a single, action-oriented document adopted by consensus was broadly endorsed by the members of the Conference** and generated ongoing enthusiasm, especially as **the final result was far easier to read** and refer to.

The overall structure of the Plan of Action, for its part, calls for more detailed and measured comment, especially in view of the observations made concerning implementation and the follow-up mechanisms established since 1999. There is no doubt that the adoption of the Plan of Action constituted a major success for the 27th International Conference. Not only was a single document adopted by consensus, as hoped for, the document itself set out highly ambitious goals in a wide variety of fields. However, even though these goals provided Conference participants with a common approach and pointed to important ways of promoting the humanitarian cause, it subsequently became clear that it would not be easy to assess their implementation. Two major obstacles stood in the way of such an assessment: the relatively unspecific nature of some of the actions proposed, and the number and variety of those actions.

Specific nature of actions proposed

The success of an action plan can generally be gauged by the extent to which its goals have been achieved. However, this is only true if the **goals in question are clearly and precisely defined and specific criteria have been adopted for their implementation**. The follow-up given to the Plan of Action proved particularly difficult to assess since **the actions proposed were described in such a wide variety of ways that there could be no common gauge of success**.

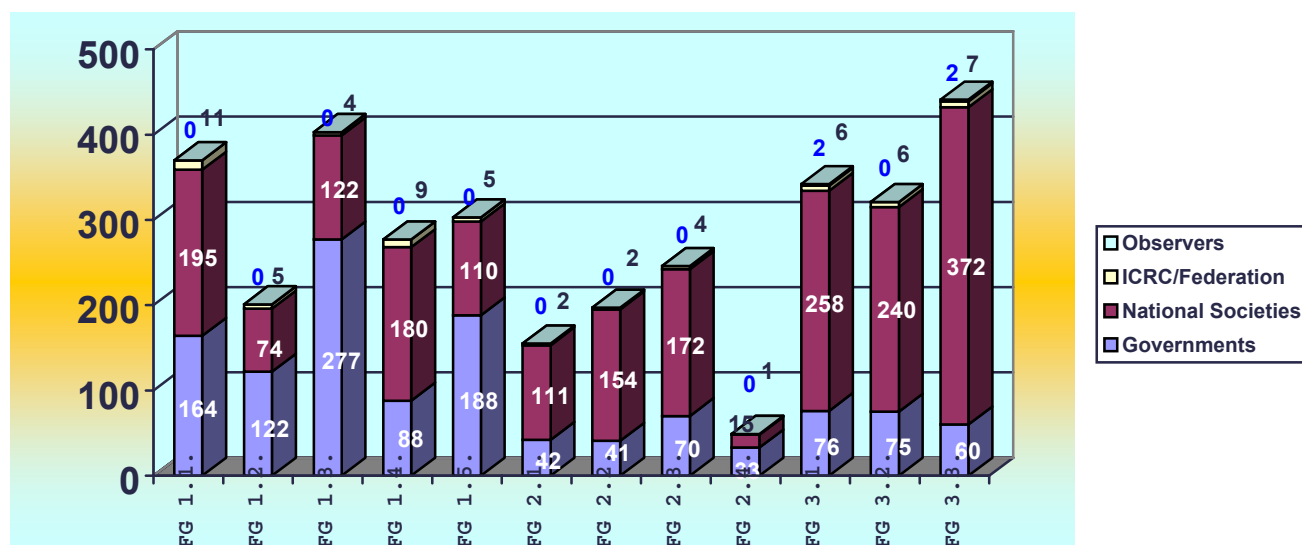
Thus, it is a simple enough matter to assess the Conference members' response to the invitation to adhere to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Final Goal 1.2, Action 10) or to implement the Movement Strategy on Landmines (Final Goal 1.5, Action 19). In such cases, the evaluation criteria are objective, concrete and quantifiable: a particular treaty either has or has not been ratified by the State in question; a particular National Society either has or has not put in place the means to implement the Movement's policy on landmines, etc. However, other actions proposed to advance the humanitarian cause, as pertinent and important as they may be, were far less clearly defined. Despite the distribution of background documents to members of the Conference concerning those actions, the wide range of answers received to the follow-up questionnaire clearly showed that they were open to a variety of interpretations.

Furthermore, many of the actions proposed were intended to last far beyond the initial four-year period envisaged in the Plan of Action, either because of the timeless nature of the goals in question (this is the case for respect for international humanitarian law, the promotion of primary health care for vulnerable persons, and so on) or because of the need for ongoing mobilization in a particular field (such as landmines or HIV/AIDS). It is therefore important to consider, as 2003 draws to a close, the advisability and means of pursuing certain goals set forth the Plan of Action in the years to come.

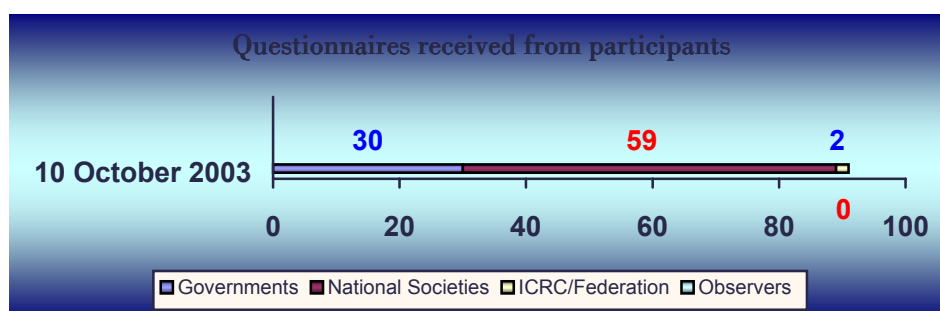
Number and scope of actions proposed

The ambitious nature of the Plan of Action and the achievement that its adoption represents are all the more evident when one considers that it comprises **15 Final Goals and 50 Actions**. The implementation of these actions proved particularly complex, not so much because of their number but because of the wide scope of humanitarian fields they cover. Indeed, the Final Goals and corresponding actions focus on areas as varied as the ratification of international treaties (also covering a broad range of subjects), improved road safety, post-conflict relief, the protection of women and children in wartime, disaster preparedness, better access to health care and National Society capacity-building.

According to the 3305 actions reported on the Plan of Action, as of 1 September 2003, actions by final goal are as follows:



In practical terms, this plethora of goals and actions had a major impact on the establishment and effectiveness of follow-up mechanisms, in particular this report. Proper implementation of the Plan of Action rested on a threefold responsibility, that of Conference members to carry out the actions, that of the Standing Commission to facilitate follow-up and that of the ICRC and the International Federation to present a report on implementation (Resolution 1 of the 27th International Conference). It was thus **crucial to ensure an ongoing and substantial exchange of information** between these various partners. Attention has also been drawn to the importance of the database and questionnaire devised to this end (see Introduction). The questionnaire was designed to translate the wealth of actions proposed into tangible, practical concepts and to organize the answers in such a way as to facilitate their comparative examination for the purpose of compiling this report. Yet, participants repeatedly pointed to the **complexity of the questionnaire**.



This complexity also had a considerable impact on the **level of competence required to report on the implementation of the Plan of Action**. To many, the wide range of actions

proposed implied the need to mobilize numerous partners, a relatively complex depending on whether the State in question had a centralized, decentralized or federal structure (for instance, in the areas of education or health care) or how tasks were divided up within a particular administration (between ministries within the same government or between the legal, operational or other departments of the Movement's components). Commendable efforts were made to implement the Plan of Action, gather related information and share it with other Conference participants. Nevertheless, despite a relatively satisfactory rate of response compared with previous experiences (over 20% of Conference members replied to the questionnaire), a higher degree of involvement should have been achieved.

Lessons to be drawn for the 28th International Conference

After examining the follow-up to the Plan of Action, the 28th International Conference will be called on to adopt a new plan in the form of a single document entitled ***Agenda for Humanitarian Action***, which will take account of the foregoing observations whenever possible. In particular:

- The aim of the Conference will be to **adopt by consensus a single, action-oriented document**.
- An effort should be made to further narrow down the areas of concern targeted by the **Agenda for Humanitarian Action**, for the aim here is not to deal exhaustively with every field of humanitarian endeavour. The Agenda thus focuses on four general objectives, subdivided into Final Goals and implementing actions. Furthermore, the choice of general objectives should make it possible to **pursue and give more in-depth consideration to a number of issues addressed in the Plan of Action** (such as missing persons and their families, HIV/AIDS).
- The actions proposed must correspond to clear and measurable objectives that members are expected to achieve by the next Conference. The background documents appended to the Agenda for Humanitarian Action should help define the actions themselves and the criteria for their successful implementation more precisely. Although a number of other humanitarian issues are of crucial importance, they do not necessarily lend themselves to such specific actions. They may nonetheless be translated into long-term – or permanent – aims that should underlie all the actions undertaken by Conference members. This is the purpose of the draft **Declaration** that will be submitted to the 28th International Conference for approval.
- **Each Conference participant will be responsible for implementing the Agenda for Humanitarian Action** and must report on follow-up action to the next Conference. The following recommendations are intended to facilitate this process:
 - ✓ Whenever possible, the actions proposed should emphasize **resource mobilization and capacity-building**, since those who wish to carry out the Agenda's objectives may require assistance in this respect. The adoption by consensus of common objectives should also be understood as an **appeal for solidarity and partnership among all Conference participants**.
 - ✓ The relatively small number and specific nature of the general objectives proposed should **facilitate the appointment by each participant of those responsible** for implementation, follow-up action and the smooth exchange of information.
 - ✓ This should also enable **the International Federation and the ICRC** to offer more assistance to Conference participants with a view to keeping up the momentum for the implementation of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action. To begin with, a simpler reporting system should be devised for participants (probably a new questionnaire). Then, greater synergy should be established between follow-up measures taken subsequent to the Conference and other mechanisms that already exist or are being developed within the Movement

in relation to operational, legal or academic projects with a direct link to the Agenda, thus providing participants with greater support between International Conferences. Lastly, National Societies and governments that so wish should be able to count on support from the network of International Federation and ICRC delegations in implementing the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, in particular in devising an appropriate working plan and assessing its results.

The experience acquired during the implementation of the Plan of Action and the 2003 Agenda for Humanitarian Action should allow the **29th International Conference** to assess not only the relevance and success of the measures undertaken to date but also the soundness of the adjustments made in 2003.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION: TRENDS AND BEST PRACTICES

Final Goal 1.1: Full compliance by all the parties to an armed conflict with their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect and assist the civilian population and other victims of the conflict and to respect protected objects.

Final Goal 1.1 of the Plan of Action comprises various objectives of wide-ranging interest. The States and National Societies took action on specific areas without addressing all those objectives. A number of the issues covered by Final Goal 1.1 are therefore not discussed below.

1.1.1 Assistance and protection for the civilian population in armed conflicts

In the last four years, despite the glimmers of hope represented by events such as the peace process in Angola or Sierra Leone, the protection of civilians in armed conflicts has remained a top priority for humanitarian organizations throughout the world, especially for the ICRC, yet has been exceedingly difficult to achieve. Summary executions, disappearances, forced labour, torture, rape, indiscriminate shootings, hostage-taking, reprisals and intimidation are only some of the wide range of violations civilians have to contend with on a daily basis.

In the face of this challenge, the ICRC focused on the systematic collection of information by its delegates in the field and regular confidential representations (verbal and written) to the parties to the conflict, with a view to preventing and putting a stop to violations committed against civilians. Moreover, since protection activities cannot be disassociated from assistance, the ICRC developed operational programmes that combine assistance and protection activities to the greatest possible extent. Assistance activities were accordingly designed not only to avoid putting civilians at risk, but indeed to enhance their protection. In some cases, assistance and protection also included longer-term activities, such as enabling displaced people to return home or helping families to ascertain the fate of missing relatives. Particular attention was also paid to children caught up in the turmoil of conflict, such as those separated from their families, deprived of their freedom or recruited into armed forces or armed groups. The ICRC's delegations were also asked to devote more attention to the special vulnerability of women in conflict situations, as women are the target of sexual abuse and are deprived of their usual means of support more frequently than men.

At the same time, financial support was received for the ICRC's assistance programmes. The primary aim of these programmes is to preserve or restore acceptable living conditions for the victims of armed conflict in accordance with ethical standards and the provisions of IHL. The beneficiaries are primarily civilians, whether displaced or otherwise, the sick and wounded, both military and civilian, and the prison population. In practical terms, ICRC headquarters provides ongoing support by offering systematic professional expertise to field projects in three areas: economic security, water and habitat, and health (for further information relating to health, please refer to Final Goal 3.1).

With regard to economic security, the ICRC's aim is to ensure that households and entire communities have the means of meeting their basic material needs. Depending on the situation and the assessment of needs, material support took the form both of immediate distributions of food and non-food relief supplies and of aid aimed at rebuilding communities by giving their members the means of earning a living. To ensure an integrated approach, the Economic Security Unit carried out multidisciplinary reviews so as to guarantee that food and non-food assistance programmes had an optimum impact on the beneficiaries' lives. In addition, the Economic Security Unit finalized two major reference tools in 2001. One was a database, available to all staff, on economic security procedures and activities; the other was a coordinators' handbook outlining the major responsibilities and tasks of economic security coordinators in the field.

Water and habitat work ranged from setting up water pumping and treatment stations to making water safe to drink and dealing with human waste disposal in urban or rural areas affected by armed conflict. It also included the repair and in some cases building of health-care facilities,

limb-fitting centres and rehabilitation centres to house IDPs, and essential improvements to places of interment when this was the only means of providing detainees with acceptable conditions of detention. During the period under review, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit was engaged in water, sanitation and construction work in over 40 countries. These projects catered to the needs of up to 14 million people worldwide and cost about 174 million Swiss francs. They were implemented by a team of some 80 expatriate engineers and between 150 and 340 national engineers and technicians. On another level, the ICRC made a crucial contribution to the further development of assistance policies and guidelines. In 2002, with a view to harmonizing data collection and preserving technical records from different programmes, the Water and Habitat Unit finalized a comprehensive summary of all available engineering databases being used in the field. Programme requirements were established and are to be used for a new water and habitat database, planned for 2003, which will allow functional information to flow smoothly between the field and headquarters. In 2001, in pursuance of ongoing efforts to harmonize systems and procedures between the International Federation and the ICRC, the Water and Habitat Unit contributed to a standard catalogue for water and sanitation emergency equipment. The catalogue was published with the International Federation. During 2000, an engineering handbook was completed for maintenance workers in places of detention.

The ICRC's Surgery and Hospital Assistance Service provides surgical care for combatants and civilians wounded during armed conflicts and assists the surgical and other essential departments of hospitals in situations where local health services have broken down. In 2002, the ICRC provided regular assistance around the world to 67 hospitals and 267 other health-care facilities that treated 2,700,000 outpatients. Over 14,400 war-wounded were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals and more than 90,000 operations performed there. Near combat zones, the ICRC regularly supported 24 first-aid posts that provided emergency treatment to some 1,600 war-wounded. In 2001, the ICRC provided regular assistance to about 100 hospitals and 220 health centres throughout the world and gave almost 4 million outpatient consultations; over 18,000 war-wounded were admitted to hospitals receiving ICRC support and nearly 160,000 operations were performed there. Regular assistance was also afforded near the front lines to 17 first-aid posts that provided emergency treatment to some 10,000 war-wounded. In 2000, the ICRC distributed medicines and medical supplies worth 19.5 million Swiss francs to more than 300 hospitals and to thousands of health centres in 53 countries. It also sent medical and surgical teams to 20 hospitals in Africa and Asia that admitted over 45,000 patients and treated more than 245,000 people. It contributed to a standard-item catalogue of medical supplies and equipment, which was jointly published with the International Federation in 2002. Guidelines for physiotherapy in hospitals were developed with the aim of standardizing treatment and thus improving the quality of physiotherapy in hospitals assisted by the ICRC.

Furthermore, considerable resources continued to be earmarked for the training of health professionals in the field, enabling them to maintain their know-how and, in the case of programme coordinators, develop their management skills.

With a view to improving the quality of humanitarian operations both within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and in the wider humanitarian world, the ICRC Assistance Division participated in a number of conferences and maintained and developed a network of contacts with United Nations agencies, the NGO sector, professional associations and academic institutions.

Children affected by armed conflict

Particular concern was expressed by 79 States, 54 National Societies and the ICRC regarding respect for the provisions of IHL concerning children. Further, 39 States and 44 National Societies pledged at the 27th International Conference *inter alia* to protect and assist children affected by armed conflict, and to work to ensure the development and successful completion of specific humanitarian instruments, such as the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, which entered into force on 12 February 2002. Fifty-seven States had ratified the Optional Protocol at the time of writing (see

Annex II), and a number of those States had reviewed or amended their national legislation in order to bring it into line with the Optional Protocol.

African National Societies were particularly active on the issue of children and war. For instance, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society developed a pilot trauma-healing project for war-affected children that included activities to promote literacy and other basic skills and that involved theatre and artwork. In January 2003 the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, together with the French-speaking community of the Belgian Red Cross, launched the pilot phase of a programme to assist and reintegrate demobilized child soldiers in Kinshasa.

In addition, six States and 28 National Societies promoted the principle of non-recruitment into the armed forces (regular armed forces and armed groups that are distinct from the armed forces of a State) and the prohibition of participation in hostilities of persons under the age of 18.

Concrete measures were taken to protect and assist the child victims of conflict. Such measures included educational programmes, such as camp schools in conflict and post-conflict areas, health care, psychological support and rehabilitation programmes. The ICRC takes concrete measures to ensure protection and assistance for all children who are victims of conflicts. The protection of unaccompanied minors starts with their identification and the search for their parents or relatives; steps are then taken to reunite the children with their families or to find other long-term solutions. As for children who have been arrested or interned in relation to a situation of conflict, the ICRC works to negotiate their release and to ensure that they are held separately from adults and reunited with members of their family.

Since the 27th International Conference, a large-scale effort has been made to ensure stricter compliance with the humanitarian instruments designed to protect children in armed conflicts. In order to prevent violations, the ICRC spread knowledge of IHL and the Fundamental Principles among armed forces, police forces and other arms bearers

The Spanish Red Cross set up an International Children's Centre as part of the Movement's Plan of Action for Children affected by Armed Conflict (CABAC), raised awareness of the issue through campaigns on children in armed conflict, and was organizing an international conference on children in armed conflict for October 2003. The ICRC developed communication tools that include an updated information kit on children in war and a brochure and video on child soldiers. Four posters were produced as part of an awareness-raising campaign, in particular with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

as widely as possible. In addition, the National Societies, together with the ICRC and the International Federation, organized campaigns to raise awareness of the concept of child-specific protection among the general public, in particular among children and adolescents at universities and schools. They participated actively in a number of regional conferences, such as the Conference on War-affected Children held in Accra, Ghana, from 27 to 28 April 2000, the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar on Children and Armed Conflict held in Warsaw, Poland, from 23 to 26 May 2000, the International Conference on War-affected Children held in Winnipeg, Canada, from 10 to 17 September 2000, the Arab-African Finance Ministers Conference held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 21 to 23 May 2001, the Pan-African Forum for the Future of Africa's Children held in Cairo, Egypt, from 28 to 31 May 2002, and the Human Security Network meetings held in 2002 and 2003.

During 2001, the Netherlands Red Cross actively participated in the Dutch NGO Platform "United Nations Special Session on Children", which aimed to raise awareness for the United Nations Special Session on Children held in New York from 8 to 10 May 2002. The National Society underlined the importance of the protection of children in armed conflict. In this connection, a public national debate was organized on children and war.

Women and war

In 2001, the ICRC published *Women facing War*, a study on the impact of armed conflict on women that identified in particular the needs of women in wartime. The report proved to be an

effective tool, helping ICRC delegations, States, organizations and individuals assess and address the needs of women during armed conflicts. A number of launch events for *Women facing War* held around the world raised awareness among key audiences of the impact of armed conflict on women. They provided an opportunity to promote the study's key conclusions and messages in respect of the protection and assistance of women in situations of armed conflict and respect for the provisions of IHL affording them protection. Launches were held in Amman, Beirut, Geneva, London, Melbourne, Moscow, Ottawa, Pretoria and Washington (pre-launch), and special events were organized in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia (AU), Georgia, Mexico, Syria and the United States (New York). (For further information, please refer to the report submitted to the 28th International Conference on the implementation of the ICRC pledge on women and war).

The States and National Societies attending various international and national fora urged that special attention be paid to the adverse effects of armed conflict on women. For instance, the Norwegian Government played an active part in the adoption of and follow-up to United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The British Red Cross organized a conference on women and war in October 2001, to help promote the launch of the ICRC's *Women facing War* study and to explore practical suggestions for improving the legal protection and assistance available to women and girls affected by armed conflict. Over 140 delegates from humanitarian organizations, the armed forces, the civil service, diplomatic missions, the media and academia attended.

Within the framework of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) regional project, "Women for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building in the southern Caucasus", a Coalition 1325 was set up in Azerbaijan. The Coalition brings together prominent women from political parties, academic circles, the mass media and NGOs to disseminate the ideas of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

Spain's Institute for Women, in cooperation with the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, is working to promote women within the framework of the Women and Development Programme by implementing international projects to train women in gender-focused development planning and management (Colombia), and to strengthen the capacities of peasant women and involve women in local government so as to promote gender equality (Guatemala).

In addition, States and National Societies provided financial support to UNHCR humanitarian assistance activities and to programmes implemented by UNDPKO and UNIFEM to mainstream the gender perspective in peace-keeping and peace-

building operations respectively. Support was also provided to ICRC operations, the International Federation's Gender and Development Programme, and NGOs, one example being the Médecins sans Frontières project for traumatized women in the Great Lakes region.

Information and ICRC campaign materials on women in armed conflict, such as the brochure *Women in War*, were produced and/or distributed to ministries, universities and different target groups within the humanitarian community. Awareness of the issue, including the launch of the ICRC *Women facing War* study, was raised through the media and via National Society publications (for example, in the Korean Red Cross monthly newspaper). The commitment of National Societies to ease the plight of women affected by armed conflict was further evidenced by the organization of a number of public events on the subject of women and war. For instance, the Liberian Red Cross Society and the Nigerian Red Cross Society each organized an art competition on the theme of women and war, the results of which were presented to the public during an exhibition organized by the National Society.

In addition, National Societies carried out various programmes and activities designed to improve basic social and reproductive health services and income-generating projects for women.

The Algerian Red Crescent Society has always helped the most deprived women by providing the vocational training they need to find a job. Over the last ten years, however, the National Society has had to start helping women who are suffering because of the rising tide of violence in Algeria. Discussion groups are led by mental health professionals with the aim of providing psychological support to women victims of violence. The women thus brought together can share their fears and anxieties and their hopes for the future. These discussion groups provide an opportunity for dialogue and listening, allowing the women to release their pain and above all to help one another.

For example, the Cameroon Red Cross established a "Mother's Club" aimed at promoting the prevention of HIV/AIDS among women's groups and associations; the Bolivian Red Cross promoted community involvement in mother-child health care through public health education; 415 women's associations in eastern Sierra Leone were trained in vegetable growing and seed multiplication techniques, through the joint efforts of the ICRC, the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Agriculture. This project helped a total of 60,000 vulnerable women affected by the conflict to regain their self-sufficiency and dignity.

Persons deprived of their liberty

The ICRC, as a neutral humanitarian institution, has a specific mandate to protect persons deprived of their liberty, and it has acquired expertise in this field. In the last four years, visits to people deprived of their liberty remained one of the ICRC's main protection activities. The number of contexts in which the ICRC had access to detainees continued to rise, reaching 75 in 2003. In 2002, delegates visited approximately 450,000 people in some 2,000 places of detention throughout the world. The focus continued to be on registration and close individual follow-up of detainees in order to save lives and prevent or reduce ill-treatment or torture. Regular visits and reporting also enabled the ICRC closely to monitor the detainees' treatment and conditions of detention and to ensure that they had access to health services of a standard at least equivalent to those available to the country's inhabitants as a whole. Major detention-related operations were carried out in Kosovo, Israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Colombia. In addition, the ICRC's Assistance Division was involved in tuberculosis control programmes in the Caucasus.

As in the past, many ICRC visits took place in internal conflicts or situations of tension. In Africa, the international armed conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea and the presence of foreign troops in the Democratic Republic of the Congo put the protection of prisoners of war at the top of the agenda. Protection activities on behalf of prisoners of war and civilian internees in Iraq were another important recent development. In addition, the growing tendency of armed rebels to cross borders and fight outside their own countries made the ICRC's protection work more complex.

Since the events of 11 September 2001, the ICRC has had to adapt its protection activities to take into account new forms of arrest and detention, increased cooperation between States, and in some cases the adoption of emergency laws. These new features will present a challenge for ICRC protection activities in the years ahead.

The ICRC had to develop its protection activities in other ways as well. Owing to the steady deterioration of prison facilities, especially in Africa and to some extent in developing countries generally, the ICRC, in the situations of violence in which it operates, could not simply overlook the plight of common law detainees subjected to standards of treatment and conditions of detention well below the acceptable minimum. It accordingly became increasingly involved in meeting the most urgent needs of all inmates, including common law detainees.

The ICRC also supplied input in 2001 and 2002 for several publications dealing with issues relating specifically to prisoners. For instance, it provided three chapters for a manual, *HIV in Prisons*, published by the World Health Organization-Europe, and contributed a chapter to a

textbook, *The Medical Documentation of Torture*, drawing on its firsthand experience inside prisons. In close cooperation with the World Health Organization, the World Medical Association and other international bodies, the ICRC continued to draw up guidelines on prison health issues.

The National Societies periodically collected/distributed Red Cross Messages to detainees and their families.

Displaced populations

For further information on assistance and protection of refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs, please refer to Final Goal 2.3.

Tracing and missing persons

Six States, 31 National Societies, and the ICRC reported on their tracing activities. Tracing networks formed by the ICRC Central Tracing Agency and National Society tracing services continued to collect tracing requests and deliver Red Cross Messages with a view to restoring and maintaining family links in many situations of conflict and violence, such as in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Chechnya, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kosovo, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Sri Lanka. Between 2000 and 2002, over 2,900,000 Red Cross Messages were exchanged worldwide between family members separated by conflict. The ICRC also located over 7,400 people for whom tracing requests had been filed and helped reunite 6,560 people, including 4,628 children, with their families. The National Societies also were active in reuniting families. For instance, the Swedish Red Cross assisted relatives applying for reunification, providing them with legal advice and information on the relevant procedures.

The ICRC developed its contacts with the National Societies through regional and bilateral meetings or by working with them to develop new tools and procedures. Standard practices for handling tracing cases were incorporated into courses and training sessions for volunteers (British, Colombian, Honduran and Spanish Red Cross Societies). A new cooperation policy on tracing was established with a view to involving National Societies in the development of sister National Societies. Together with National Society representatives, the ICRC also produced a practical guide to restoring and maintaining family links in situations of conflict and violence and in natural and other disasters.

Through their tracing services, the National Societies, *inter alia* those from the Balkans, also played a very active role with regard to missing persons, staying in direct contact with the families and collecting information on people reported missing.

The ICRC strengthened its cooperation on tracing activities, in particular for children, with United Nations agencies and international organizations, the Spanish Government worked closely with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and the Swiss authorities actively participated in the work of the Intersessional open-ended working group charged with elaborating a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons from enforced disappearances, which is chaired by France.

The Missing: the International Conference of Governmental and Non-Governmental Experts

A major international conference of governmental and non-governmental experts was convened by the ICRC from 19 to 21 February 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland. It brought together over 350 governmental and non-governmental experts from more than 90 countries, including representatives of families of the missing; 56 representatives from 42 National Societies also took part.

The Conference recognized that the issue of people who are unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict or internal violence deserves greater attention. Uncertainty about the fate of their family members is a harsh reality for hundreds of thousands of people worldwide. Their distress makes them unable to obtain closure on the violent events that disrupted their lives and that of their communities. The humiliation and suffering of families and friends of missing persons all too often undermine efforts towards rehabilitation and reconciliation.

The right of families to know the fate of missing relatives was at the heart of the discussions, and concrete measures were proposed to address this vital need. These include humane treatment of persons deprived of their liberty under all circumstances, and informing the families of their whereabouts. Family members, wherever they may be, must be able to communicate with each other at regular intervals. Human remains must be recovered and treated in a responsible and dignified manner, allowing for their identification and restitution to the families. The Conference also proposed a number of preventive measures, including the provision of personal identification to all combatants and to civilians at risk, particularly children.

The Conference reaffirmed that the families of missing persons need material, financial, psychological and legal support. It directed particular attention to women and children, who may find themselves in situations of acute destitution and distress.

Ultimately, the success of the Conference will depend on the extent to which the measures adopted are made known and applied by States and international and national NGOs. The 28th International Conference is an important step in that process.

1.1.2 Protection of cultural property

The serious damage inflicted on cultural property during recent armed conflicts undermines the dignity of the persons directly affected and the cultural heritage of all humanity and has continued to demonstrate the importance of protection of cultural property in such circumstances.

A sample of the activities undertaken by National Societies is encouraging. National Societies included cultural property protection in their IHL training courses and in other dissemination events. They encouraged their States to become party to the 1954 Hague Convention for

Following Finland's ratification in 1994 of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Second Protocol, the Ministry of Education established a national working group to supervise and monitor implementation of the Convention and to function as a channel for liaison and information between the various authorities concerned.

the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and/or its Protocols, worked to promote effective measures to implement these treaties at the national level, in particular for the protection of the distinctive emblem of cultural property, and cooperated with the relevant organizations in carrying out these tasks. In cooperation with UNESCO, the ICRC organized regional seminars in southern Africa and Latin America specifically addressing the issue, with a view to promoting ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention and its Protocols and their effective implementation at national level. At the time of writing, 105 States were party to the 1954 Convention and 87 States to the First Protocol. The 1999 Second Protocol had not yet entered into force; 20 ratifications or accessions are required and as at March 2003, there had been 16 (see Annex II).

1.1.3 Promotion and dissemination of IHL

For further information on the incorporation of IHL into the training of armed and security forces and more generally on the promotion of IHL, please refer to Final Goal 1.4.

Final Goal 1.2: An effective barrier against impunity through the combination of relevant international treaties and national laws concerning the repression of violations of international humanitarian law, and the examination of an equitable system of reparations.

1.2.1 Adherence to the Rome Statute

Most of the comments received from 27 States, 35 National Societies and the ICRC on Final Goal 1.2 relate to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Since the 27th International Conference, the number of States party to the Statute has greatly increased, from four before the Conference to 91 at the time of writing (see Annex II). Most of the new adherents are countries from Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central and South America.

An effective mechanism to combat impunity, the Rome Statute entered into force on 1 July 2002, about three years after the launch of the Plan of Action. It creates a permanent independent judicial body to prosecute the most serious crimes of concern to the international community: aggression, genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. Under the principle of “complementarity”, the International Criminal Court will only act when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so.

The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society held a number of workshops for parliamentarians, in cooperation with the ICRC, in order to solicit their support for ratification of the Rome Statute. The Red Cross of Cape Verde established contacts and organized working meetings with the armed forces chief of staff, the Minister of Justice and members of the Red Cross Superior Council.

Thirty-three National Societies lobbied their governments to ratify the Statute and/or provided support and assistance to that end. In particular, they organized information sessions, working meetings and workshops on the Statute. They also established contacts with the national authorities at different levels of government, including with prominent army officers.

Adoption of implementing legislation

In order to fulfil their obligations under the Rome Statute, States that have ratified or intend to ratify the Rome Statute should review their national laws to ensure that there are no barriers to national prosecution of crimes within the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction or to cooperating with the Court. If national legislation is found lacking, States should make any necessary amendments or enact new legislation. The ICRC Advisory Service collected information on the national laws of 32 States (including Belarus, Belgium, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, which reported on the matter in the questionnaire) that had been reviewed and aligned with the Rome Statute in order either to incorporate war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity into national legislation and/or to provide rules on cooperation. Eleven National Societies participated actively in both interministerial discussions (for example, as members of the drafting committee) and the drafting of new legislation and/or amendments aimed at enhancing cooperation and implementing the Rome Statute.

Reparation mechanisms

Under Article 75 of the Rome Statute, the International Criminal Court is required to establish principles relating to reparations, and it may order a convicted person to make reparations directly to the victims or through the International Criminal Court's Trust Fund. In this regard, five States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Lesotho, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) reported having enacted a reparation mechanism for victims, while the Netherlands Red Cross advocated the establishment of an individual complaints procedure for victims of IHL violations. The British Red Cross worked to promote the inclusion of such reparation mechanisms in the national implementing legislation for the Rome Statute.

1.2.2 UN ad hoc international tribunals

Eleven States reported on the assistance they provided to the tribunals, gathering documentary and other physical evidence, providing forensic experts, and seconding lawyers and police technicians. In addition, a number of countries enacted national legislation expressly providing for cooperation with the tribunals. The measures included assistance and protection for witnesses required to testify, the arrest and transfer/surrender of accused/indicted persons to the tribunals, and the provision of prison facilities for persons convicted by the tribunals.

Finland received persons sentenced to imprisonment by the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, in implementation of its agreement with the Tribunal on the enforcement of the Tribunal's sentences. The Namibian and Malawi authorities reported having provided assistance to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, respectively complying with requests for surrender and facilitating the voluntary appearance of witnesses.

Final goal 1.3: Universal acceptance of international humanitarian law and the adoption of all necessary measures by States at the national level to ensure the implementation of their obligations under international law.

Fourteen States, 40 National Societies and the ICRC reported on their activities to implement Final Goal 1.3 of the Plan of Action.

1.3.1 The universal character of international humanitarian law

The universal character of IHL was strengthened by the adherence of a number of States to IHL treaties concluded since the adoption of the Geneva Conventions and by the withdrawal of numerous reservations previously made thereto (see Annex II). The ICRC and the National Societies pursued their efforts to encourage and promote universal adherence to IHL treaties, in particular to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, amendment Article 1.

1.3.2 Adoption of national implementing measures

In addition, 18 States and 38 National Societies reported on concrete steps they had taken to ensure the adoption of national legislative measures for the implementation of treaties, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols, the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its 1999 Second Protocol (for further information on the protection of cultural property, please refer to Final Goal 1.1, section 1.1.2), the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the 1998 Rome Statute (for further information on the adoption of national implementing measures, please refer to Final Goal 1.2, section 1.2.1) and the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (for further information on children affected by armed conflict, please refer to Final Goal 1.1, section 1.1.1).

On 7 May 2003, the Government of Mauritius adopted the Chemical Weapons Convention Act giving effect to the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction. The Act provides in particular that no person shall develop, produce, acquire, stockpile or retain chemical weapons, directly or indirectly transfer chemical weapons to another person, or use chemical weapons. It also establishes the Mauritius National Chemical Weapons Authority, which is in charge inter alia of supervising and monitoring enforcement of the Act. In addition, the Act provides for extraterritorial jurisdiction for citizens of Mauritius and for any person on board a Mauritian ship or aircraft. Lastly, it defines offences and sets penalties for violations of the Act.

1.3.3 The role of national IHL committees

The instrumental role played by national IHL committees in drafting national legislation related to IHL must also be emphasized. As at September 2003, 63 national committees had been established for the implementation of humanitarian law, 22 of them since the 27th International Conference. National committees on IHL provide advice on and coordinate all matters relating to the implementation of the law at national level, and promote compliance with and the development of the law. According to the ICRC Advisory Service, 52 National Societies were directly associated with the work and activities of national committees on IHL, and were thus regularly apprised of the implementation of domestic penal legislation.

1.3.4 Establishment of cooperation at the regional and international levels

Very little additional substantial information had been made available at the time of writing (seven States and six National Societies). Efforts were directed at organizing and/or participating in meetings in Africa and Europe to promote respect for IHL. Participants included UN agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, Red Cross liaison offices, national and international NGOs, and research institutions.

1.3.5 Protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems

According to the ICRC Advisory Service, three bills on the emblem were under consideration, while 86 had been enacted (as at September 2003).

Sixteen States and 37 National Societies reported that implementing measures had been adopted for the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems.

Six National Societies endeavoured to inform the public and the medical community, through the mass media, conferences and leaflets, about the proper use of the emblem as a protective device and the reasons for the special protection provided under the Geneva Conventions.

The Honduras Red Cross involved health workers in spreading knowledge of the national law protecting the Red Cross name and emblem and requiring respect for the emblem. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society launched emblem awareness campaigns and planned to hold a conference of medical personnel on the emblem issue. The Thai Red Cross conducted publicity campaigns through the mass media on proper use of the emblem and instructed all its Red Cross branches to use the emblem correctly in their provinces.

In addition, the ICRC Advisory Service provided technical assistance and advice on the drafting, adoption and amendment of national legislation to prevent misuse of the red cross and red crescent emblems. The ICRC Division for Policy and Cooperation within the Movement also provided delegations and National Societies with regular advice on what to do when the emblem is misused.

1.3.6 Strengthening of the ICRC Advisory Service

In order to strengthen respect for IHL, the ICRC Advisory Service worked in close cooperation with States, National Societies, national committees on IHL, and international organizations and specialized agencies. At the request of States, the Advisory Service focused on organizing and participating in seminars dealing with the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute and other IHL treaties. Information on new national legislation and case-law relating to IHL was collected and analysed by the Advisory Service and published twice-yearly in the *International Review of the Red Cross*.

The Government of the Seychelles plans to add a link to the IHL National Committee on the websites of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, among others. A database on treaties is already available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs website (Legal Affairs).

This information is also available on the ICRC database on national implementation of IHL (www.icrc.org/ihl-nat), which, at the time of writing, contained updated entries on national legislation and case-law in 91 countries.

1.3.7 Recognition of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission

In an effort to secure the guarantees accorded to the victims of armed conflict, Article 90 of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (Protocol I) provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission. As at July 2003, 65 declarations recognizing the Commission's competence had been deposited, eight of them following the 27th International Conference. The Commission is an important means of ensuring that IHL is both applied and implemented during armed conflicts.

Final Goal 1.4: Integration, by States, of their obligations under international humanitarian law in relevant procedures and training. Promotion of this law among relevant persons and bodies.

Twenty-five States, 62 National Societies and the ICRC reported on their activities to implement Final Goal 1.4 of the Plan of Action. Cooperation between States, National Societies and the ICRC is a recurrent feature under this item, which saw the incorporation of IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent into publications, information and dissemination materials and training. At the time of writing, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols had been translated in 39 and 29 languages respectively.

1.4.1 The incorporation of IHL into the training programmes of armed and security forces

Thirteen States and 37 National Societies reported on the incorporation of IHL into

In addition to civilian lawyers, the Danish armed forces employ six full-time military legal advisors. If the armed forces are mobilized, an additional 40 military legal advisors can be called up.

the training programmes of the armed and security forces. In eleven States, the relevant Ministry of Defence departments organized regular courses, seminars and lectures on IHL, humanitarian affairs and related legal issues. In addition, legal advisors were appointed to the armed and security forces of 11 other countries.

In April 2002, the Czech Red Cross signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Defence. The agreement covers the following areas: humanitarian operations (cooperation between the Czech army's 6th Field Hospital and the Czech Red Cross Central Emergency Rescue Unit), dissemination of IHL and first aid training within the armed forces, and Czech army technical support for the Czech Red Cross.

Furthermore, 34 National Societies reported on the advice and/or publications they provided at the request of and in close cooperation with ICRC delegations, and on the training seminars they organized for armed and security forces.

Since 1999, the ICRC has steadily developed its network of specialized delegates for relations with armed and security forces, who are supported by local staff and in some cases work in cooperation with the National Society. In many countries, the programme entered the implementation phase and the armed and security forces had incorporated instruction in IHL into their training. The ICRC helped train instructors, developed local training materials, and in some countries provided limited financial support for printing.

1.4.2 Integration of IHL into the operational procedures of armed and security forces

Six States and 18 National Societies reported on their activities to incorporate IHL into the operational procedures of national armed and security forces and to update them. For instance, Belgium and Switzerland stated that IHL was taken into consideration in the preparation, revision or redrafting of military handbooks and regulations, and in the planning of military manoeuvres. Norway contributed instructors for IHL training programmes for international military operations, and participated in the planning and execution of military exercises.

The Norwegian armed forces and the Norwegian Red Cross are increasingly cooperating in the area of IHL education and training; they participate in joint working groups, exchange information on IHL training material and take part in relevant meetings and seminars.

The Estonian Red Cross dissemination officer gave lectures on IHL in the framework of the international military exercise called Rescuer/Medical Exercise Central Europe (MEDCEUR 2002). The Finnish Red Cross was helping to prepare the Nordic Peace 2003 military exercise organized by the Finnish armed forces, giving participants lectures on IHL and organizing field exercises involving IHL.

In order to ensure that all levels of armed and security forces know and apply IHL, five National Societies (i.e. Red Cross Society of Niger, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Slovak Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and British Red Cross) helped prepare and disseminate field manuals for armed and security forces while another two (i.e. the

Colombian Red Cross Society and the Lesotho Red Cross Society), working with ICRC guidance, considered making IHL part of their operational procedures. Four National Societies (i.e. Estonia Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, and Spanish Red Cross) were actively involved in the preparation and execution of military exercises, contributing advisers/instructors for IHL training programmes and giving lectures on IHL and the role of the ICRC and the National Societies in times of armed conflict.

The ICRC took part in several international military exercises in Europe (Azerbaijan, Romania and Ukraine, under NATO's Partnership for Peace programme) and two major exercises each in the Americas, Africa and Asia. Its aim was to include IHL-related events in the military scenario at the planning phase, to increase knowledge of its mandate and activities, and to be involved in role-playing during the actual exercises. The ICRC continued to reinforce its relations with strategic military academies, regional alliances and defence institutes, and to expand its network of military experts established to help raise awareness and promote application of the law of armed conflict and other humanitarian principles. It provided assistance and expertise in running and developing IHL training programmes for armed forces and police and security forces. New teaching materials for instructors in the armed and police forces were launched in 2002 and 2003.

1.4.3 Promoting the acceptance of IHL and the Fundamental Principles

Fifteen States and 48 National Societies reported on their activities to promote acceptance of IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

Knowledge of IHL was promoted through the organization by Ministries of Foreign Affairs, together with the academic world, the ICRC, National Societies and other relevant players, of international symposia and seminars on IHL.

The ICRC, in cooperation with other institutions and organizations, arranged a series of regional expert seminars on the topic, "Improving Compliance with International Humanitarian Law". At the time of writing, four seminars had been held: in Cairo (23-24 April 2003), Pretoria (2-3 June 2003), Kuala Lumpur (9-10 June 2003) and Mexico City (15-16 July 2003). The fifth and final seminar was scheduled for 11-12 September 2003 in Bruges, Belgium. Participants included government experts, parliamentarians, academics, members of regional bodies, experts from NGOs, and representatives of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, each acting in their individual capacities as experts in IHL. The primary objective of the series was to engage experts in IHL from all regions of the world in a creative and forward-thinking discussion on current challenges to IHL in contemporary armed conflicts and to outline ICRC action in clarifying and developing the law in the time ahead. The 28th International Conference provides a significant opportunity to pursue this dialogue, in particular on the basis of the report submitted by the ICRC to the Conference on international humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts.

Various training manuals, brochures, videos and other educational materials were produced on IHL, human rights law, refugee law, the Fundamental Principles and the rules governing the use of the emblem, and widely used by National Society dissemination officers. A number of ICRC handbooks, manuals and brochures, such as *Exploring Humanitarian Law*, *To Serve and To Protect*, and *IHL – Answers to Your Questions*, were translated and included in training packages for National Society dissemination officers and dissemination trainers.

In addition, local staff and volunteers from National Societies helped promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles to a wide audience, with a special focus on children and youth. Ministries of Education and National Societies worked closely with the ICRC in 73 countries to introduce IHL learning material called "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) to schools. The final version of the programme was published in Arabic, English, French and Spanish at the end of 2001 and beginning of 2002 and distributed worldwide. Today, EHL also exists in Albanian, Amharic, Bosnian, Croatian, Greek, Hebrew, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Russian and Serbian. By the end of 2003, it is expected that the Chinese, Czech, Japanese, Malay, Polish, Romanian, Slovak, Slovene and Ukrainian versions will have been completed. The EHL programme was extended to the general public as part of citizenship education. IHL was also promoted, disseminated and advocated through different programmes essentially directed at university law students (incorporation of IHL into the curriculum, distribution of handbooks, organization of lectures and talks).

Courses focusing on IHL and the Fundamental Principles were organized by various ministries (of Education, Justice and Foreign Affairs) and National Societies for journalists and the media. Efforts were made to provide knowledge of IHL to decision-makers, including community leaders and representatives of local authorities, and to lawyers, medical personnel, different social authorities, the private sector and the armed forces, through regular bulletins, newsletters, press releases, seminars and dissemination workshops.

Eight States and 25 National Societies reported on the development of innovative ways of promoting acceptance of IHL and the Fundamental Principles. Plays, puppet shows and interactive games proved to be groundbreaking and popular ways of heightening awareness of the Fundamental Principles.

Armenian Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent staff and volunteers staged puppet shows depicting the establishment of the RC/RC Movement. The Polish Red Cross Youth and the Ugandan Red Cross organized theatre contests on the Fundamental Principles.

Traditional methods of promotion and dissemination were supplemented by innovative means such as the production by the Swedish Red Cross of a national on-line database for

discussion of the Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values, educational CD-ROMs on IHL, and videos and programmes broadcast on national radios and televisions. A *Women Facing War* series of films was widely distributed and promoted by the ICRC throughout 2002 and broadcast in many countries. A *Women facing War* travelling exhibition was launched in Sarajevo and began touring delegations and National Societies. Alternative means of dissemination included the organization of national contests, and the establishment or funding of IHL documentation and research centres.

Final Goal 1.5: Conformity of weapons with international humanitarian law, the establishment of effective controls on the availability of arms and ammunition, and an end to the human tragedy caused by anti-personnel landmines.

Twenty-one States, 52 National Societies and the ICRC reported on activities to implement Final Goal 1.5 of the Plan of Action.

1.5.1 Conformity of the use of weapons with IHL

Belgium established a commission to assess the legality of new weapons and methods of warfare in July 2002, and the United Kingdom put in place a more formal mechanism for this purpose. Other States took action to restrict the use of certain weapons. Following a decision by the Norwegian parliament to work for an international ban on the use of certain kinds of cluster munitions, Norway restricted the use of air-delivered cluster munitions.

Only 13 States and 12 National Societies reported on this issue. Two States reported that they had established a formal review mechanism for the review of weapons in accordance with Article 36 of Additional Protocol I.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to ensure that all States establish review mechanisms to consider the legality of new weapons and methods and means of warfare, as required by Article 36 of Additional Protocol I. These efforts appear to have been instrumental in the adoption of such mechanisms in several countries (in particular in Belgium, Denmark, Mauritius, Nigeria, Spain and the United Kingdom) by the end of 2002 and in achieving broader recognition of the need for a rigorous interdisciplinary approach to the conduct of reviews. Previously, fewer than five countries were known to have review mechanisms. In January 2001 a seminar on the subject was held in Switzerland for legal, military and medical experts from 20 countries. The seminar examined existing national procedures for such reviews and, in particular, the use of medical data on the effects of weapons on health. The ICRC raised this issue at the 2001 Review Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which endorsed its efforts to urge States which had not yet done so to establish review mechanisms. The ICRC addressed the possible implications of the development of so-called non-lethal weapons for existing norms or treaties in various fora, drawing attention to the obligation of States to review the legality of any new weapons, means or methods of warfare, be they termed lethal, less lethal or non-lethal.

1.5.2. Measures for the negotiation of international instruments in order to adequately address the problems caused by weapons and the successful conclusion of the negotiations on a protocol to strengthen the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention

On 8 October 2002 the Government of the Republic of Korea withdrew its reservation to the 1925 Geneva Protocol (Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare) concerning the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons.

In September 2002, at an ICRC-sponsored meeting of government and independent experts held in Montreux, Switzerland, the President of the ICRC issued a rare public appeal to governments, scientists and

industry to assume their responsibilities in the field of biotechnology. The ICRC's appeal was made against the backdrop not only of rapid advances in the biosciences, but also of the inability of States, after nearly 10 years of negotiations, to agree on a protocol for monitoring compliance with the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. It urged States to adopt an international declaration at a high political level on "Biotechnology, weapons and humanity", thereby renewing their commitment to the norms set forth in the 1925 Geneva Protocol and the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, and making specific commitments to future preventive action. The appeal received widespread media attention and was welcomed by many governments as an important contribution to international efforts in this field. The ICRC pursued this initiative in 2003 vis-à-vis all key target groups.

On the issue of conventional weapons, several States, including Mexico and the United Kingdom, reported on their participation since 2001 in the work of the Group of Government Experts of the States Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on explosive remnants of war (ERW). The aim was to agree on measures to reduce the large numbers of civilian deaths and injuries caused each year by unexploded and discarded munitions such as artillery shells, cluster bomb sub-munitions, grenades, landmines, rockets and other similar devices. The groundwork done by this group paved the way for the decision to start formal negotiations on a new instrument on ERW, and several States reported on their participation in these negotiations, which began in 2003.

The ICRC played an active part in the proceedings of the Second CCW Review Conference, held in Geneva in December 2001, which resulted in the agreement by the States parties to an amendment making all existing protocols applicable to non-international armed conflicts.

In both its bilateral contacts and in multilateral fora, the ICRC continued to stress the need for compliance with the 1868 St Petersburg Declaration prohibiting the use of explosive bullets. In September 2001 the ICRC submitted a report to the States party to the CCW on the serious implications of the proliferation of certain 12.7-mm multipurpose bullets, which are known to explode in human tissue, and of sniper rifles of the same calibre. The CCW Review Conference took note of the ICRC's report and encouraged States to take appropriate action.

The Norwegian and the Swedish Red Cross reported that they had raised this issue with their respective governments. The Swedish Red Cross also carried out a short study on the use and effect of the 12.7-mm multipurpose ammunition.

A process initiated by the ICRC in 2000, also in connection with the CCW, took a major step forward in December 2002 when the States parties decided to begin negotiations in 2003 on a new instrument addressing the global humanitarian problems caused by ERW. The ICRC contributed legal expertise and information gained through its field experience to the extensive work undertaken in 2002 by a group of governmental experts formed to examine the ERW problem. In addition, ICRC delegates and representatives of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies gave briefings on these subjects in capitals around the world and promoted ratification of the amendment that was adopted in 2001 and extended the scope of the entire Convention to non-international armed conflicts. The ICRC was participating actively as an observer organization in the three negotiating sessions on ERW taking place in Geneva in 2003 and called on States to make every effort to reach an agreement by the end of 2003.

1.5.3. Anti-personnel landmines

Nineteen States and 45 National Societies reported on their activities regarding anti-personnel landmines.

Adherence to the Ottawa Convention

Most States reporting on this action were party to the Convention before the adoption of the Plan of Action. Mauritius enacted its Anti-Personnel Mines (Prohibition) Act in 2001 and the Cook Islands reported that their first draft legislation is under review. The Seychelles reported having prepared new draft legislation, which is to be presented to the Executive Cabinet. Azerbaijan reported that it is considering becoming a party to the Convention and Belarus that its possible future accession to the Ottawa Convention would depend on receiving assistance for demining.

Four years have elapsed since the Convention on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines (the Ottawa Convention) entered into force in March 1999. Since the adoption of the Plan of Action in December 1999, 44 additional States have adhered to the Convention. The non-use of anti-personnel mines is becoming universal, with the total number of

States parties having reached 135 (as at 1 September 2003).

Prohibiting the transfer of anti-personnel landmines

A number of States reiterated that they had enacted a total prohibition on the transfer of anti-personnel mines, in accordance with their obligations under the Ottawa Convention.

Mine clearance

Fifteen States reported on financial and material assistance they provided for mine-clearance activities in countries affected by landmines. Several States, for example, made resources and personnel such as mine-clearance specialists available for different programmes or organizations, including the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and NGOs such as Handicap International. They thereby contributed to programmes worldwide, including in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Kosovo, Laos, Lebanon, Mozambique, Sudan and Sri Lanka. Some States organized training courses in various types of mine-clearance tasks or funded demining research and development.

In accordance with their obligations under Article 4 of the Ottawa Convention, eight States reported that they had begun or completed the destruction of their stockpiles of anti-personnel mines.

Mine awareness

As a consequence of the 1990-1994 armed conflict and in cooperation with the National Demining Office (supported by the American Government) and the provincial authorities, the Rwanda Red Cross Society network of volunteers helped heighten the population's awareness of anti-personnel landmines in regions of the country at risk.

Several States provided support for mine-awareness activities. For example, Switzerland backed advocacy

campaigns in various countries, including Mozambique, Eritrea, the Kosovo region, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Colombia. Austria reported that its Explosive Ordnance Disposal Forces assigned to KFOR had organized and participated in "Junior Awareness Programmes" for children in Kosovo.

Cooperative efforts and assistance to mine victims

Ten States reported that they had provided assistance benefiting mine victims in a number of mine-affected countries and regions, including Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Nicaragua, the northern Caucasus, Somalia and Sudan.

The Lao Red Cross strengthened the capacity of medical teams in provinces affected by UXO/landmines and provided assistance to the injured. The Pakistan Red Crescent Society provided artificial limbs, callipers and wheelchairs to mine victims. The Sri Lanka Red Cross provided mine-blast victims with facilities such as the Jaipur-foot project.

Mexico, for example, reported that in cooperation with the Canadian government and the Pan American Health Organization, it had worked between 1999 and 2002 on the rehabilitation and the social and economic reintegration of mine victims in Central America. Between 1998 and 2002, Japan provided financial assistance to achieve the objectives of the Zero Victims Programme. Norway reported that since 1999, assistance to mine victims had constituted about 20% of Norwegian Mine Action funding, among others to the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled and rehabilitation clinics in Iraq and Somalia.

Much of the assistance provided by donor countries was channelled through organizations that included the UN agencies UNDP, UNICEF and WHO, the ICRC and various NGOs. A few States

reported that aid had been provided to landmine victims within the context of broader aid programmes in areas like development, health and poverty reduction.

Implementation of the Movement Strategy on Landmines

In 1999, the Council of Delegates adopted a five-year strategy to promote coherent action by the Movement's components in addressing this issue, with a lead role assumed by the ICRC. The objectives of the strategy are to promote the prohibition of anti-personnel landmines in order to achieve their elimination, and to reduce their impact on civilians in mine-affected communities through the provision of assistance and protection.

With regard to advocacy, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement continued to promote adherence to and full implementation of the Ottawa Convention. The ICRC actively participated in the annual Meetings of States parties to the Ottawa Convention and in the biannual meetings of the Convention's Standing Committees. It successfully helped to refocus these meetings on each State party's efforts to meet the treaty's deadlines and put its provisions on stockpile destruction, mine clearance and victim assistance into effect. The ICRC also continued to express concern about a number of issues with regard to the interpretation and application of the Convention, including the problem of anti-vehicle mines with sensitive fuses or anti-handling devices that can be detonated by the presence, proximity or contact of a person. The ICRC considers that under the Ottawa Convention such systems are prohibited as anti-personnel mines.

Several National Societies encouraged their governments to adhere to the Ottawa Convention or, in those States already party to the Convention, monitored their government's compliance with its treaty obligations. ICRC field delegations helped a large number of States develop national legislation to ensure that treaty obligations were translated into national law, and the ICRC itself developed model legislation to help common law States implement the Ottawa Convention.

The ICRC and the National Societies hosted or participated in national, regional and other meetings to promote adherence to and implementation of the Ottawa Convention, including with the Southern African Development Community States and with CIS countries, and in Armenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Nigeria, Norway, the Russian Federation, Thailand and Ukraine.

The Moroccan Red Cross published several articles on the issue of anti-personnel mines in the Moroccan press. The Ugandan Red Cross organized a photo exhibition in cooperation with the ICRC. The Polish Red Cross produced fact sheets and brochures and organized a landmine poster contest in secondary schools, several exhibitions and other public events. The ICRC made documentation, videos and a travelling exhibition on the Ottawa Convention available to national and regional meetings.

The National Societies undertook a wide range of other activities to promote the Ottawa Convention.

In terms of mine/ERW-awareness programmes, National Societies, including those of Armenia, Belize, Cambodia,

The Colombian Red Cross organized workshops for security forces and the civilian population, and implemented programmes to prevent mine-related accidents in affected communities, while in 1999 the Polish Red Cross produced a mine-awareness leaflet in Albanian and distributed it among Kosovars going back home.

Colombia, Laos, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Swaziland and Uganda, undertook mine-awareness activities, either alone or in operational partnership with the ICRC. The ICRC was running mine/ERW awareness programmes directly or through the National Societies in a number of other countries, including Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Iraq, Nicaragua, Peru and Tajikistan, and in the northern Caucasus region of the Russian Federation.

Both guidelines and a how-to manual for the Movement's involvement in mine action were produced and field-tested in consultation with ICRC and National Society mine-action personnel. A training handbook and a standard mine/UXO casualty database were also field-tested and were to be finalized in 2003.

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society, for example, provided artificial limbs, walking aids and wheelchairs to mine victims. The Austrian Red Cross implemented a delegated ICRC project for mine victims in Serbia.

A number of National Societies engaged in victim assistance activities, either directly or by providing support for ICRC care and assistance programmes. The ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Service continued to give all disabled people in target communities

access to physical rehabilitation programmes and to supply them with good-quality prosthetic and orthotic appliances.

In 2002, ICRC and ICRC-assisted prosthetic/orthotic centres manufactured 30,286 orthopaedic appliances: 16,921 prostheses (10,098, or 60%, for mine victims) and 13,365 orthoses. In 53 projects in 21 countries, 13,823 disabled were fitted for the first time in 2002. In 2001, ICRC and ICRC-assisted prosthetic/orthotic centres manufactured 28,024 orthopaedic appliances: 16,501 prostheses (9,779, or 59%, for mine victims) and 11,523 orthoses (including replacements). In 40 projects in 14 countries, 14,140 disabled were fitted with appliances for the first time in 2001. In addition, 1,163 wheelchairs and 16,637 pairs of crutches were produced. In 2000, the ICRC fitted 16,443 amputees, including 9,882 victims of anti-personnel landmines, at its 36 limb-fitting centres in 14 countries.

1.5.4 Strengthening controls on the availability of arms

Of the 19 States reporting on this topic, many chronicled their activities in relation to the negotiation and national implementation of

The Netherlands reported that the Dutch OSCE Chairman-in-Office had addressed the issue of trafficking in small arms and light weapons as one of the main topics of the Dutch presidency during 2003.

various global and regional documents on small arms and light weapons, including the UN Programme of Action (2001), the 2001 Firearms Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material (1997), the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000) and the EU Joint Action on Small Arms. Several States reported that they had participated in the information exchange processes undertaken in the context of the OSCE Document.

Several States allocated substantial resources to international assistance and cooperation on small arms and light weapons, often in order to support the implementation of the UN Programme of Action. Key activities assisted by States include research, practical disarmament measures such as weapons collection and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DD&R) programmes, capacity-building for law enforcement officers, and institutional support for international organizations and NGOs. Some countries provided support for regional mechanisms like the ECOWAS Moratorium on the Import, Export and Manufacturing of Light Weapons and its Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED), and the UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

Finland adopted new arms brokering legislation in December 2002, Mauritius was in the process of revising its Firearms Act and the United Kingdom updated its arms export control legislation through the enactment of the Export Control Act in 2002, including IHL as a criterion in arms export decision-making. France and Switzerland led a joint initiative on the traceability of SALW intended to promote the development of an international instrument in this area. In 2003, Norway and the Netherlands launched a joint initiative on arms brokering. Participation in the UN Expert Group to consider an international instrument on the marking and tracing of weapons was also mentioned in the reports.

States also reported on initiatives or activities aimed at strengthening controls in particular areas, including in matters of arms export decision-making, arms brokering and the marking and tracing of weapons. Some States enacted new legislation on these subjects.

Most States reporting on this issue hosted, sponsored or participated in global, regional and national conferences, seminars and workshops on the issue of small arms and light weapons.

Twenty-nine National Societies reported on activities undertaken on arms availability. Several of them (including Belgium, Norway, Senegal and Sweden) contributed to the work of national networks or coalitions working on the issue. The Norwegian Red Cross launched several publications and a video as part of the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers and co-sponsored meetings in southeastern Europe and Africa. Several National Societies discussed the incorporation of IHL criteria into arms-export decision-making with their governments. The Nordic National Societies jointly appealed to the Nordic Prime Ministers before the 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms, urging their governments to work towards an ambitious goal.

A number of National Societies made efforts to raise the general public's awareness of this problem through dissemination activities, the holding of roundtables, etc.

The Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross, with the support of the Norwegian Red Cross, launched a national campaign in 2001 involving advocacy and awareness-raising. The Swedish Red Cross completed a survey of the Swedish population's attitudes towards violence, weapons and conflict prevention in 2002: it used the results to launch new activities to promote a reduction in small arms violence. The Polish Red Cross conducted a survey of small arms and light weapons victims in Poland between 1991 and 2001 with a view to documenting the impact of small arms violence.

The ICRC continued its work on arms availability, on the basis of the key conclusions and recommendations from its study, *Arms Availability and the Situation of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, which was published in 1999. In a number of international, regional and national fora, the ICRC urged arms-exporting States to consider the intended recipient's level of respect for humanitarian law. The ICRC's efforts began to yield results, and references to respect for IHL started to appear in documents on arms transfers/small arms and light weapons adopted by the European Union, the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, the African Union and the OSCE, and in the national arms export regulations of Germany and the United Kingdom.

The ICRC coordinated the involvement of components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in July 2001, and the first follow-up Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action in 2003.

In places such as Croatia, the Kosovo region of Serbia-Montenegro and Iraq, ICRC mine/UXO awareness programmes incorporated messages relating to small arms, aimed at informing communities in affected areas about, for example, the potential dangers of handling weapons or storing them at home.

Final Goal 2.1: Effective response in disaster situations through improved national and international preparedness.

Twenty States, 51 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation reported on their activities to implement Final Goal 2.1 of the Plan of Action.

2.1.1 Establishment of national disaster preparedness plans

Mauritius, being very prone to cyclones and flooding, has a Central Cyclone Committee that is chaired by the Secretary for Home Affairs of the Prime Minister's Office and whose membership includes a representative of the Mauritius Red Cross. This Committee drew up a Cyclone Emergency Scheme and a Torrential Rain Emergency Scheme.

Most States and National Societies reporting on this action adopted a preventive approach to disaster and risk situations, setting up national disaster-management bodies and/or preparing disaster-preparedness plans or

programmes. Indeed, 14 States reported that they had established a national disaster-preparedness plan; 28 National Societies took part in the consultation and/or drafting process of such a plan (three National Societies were represented on national disaster-management bodies). Another 19 National Societies drew up their own disaster-preparedness strategies.

Sixteen National Societies reported that they had clearly defined and agreed roles and responsibilities in the national disaster-preparedness and response plans. Indeed, a wide range of specific disaster-management tasks have been assigned to National Societies, including communication, information and planning, health services, search and rescue, registration, accommodation, food distribution and volunteer management.

2.1.2 Strengthening National Society disaster-preparedness and response capacities

In order to strengthen National Society capacities, governments subsidized their National Societies, enabling them to respond immediately to disaster situations and to the Emergency Appeals launched by the International Federation. The National Societies themselves provided financial support with a view to building the capacities of sister National Societies. For example, the British Red Cross, via the International Federation delegation, financed the Chilean Red Cross community-based disaster-preparedness project.

The International Federation reported that around 110 National Societies had a national disaster-preparedness programme. By September 2003, 114 National Societies had analysed their capacity as a well-prepared National Society. This self-assessment will provide a benchmark for measuring progress in developing further disaster-management skills and assets. Regional disaster-management capacity was developed in twelve regional disaster response team (RDRT) training sessions around the world. RDRT team members were also inserted regionally into field assessment and coordination teams (FACT).

The 1990s were the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. A lasting outcome of the decade was the promotion of International Disaster Reduction Day, which is celebrated on the second Wednesday of October every year. The International Federation and National Societies around the world marked the day by promoting disaster-preparedness programmes and greater awareness in the communities where they work. In addition, disaster preparedness and the broader issue of disaster risk reduction in relation to natural disasters was a priority area of work for the International Federation, whose annual publication, *World Disasters Report 2002, Focus on Reducing Risk*, gave examples of how increasing vulnerability to disasters calls for additional, broader and joint strategies and partnerships that involve development and other players in risk reduction. Further, the International Federation actively participated in the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the UN follow-up initiative for the first decade of the 21st century.

The increased importance of disaster reduction for National Societies was reflected in growing interest in community awareness-raising, small-scale mitigation projects and disaster-preparedness activities on a community level.

In September 2002 the International Federation started hosting the ProVention Consortium, a multi-stakeholder initiative whose members include the World Bank, UNDP and other UN organizations, universities and the private sector and whose aim is to reduce the risk of disaster.

The International Federation provided support for many National Society vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCAs) throughout the world. In addition, a train-the-trainers workshop held in 2002 produced locally trained, culturally and linguistically appropriate human resources. During 2003, the people who had attended the workshop facilitated seventeen VCA training/planning activities. VCA methodologies were being reviewed and the toolbox refined to ensure improved methodologies in 2004.

2.1.3 Examination of the vulnerability of national disaster-response systems

Eleven States and 27 National Societies carried out continuous vulnerability assessments of their disaster-response systems. Some States conducted regular exercises and tests of the communications technology used in natural, radiological and nuclear disasters. Working in cooperation with International Federation delegations, National Societies attended training courses on or used the VCA tool to identify their strengths and weaknesses in relation to disaster management. As mentioned by the Rwandan Red Cross, the results of the VCA helped National Societies set up community-based programmes for both risk reduction and disaster response.

For example, the Honduran Red Cross Community Education Programme devised a tool kit for the evaluation of capacity and vulnerability. Once internal weaknesses had been identified, the Honduran Red Cross applied remedies, such as setting up regional warehouses.

2.1.4 Disaster-preparedness and response cooperation at the national, regional and international levels

At the national level, 10 States and 20 National Societies reported giving priority to cooperation and coordination between relevant government bodies and National Society representatives. In order to promote enhanced efficiency in the disaster-response system, emphasis was placed on the importance of continually improving radio transmission between the core agency and the decentralized management branches.

In 2000, the Japanese Red Cross Society became a member of the Japan Platform, which is a joint system set up by the Japanese Government, the Japanese business community and Japanese NGOs to provide emergency relief in natural disasters more effectively and quickly. The Spanish Government improved emergency communications with the deployment of a satellite system providing voice, data, fax, e-mail and video-conferencing capabilities between peripheral civil protection units and the Directorate General for Civil Protection.

The Swedish Red Cross provided financial and technical/staff support for regional disaster preparedness programmes in eastern Europe and southeast Asia. The emphasis was on community awareness and preparedness, risk-reduction activities and the creation of disaster-response teams.

A number of regional cooperation projects were being developed, including the Indian Ocean Rapid Intervention Platform co-founded by the Mauritius Red Cross Society and comprising the five West Indian Ocean islands. The Japanese Red Cross, working in cooperation with the International Federation, was finalizing a draft agreement

regarding the establishment of a disaster relief network among neighbouring sister Societies in the Asia and Pacific region. The Spanish Government reported that European Union Member States

had established a mechanism to coordinate civil protection operations in the event of disaster both inside and outside the European Union.

At the international level, some States, such as Belgium and the United Kingdom, gave priority to strengthening the disaster-response capacity of communities and institutions in disaster-prone countries, through the rapid intervention of emergency aid teams or long-term support to agencies, including National Societies, that are well-established in the country and have the local knowledge and expertise to deliver assistance most effectively. Fifteen National Societies reported that they had participated in disaster-response coordination initiatives. For example, in order to improve response time and effectiveness in emergencies, the Spanish Red Cross took an active part in the FACT programme, and deployed four pre-trained teams of ERU (Emergency Response Units) specialists.

The Governments of both Japan and Switzerland reported supporting and promoting the drafting and/or implementation of the ISDR. They contributed human resources and financial support to the ISDR Secretariat, and backed cooperation between the participating organizations and agencies, including the International Federation. The Japanese authorities took part in the ISDR Support Group established by the Swiss Government in 2002, whose aim *inter alia* is to provide conceptual and political support and to heighten the Strategy's visibility.

2.1.5 Disaster-preparedness and response training

Four States and 19 National Societies reported on this issue. The reports mention various means and methods of training, such as the organization of training programmes, the opening of training centres, the training of regional intervention teams and rapid deployment brigades and of volunteers in emergency first aid and psychological support, national and international workshops and meetings, simulation and evacuation exercises, and the dissemination of information through disaster management handbooks.

2.1.6 The International Federation's study to assess the future impact of climate change

Since 1999, concern about climate change has increased and the number of weather-related disasters soared. In response, the International Federation and the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness, housed at the Netherlands Red Cross, carried out a three-part study. The first part analyses the main findings of the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group 2 and specifically what the implications of climate change are for disaster preparedness. The second part deals with field studies conducted in five locations to: assess the current level of cooperation between the National Societies and the "disaster community" at large, and the climate/meteorological community; to strengthen the capacity of National Societies to predict, where possible prevent and reduce the impact of weather/climate-related disasters on vulnerable communities and to increase National Society readiness to respond to and cope with the effects of weather/climate-related disasters, in cooperation with the climate community; and to strengthen the capacity of National Societies to advocate to governments and relevant agencies national policies to adapt to the impact of climate change. The third part maps out the International Federation's vision of its future role in the field of climate change and disaster preparedness.

The final study reveals the new and urgent challenges posed to the International Federation by climate change and puts forward to the 28th International Conference a series of recommendations for future work in this growing and important area in the context of Strategy 2010.

In June 2002, the Netherlands Red Cross, in close cooperation with the International Federation and the national authorities, established the International RC/RC Centre on Climate Change and Disaster Preparedness. The Centre's general objective is to raise awareness about the impact of climate change and to support the development and improvement of disaster-preparedness programmes in the context of climate change and extreme weather events. Three pilot projects were being developed on disaster preparedness and climate change in Ethiopia, Nicaragua and Vietnam.

Final Goal 2.2: Strengthened mechanisms of cooperation and coordination amongst States, the Movement and other humanitarian actors

Seventeen States, 56 National Societies and the International Federation reported on activities to implement Final Goal 2.2 of the Plan of Action.

2.2.1 Improvement of cooperation within the Movement: the Seville Agreement

Ten National Societies contributed to the implementation of the Seville Agreement – formally known as *The Agreement on the Organization of the International Activities of the Components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement* - by organizing training workshops/courses providing basic instruction on the principles and main provisions of the Seville Agreement for National Society staff, delegates, volunteers and youth leaders. Some National Societies reported that all international programme staff and all senior management members liaising with the Movement were fully apprised of the Seville Agreement and that the Agreement had been translated into the local language (such as German and Korean). The National Societies also indicated that bilateral programmes and cooperation had been adjusted accordingly and that they had carried out communication activities to highlight the Movement's increased unity.

Some National Societies reported close cooperation between National Societies (support for the capacity-building activities of sister National Societies) and with the International Federation's delegations. The British Red Cross reported that it was represented on the Movement's Ad Hoc Group on the conduct of international relief operations and the Belgian Red Cross reported that it had helped coordinate operations abroad (in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, India and El Salvador) in cooperation with the International Federation Secretariat.

Some National Societies maintained exchanges in traditional areas such as financial and technical support for specific development projects, the transmission of know-how and the organization of training sessions.

The Armenian Red Cross Society worked closely with the Norwegian and Finnish Red Cross Societies to improve cooperation in terms of funding and with the Austrian Red Cross to establish telecommunication systems. Some National Societies (for example, Ethiopia, Norway and Thailand) reported that their contribution to International Federation and ICRC programmes took the form of keeping key persons or delegates on call for FACTs and ERUs.

Thirty-three National Societies reported monitoring and maintaining close cooperation with the activities of the ICRC, the International Federation and other Movement components during emergency situations (for further information related to Disaster preparedness and response cooperation, please refer to Final Goal 2.1).

Under the auspices of the International Federation and ICRC regional delegations, a new system of

In addition to cooperating with the International Federation regional delegation in Budapest, the Czech Red Cross played an active role in the Central European Cooperation Forum, which brought together six National Societies from the region (the Slovakian, Polish, Hungarian, Bulgarian, Croatian and Slovenian Red Cross Societies). Both the Latvian and Icelandic Red Cross Societies are part of the Nordic-Baltic cooperation network, from which National Societies receive support for disaster preparedness in particular.

partnership emerged consisting of regional support and cooperation networks. The Chilean Red Cross participated in coordination meetings for South American National Societies organized by the International Federation delegation for the Americas. Similarly, the Zimbabwe Red Cross organized meetings of the Southern Africa Partnership of Red Cross Societies (SAPRCS).

2.2.2 Improvement of cooperation and coordination between the Movement and States, United Nations agencies and other international organizations and players: the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief

Eleven States and 38 National Societies reported mutual cooperation on humanitarian action, in particular in the field of disaster management (please refer to Final Goal 2.1), promoting preventive action and strengthening cooperation and communication with the National Society and the wider voluntary sector, including NGOs, volunteer-based fire brigades and civil defence systems. The Spanish and Swedish Red Cross Societies signed framework agreements with their respective national authorities to establish resources, procedures and response capabilities for specific emergencies. Consultation of the National Society and participation in Red Cross training seminars and conferences increased. For example, the German Red Cross contributed to and participated in a national coordination committee of humanitarian practitioners bringing together ministries, governmental organizations and major national NGOs.

In terms of cooperation and coordination between the Movement and UN agencies, the Spanish Red Cross took part in the preparatory meeting in New York for the United Nations Special Session on Children and in meetings of the United Nations Working Group on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Government of Switzerland backed efforts aimed at improving cooperation in the field among States, the Movement's components and other humanitarian players. In particular, it helped develop, through the United Nations Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), the Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP), which is based on a concerted assessment of needs and takes account of the specific mandates and independence of the Movement's components.

The European Commission approved funding for a British Red Cross-led project to be completed in April 2004: "Working together to support individuals in an emergency or disaster". The project is to enable EU Member States, European Economic Area countries and NGOs to understand and respond more appropriately to the psychological and social needs of individuals affected by an emergency or disaster and to recognize the value of guidance in achieving greater commonality in meeting those needs. The British Red Cross shared some of its learning and good practice from involvement in emergencies in the UK and from the project at a number of UK and European conferences attended by government representatives, statutory authorities and voluntary organizations. At the European level, the Swedish Red Cross was represented on the Partnership for Peace, Joint Medical Committee, International Partner Programme.

2.2.3 Development of minimum practical standards for the delivery of humanitarian assistance: the Sphere Project

Seven States reported on their financial contributions to the development of the Sphere Project, which developed a Humanitarian Charter and a set of Minimum Standards in Disaster Preparedness.

Following recent floods, the Chilean Red Cross used the Sphere Standards to manage humanitarian assistance financed by the International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for 500 families in Lampa. The Thai Red Cross, in cooperation with the International Federation, is going to study and modify the recommendations of the Sphere Project and adapt them to local needs and particularities.

Thirty-five National Societies said that the Sphere Standards were starting to be referred to by relief workers in humanitarian aid and development projects, including in disaster contexts.

Understanding of the Sphere Project and its practical usefulness were further promoted through the media

The Korean Red Cross, in cooperation with the International Federation's regional delegation in Bangkok, Thailand, produced a video on the Sphere Project in Korean.

and by the organization of a number of training courses for National Society staff, especially National Society disaster relief delegates. Interagency workshops were hosted by the Swedish and Honduras Red Cross Societies and attended by NGOs and Red Cross and government representatives.

2.2.4 International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) Project

The IDRL Project was initiated by the International Federation to collect and examine all the international laws, rules, principles and guidelines applying to international disaster-response situations, a corpus that is collectively referred to as International Disaster Response Law. Through a process of legal research conducted in every region over a two-year period, the IDRL Project identified the main international instruments in this field and examined their scope and content. In addition, the International Federation conducted a series of field studies in selected disaster-prone countries and regions to examine in greater depth the types of problems experienced during international disaster-response operations and the ways in which these problems are exacerbated or overcome by existing legal and other regulatory mechanisms. These studies, used in conjunction with the legal research, will serve to identify key areas that need to be addressed to improve and harmonize the current legal and regulatory framework applicable to international disaster response, ensuring that it facilitates coordination among the players, including humanitarian organizations, governments and those affected by disaster.

2.2.5 Development of Movement activities in post-conflict situations

Twelve States and 25 National Societies raised the importance of civilian crisis management in post-conflict situations. A wide range of initiatives were carried out, *inter alia* in Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Rwanda, with a view to bridging the gap between emergency assistance and post-conflict relief and rehabilitation efforts and to restoring normal life. Those initiatives include: State financial and political support for post-conflict relief and rehabilitation programmes; promoting issues relating to periods of transition in the relevant international fora, among the relevant international organizations, including the ICRC, and among the donors; seconding experts and specialists to construct new administrative and judicial institutions.

The Finnish authorities seconded specialists from the police, rescue services, municipal administration and court system to the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK).

The Guatemalan Red Cross carried out a project called Derribando barreras (Breaking Down Barriers) for the manufacture of lower-limb orthoses and prostheses for disabled persons without the resources for rehabilitation. The Flemish Community of the Belgian Red Cross was supporting a programme in Serbia to rehabilitate school buildings. The programme provided psychological and social support for primary school children with a view to improving and facilitating the recovery and normal development of children affected by armed conflict. The ERU sent by the Finnish Red Cross to India in 2001 had started functioning as a general hospital in Gujarat.

National Societies contributed to bilateral projects and to ICRC and International Federation post-conflict relief and rehabilitation activities, with a particular emphasis on women, children and the disabled, in areas such as food and non-food relief, reconstruction,

education and training, health care, water and sanitation, and psycho-social support. They also participated in and supported the resettlement and reintegration of displaced people; for example, the Norwegian and Swedish Societies provided support to the UNHCR 4-Rs programme (sustainable repatriation, reintegration, reconciliation and reconstruction); (for further information, please refer to Final Goal 2.3).

The International Federation created the Better Programming Initiative (BPI) as a means of improving its post-conflict programming. The BPI's main aim is to develop the Federation's capacity to plan and implement post-conflict relief and rehabilitation programmes that encourage longer-term, sustainable recovery. It does this by providing a tool for systematic context analysis to

help ensure that programmes strengthen local capacities for recovery and avoid reinforcing systems of inequality. The BPI also aims to consolidate opportunities for peace through better analysis and understanding of relationships between people in conflict-affected communities.

In April 2000, the International Federation and the Somali Red Crescent Society teamed up with the World Bank's Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction Team to develop a strategy for International Federation support for National Society efforts to engage in programming for sustainable post-conflict recovery, particularly in sub-Saharan African countries and in situations where the government may have collapsed or be recovering from a state of collapse, or be unable to provide any effective basic health infrastructure. A pilot project was launched in Somalia and learning and programming tools were being developed to make this approach more widely available.

Final Goal 2.3: Provision for the rights and acute needs of the most vulnerable people as the first priority for humanitarian action

Fifteen States, 46 National Societies and the ICRC reported on their activities to implement Final Goal 2.3 of the Plan of Action.

2.3.1 Ensuring the civilian character of and appropriate conditions in refugee and internally displaced camps

Most of the information received spoke of the measures taken to provide assistance and protection to refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs.

2.3.2 Assistance and protection for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs

Eight States reported on refugee recognition and temporary residence permit rates, and on national implementing measures to protect the rights of refugees in accordance with international or regional instruments and to improve their reception and integration. Six States continued to provide financial support for various programmes organized by agencies for refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs, such as UNHCR and IOM, and by the ICRC and the International Federation. Financial and political support was provided to the United Nations Secretary-General's Representative on IDPs and to the OCHA IDP Unit.

Thirty-five National Societies ran their own practical assistance activities encompassing the reception of new

Since November 1999 the Armenian Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation, has implemented 12 projects aimed at providing assistance to elderly refugees, children and women, such as "Skills training for refugee women", "Psycho-social support for elderly refugees", and "Summer Camp". In 2001 it launched a project for refugee integration in cooperation with UNHCR.

arrivals, the provision of material and food aid, health care and psycho-social aid for traumatized refugees, monthly allowances, information and training, and educational and cultural activities to facilitate integration in the host society. Most of the ICRC's economic security assistance to IDPs continued to be delivered in partnership with or through National Societies operating on the ground.

In order to ensure that particularly traumatized refugees are given adequate legal, medical and social assistance, the German Red Cross continued to provide psycho-social aid for refugees and displaced persons from Kosovo in 2000 and 2001. The programme included crisis intervention, support and therapy. A follow-up project to evaluate the psycho-therapeutic measures was also carried out. The final evaluation revealed that the German programme had helped the refugees cope with a difficult situation.

In addition, nine National Societies, working in close cooperation with UNHCR and the International Federation, reported that they were responsible for managing reception centres or camps for

asylum seekers. The assistance provided comprised accommodation, social and medical care, and in particular access to schooling for refugee children. Through one of these reception centres, persons seeking refugee status had access to the various associations and international organizations operating in the field of asylum and the protection of human rights.

Three formal agreements for assistance to refugees were signed between National Societies and the national authorities (Finland, Iceland and Hungary). Under the terms of these agreements, the National Society safeguarded the rights of people seeking asylum in the country and provided them with housing and financial support. It also helped the refugees adapt to the host society by organizing support families and other voluntary activities with and for refugees.

National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are increasingly confronted with the issue of the detention of migrants and asylum seekers. A group of National Societies (mostly from

Europe, Australia and North America) therefore asked the ICRC to advise them on their efforts to deal with the basic protection needs of this fast-growing vulnerable population. As a follow-up to two meetings on this topic, the ICRC set up an extranet to foster the sharing of experience between the National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC, and to facilitate the ICRC's advisory role.

2.3.3 Durable solutions for displaced populations

Four States set up national schemes with a view to motivating and preparing refugees and displaced populations for voluntary repatriation or return to their country of origin. Targeted measures include advice on a possible return and support for go-and-see-visits, travel expenses to the country of origin, and financial contributions for education and training initiatives in order to facilitate the implementation of individual and collective social and professional rehabilitation projects in the country of origin.

Besides conducting awareness-raising campaigns on refugee rights, 13 National Societies directed their efforts towards easing the process of repatriation by supporting self-reliance and income-generating projects. Services for displaced populations also included the exchange of Red Cross messages and family reunification.

The Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan, together with the International Federation, implemented an agricultural project to promote self-reliance among IDPs and returnees by increasing independent production of food and income generation, and introducing modern agro-techniques and equipment intended to improve harvests.

The Refugee-Migrant Service (RMS) of the Bulgarian Red Cross implemented UNHCR-financed care and maintenance projects (in 1999 and 2000) and projects to integrate refugees (2001 and 2002). Practically all recognized refugees in the country received social counselling, medical support, psychiatric and psychological assistance, assistance for voluntary repatriation, Bulgarian language and vocational training, and scholarships for study in Bulgarian universities; in addition, cultural and income-generating activities were arranged for refugee women.

National Societies also helped integrate displaced populations in the host country by actively involving youth delegates and via strategic programmes to promote integration through employment. One National Society provided

continued logistical and administrative support to UNHCR third-country resettlement programmes for particularly vulnerable refugees.

2.3.4 Development of solidarity and understanding

Both in the field and in a variety of fora, 13 National Societies promoted a more accepting attitude in the host society by providing information and training on asylum policy and intercultural communication. Seminars organized jointly with UNHCR for governmental officials advocated refugee rights and called for humane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers and for measures to ensure that asylum procedures are applied properly. Training modules and projects were developed to help integrate reception centres into their environments and to raise public awareness of the broader issue of asylum seekers.

In 1999, in cooperation with UNHCR, the Lithuanian Red Cross produced a video, Faces of calamities, about Lithuanian refugees and refugees in Lithuania. In September 2000 it started a public information and education project, together with the UNHCR Office in Lithuania, called "Refugees in the world and in Lithuania". The project comprised various events, seminars, concerts and activities, and the publication of articles, information bulletins and handbooks.

2.3.5 Economic sanctions

Four States and 7 National Societies reported on the humanitarian impact of economic sanctions. All the States had headed, launched or participated in the Interlaken (Switzerland), Bonn/Berlin (Germany) and Stockholm (Sweden) Processes on the implementation of targeted sanctions. Starting in 1998, these three reform processes first considered critical aspects of targeted sanctions, including financial sanctions, arms embargoes and travel and aviation-related measures, and then implementation issues. The Government of Switzerland helped bolster the capacity of OCHA by providing backing for the preparation of a specific method of measuring the humanitarian impact of sanctions decreed by the Security Council. The German Red Cross reported on the support it provided to programmes aimed at vulnerable groups in countries affected by economic sanctions. Informal contacts were established between three National Societies (i.e. British Red Cross, Icelandic Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross) and their respective States to discuss the humanitarian impact of sanctions and to help ensure that officials considered such matters when necessary. Two National Societies (i.e. Icelandic Red Cross and Norwegian Red Cross) organized public awareness campaigns on the issue.

Final Goal 2.4: Understanding of the respective roles of political, military and humanitarian actors, and protection of humanitarian personnel

Eight States, 14 National Societies and the ICRC reported on their activities to implement Final Goal 2.4 of the Plan of Action.

2.4.1 Adherence to the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel

Sixty-five States ratified or withdrew their reservations to the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, while one National Society encouraged the national authorities to ratify it (see Annex II). In addition, four States participated actively in the negotiations relating to the possible enlargement of the scope of legal protection under the Convention.

2.4.2 Strengthening the dialogue between the political and military actors and humanitarian organizations

The safety and security of humanitarian personnel has taken on even greater urgency in the light of the recent deliberate acts of violence directed against them in many parts of the world.

In this regard, strengthening the dialogue between humanitarian practitioners and each and every warring party is the key to preventing all the forms of violence to which those participating in humanitarian operations are increasingly exposed, attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting.

Those reporting on this action took steps to improve the safety and security of humanitarian players. For instance, Austria contributed police officers to provide security for humanitarian personnel in the framework of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and Sweden provided financial support to the United Nations Trust Fund for the Security of United Nations Staff.

The Colombian Red Cross, working in cooperation with the ICRC, implemented a programme to protect medical operations. The German Red Cross contributed to a working group for the development of guidelines on the security and protection of humanitarian personnel for German NGOs financed by the German Foreign Office. The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society organized workshops for political leaders prior to food distributions.

In 2001, the ICRC adopted a position paper, *The ICRC and civil-military relations in armed conflicts*, pointing out that it needed to maintain its independence of decision and action, while consulting closely with the international military missions deployed in the same theatre of operations. The role of

National Societies in promoting security principles for humanitarian personnel should be underlined. Indeed, six National Societies organized courses, seminars and lectures on security issues relating to humanitarian and media personnel for political leaders, National Society representatives and post-graduate students. The British Red Cross, for example, engaged in a process of encouraging and facilitating dialogue and mutual understanding between national government departments, armed forces and national NGOs on aspects of IHL and humanitarian action. More specifically, relevant information was provided in briefings and included in the training courses given to delegates, staff and volunteers before they leave on mission. In addition, the Colombian, German and Indonesian Red Cross Societies issued standard operational procedures for staff and volunteers or implemented an overall security system.

With a view to enhancing the protection of their personnel and of the material resources they deploy to help the victims, three National Societies promoted the adoption of a national law concerning the use and protection of the emblem, advocated the proper use of the red cross and red crescent emblems, and spread knowledge of the Fundamental Principles.

During protests in Cochabamba (October 2000), Oruro (July 2002) and La Paz (February 2003), Bolivian Red Cross personnel were verbally attacked and a National Society vehicle damaged. The Bolivian Red Cross responded in each case by stepping up its dissemination activities, taking measures to raise awareness among leaders of the significance and importance of the red cross emblem and urging them to facilitate the National Society's humanitarian work. These activities were supported by the national media.

Final Goal 3.1: Improve health for vulnerable people based on strengthened cooperation between States and National Societies

HIV/AIDS is of particular concern to members, and 13 States and 45 National Societies reported on this issue. In addition, 10 States and 45 National Societies (plus one observer) reported on blood services, eight States and 46 National Societies on first aid, 11 States and 41 National Societies on primary health care, and seven States and 35 National Societies on road safety.

3.1.1 Health and social services

The Hungarian Red Cross launched a campaign to promote job opportunities for mobile disabled persons. The Polish Red Cross organized a drawing contest on various issues such as dental hygiene.

Fourteen States, 48 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation reported on Final Goal 3.1, and nearly all of them indicated that they had concentrated on the promotion of a non-discriminatory approach towards health, with a special focus on

vulnerable groups. Some of them worked towards this goal through law reform, whereas others ran programmes aimed at reaching vulnerable people in the most remote areas.

In line with the Strategy 2010 focus on health care in the community, most of the respondents' programmes had a community-based approach. They tried to render communities more independent in health matters by providing training, information on preventive action and publications. This approach was also adopted by the ICRC, which worked closely with National Societies to develop community capacities. The aim was to ensure the sustainability of the health care the ICRC can provide momentarily. Indeed, to increase the viability of its health programmes, the ICRC encouraged communities receiving support for their health services to take greater responsibility for their own health. The grassroots approach whereby health-care programmes were planned, implemented, monitored and evaluated with the active participation of the beneficiaries proved crucial to guaranteeing efficient and continued primary health care. In 2002, community programmes were implemented in 12 countries, some, like Colombia, with National Society participation. In 2000, the ICRC ran community-based primary health care programmes in 41 countries. In the last three years, training of national staff was also a priority, the aim being to provide sustainable services for patients. A newly established working group began identifying and developing the requisite teaching materials and drawing up a training policy for national technical staff in prosthetics and orthotics, based on internationally accepted professional criteria. In all, the ICRC organized 22 specialized courses and workshops for 336 staff. These included areas of expertise such as nutrition, surgery and anaesthesia, and courses in prosthetics and orthotics.

The International Federation significantly scaled up the international support it provides to National Society health and care activities, from 22% of the Federation appeal in 2000 to 37% in 2003. This growth in volume was accompanied by the active development of health-related policy and international representation. The International Federation approved new or revised HIV/AIDS guidelines and psychological support, first aid, social welfare and operational guidelines for National Societies involved in tuberculosis and malaria control.

These developments were possible because the International Federation established operational partnerships on an unprecedented scale. For example, a major international measles initiative was launched by the American Red Cross with WHO, UNICEF, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the United Nations Foundation (UNF); memoranda of understanding were signed with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and with WHO's Eastern Mediterranean and South-East Asia Regional Offices. The International Federation was granted the status of UNAIDS Collaborative Centre and renewed its memorandum of understanding with UNFPA; it also signed an innovative operational agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP) for a cooperative response to the southern Africa food security crisis. This increased profile and more active engagement was also reflected in the fact that RC/RC representatives were elected to NGO seats on the Boards of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and

Immunization (GAVI), the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the Roll Back Malaria partnership (RBM).

Besides doing promotional and preventive work, half of the respondents took practical steps to ensure viable health care for vulnerable groups, organizing lectures on basic hygiene, running shelters or establishing mobile health care units (National Societies of Sri Lanka and Pakistan), distributing food and clothes, running immunization campaigns (Government of Belarus), organizing nursing services, etc. Eight National Societies concluded special agreements with their governments giving them facilities to carry out their programmes or including them as national health plan participants.

The Slovak Red Cross set up a special taxi service for disabled people. The Swiss Red Cross created a free baby-sitting service for sick children and the children of sick parents.

The Spanish Red Cross has a global approach assistance programme for vulnerable groups such as drug addicts and people living with HIV/AIDS: multidisciplinary teams offer a personalized package of medical, psychological, pharmacological and social assistance. Social integration is furthered through employment programmes, courses of instruction in social skills and good habits, training, etc. The same approach is used to help asylum-seekers and refugees, who have access to a wide spectrum of services ranging from response to humanitarian emergencies to integration through employment. The Spanish Red Cross is also concerned with promoting immigrants' participation in society, defending their rights and, in some cases, facilitating their return to their countries of origin or the reunification of families.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross Society concluded a specific service agreement with the Ministry of Health concerning technical assistance on water and sanitation, while the Ugandan Red Cross heightened the awareness of community leaders and provided training to community resource persons in participatory hygiene and sanitation. The Cambodian Red Cross was running a water and sanitation pilot project in two provinces, concentrating on providing safe drinking water and latrines (including access for the disabled) in four schools. A sanitation expert joined the Guatemalan Red Cross Health Secretariat.

With a view to promoting a safe water supply and healthy hygiene practices, 13 National Societies launched special water and sanitation programmes to prevent the transmission of

infectious disease, ill health, misery and death (in particular Cambodia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe).

3.1.2 Communicable diseases and HIV/AIDS

In Belarus, educational programmes for pupils and students now cover healthy living and the prevention of harmful habits. The Belarusian Red Cross is running HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment projects, and holds training seminars for young people every year. Calendars and booklets are published. Instructors in AIDS prevention are being trained. The Youth Red Cross has been mobilized in this programme.

Fifteen Governments and 50 National Societies clearly indicated that in today's world HIV/AIDS is perceived as the disease on which action is most urgent. All of them had programmes to fight the spread and consequences of HIV/AIDS, although those programmes varied in form. The fact that 10 States and 35

National Societies reported the launch of educational, preventive and training programmes at the national and regional levels reflects a clear awareness of the importance of using information to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS. It is important to note the active involvement of volunteers in peer education. In addition to drafting a policy document on HIV/AIDS in late 2002, the ICRC and the International Federation published joint guidelines on first aid and HIV/AIDS for National Society first aiders throughout the world. The ICRC also drew up guidelines for educational programmes on HIV prevention in emergency situations and in prisons. Guidelines on blood transfusion, which set standards for running a blood transfusion service, were also produced.

Other measures were also taken. Four States and eight National Societies reported on activities they carried out aiming at distributing condoms, tests and free anti-retroviral drugs, and providing vaccinations and drew up guidelines on existing vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.

The Rwandan Red Cross, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization, mobilized communities for immunization against vaccine-preventable diseases.

In Mauritius, disease control mechanisms were further strengthened. The government was giving free anti-retroviral drugs to people living with AIDS. Health education and preventive measures were consolidated and the 2001-2005 National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan was being implemented. A National AIDS Committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister was set up. The Mauritius Red Cross provided printed and audio visual support material to an NGO, Prévention Information Lutte contre le Sida, for AIDS patients.

Three National Societies provided psychological support while four States and two National Societies established surveillance mechanisms and organized treatment support. Three National Societies ran anti-stigmatization campaigns. Two States and three National Societies stressed the link between drugs and HIV/AIDS, either in their prevention activities or through assistance to drug addicts.

Nigerian Red Cross activities in this area include home-based care, counselling, peer education, voluntary counselling and testing, community surveillance of communicable diseases and epidemic response.

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed US \$204,000 in 2000 and 2001 and US \$150,000 in 2003 and 2004 to the financing of the WHO office in Moscow, Russia, which participates in a high-level working group on tuberculosis together with the Russian Ministry of Health with a view to developing the best tuberculosis control strategy for the Russian Federation.

Apart from the fight against HIV/AIDS, four States and 11 National Societies reported action to fight other communicable

diseases like tuberculosis, cholera, hepatitis, malaria, meningitis, dengue, haemorrhagic fever, SARS, etc. One State and one National Society launched immunization campaigns, and one State pursued research on resistance to antibiotics. In 2000, in cooperation with the World Health Organization, the ICRC shared its experience in the field of tuberculosis control in prisons in a new ICRC/WHO manual for anti-tuberculosis programme managers.

The Government of Spain is involved in the ESTHER programme (Inter-Hospital Therapeutic Solidarity Network) along with France, Luxemburg and Italy. The purpose of the programme is to provide technical support to developing countries by pairing hospitals and facilitating the effective use of antiretroviral treatment for AIDS patients.

In the past three years, particularly since the extraordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in New York in June 2002, international cooperation

activities and aid for developing countries have increased substantially as a result of bilateral development cooperation programmes, pledges to the Global Fund from States, and contributions to multilateral institutions such as UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF.

In addition, cooperation, partnership and support between States (Ministry of Health), National Societies and NGOs at the national level were mentioned by six States and 17 National Societies.

The Red Cross of Chad concluded a specific service agreement with the Ministry of Health on polio eradication and the fight against cholera, meningitis and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, while the Sudanese Red Crescent launched a programme to control malaria and AIDS and an immunization programme (polio and meningitis) in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

3.1.3 Blood transfusion services

Fourteen specific service agreements on the sharing of tasks and responsibilities were concluded between States and National Societies. Three National Societies (Finland, Hungary, and Spain) underlined a strong partnership with their governments, since they are officially responsible for blood donation.

The efforts of four States and 26 National Societies were directed towards recruiting voluntary non-remunerated donors. The Seychelles Government and the Belgian Red Cross tried to encourage young people to give blood. The Seychelles Government even involved political parties in that action.

According to four States (Mauritius, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland) and two National Societies (Colombian and German Red Cross Societies), transfusion services were upgraded with more modern, high-tech facilities and the application of higher standards in order to increase the safety and quality of blood products. Four States and eight National Societies reported that a legal framework had been established to regulate the collection, storage, use and/or destruction of human biological material in health-related activities and the organization and administration of bloodbank activities. Inspections were carried out and where appropriate, permits were issued to run blood donor clinics.

Blood transfusion is an area involving international cooperation among National Societies or between them and international organization and NGOs.

The American Red Cross, for example, offers assistance to other National Society blood programmes in the form of technical aid, training, exchanges and other capacity-building initiatives. It assists 14 African States plus India through cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and 35 Latin American States jointly with the Pan American Health Organization. The Bulgarian Red Cross is involved in the promotion of non-remunerated and voluntary blood donation and works in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. Various initiatives were undertaken, some supported by the Regional Delegation of the International Federation in Budapest. This National Society started pilot education programmes in kindergartens and primary schools, where, in an accessible manner that is relevant to their age, children are acquainted with the concept of blood donation; they are taught that giving blood is the act of a good citizen. In these educational institutions blood donor clinics are organized for the parents of the children, the children themselves being the best conduit for the Red Cross message in this respect.

3.1.4 First aid

The Finnish Red Cross provides first aid courses in Russian, especially for Russian immigrants. The British Red Cross has first aid courses targeting the most vulnerable people, like the homeless, drug users and the South Asian community (which has a higher rate of heart disease than the general population).

Forty-five National Societies confirmed the importance of first aid, one of the most important income-generating activities for the National Society.

Thirty-nine National Societies provided training for trainers and volunteers and basic first aid courses to schoolchildren, the general public, drivers, factories and companies.

The German, Norwegian and British Red Cross Societies are training people to use automated external defibrillators (AED). For example, the British Red Cross is working in partnership with the Department of Health to make over 300 AEDs available in public places.

Competitions were organized by six National Societies with a view to familiarizing the general public with first aid training activities.

Ten National Societies produced and distributed handbooks/manuals or first aid kits, while six reviewed their first aid policies, practices and/or procedures in order to raise standards of quality and update first aid skills.

The Icelandic Red Cross signed an agreement with the Ministry of Health identifying the Society as the lead agency in first aid training and dissemination in Iceland. The Honduran Red Cross coordinated its activities with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO): the National Society is responsible for training first aid brigades in the southern sector while PAHO provides basic equipment.

National and regional coordination, partnerships and cooperation agreements were established by four States and eight National Societies. At the national level, for instance, National Societies provided first aid services in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the traffic

police, NGOs and others. At the regional level, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society reported on the African RC/RC Health Initiative (ARCHI) 2010.

3.1.5 Primary Health Care

Four States and seven National Societies reported on their advocacy activities, one State and 13 National Societies on cooperation. International cooperation between National Societies focused on primary health care in countries like Nepal, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Angola, Liberia, Mozambique, Albania, Lithuania, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

The Swiss Red Cross concentrated its international assistance on the prevention of eye disease and curable blindness. Surgical and medical ophthalmology services were ideally combined with and integrated into community health promotion and prevention programmes implemented by local Red Cross volunteers. Eye camps had an immediate impact and guaranteed social and economical sustainability within families and communities. In June 2003, Norway adopted a law on alternative treatments for diseases. The law promotes the safe use of alternative treatment among consumers, establishes an information bank on alternative forms of treatment, and provides support for systematic research in that field.

Elsewhere, activities varied: while some adopted a national plan of action (the Swedish Government and the Colombian Red Cross), others developed quality standards for both infrastructure and treatment (Austrian, Norwegian and Swedish authorities, and the Icelandic Red Cross), focused on immunization against childhood illnesses

(Armenian, Guatemalan, Honduran, Nigerian and Spanish Red Cross Societies), or developed an integrated system of medical care and nursing. The Swedish Government and the Polish Red Cross focused on raising the level of accessibility.

3.1.6 Road safety

Respondents indicated that road safety could be improved through advocacy and prevention, by strengthening current measures and controls, and by training police forces. Concerning prevention campaigns, most members focused on the need to protect innocent children, producing slogans such as "save the children in the roads", "safe way to schools" and "cautious families". Three States stressed the consequences alcohol or drugs consumption may have on drivers, whereas one State mentioned the danger of telephoning without a hands-free kit. More controls and new policies were institutionalized (decrease in the permitted blood alcohol level, the obligation to wear crash helmets for motorcyclists and seatbelts in coaches). Lastly, three States and 10 National Societies trained police forces and drivers in first aid. Cooperation and partnerships were also established: seven European Union Member States referred to the EU Road Safety Programme.

Final Goal 3.2: New initiatives to meet the needs of vulnerable people and to reduce discrimination and violence in the community

Fourteen States, 63 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation reported on this issue, an indication of its importance and the degree to which Conference members have mobilized to reduce violence in the community and afford assistance to vulnerable groups.

3.2.1. Promotion and dissemination of the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

Various programmes reflected the mobilization to promote and disseminate knowledge of the Fundamental Principles with a view to reducing discrimination and violence in the community. Those programmes focussed on training and education for two main target groups, Movement volunteers and personnel and the general public, on one hand, and on young people, on the other. For further information on the promotion of knowledge and understanding of the Fundamental Principles, please refer to Final Goal 1.4.

In 1998 the International Federation Secretariat started working to promote understanding and use of the Fundamental Principles within International Federation and National Society programmes. This involved the development and implementation, with National Societies, of the "From Principles to Action" training programme. The International Federation is stepping up its plans to focus on discrimination as a critical issue in this core area.

The International Federation produced a training manual on reducing discrimination and violence in the community. The 2002 English version of the CD-ROM, *From Principles to Action*, was distributed to more than 10,000 people. The Russian version of its training component was broadly disseminated within Russian-speaking countries. A French prototype was finalized in 2003. Spanish and Arabic versions of the training component were being prepared. Following the success of the "Mystery course" in May 2001, which aimed to consolidate Movement understanding and experience of the seven Fundamental Principles, English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian versions were prepared of this interactive exercise.

National Society practices were identified and shared during network meetings and regional programmes designed in response to national and regional needs (for example, on the basis of VCAs). Halfway through 2003 data started to be collected on National Society practices on all continents to reduce discrimination and violence in the community.

In the summer of 2002, the International Federation launched a special webpage on discrimination; the page has links to National Societies, other organizations and major reference texts.

3.2.2. Advocacy on behalf of and services to the most vulnerable people in the community

Two States and 32 National Societies adopted advocacy programmes to reduce discrimination and violence in the community. Many used the Norwegian slogan "Stop the violence", and launched educational campaigns. The beneficiaries of these campaigns varied, but included prisoners, the disabled and sick, refugees and people affected by HIV/AIDS. Nine National Societies and two States reported on efforts to respect gender equality in their staff, six National Societies and two States reported any advocacy work concerning women.

In addition to this advocacy work, Conference members focused on providing assistance to vulnerable groups through various social programmes: free distribution of food, clothes and medicines, the creation of shelters, psychological support, the restoration of family links for unaccompanied children, visits to the elderly, the publication of handbooks for the elderly on topics such as healing at home and staying independent.

Finally, eight States and six National Societies mentioned legal procedures aimed at reducing violence and assisting vulnerable groups, and five States and 15 National Societies reported on partnerships, usually with either the government to enforce the law or between two National Societies for the purpose of implementing or financing programmes.

The elderly

Two States and 35 National Societies had specific programmes for the elderly. Eight governments had national plans or recently amended laws on the protection and/or improved living conditions of old people. The aim is twofold: to help the elderly live longer in their own homes – by providing day care centres, nurse's visits (two States and nine National Societies) and company for isolated elderly people (one State and seven National Societies) – and to provide pleasant care centres, institutions that receive elderly people who cannot live on their own anymore (four States and 11 National Societies). One State and five National Societies also provided food and clothes for the elderly, whereas six National Societies stressed the importance of health and security.

The Colombian Red Cross carried out programmes for the elderly with a particular emphasis on the know-how they can pass on to other age groups and sharing with peers.

One State and two National Societies provided assistance to families taking care of elderly relatives, and

four National Societies tried to develop the relationship between young and old.

Children living in difficult circumstances

Children are usually seen as particularly vulnerable people and thus deserving of special treatment: 12 States and 33 National Societies carried out specific programmes for children living in difficult circumstances, including street children, orphans, young immigrants, disabled children, children living in families in difficulty, child soldiers and the victims of abuse.

Most of the actions taken to help those children concerned their education (two States, 13 National Societies) and comprised the provision of material, classes or skills development. Much was also done to satisfy basic primary needs: food and clothes were distributed, health care provided (one State, 12 National Societies) and psychological and material support given by many shelters and counselling services (one State, 10 National Societies).

Seven National Societies also organized summer camps and cultural events and two were involved in tracing activities. Four States helped children in difficult circumstances by making donations to international organizations such as UNICEF or to NGOs. Four States and three National Societies mentioned structures and programmes to prevent and punish sexual abuse and exploitation, notably by humanitarian personnel.

Street children

Forty-two National Societies and nine States reported on the issue of street children.

The Bulgarian Red Cross runs six social institutions for street children. Three of them are homes where the children can stay for up to six months and receive food, clothes, medical care, school material and consultations; the three others are day centres. The Russian Red Cross opened orphanages for street children in Moscow and St. Petersburg and runs its own boarding school. The Ghana Red Cross runs a night shelter project for girl street children to protect them from rape and loss of their personal valuables. The Pakistan Red Crescent provided free Hepatitis-B inoculations to street children and admitted them to free consultations in its health outlets in urban slums.

Almost half of these National Societies organized assistance and support programmes for street children. The programmes included social and psycho-social care, day and/or night care and shelter, health care, monitoring in the streets, summer camps, lectures on safe sex and drug risks, and

the distribution of food, clothes and items of personal hygiene. Nine National Societies and four States were involved in assistance projects for street children, in cooperation with sister National Societies and/or other States.

Some States stressed the importance of preventing, treating and punishing child abuse. This issue covers a larger area than just street children, but child abuse may push the victims into the streets. Spain spoke of its programme to alleviate the problem *inter alia* by increasing public awareness of it, developing detection mechanisms and providing assistance and protection to the children.

Several National Societies and two States reported that they had set up re-socialization and rehabilitation programmes for street children.

The Government of Mauritius recruited and trained fifteen street educators to provide guidance and advice to street children with a view to bringing them back into the mainstream. In cooperation with the Belgian Red Cross in Kinshasa, the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo trains street children, especially girls, to become tailors. The Egyptian Red Crescent holds literacy classes. The Mongolian Red Cross organizes educational programmes for street children. Lastly, the Nigerian Red Cross, working in cooperation with the ICRC, proposes an alternative to violence in a programme called "Area Boys" that is intended to rehabilitate street boys.

The Polish Red Cross drew attention to the fact that the problem of street children can be identified and dealt with at an earlier stage. Indeed, in Poland the problem concerns essentially the children of abandoned, destitute, poverty-stricken or unemployed families. Work to prevent children from being abandoned and assistance and support for vulnerable families play a vital role. Ten National Societies, six of which are Central or Eastern European, provided support for families and children in the form of shelters, family counselling and/or summer camps and day-care centres.

The Colombian Red Cross runs a project aimed at preventing children from being forced to leave their homes. The Hungarian Red Cross runs five "Mother and Child" shelters providing temporary accommodation for mothers with young children in situations of crisis. It also opened a family shelter, in an effort to keep families together. The Polish Red Cross carries out welfare programmes, including providing meals and summer camps, for children from abandoned, destitute, poverty-stricken or unemployed families.

Final Goal 3.3: Increased National Society capacities and effective partnerships with States, and cooperation with relevant humanitarian and development organizations

Eighteen States, 72 National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation expressed a particular interest on this issue.

3.3.1 Strengthening the capacity of National Societies

Thirty-six agreements were signed between governments and National Societies on issues such as emergency or disaster response, HIV/AIDS and education. Thanks to such cooperation, many Conference members maintained a dialogue between political, military and humanitarian players, thereby enhancing mutual understanding. Seminars and courses were also organized, especially on civil/military cooperation, in order to prepare officers in the field. Regional integration also apparently improved, especially in the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) region, Eastern Europe, the Nordic and the Nordic-Baltic regions, Central America and the Pacific region. Cooperation within the Movement focussed on general cooperation between National Societies (19), strong National Societies providing support to sister National Societies with less resources through programmes and slogans such as "Strengthening a sister Society", and between National Societies, the ICRC and/or the International Federation. There were few partnerships with other organisms, however, only three States and six National Societies mentioning action taken or memoranda of understanding signed with international agencies or other organizations like UNICEF, UNAIDS, WHO and the World Bank. The Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Emirates cited a member of the private sector among its major national partners: Emirates Airlines.

Two National Societies reported an internal reorganization to improve their efficiency. The Hungarian National Society decreased the number of elected members of its National Board to obtain a more effective governance structure, while the Swedish National Society decentralized its structure, strengthening local capacities.

In terms of financial resources and memberships, 16 National Societies indicated that they had adopted new policies and strategies to improve their capacity. Their main source of income appeared to be fundraising events, donations accounting for a smaller proportion. National Societies also relied heavily on membership fees and worked to increase the number of members. Seven National Societies had commercialized first aid training, and self-financing structures represented another source of income. Three States reported on the support they granted the National Society, and eight National Societies planned to recruit more volunteers.

The International Federation initiated a study on the National Societies' role as auxiliaries to the public authorities, in consultation with the National Societies and the ICRC. The study's initial results, including the draft characteristics of a good relationship between States and National Societies, are to be presented to the 28th International Conference in 2003. Given the topic's importance for the Movement as a whole, the 2001 Council of Delegates incorporated work on the auxiliary role into its Movement strategy.

The International Federation will continue to work on the issue, including further consultations with States, National Societies and the ICRC, with a view to presenting a report to the 29th International Conference.

3.3.2 Recognizing the growing importance of volunteers

Forty-one National Societies and nine States mentioned the growing importance of volunteers, especially with regard to their active involvement in HIV/AIDS peer education programmes. Voluntary service allows the National Societies to act and is at the same time their hallmark, their guarantee of continuity and development and their ideological foundation. With a view to heightening volunteer efficiency, 24 National Societies established guidelines and minimum standards, a step being considered by nine other National Societies.

Fifty-three 53 National Societies offered different forms of training (on topics such as the Movement's principles and objectives, IHL, volunteer leadership/management, disaster preparedness and response, first aid, capacity building, social care/services, HIV/AIDS control/prevention, malaria control/prevention, tracing and mailing services), in order to recruit, manage and retain new volunteers. Twenty-four National Societies launched special recruitment programmes, promoting fair play units in schools or adopting slogans such as "volunteering in a changing society".

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society provided volunteers with an identity card. The Polish Red Cross recruited and employed a volunteer officer to coordinate, develop and support volunteering at headquarters.

Many National Societies thanked their volunteers for their contributions. Twelve National Societies

awarded certificates, medals etc. In Indonesia, volunteers received their awards from the Social Services Minister to mark the International Year of Volunteers (2001). Some National Societies also tried to draw recognition from the public by organizing awareness campaigns, Volunteer Days and conferences on volunteers.

3.3.3 Building a stronger, global National Society Network

Five States and 42 National Societies responded on this issue. Most of them reported international actions, but seven National Societies wrote about national organization between regional and community branches, arguing that the prerequisite for a strong global network was a strong national network.

The Swedish Red Cross endeavoured to build cooperation and partnerships between itself and other National Societies with corresponding priorities. Some examples are: the MENA Consortium (8-10 National Societies); partnerships with the French Red Cross and Netherlands Red Cross on HIV/AIDS programmes for China and Cambodia; support for Red Cross-net in East Africa; and the newly formed Lake Victoria Partnership, in which the Swedish Red Cross acts as a facilitator for the Ugandan, Kenyan and Tanzanian National Societies. On the Korean peninsula, good relationships were being maintained between the Red Cross Youth groups of the two Korean National Societies.

The international cooperation varied in form: it might be between National Societies only (whether geographically close or not), with international organizations like UNHCR and IOM, or with the ICRC and/or the International Federation, etc.

Two States and one National Society mentioned the Tripartite Process, a partnership between donor governments, their corresponding National Societies and the International Federation. The Process aims to support the Federation's work to build the humanitarian service capacities of National Societies in developing countries.

The ICRC continued to encourage and fund the development of National Society networks as a means of building and reinforcing programme capacity, in particular for the dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles and for tracing work.

3.3.4 Ensuring well-balanced participation by people from all sectors of society

The Conference members understood this point in three different ways. For the majority (39 National Societies), it meant non-discrimination within their structures (did the National Society's structure reflect the make-up of the population in terms of gender, ethnic origin and religious beliefs). Three National Societies understood it as referring to balanced mobilization for all types of work, such as rescue services, blood centres, youth, road safety. etc. Three other National Societies understood it to mean private /public sector equality.

Five National Societies (Belgium, Guatemala, Iceland, the Netherlands and Norway) considered that certain groups required special attention if the participation of all sectors of society

was to be well balanced. They therefore promoted the participation of young people, indigenous peoples, migrants and the most vulnerable.

3.3.5 Reviewing the legal base and statutes of National Societies

Twenty-one National Societies reported having reviewed their statutes, and 10 said they were in the process of doing so. A few said there was no current need to change the existing framework. Nine National Societies amended their statutes. The Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission for National Society Statutes, whose mandate is to help National Societies in the review process, issued recommendations on the recognition and admission of new National Societies and on amendments to the statutes of recognized Societies. In 2000, the Commission reviewed or approved the statutes of some 30 National Societies and closely scrutinized the applications of eight emerging National Societies (the National Societies of the Comoros, the Cook Islands, East Timor, Kazakhstan, Tuvalu, Palestine, Micronesia and Israel). In 2001, the Commission helped about 35 National Societies actively engaged in reviewing and updating their statutes, while in 2002 it reviewed the statutes of 53 National Societies.

ANNEX I

LIST OF QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE 27TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE (as of 10 October 2003)

	Governments of	Date of reception
1	Austria	06/03/2002
2	Azerbaijan	04/08/2003
3	Belarus	19/05/2003
4	Belgium	30/06/2003
5	Burundi (reporting on pledges)	15/08/2003
6	Cook Islands	23/09/2002
7	Cuba	15/09/2003
8	Czech Republic (reporting on pledges)	26/11/2002
9	Denmark	27/08/2003
10	Finland	24/01/2003
11	Germany	08/10/2003
12	Iraq	29/01/2003
13	Israel (reporting on pledges)	08/10/2003
14	Italy (reporting on pledges)	21/07/2003
15	Japan	27/12/2002
16	Latvia (letter from the Foreign Office)	04/07/2002
17	Malawi	27/12/2001
18	Mauritius	19/02/2003
19	Mexico	19/06/2003 + 30/06/2003
20	Namibia	27/03/2003
21	Netherlands (the)	10/06/2003
22	Nigeria	19/07/2002
23	Norway	04/02/2003 + 07/07/2003
24	Seychelles	27/03/2003
25	Slovakia	26/11/2002 + 06/03/2003
26	Spain	01/07/2003
27	Sweden	20/12/2002 + 13/05/2003
28	Switzerland	18/02/2003
29	United Kingdom	20/06/2003
30	Yemen	26/07/2003

	National Societies of	Date of reception
1	Armenia	11/04/2003
2	Azerbaijan (reporting on Council of Delegates resolutions)	13/02/2003
3	Belgium	01/07/2003
4	Bolivia	28/11/2002
5	Bulgaria	26/11/2002
6	Cambodia	07/01/2003
7	Chile	17/09/2002
8	Colombia	20/06/2002
9	Czech Republic (reporting on pledges)	26/11/2002
10	Egypt	04/02/2003
11	Estonia	26/11/2002 + 21/02/2003
12	Ethiopia	22/09/2003
13	Finland	01/11/2002
14	France	11/07/2002 + 30/09/2003
15	Germany	11/03/2003
16	Ghana	27/12/2001
17	Guatemala	10/03/2003
18	Guinea (reporting on pledges)	22/05/2003
19	Honduras	12/08/2002
20	Hungary	11/06/2003
21	Iceland	23/03/2003
22	Indonesia	17/07/2003
23	Iran (Islamic Republic of Iran)	17/09/2003
24	Japan	29/08/2003
25	Lao People's Democratic Republic (the)	05/06/2003
26	Latvia	26/06/2002
27	Lesotho	05/03/2003
28	Liberia	07/10/2003
29	Lithuania (reporting on pledges)	26/11/2002
30	Malaysia	11/10/2002
31	Mauritania	14/07/2003
32	Morocco	13/11/2001
33	Namibia	27/03/2003
34	Netherlands	04/02/2003
35	New Zealand	07/03/2002
36	Niger	14/02/2003
37	Nigeria	19/07/2002
38	Norway	27/02/2003
39	Pakistan	10/09/2002
40	Panama	16/09/2002
41	Poland (reporting on pledges)	26/11/2002 + 11/02/2003
42	Portugal	18/06/2003
43	Republic of Korea	30/08/2002 + 11/07/2003
44	Romania	26/11/2002
45	Rwanda	05/06/2003
46	Slovakia	24/02/2003
47	Spain	20/02/2003

	National Societies of	Date of reception
48	Sri Lanka	14/01/2003
49	Swaziland	27/06/2003
50	Sweden	16/04/2003
51	Switzerland	11/06/2003
52	Tajikistan	06/11/2002
53	Thailand	01/11/2002
54	Trinidad and Tobago	16/05/2003
55	Turkey	30/05/2003
56	Uganda	12/07/2002
57	Ukraine	08/01/2003
58	United Kingdom	26/04/2003
59	Zimbabwe	22/03/2003

	International Components	Date of reception
1	ICRC	12/08/2003
2	International Federation	15/08/2003

No feedback received from:

	Governments of
1	Afghanistan
2	Albania
3	Algeria
4	Andorra
5	Angola
6	Antigua and Barbuda
7	Argentina
8	Armenia
9	Australia
10	Bahamas
11	Bahrain
12	Bangladesh
13	Barbados
14	Belize
15	Benin
16	Bhutan
17	Bolivia
18	Bosnia-Herzegovina
19	Botswana
20	Brazil
21	Brunei Darussalam
22	Bulgaria
23	Burkina Faso
24	Cambodia
25	Cameroon
26	Canada
27	Cape Verde
28	Central African Republic (the)
29	Chad
30	Chile
31	China

	Governments of
32	Colombia
33	Comoros
34	Congo (Republic of the)
35	Costa Rica
36	Côte d'Ivoire
37	Croatia
38	Cyprus
39	Czech Republic
40	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
41	Democratic Republic of the Congo
42	Djibouti
43	Dominica
44	Dominican Republic
45	Ecuador
46	Egypt
47	El Salvador
48	Equatorial Guinea
49	Eritrea
50	Estonia
51	Ethiopia
52	Fiji
53	France
54	Gabon
55	Gambia
56	Georgia
57	Ghana
58	Greece
59	Grenada
60	Guatemala
61	Guinea
62	Guinea-Bissau
63	Guyana
64	Haiti
65	Holy See
66	Honduras
67	Hungary
68	Iceland
69	India
70	Indonesia
71	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
72	Ireland
73	Jamaica
74	Jordan
75	Kazakhstan
76	Kenya
77	Kiribati
78	Kuwait
79	Kyrgyzstan
80	Lao People's Democratic Republic
81	Latvia
82	Lebanon
83	Lesotho
84	Liberia

	Governments of
85	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
86	Liechtenstein
87	Lithuania
88	Luxembourg
89	Madagascar
90	Malaysia
91	Maldives
92	Mali
93	Malta
94	Mauritania
95	Micronesia (Federal States of)
96	Monaco
97	Mongolia
98	Morocco
99	Mozambique
100	Myanmar
101	Nepal
102	New Zealand
103	Nicaragua
104	Niger
105	Norway
106	Oman
107	Pakistan
108	Palau
109	Panama
110	Papua New Guinea
111	Paraguay
112	Peru
113	Philippines
114	Poland
115	Portugal
116	Qatar
117	Republic of Korea
118	Republic of Moldova
119	Romania
120	Russian Federation
121	Rwanda
122	Saint Kitts and Nevis
123	Saint Lucia
124	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
125	Samoa
126	San Marino
127	Sao Tome and Principe
128	Saudi Arabia
129	Senegal
130	Serbia and Montenegro
131	Sierra Leone
132	Singapore
133	Slovenia
134	Solomon Islands
135	Somalia
136	South Africa
137	Sri Lanka

Governments of	
138	Sudan
139	Suriname
140	Swaziland
141	Syrian Arab Republic
142	Tajikistan
143	Thailand
144	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
145	Timor-Leste
146	Togo
147	Tonga
148	Trinidad and Tobago
149	Tunisia
150	Turkey
151	Turkmenistan
152	Tuvalu
153	Uganda
154	Ukraine
155	United Arab Emirates
156	United Republic of Tanzania
157	United States of America
158	Uruguay
159	Uzbekistan
160	Vanuatu
161	Venezuela
162	Vietnam
163	Zambia
164	Zimbabwe

National Societies of	
1	Afghanistan
2	Albania
3	Algeria
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6	Antigua and Barbuda
7	Argentina
8	Australia
9	Austria
10	Azerbaijan
11	Bahamas
12	Bahrain
13	Bangladesh
14	Barbados
15	Belarus
16	Belize
17	Benin
18	Bhutan
19	Bosnia-Herzegovina
20	Botswana
21	Brazil
22	Brunei Darussalam
23	Bulgaria
24	Burkina Faso

	National Societies of
25	Burundi
26	Cameroon
27	Canada
28	Cape Verde
29	Central African Republic
30	Chad
31	China
32	Congo (Republic of the)
33	Cook Islands
34	Costa Rica
35	Côte d'Ivoire
36	Croatia
37	Cuba
38	Czech Republic
39	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
40	Democratic Republic of the Congo
41	Denmark
42	Djibouti
43	Dominica
44	Dominican Republic
45	Ecuador
46	El Salvador
47	Equatorial Guinea
48	Fiji
49	Gabon
50	Gambia
51	Georgia
52	Greece
53	Grenada
54	Guinea
55	Guinea-Bissau
56	Guyana
57	Haiti
58	Holy See
59	India
60	Iraq
61	Ireland
62	Italy
63	Jamaica
64	Jordan
65	Kazakhstan
66	Kenya
67	Kiribati
68	Kuwait
69	Kyrgyzstan
70	Lebanon
71	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
72	Liechtenstein
73	Lithuania
74	Luxembourg
75	Madagascar
76	Malawi
77	Mali

	National Societies of
78	Malta
79	Mauritius
80	Mexico
81	Micronesia (Federal States of)
82	Monaco
83	Mongolia
84	Mozambique
85	Myanmar
86	Nepal
87	Nicaragua
88	Palau
89	Papua New Guinea
90	Paraguay
91	Peru
92	Philippines
93	Qatar
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95	Russian Federation
96	Saint Kitts and Nevis
97	Saint Lucia
98	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
99	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
100	San Marino
101	Sao Tome and Principe
102	Saudi Arabia
103	Senegal
104	Serbia and Montenegro
105	Seychelles
106	Sierra Leone
107	Singapore
108	Slovenia
109	Solomon Islands
110	Somalia
111	South Africa
112	Sudan
113	Suriname
114	Samoa
115	Syrian Arab Republic
116	Togo
117	Tonga
118	Tunisia
119	Turkmenistan
120	United Arab Emirates
121	United Republic of Tanzania
122	United States of America
123	Uruguay
124	Uzbekistan
125	Vanuatu
126	Venezuela
127	Vietnam
128	Yemen
129	Zambia

ANNEX II

STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS (as at 1 September 2003)				
CONVENTIONS	BEFORE 06/11/1999		FROM 06/11/1999 TO 15/08/2003	
	SIGNATURES	RATIFICATIONS / ACCESSIONS	SIGNATURES	RATIFICATIONS / ACCESSIONS
Geneva Conventions, 12 August 1949	59	187	-	4
Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, 8 June 1977	54	154	-	7
Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions, 8 June 1977	51	147	-	9
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its Protocol, The Hague, 14 May 1954	50	96	-	9
Second Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, The Hague, 26 March 1999	33	-	6	16
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, 10 April 1972	107	142	1	5
Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, Geneva, 10 October 1980	50	73	-	17
Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), Geneva, 10 October 1980	37	73	-	15
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), Geneva, 10 October 1980	37	68	-	12
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III), Geneva, 10 October 1980	35	69	-	16
Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV to the 1980 Convention), Geneva, 13 October 1995	-	45	-	24
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, Paris, 13 January 1993	165	127	-	26
Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, New York, 9 December 1994	43	29	-	36
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, Ottawa, 18 September 1997	133	90	-	46
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, 17 July 1998	91	4	48	87
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, 25 May 2000	-	-	110	57

(Source: ICRC Treaty database)

ANNEX III

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AU – African Union
CCW – Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects
ECOWAS – Economic Community Of West African States
ERU – Emergency Response Unit
ERW – Explosive Remnants of War
EU – European Union
FA – First Aid
FACT – Field Assessment and Coordination Team
Global Fund - Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis & Malaria
ICC – International Criminal Court
ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP – Internally Displaced Persons
International Federation – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHL – International Humanitarian Law
IOM – International Organization for Migration
National Societies – National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
NATO – North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO – Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA – United Nations Office for Humanitarian Affairs
OSCE – Organization for the Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ottawa Convention – Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction
PCASED – Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development
RC/RC – Red Cross and Red Crescent
SALW – Small Arms and Light Weapons
States – States party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949
UN – United Nations
UNAIDS – Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
UNDPKO – United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations
UNIFEM – United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF – United Nations Children's Fund
UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
VCA – Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment
WHO – World Health Organization