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SUPPORTING NIGERIAN HEALTH FACILITIES TREATING DISPLACED PERSONS AND VICTIMS OF ARMED VIOLENCE

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the ICRC cares for displaced persons and people wounded by weapons who need emergency surgery. We also train Nigerian medical staff from selected hospitals who treat victims of armed violence. In addition, the ICRC supplies first-aid and surgical materials and equipment to hospitals when they receive an influx of casualties in the aftermath of a bomb blast or violence.

The ICRC supports primary health-care centres and hospitals that serve the wounded and internally displaced persons, by supplying them with medicine and equipment and by repairing or upgrading their buildings.

RESPONDING TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF ARMED VIOLENCE

The ICRC provides displaced persons with basic household necessities, such as cooking utensils, hygiene items, bedding and mosquito nets. We also distribute shelter materials, food and clothing to help them cope during the most vulnerable period of their displacement, when they often lack basic essentials. The ICRC also provides agricultural implements, seed and fertilizer, so that they can start working their land again. In other instances, we may help them to start small-scale income-generating activities.

We provide this assistance in cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS).

IMPROVING ACCESS TO WATER, SANITATION AND SHELTER

The ICRC renovates or upgrades water points and sanitation in communities affected by armed violence and in camps and sites for displaced persons. To ensure that displaced persons have safe drinking water, we carry out emergency water distributions and improve water supply systems.

The ICRC builds emergency shelters for displaced persons and provides communities in violence-prone areas with housing materials.

WORKING WITH THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The NRCS and the ICRC work together to help people affected by armed violence and to re-establish contact between separated family members. With the support of the ICRC, NRCS volunteers also provide first aid, evacuate casualties and collect dead bodies and hand them over to the authorities, ensuring that relevant information is recorded to help people looking for missing relatives.

The ICRC supports NRCS capacity building in general, in particular with regard to its communications activities and first-aid training in remote communities where there are no health personnel.



R. Waudu/ICRC



M. Das/ICRC

PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

The aim of international humanitarian law (IHL) is to prevent suffering during armed conflict. As the guardian of IHL, the ICRC provides legal expertise to support the efforts of the Nigerian authorities to ratify and implement IHL treaties. We help train personnel of the Nigerian armed forces, law lecturers and law students in IHL. In addition, officers of the Nigerian Police Force receive ICRC training in humanitarian principles and international law enforcement standards.

Together with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ICRC promotes respect for the provisions of IHL in West Africa and we are working to ensure that ECOWAS Member States sign up to the major IHL treaties.

RESTORING CONTACT BETWEEN SEPARATED FAMILIES

When families have to leave their homes to seek refuge elsewhere, it often happens that children get separated from their parents. People who leave the country may lose contact with their families. So the ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross Society work together and with other Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies to help separated family members find and contact each other, and be reunited if possible.

PROMOTING DETAINEE WELFARE

With the agreement of the Nigerian authorities, ICRC delegates visit detainees to check their conditions of detention. Their findings are discussed with the Nigerian authorities and are not shared with a third party or made public. If needed, the ICRC can help improve general conditions in a detention facility.



Present since 1988, the ICRC also worked in Nigeria during the civil war 1967-1970.



THE ICRC IN NIGERIA

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