

ICRC UGANDA, RWANDA AND BURUNDI

FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2022



UGANDA, RWANDA AND BURUNDI REGIONAL DELEGATION

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) remained committed to addressing the humanitarian consequences of conflict and armed violence affecting the region all through 2022.

We continued to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian principles in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi by engaging with civil and military authorities, promoting the study of IHL in academic institutions and raising awareness about it among military and police personnel across the region.

We worked closely with our International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners to re-establish family links of those separated by the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Here is an overview of our humanitarian activities across Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi from January to December 2022.

Dear all,

I am pleased to share with you the first edition of our regional newsletter covering the main activities that the Uganda Rwanda and Burundi Regional (URB) delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carried out in 2022.

The ICRC, like many humanitarian organizations continues to constantly reinvent and adapt itself to increase its relevance in Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Our new regional structure will help us confront new humanitarian challenges affecting communities in the Great Lakes Region.

We are committed to continuing effective and sustainable humanitarian action in the region in accordance with our principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Our working methodology to bilateral and confidential dialogue with the parties, our endeavor to preserve proximity with the victims remain unchanged, keeping the humanitarian response to protection and assistance needs of people affected by armed conflicts and our mandate to promote IHL at the heart of our action.

Thank you for your continued support to our humanitarian activities in URB.

Christoph Sutter,
Head of Regional Delegation to URB



UGANDA:

Uganda continued to receive people fleeing conflict from Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan through various border points. Working with Uganda Red Cross Society, the ICRC provided assistance along the border areas to those separated by the conflict. This included:

PROTECTING FAMILY LINKS

 **145,007**
PHONE CALLS

made to help people
contact their families

 **1,437**
TRACING REQUESTS

opened to trace missing
relatives

 **650**
TRACING CASES

closed positively

 **1,166**
MINORS

newly registered

 **1,089**
RED CROSS MESSAGES

(containing brief family news)
distributed

 **326**
PEOPLE

reunited with their families



Eric Wakabi /ICRC

Volunteers from URCS register unaccompanied minors who had fled conflict in Eastern DRC at Nyakabande Holding Centre in Kisoro, Uganda.

PARTNERING WITH UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY (URCS)

We continued to work with Uganda Red Cross Society to improve acceptance, security and access to the communities we serve. Below are highlights of the progress made in 2022:



319

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

from **12** branches in the North, West Nile and South-western Uganda, majority of whom have been responding to the refugee crisis in the region, attended Safer Access Framework sessions conducted by the ICRC. The sessions focus on securing and maintaining safe humanitarian access to people and communities who would otherwise be out of reach



15

BRANCHES

in North, West Nile, South-west and Eastern Uganda were provided with financial and technical support to conduct Safer Access Framework sessions, reaching over **400** staff and volunteers



36

POSITIONS

(**7** key positions at the National Society headquarters, **8** branch managers and **21** positions in the Restoring Family Links programme) were supported through the paying of salaries



4

BOCA

4 Branch Organizational Capacity Assessments (BOCA) conducted through financial support given to the National Society



SFR

75,000 & 2 VEHICLES

provided to support the Movement response to Ebola outbreak. **1** Landcruiser donated to support URCS in the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme

SUPPORTING EBOLA RESPONSE



2

LAND CRUISERS

were dispatched to assist the Uganda Red Cross Society in carrying out Safe and Dignified Burial activities as part of their response to the Ebola outbreak in Uganda.



CHF

200,000

was provided to support the Uganda Red Cross Society's response efforts for the Ebola outbreak, which included the renting of offices.

HELPING DETAINEES

The ICRC in Uganda aims to secure humane treatment and conditions of detention for all detainees, regardless of the reasons for their arrest and detention. We also seek to alleviate the suffering of their families, particularly by restoring communication between detainees and their relatives.



- **33** detention visits were conducted Detention Centers under the Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Service, and Uganda People's Defence Forces.
- Follow-up has been conducted on **251** registered detainees.



- **3440** detainees benefited from **6** distributions of assorted items, including wheelchairs, bedpans, clutches, Jerrycans, Plastic Bed Mattresses, Chlorine, Sprayers, etc., which were provided to **4** Detention Centers under the Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Service, and Uganda People's Defence Forces.



- **216** Red Cross Messages collected and **89** distributed to restore communication between detainees and their relatives.

WORKING WITH WEAPON BEARERS

We have been providing material and teaching assistance to the Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Uganda Police Force (UPF) for promoting humanitarian law and international human rights law (IHRL) and integrating them into the education, training and operations of the two institutions.



- **56** trainers of Police Training School in Masindi attended sessions promoting respect for IHRL and the Use of Force principles
- **25** UPF officers participated in sessions on applying IHRL in operations and the Use of Force



- **25** police trainers and **37** officers at the Police Senior Command and Staff College, Bwebajja, trained in international policing standard



- **22** army officers and **6** police officers from different units, including field forces command, police headquarters, legal services, intelligence and criminal investigation services, joined a Military in Security Operation workshop at Legal Training Centre, Jinja
- **30** legal advisers and operational commanders of UPDF's Second Division and Mountain Division participated in an IHL training of trainers session jointly conducted by the ICRC and UPDF Legal Training Centre



- **100** commanders and soldiers of UPDF headed to serve under the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS), received pre-deployment briefing on IHL



RWANDA:

AMPUTEE FOOTBALL STAR DEFYING THE ODDS

His dream was to become a football star, but when he lost his leg in a grenade attack he thought the game was over for him. Today, however, he is the captain of the Rwanda Amputee Football Team and was recently signed by Pendik Belediyesi Amputee, a club in the first division of the Turkish league.

Fidele Gatete shares his family was in search for asylum during the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994, when a grenade was thrown at them. He was only four years old at the time. While Gatete lost his leg, the blast killed his father, who was holding him. "I was shaken. I lost a leg and a parent at the same time. It was too much to deal with," says Gatete, adding that the lack of physical rehabilitation facilities made life hard for him. "When I grew up, I couldn't work because my leg used to hurt in the old crutches that I had been using," he says.

Through the physical rehabilitation programme of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Gatete was provided with a prosthetic leg and the needed support to heal from his trauma and to build resilience. In 2015, the ICRC started the Rwanda Amputee Football Association along with partner organizations, providing equipment and training to coaches, referees, and players to promote the sport in the country. Gatete was among those who were provided with support to start playing amputee football.

Being able to play football was beyond what Gatete had imagined possible for himself. "I really like the sport. It has become my passion. People are taken aback when they see an amputee kicking or dribbling the ball. I get very happy knowing that we are able entertain them," he says. The ICRC's physical rehabilitation programme in Rwanda started in 2013 and has since benefited more than 4,000 people each year through the physical rehabilitation centres that we support. Besides providing rehabilitation services, we promote the socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities through sports, vocational training and career development training to improve their quality of life.

At Nyamirambo Stadium in Kigali, Fidel Gatete competes against an opponent during a selection match for the Rwanda National Amputee Football team.



RESTORING FAMILY LINKS



10,731

PHONE CALLS

made by refugees and evacuees from Libya. Rwanda hosts Libyan refugees and evacuees under the UN Emergency Transit Mechanism



1,084

phone charging stations installed



87

tracing cases closed positively



102

REUNITED

families received a post-reunification assistance kit according to their needs



49

PEOPLE

reunited with their families, including 31 children who were reunited with their families in Rwanda



1,762

RED CROSS MESSAGES

(containing brief family news) distributed, including 111 from unaccompanied minors



403

FOLLOW-UPS

visits conducted in Mahama refugee camp for minors waiting to be reunited with their families

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION



- **4,498** people (**2,411** new users and **2,087** existing users) benefited from rehabilitation services at the two physical rehabilitation centres in University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK) and University Teaching Hospital of Butare (CHUB)



- **132** prostheses, **614** orthoses, **1,156** walking aids and **23,724** physiotherapy sessions delivered
- **23** prosthetist-orthotists provided with support to study Advanced Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics



- **90** people with disabilities provided with support to practice wheelchair basketball and **162** people with disabilities provided with sports equipment to practice amputee football



- **33** players, coaches, referees and classifiers from Rwanda and Somalia trained in wheelchair basketball



- **5** modules of essential management package training organized for rehabilitation and administrative staff at CHUK and CHUB

AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) COOPERATION



2,241

PEOPLE

joined different IHL promotional activities in offline mode. Participants including law students, IHL lecturers, officers from Rwanda Defence Force (RDF), Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB), Rwanda National Police (RNP), national authorities and Rwanda Red Cross Society.



45,459

PEOPLE

reached by the IHL content through online platforms.



BURUNDI:



Dieudonne Hakizimana / ICRC

ICRC Armed Forces Delegate Yssouf Traore (right) hands over a certificate to an officer receives after a training on Military in Security Operations (MISO) Training in Bujumbura (ICRC).

PROTECTING FAMILY LINKS



658

PHONE CALLS

made to help people reconnect with separated families



48

TRACING CASES

positively closed



19

FAMILIES

reunited with their missing loved ones



4,285

RED CROSS MESSAGES

(containing brief family news) distributed

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The ICRC in Burundi continued to develop the mental health and psychosocial support programme as well as the primary-health-care programme in response to the needs of people affected by the socio-political conflicts and violence that the country has gone through.



- **3,146** victims/survivors of violence, including sexual violence, provided with psychological and psychosocial care
- **112** people with mental health issues referred for specialized care to psychiatric centres that the ICRC partners with



- **48** health-care workers trained in providing integrated care to victims/survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and people with mental health issues



- **6,568** vulnerable people provided with medical care for malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections



- **1,920** doses of Hepatitis vaccines and **1,850** doses of Tetanus vaccines provided to ICRC-supported health centres along with essential medicines and PEP kits (**360** for adults and **240** for children)



- **300** health insurance cards granted to vulnerable people
- **150** medical students followed a training module on ICRC practices in the care of victims/survivors of violence and sexual violence

WORKING WITH WEAPON BEARERS



- **120** officers of the Judicial Police, **25** provincial and regional commissioners and **120** communal police commissioners were sensitized on the International Human Rights Law, command responsibility and the ICRC mandate and activities.



- Prior to deployment, a total of **6,700** soldiers from the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), including officers, received education on IHL and humanitarian issues, such as Gender-Based Violence, the safeguarding of vulnerable groups, and healthcare in high-risk environments.



- **1450** police officers in initial training were sensitized to respect for human rights and humanitarian principles.
- **30** senior officers from the army and national police were trained in the standards that applied to the involvement of armed forces in internal security operations.



- **4** high-ranking officers from the army and national police took part in international courses covering the regulations that apply in the security operations.

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Cover photo:

A volunteer from Uganda Red Cross facilitates free telephone calls at Nyakabande Transit Centre in Kisoro, enabling families to reconnect and exchange news with their loved ones.