



SOMALIA



ICRC

A population in distress

Nearly two decades of conflict, poor security conditions and widespread lawlessness continue to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. In addition, recurrent droughts and high food and fuel prices contribute to food insecurity and high malnutrition rates in many areas. Millions of Somalis continue to depend on humanitarian assistance.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) focuses on providing emergency aid to people directly affected by armed conflict, often in combination with natural disasters. In Somalia, it runs an extensive first-aid, medical and basic health-care programme to treat the wounded and sick in all parts of the country. It also carries out small-scale water and agricultural projects with a medium-term outlook, designed to restore or improve the livelihoods of communities weakened by crises. In addition, due to the recurrent droughts and ensuing food insecurity the ICRC carried out large scale food and non-food distributions as well as water-trucking activities in large parts of central and south Somalia. Many of these activities were carried out in close collaboration with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS).

The ICRC has been working in Somalia since 1977 when it responded to the crisis that arose from the war between Ethiopia and Somalia. Since 1982 it has maintained a permanent presence in Somalia, basing its delegation in Nairobi since 1994.

Treatment for war wounded

As part of its comprehensive health programme in Somalia, the ICRC supports two surgical referral hospitals in Mogadishu, namely Keysaney, run by the SRCS, and Madina. In 2009, the two hospitals treated 5,087 casualties of the fighting, nearly a third of them women and children, as well as other medical emergencies. Both hospitals accept patients from all backgrounds, regardless of their clan, religion or political convictions.



Primary health care

The ICRC supports 36 SRCS clinics in central and southern Somalia which have carried out 499'813 consultations and 70,697 vaccinations, treating both residents and IDPs. Two additional temporary SRCS clinics were opened in North-Mogadishu in November to better address the health needs of the IDPs in this area. Emergency cholera prevention and treatment activities were executed in Kismayo, Walan Weyne and Hoybo, mostly in cooperation with the SRCS.

Water projects & Livelihood projects

The ICRC mounted a large-scale operation to respond to the effects of drought following a number of severely below-average rainy seasons. This has involved trucking water to almost 600'000 IDPs, residents and pastoralists.

Seventeen **cash for work** programs have been benefiting 16'986 beneficiaries with cash income and lead to the rehabilitation of primary irrigation canals and rain water catchments.

Ten two-cylinder **pumps** and 125 one-cylinder anil or petrol pumps were distributed improving the capacity of 9'300 beneficiaries to farm on irrigated land and therefore to be less dependent on rain.

The permanent **closures of 10 breaches in the riverbanks** of Lower Shabelle and Lower Juba have been successfully completed preventing the destruction of farms and villages through flooding of 6'240 beneficiaries in 10 communities. Sluice gates were rehabilitated in Lower and Middle Shabelle enabling the 25'000 beneficiaries to farm their land as before through irrigation without being dependent on rainfall. Sandbags were distributed to communities in the Shabelle and Juba-river areas in order to protect their lands and homes from **flooding**, in total benefiting some 189'000 people.

Staple crop **seeds** for the **Gu** and **Deyr** rainy season were distributed to 258'000 and 240'000 beneficiaries respectively as well as vegetable seeds to 122'400 beneficiaries. The latter include 6 varieties of vegetables, serving both for home consumption and as a cash-crop for income generation

Two hundred **female-headed families** organized in women groups were able to improve their income to cover their basic needs through the reception of materials such as milling- and sewing-machines or materials for tea shops.



Relief and emergency assistance

Shelter and essential household items/clothes were distributed to 496'134 displaced persons; 24'000 returnees received building material to help rebuilt their houses and 42'000 IDPs in Afgoye corridor received tarpaulins to protect them from the rains.

In Sool, Kismayo, Badhade, Afmadu, Middle Shabelle, Bakool and Abudwak 224'118 IDP and destitute persons received **dry food rations** for one to six months.

Three **Outpatient Therapeutic-feeding Programs** (OTPs) were opened in July in SRCS clinics in Cabudwaq, Cadaado and Galinsor. These OTPs so far admitted 627 children into their program of which 253 so far have been cured.

Tracing

Another important part of the ICRC's work is re-establishing and maintaining contacts between family members separated by conflict. Working with the Somali Red Crescent Society, the ICRC in 2009, collected 7'532 Red Cross Messages, many from outside the country, and distributed 14'461. The ICRC opened 1'65 tracing cases in response to requests from people searching for members of their families and issued 110 ICRC travel documents.

Cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)

The SRCS is the main operational partner of the ICRC in Somalia. Together with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC works towards strengthening the operational capacity of the SRCS, particularly in the fields of health, tracing, dissemination and disaster management. Through its network of 19 branches, the SRCS provides essential community services ranging from first aid, mother and child healthcare, disease prevention and physical rehabilitation to restoring of links



ICRC / YAZDI, Pedram

between family members separated because of the conflict or general insecurity in Somalia. In coordination with the ICRC, the SRCS disseminates basic rules of the International Humanitarian Law to audiences from different walks of life.

Prevention

Through radio-programs and dissemination sessions in the field the ICRC tries to sensitize the Somali society about International Humanitarian law and its link to the 'Biri ma Geydo', the Somali traditional code of conduct.



ICRC

Somalia Delegation

Denis Pritt Road

P.O. Box 73226, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 20 271 9301, 272 3963

Fax: +254 20 271 3003, 271 3731

Email: sok_somalia@icrc.org

www.icrc.org