

FACTS & FIGURES 2017

January – June 2017

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) IN LIBERIA

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in March 2017 closed its last sub-office in Liberia located in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County and subsequently in April of the same year, ended its prison activities including regular visits to all prisons throughout the country after more than two decades.

Notwithstanding, the ICRC continues to strengthen the capacities of the Armed Forces of Liberia and the International Humanitarian Law Committee on the integration and domestication of the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and other International instruments.

The Liberia National Police and the Liberia Immigration Service are also benefiting from ICRC's capacity building initiative in humanitarian principles and international legal frame work. Here is a summary of our work performed from January - June 2017 :

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

- 214 phone calls were made to family members from people in 3 refugee camps
- 30 Red Cross messages collected for children and vulnerable adults and 20 distributed
- 13 children reunited with their loved ones

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

- 33 combat medics and combat life savers of the Armed Forces of Liberia benefitted from Red Cross Movement and international humanitarian law knowledge
- 17 officers of the Armed Forces of Liberia attended a working session to draft a code of conduct in armed conflict

SUPPORTING THE LIBERIAN RED CROSS

- 33 combat medics and combat

life savers of the Armed Forces of Liberia received basic first aid training

- 186 storm-victim families benefitted from construction materials
- 200 vulnerable women received vocational training in cosmetology, food and nutrition, tailoring and interior decoration
- 35 members of the emergency response team had first aid kits replenished in 7 chapters

COOPERATION WITH JOURNALISTS

- 4 journalists from Agence France-Presse and the Liberia Broadcasting System traveled with the ICRC to Cote d'Ivoire to report on two separate family reunification events as part of the ICRC's opportunities for journalists to access the field.



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INTEGRATING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) INTO UNIVERSITIES CURRICULA

Universities are key partners in building respect for IHL. By working with universities to offer courses in IHL, develop IHL curriculum and by supporting lecturers who teach it, the ICRC reaches out to the future leaders of tomorrow. According to the Geneva Conventions, States have the responsibility to spread knowledge of IHL. One effective way of doing that is to teach the subject at universities. It helps to generate respect for IHL and enhances people's understanding of armed conflicts.

The ICRC is working with the Institute for Peace, Conflict Resolution and Development at the Cuttington University and the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law, University of Liberia, for the teaching and inclusion of IHL into their curricula.

Marie-Louise Tougas, former ICRC regional legal adviser based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire facilitated two separate IHL forums jointly organized by the ICRC and Cuttington University and the University of Liberia in November 2016. "Working with academic circles to ensure IHL dissemination and integration within universities curricula is important as it raises awareness and strengthen knowledge among tomorrow's leaders, opinion-makers, soldiers and policemen. In

Liberia, where university students have been victims of armed conflict this take a particular importance," she says. The aim is to foster respect for the notion of human dignity and to familiarize young people with IHL and humanitarian action.

Over the years we have sponsored lecturers of these universities to participate in the All Africa course on IHL, organized by the ICRC in Pretoria, South Africa, and donated IHL libraries. Effort is under way to reach out to other universities.

The ICRC would like to thank the Institute for Peace, Conflict Resolution and Development and the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law for their collaboration and for their interest in IHL.



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Cuttington University, Bong County, November 2016. Group photo of participants following the opening of an International Humanitarian Law forum.



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The International Committee of the Red Cross is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance.