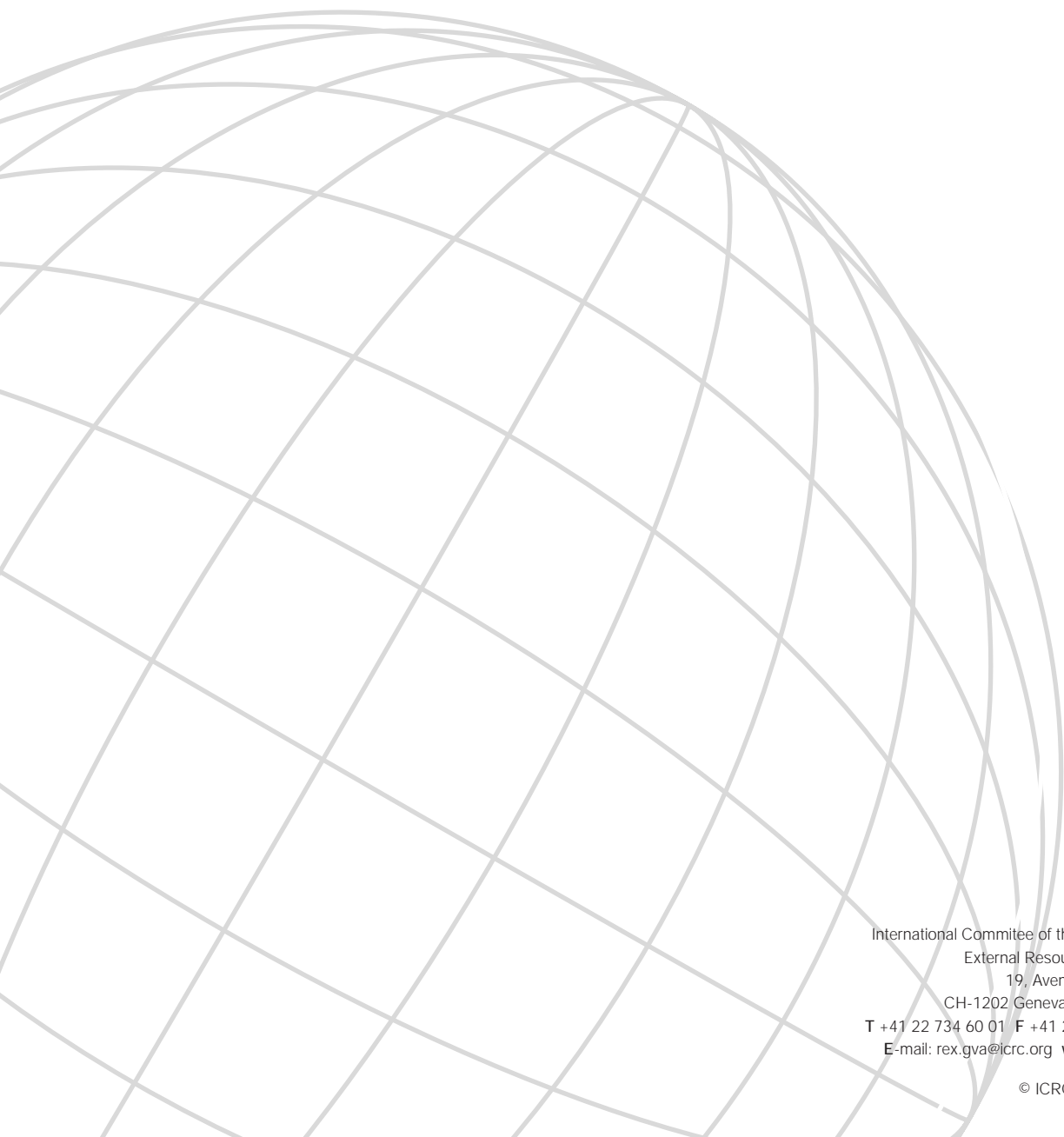


# ANNUAL REPORT 2003



ICRC

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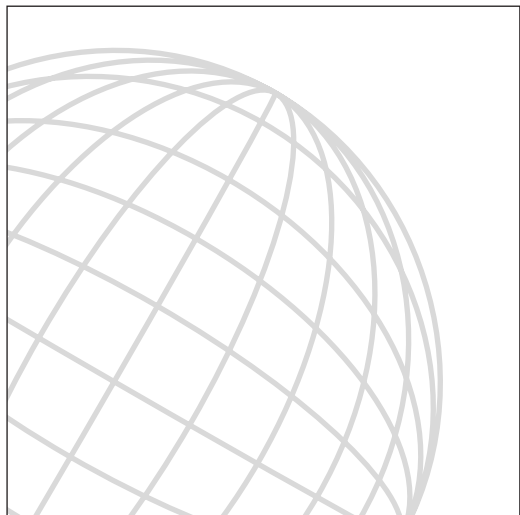


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**ICRC**

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# message from the president and the director-general

Protecting and assisting war victims throughout the world remained a demanding task for the International Committee of the Red Cross in 2003. To achieve it, the organization maintained its network of over 80 delegations and missions (the figure would be about 220 if one included the numerous sub-delegations and other offices). They were staffed by up to 12,400 individuals. New offices were opened in the Solomon Islands, in Ankara and in London. Delegates visited some 470,000 persons held in 1,900 places of detention in 80 countries. The ICRC enabled relatives separated by conflict or internal disturbances to exchange some 1.3 million Red Cross family messages and located more than 4,000 individuals sought by their families. During the year, about 1.3 million people received food and other basic necessities thanks to the ICRC, and 108,000 patients, including 16,000 war-wounded, were treated in hospitals managed or supported by the ICRC. Primary health-care activities benefited four million people overall. Some 34,000 disabled individuals – including about 9,000 mine victims – were fitted with ICRC-provided prostheses and orthoses. ICRC water and habitat projects in 85 countries catered for the needs of some 19 million people.

The ICRC's mission to protect the lives and dignity of people affected by war meant that its delegates remained in Iraq throughout the period of active hostilities and beyond. It meant that they continued helping civilians in Monrovia during the worst of the fighting endured by Liberia's capital in the summer of 2003. Sadly, the determination to stay on and help those caught up in turmoil took its toll: five of our staff died last year in Iraq and Afghanistan. After a car-bomb attack on our delegation in Baghdad, which killed twelve people, we temporarily closed the Baghdad office as well as the one in Basra.

Last year's events show how threateningly unstable the security environment can be in situations where life-saving humanitarian action is sorely needed. High levels of polarization and radicalization characterize today's conflicts. These developments have forced us back to basics. We believe that the safety of our staff can be safeguarded only through rigorous preservation of the scope for independent and neutral humanitarian action in the midst of conflict. We must analyse such situations in terms of the threats facing our personnel on the ground in the country concerned and in surrounding countries, but also in terms of the risks their presence could pose to ICRC staff serving in other parts of the world. As a result we must expand our network of contacts to enhance knowledge about and acceptance of the ICRC by all warring parties. At the same time we must strengthen security measures while taking care not to jeopardize our independence from political decision-makers in any way.

Safeguarding ICRC independence and ensuring that it is perceived and understood as such by all concerned is a priority and will remain so for years to come. This is particularly important as many organizations, including armed forces, today tend to represent their activities as humanitarian in nature. Experience in Afghanistan and in occupied Iraq have revealed a dangerous blurring in the public perception of the roles being played by the different entities involved, whatever their declared objectives: humanitarian, political, military, etc. The ICRC does not shy away from cooperating with the military – quite the opposite since armies and soldiers are primarily responsible for implementing international humanitarian law. But impartial humanitarian aid – delivered to all victims of armed conflict by a neutral and independent organization such as the ICRC – cannot have the same political and security goals as those engaged in military action, however legitimate the latter's goals may be. It is our ambition to affirm our position through informed dialogue with all actors on the humanitarian stage, including States, international organizations, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, those Societies' International Federation, and non-governmental organizations. This dialogue must not only enable the ICRC to identify possible areas of confusion – of blurring of necessary distinctions – but also point up areas of possible synergy and complementarity.

Acceptance of the ICRC by warring parties depends largely on the organization's own observance of the Fundamental Principles of neutrality and independence, ensuring impartial and universal action. Faithful adherence to these principles must be clearly projected and understood. To this end, our operations must be accompanied by action to project that image. The launch last year of ICRC websites in Arabic and Russian – in addition to the existing sites in English, French and Spanish, as well as the forthcoming Chinese site – is an example of such action.

In the face of attempts to question the relevance of international humanitarian law, the ICRC dedicated much effort in 2003 to assessing the law's relevance to today's armed conflicts and, after broad consultations, presented a report on *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts* at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December. While confirming the overall relevance of existing law, the report also stressed the need to enhance respect for its provisions and to further develop rules for the protection of people affected by non-international armed conflicts. The 28th International Conference supported the findings of the ICRC.

The International Conference also adopted a resolution renewing the commitment of the States party to the Geneva Conventions and the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to defending human dignity in all circumstances. The Conference endorsed an *Agenda for humanitarian action* which, among other things, set the following new goals. Firstly, to do much more to find out what has happened to people who have gone missing during conflict, and thus ease the burden borne by their families. Dealing with the issue of the missing is one of the priorities in our operations worldwide. Secondly, to do more to control the development, proliferation and use of new weapons.

In 2004 and coming years, the ICRC will continue to promote the protection of human dignity, through independent and impartial action and a broad dialogue maintained with all parties – groups and individuals – in a position to influence what happens to people affected by war. This task is enormous, but we will strive steadfastly to live up to our vision of an ICRC resolutely standing by those affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence.



Jakob Kellenberger  
President

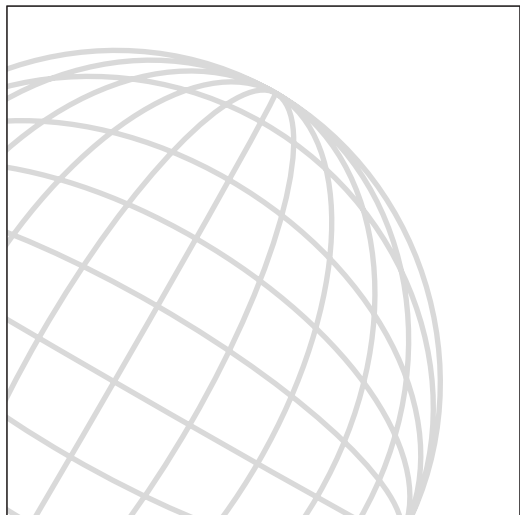


Angelo Gnaedinger  
Director-General



# HEADQUARTERS





# assembly and directorate

## ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is the ICRC's supreme governing body. It oversees all the ICRC's activities, formulates policy, defines general objectives and institutional strategy, and approves the budget and accounts. Composed of between 15 and 25 members, it is collegial in character. Its president and two vice-presidents are the president and vice-presidents of the ICRC. In 2003 the Assembly convened six times.

## ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly Council is a subsidiary body of the Assembly, to which the latter delegates certain of its powers. It prepares the Assembly's activities, takes decisions on matters within its purview and serves as a link between the Directorate and the Assembly, to which it reports regularly. Composed of five members elected by the Assembly, it is chaired by the president of the ICRC.

The Assembly Council met 14 times in 2003 in order to:

- ▶ conduct, together with the Directorate, a thorough analysis of operational strategy and general policy matters
- ▶ take decisions on matters such as operational strategy, the development of international law, policy, and cooperation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- ▶ adopt general policies relating to funding, human resources and communication

## PRESIDENCY

The president of the ICRC assumes primary responsibility for the organization's external relations. As president of the Assembly and of the Assembly Council, he ensures that the areas of competence of these two bodies are safeguarded. He is assisted by two vice-presidents, one of whom is permanent.

## RECRUITMENT COMMISSION

The Recruitment Commission handles matters relating to the composition of the Committee (known as the Assembly when it convenes). The Commission submits proposals to the Assembly, which co-opts new members.

## AUDIT

### Control Commission

Formerly known as the Management Control Commission, this body was renamed the Control Commission in May 2003.

The Control Commission, made up of five members of the ICRC, assists the Assembly in overseeing the work of the organization, monitors the implementation of Assembly decisions and ensures that the ICRC's activities are conducted efficiently.

In 2003 the Commission met eight times. The items dealt with included a review of the ICRC's financial statements for 2002 and the 2004 budget, before both were submitted to the Assembly for approval. The Commission also closely followed the work of the external and internal auditors.

### Internal audit

Formerly known as Management Control, this unit was renamed Internal Audit in May 2003.

The head of Internal Audit and four internal auditors use standard internal auditing methods to review activities at headquarters and in the field with the aim of improving the ICRC's performance. They report their findings and recommendations to the president and the Assembly for information, and to the director-general for action.

In 2003, the internal auditors carried out six field audits at the delegations in Burundi, Egypt, Kuwait, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Tashkent. At headquarters, two audits were carried out in the area of human resources, one on national staff management policy and the other on the handling of leave entitlement.

## External auditors

KPMG has been the ICRC's external auditor since 1998. In 2003, KPMG audited the ICRC's financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2002 and submitted its report to the Assembly. In the course of its audit, KPMG visited the delegations in Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## DIRECTORATE

In place since mid-2002, the new Directorate presented its vision for the future in a programme approved by the Assembly in January 2003. The Directorate's overall goal is to ensure that the ICRC remains the "benchmark organization" of independent humanitarian action.

The Directorate envisions an ICRC that:

- ▶ resolutely stands by victims, with respect, empathy, an ability to listen, and curiosity about others and their culture underpinning its work
- ▶ seeks a comprehensive understanding of conflicts so as to take appropriate operational decisions
- ▶ affirms its identity through dialogue with the many organizations currently operating in the humanitarian sphere
- ▶ combines consistency, predictability, and reliability with the ability to innovate and to come up with creative responses to new problems and events

In terms of priorities for the next four years, the ICRC will strive to remain:

- ▶ firmly rooted in the field, where it can take the pulse of a world in crisis: understanding the world at war through the experience of the victims; engaging in dialogue and networking with all parties likely to have an influence on conflicts; responding to new threats in order to guarantee the safety of ICRC personnel in the field; developing and sharing a global analysis of conflicts, anticipating the parameters defining ICRC action, and influencing the humanitarian debate
- ▶ the lead organization in matters pertaining to international humanitarian law, and at the heart of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: positioning international humanitarian law as the reference law for the protection of victims of armed conflict; mobilizing the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement with a view to ensuring the efficiency of humanitarian action as a whole
- ▶ a credible, effective and innovative organization that values its staff: ensuring long-term financing in order to guarantee the ICRC's freedom of action; promoting and developing human resources; defining the responsibilities of each post and managing interdepartmental work processes; encouraging learning and managing innovation

Each ICRC department head has been given specific responsibilities with a view to implementing the Directorate's programme. Periodic follow-ups will ensure that the goals remain relevant and the means appropriate.

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Performance-management methodology is used by the ICRC as a tool to improve the implementation and performance of its humanitarian services for persons adversely affected by armed conflict, to enhance learning from its ongoing activities world-

wide and to document its performance accountability, taking into account the complexity of the overall accountability model for humanitarian activities.

Within the context of performance management, the ICRC regularly examines the relevance of its operational activities, paying attention to questions of programme effectiveness and cost efficiency.

Performance management has been structured around key functions – planning, monitoring and evaluation – which enable the ICRC to:

- ▶ establish general and specific performance objectives and targets
- ▶ link objectives to performance budgeting and accounting
- ▶ identify measurable performance indicators, organized according to agreed-upon programme performance frameworks (benchmarking)
- ▶ measure performance through monitoring and controlling activities
- ▶ implement evaluations in support of performance improvements in operations, knowledge management and learning based on past practices

As part of the ICRC's work with donor and NGO networks on issues relating to accountability and performance management for humanitarian activities, it continued in 2003 to be an effective member of the Active Learning Network on Accountability and Performance.

### Planning for Results

Planning for Results (PfR), the annual planning methodology first introduced in 1999, remained central to the ICRC's performance-management activities in 2003. PfR was organized around the explicit identification of results-based objectives for ICRC operations, formulated along three "dimensions": target population, programme capacity and geographic location. The planning tool has been evolving each year by adapting its methodology to new emerging issues and actual field practice.

Overall, PfR has provided a meaningful basis for the management of ICRC tasks and operations. In particular, it has offered better thematic review and trend analysis (by target population, programme, or geographic location). PfR also provided the framework for the ICRC's *2004 Emergency Appeals* and *2004 Headquarters Appeal*.

### Monitoring and reporting on results

To ensure that planning and operational implementation remain relevant and effective, the ICRC has encouraged the use of tools and techniques, such as regular monitoring, operational assessments and focused reviews, as a means of checking performance. Internal reporting and periodic donor reporting based on regular weekly factual progress reports, monthly statistical reports and quarterly analytical field reports have followed the pattern of PfR.

In 2003, efforts continued to define and adapt programme performance frameworks (benchmarks), including the specification of qualitative and quantitative measurable indicators at the output, outcome and impact levels. Progress was achieved but the task is not completed owing to the complexity and diversity of programmes.

### Evaluating results

In accordance with its work plan, and under the direct supervision of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, the ICRC completed independent evaluations in 2003 of its:

- ▶ H.E.L.P. training course
- ▶ psychological support programme for field staff
- ▶ cooperation programme with the National Society in Indonesia
- ▶ urban water and habitat programme in Kabul, Afghanistan
- ▶ economic security programme in Serbia and Montenegro

The ICRC also offered support to the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Movement strategy.

In addition to these completed evaluations, new initiatives launched in 2003 were at various stages of completion at the end of the year. These included evaluations of the following ICRC programmes:

- ▶ water and habitat programme in prisons in Rwanda
- ▶ “Women and War”
- ▶ health services programme in Sudan
- ▶ programme for restoring family links in Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

## RELATIONS WITH THE CORPORATE SECTOR

In 1999, the ICRC adopted a comprehensive strategy aimed at developing its relations with the business community. The strategy’s centre-piece was to establish a dialogue with the private sector on the ICRC’s core activities by promoting humanitarian principles among firms active in conflict zones and other unstable areas, and by including multinational and local companies, professional associations and trade unions among the ICRC’s network of contacts at the operational level. This dialogue has enabled the ICRC to better understand the role played by economic interests in conflict-prone environments.

In 2003 the ICRC held meetings at headquarters level with major multinational companies based in France, the United States and Switzerland. In line with its aim of helping companies to translate commitments made under various codes of conduct into operational reality, the ICRC also contacted firms active in Indonesia, and strengthened its relations with companies in Colombia and the southern Caucasus.

The ICRC continued to support and promote an initiative taken by governments and international organizations relating to the role of business in conflict. In particular it encouraged adherence to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, whereby companies in the extractive and energy sectors have agreed to respect and promote respect for human rights and international humanitarian law. The organization also developed and adopted both a general policy and specific operational guidelines based on IHL to deal with private military and security firms.

The ICRC sought to enhance its operational capacity and overall professionalism by drawing on specific skills from the private sector, improving acquisitions procedures for goods and services, and stepping up efforts to raise funds from large corporations. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC drew up guidelines on relations between private companies and the components of the Movement, setting up a suitable framework for future partnerships involving clear ethical rules.

## GENDER EQUALITY

The position of gender equality officer was created in June 2002 on the recommendation of a working group formed to study ways of removing obstacles to equal opportunity between men and women at the ICRC.

Reporting to the director-general, the gender equality officer was responsible in 2003 for putting in place and following up the measures outlined in the Equal Opportunities Action Plan.

More particularly, the gender equality officer developed:

- ▶ the children’s day-care centre project for headquarters staff, which was approved (construction of the premises began at the end of the year and the centre should be ready to open its doors in September 2004)
- ▶ an information brochure for all staff about ICRC gender equality policy, which is near completion
- ▶ relations with other international organizations, sharing experience and information, while also working with other components of the Movement on gender equality

## “GENÈVE HUMANITAIRE”

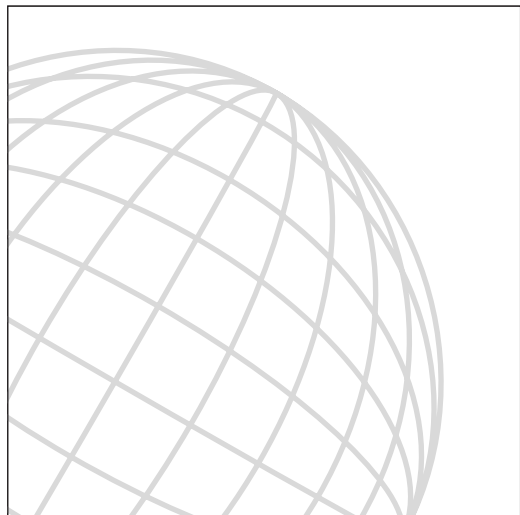
In September 2002 the delegate post of “Genève Humanitaire” was created. This person is responsible for harmonizing the working relationship between the ICRC and the humanitarian community of Geneva and improving the visibility of the ICRC locally. In doing so, this person attempts to re-enforce the concept of Geneva as one of the world’s main humanitarian fora.

As a result, the Geneva Humanitarian Forum (GHF) was established by the ICRC in 2003. Supplying the seed money, the ICRC still part-funds GHF together with four other Geneva-based organizations.

GHF provides a platform for creative thinking, interaction, and the exchange of ideas on issues and challenges facing the humanitarian community.

A key GHF project has been its web “portal”, which provides concise and pertinent information while also connecting users to others with similar interests.

The portal distils information into an accessible and useful resource for humanitarian actors in Geneva and beyond, providing a comprehensive range of data and analytical resources to enhance informed debate and policy-making. Through the portal, the GHF is building a network of experts and interested policy-makers who will be able to share information and analyses as well as engage in focused policy dialogue with selected colleagues.



# operations

## DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

The Department of Operations supports, coordinates and supervises ICRC activities in the field. Its task is to ensure that actions taken in different places are carried out in a professional manner and follow a coherent approach, with full respect for ICRC policies and priorities and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The department regularly analyses conflict environment, be it at the local, regional or global level, and it supervises the drawing up of operational strategies. It coordinates the conception, planning and budgeting of field activities. It ensures that resources are allocated among the 80 field delegations and missions effectively and in accordance with the budgetary framework.

The department is organized in four large geographical zones (themselves divided into regions), two operational divisions (one of which is Assistance, the other Central Tracing Agency and Protection) and two smaller units (Humanitarian Diplomacy, and Security and Stress). Headquarters staff use their specialized knowledge and professional skills in support of those in charge of the different regions and the field delegations.

## PROTECTION AND CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

As ongoing conflicts continued to rage in many parts of the world, 2003 saw the outbreak of war in Iraq and the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime. Like the fighting in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq was waged against a backdrop of increasing polarization linked to the latest developments in the "fight against terrorism." The events in Iraq also highlighted the fact that humanitarian action was viewed by some as politically motivated.

In a context in which basic legal provisions, such as the right to physical and psychological integrity, were being called into question, the ICRC found its ability to protect war victims and promote respect for IHL seriously hampered. The organization had to take a close look at every aspect of this changing dynamic in order to identify its consequences and find ways of preventing or minimizing their impact on its work.

During the year, a number of States with deteriorating government structures and, sometimes, a lack of political will failed to fulfil their obligations towards the victims of armed conflict.

### Protection

The ICRC's protection work is aimed at ensuring respect for the rights of individuals under IHL. This means, among other things, preserving their wellbeing and dignity.

In its broadest sense, protection covers a wide range of activities, including the direct provision of services, bilateral negotiations, multilateral diplomacy, training, education and public relations. In its narrowest sense, it involves the collection of data and information, which the ICRC uses in representations made to the authorities or other people in power with a view to preventing or putting an end to violations of the law, principally IHL.

The ICRC primarily encourages the authorities, through confidential contacts, to fulfil their responsibilities and obligations under IHL. In some cases, the ICRC has to support or even take over existing infrastructure, such as hospitals or water-supply services. These efforts are effective only where the political will exists to follow the ICRC's recommendations and cooperate effectively.

### Protecting civilians and other people not taking part in hostilities

Protecting civilians and other people not or no longer taking a direct part in hostilities is a basic principle of IHL and customary law.

The ICRC's approach in this area is based on a great deal of preparatory work, which includes establishing a wide variety of contacts that help to create a climate of confidence and improve the organization's knowledge of the situation and its particularities. Working closely with conflict victims is another vital component of the ICRC's protection work. This implies gaining access to those who require assistance, remaining present on the ground for the duration of the conflict and collecting reliable, first-hand data. The ICRC also engages in direct and confidential dialogue with the authorities concerned and with anyone who can help put an end to the abuses it notes.

In many conflicts, the distinction between civilians and combatants is often not respected. Civilians are often viewed as the enemy or deliberately targeted in a bid to publicize a cause or simply spread terror. Moreover, humanitarian organizations do not always enjoy the respect and the support indispensable to allow them to get on with their work.

In 2003 the ICRC's protection activities remained heavily dependent on the security conditions prevailing in the countries where the organization was active and on gaining access to certain regions. The ICRC's work was severely limited in Iraq, in particular following attacks on various organizations, of which it was one, and in places like Afghanistan, Burundi and Chechnya. Dialogue regarding the protection of civilians continued with the authorities and bearers of weapons in conflict-affected countries such as Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, the Republic of the Congo (especially the Pool region), Sri Lanka and Myanmar. In Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories, the ICRC informed the authorities and armed groups of its concerns regarding the implementation of IHL, in particular in connection with the construction and the ongoing implications of the West Bank barrier.

### **People deprived of their freedom**

All people deprived of their freedom are vulnerable in relation both to their captors and to the pressures of prison life. This vulnerability is heightened during armed conflicts and other situations of violence, in which the temptation to use excessive and illicit force is most likely.

In working with detainees, the ICRC strives to prevent or put an end to cases of disappearance, torture and other forms of ill treatment, and debasing detention conditions. It also endeavours to ensure that detainees can maintain contact with their families and benefit from the legal guarantees to which they are entitled under IHL and international customary law. At the same time, the organization refrains from forming any opinion on the motives for their incarceration.

Regular visits to detention centres, carried out in accordance with defined procedures, are a principal means used by the ICRC to achieve its aims. During the visits, delegates hold private meetings with detainees, record their identity and check on their conditions of detention and their treatment. This enables the ICRC to monitor their situation until their release. The information gathered during the visits becomes a basis for dialogue with the authorities concerning practical problems and provides an opportunity for the ICRC to make recommendations.

In 2003, the ICRC had access to people deprived of their freedom in 75 countries. While the situation as compared with the previous year had changed very little in some countries, access to certain categories of detainees was granted for the first time or improved in others. The latter included Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Zambia. In Tajikistan, dialogue with the authorities opened the way for resumed ICRC visits.

Visits also continued to people held by the United States authorities in Bagram, Afghanistan, and at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station. The unresolved legal status and uncertainty over the judicial process applicable to those incarcerated at Guantanamo Bay had a direct impact on their psychological state. The situation of people being held in connection with the "war on terror" at secret locations inside and outside Afghanistan and to whom the ICRC was not granted access was also a matter of concern to the organization.

In Iraq, the ICRC carried out its first visits, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, to prisoners of war being held at the Um Qasr camp. The visiting programme was then expanded to include other prisoners of war, civilian internees and people being detained for security reasons in Baghdad and other towns. Owing to security problems, the visits did not cover all the territory or take place as regularly as the organization wished.

The ICRC continued its visits to those being held by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha and the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown.

As part of its work in detention centres, the ICRC provided material assistance that led to improved living conditions for inmates. This included the repair or installation of water-supply systems and the distribution of medical and hygiene supplies. In Rwanda, the ICRC continued to provide food aid in prisons but began a gradual phasing out of this programme that was to be completed in three years.

The ICRC also had to contend with an ongoing deterioration of prison infrastructure worldwide, which affected all categories of prisoners. Its aim was to provide support for below-par detention centres by reinforcing their capacity and encouraging them to implement recognized practices, but only where the authorities showed a real will to improve the situation.

In some countries, such as Ethiopia, Georgia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Uzbekistan, the ICRC initiated or maintained a dialogue with prison authorities in order to help them meet their obligations towards detainees. In some countries, it held workshops enabling prison staff to exchange information and ideas with experts, prison administration officials and ICRC delegates on issues such as general conditions of detention, health problems, training and work opportunities, prison registers and legal guarantees.

### **Restoring family links**

In 2003 numerous family members remained separated by armed conflict and the increasingly massive displacement of populations. In order to perform its special task of restoring family links and strengthen its operational capacity in this area, the ICRC relied heavily on the worldwide network of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Once again, the greatest need for assistance in restoring family links and tracing missing persons was felt in Africa, in particular Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia. The signing of peace accords and talks leading up to such accords facilitated the ICRC's efforts to bring children back together with their relatives in a number of places. In Sudan, after years of war, conditions at last appeared ripe for the ICRC to start reuniting vast numbers of youngsters with their families.

During the conflict in Iraq, the ICRC helped thousands of civilians, principally in Baghdad, send messages to their families in more than 50 countries through the National Society network. Several thousand people also used ICRC-supplied telephone lines to talk to loved ones across the world. At the same time an ad-hoc website, visited by more than 11,000 people, was developed to facilitate the exchange of news between family members. Despite the constraints imposed by security problems, efforts were still being made at the end of the year to restore family links, in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent, in particular by helping detainees communicate with their relatives.

Several regional workshops were organized, in cooperation with National Society tracing services, in Geneva, Stockholm and Guatemala City. The workshops dealt with topics such as migration, natural disasters and cooperation within the Movement.

The Inter-Agency Guiding Principles on Separated Children were finally signed by all the organizations involved (the ICRC, the United Nations Children's Fund, Save the Children Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Vision International and the International Rescue Committee). The Principles should reinforce coordination and complementarity among agencies involved in reuniting children with their families and enhance support for those children.

Throughout the year, 1,286,257 Red Cross messages were exchanged worldwide. In addition, the ICRC traced 4,142 people and helped reunite some 2,640 people, mostly children, with their families.

### **"The Missing"**

Thousands of missing persons across the world remain unaccounted for, causing their families untold anxiety. Their fate is a primary concern for the ICRC, which launched a special project to deal with this issue in 2002. In February 2003 the organization convened an international conference on missing persons in Geneva. The more than 350 participants included independent experts, government representatives, members of family associations and representatives of other organizations active in this area. The conference highlighted the tragic consequences of a person's disappearance, in particular for the family involved, and looked at ways of preventing the problem, responding to the attendant humanitarian needs and resolving existing cases.

A number of regional conferences addressing this issue were also organized, on the initiative of National Societies, in Latin America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The ICRC rapidly began to implement the recommendations issued by these conferences and those adopted by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent held in December 2003, at which the issue of missing persons was a principal topic.

### **Relations with other organizations and academic institutions**

In 2003 the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division gave a number of presentations on its activities at the University Centre for International Humanitarian Law in Geneva and for students enrolled in the University of Geneva's masters programme in humanitarian action.

The ICRC also organized a second series of Ecogia protection seminars dealing with issues such as possible responses to violations of the law, the gathering and processing of information and ways of influencing perpetrators of violence. The seminars attracted some 30 participants from non-governmental organizations and the UN system.

The fifth workshop on protection, which was to bring together organizations concerned with displaced people, was cancelled because of operational constraints linked to the war in Iraq.

Dialogue was maintained at headquarters level with other humanitarian organizations, in particular regarding the protection of civilian populations. The ICRC also had ongoing contacts with agencies involved in visiting detainees, such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and several non-governmental

organizations. The purpose of these contacts was to close gaps in protection work and avoid any duplication of efforts in other areas.

The ICRC attended several meetings and international conferences on detention issues (meeting of experts on the use and application of the UN Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Austria; biannual meeting of the Conference of Eastern, Southern and Central African Heads of Correctional Services, Mauritius; and the annual conference of the International Corrections and Prisons Association, USA). This enabled the organization to engage in fruitful exchanges and take part in specialized training efforts.

## **ASSISTANCE DIVISION**

The Assistance Division develops activities aimed at relieving the suffering of victims of armed conflict in accordance with ethical precepts and the provisions of international humanitarian law (IHL). It provides continuous strategic support and systematic professional expertise in its three areas of activity – health services, economic security and water and habitat – for operations in the field. Staff development and management is also a key support area to which it devotes considerable effort.

To maintain the high quality of its services, the Assistance Division needs to develop and adapt relevant policies and guidelines while also helping to shape policy and strategy for the ICRC. To that end, it plays an active role in debates within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the wider humanitarian community, and with academic institutions, professional associations and other bodies involved in the analysis and development of professional standards relevant to assistance work.

### **Operational support**

In 2003, aid programmes were carried out in 48 of the ICRC's 80 operational and regional delegations despite the sometimes hazardous security environment. The main programmes were run in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Liberia and Sudan.

### **Health care**

In 2003 the ICRC regularly supported 67 hospitals and 305 other health-care facilities around the world and gave 556,211 outpatient consultations. More than 15,918 war-wounded people were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals and more than 88,000 operations were performed in them. The ICRC regularly supported eight first-aid posts near combat zones. These provided emergency treatment to some 303 war-wounded people.

Community-based programmes were implemented in 12 countries, sometimes – as in Colombia and Sri Lanka – with the participation of the National Society. Together with the Water and Habitat and Economic Security Units, the Health Services Unit drafted clear strategic guidelines for preventing and treating malaria, which were implemented in countries such as Senegal and Somalia. The Health Services Unit also continued to provide technical expertise for a range of ICRC programmes. For example, it helped to maintain the high standard of the ICRC's vaccination programmes by developing new epidemiology guidelines. It also reviewed an assessment tool for monitoring performance which was used for the first time in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

As in previous years, the Health Services Unit also provided technical expertise for programmes benefiting persons deprived

of their liberty. For example, it performed quality-control analyses for anti-tuberculosis programmes in the southern Caucasus and contributed to publications on issues relating to detainees.

In 2003, the ICRC supported 59 prosthetic/orthotic centres in 26 countries that fitted patients with 16,570 prostheses and 16,919 orthoses and provided them with rehabilitation services. A total of 1,592 wheelchairs and 15,849 pairs of crutches – most of them locally manufactured – were distributed thanks to ICRC support. In addition, a working group drew up a policy on the training of national staff – a priority in the endeavour to improve sustainable patient services.

### **Water and habitat**

In 2003, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit carried out water, sanitation and construction work in 36 countries. These projects, which were implemented by some 85 expatriate and 370 national engineers and technicians, catered for the needs of some 19 million people worldwide and cost about 92 million Swiss francs. Water and habitat work ranged from making water safe to drink by setting up pumps and water-treatment systems to ensuring proper sewage disposal in towns and villages affected by armed conflict. These activities also included the repair and in some cases building of health-care facilities, rehabilitation centres to house displaced people, and places of detention (where repairs were carried out when there were no other means of providing detainees with acceptable conditions).

In 2003, ICRC engineers and technicians dealt with acute emergencies in Iraq and Liberia. In Iraq, thanks to the cooperation of the water authorities and the ICRC's in-depth knowledge of the urban water-supply systems, the organization was able to provide the resident population of the major cities with at least the minimum quantities of water they required. In Liberia, where the ICRC maintained its presence despite heavy fighting in June and July, water was delivered by truck to the resident and displaced populations in Monrovia.

Urban water-supply projects were carried out in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire. Major rural water and sanitation projects continued throughout the year in Angola, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. Emergency water aid was supplied to internally displaced people and resident populations in Afghanistan, Angola, the northern Caucasus, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Indonesia, Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, and Sudan. Medical facilities were upgraded in numerous places in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Chechnya, Guinea, Iraq, Liberia, Somalia and Sudan. ICRC delegates visiting prisons worldwide were advised on basic repair work needed to meet at least minimum hygiene standards. This mainly involved staff in Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

### **Economic security**

The aim of the ICRC's economic security work is to ensure that households and entire communities have the means to cover their basic material needs and to maintain or regain a sustainable livelihood. This involves initiatives ranging from emergency distributions of food and essential household items to sustainable food-production programmes and micro-economic assistance. Examples of the latter include the upgrading of traditional irrigation systems in Afghanistan, urban voucher schemes in the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian

Territories, small-scale community-based cash-for-work projects, and livestock management and support programmes.

In 2003, the ICRC carried out economic security work in 29 countries benefiting some 1,281,000 people worldwide and costing 218.68 million Swiss francs (some 22.78 % of the overall ICRC field budget). Around 85 specialized expatriate staff were involved, in addition to nearly 700 national staff.

In Iraq and Liberia, the Economic Security Unit faced acute crises during the reporting period. The ICRC remained in Liberia even when the fighting peaked in June and July, and only briefly interrupted its aid deliveries owing to the lack of security for the recipients themselves. To optimize its effectiveness in such a volatile environment, it coordinated its actions with those of the National Society and other agencies providing food relief.

In 2003, the ICRC provided emergency food aid in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Pakistan, and supplementary food aid in Abkhazia and elsewhere in western Georgia, Chechnya, Colombia, Daghestan, Ingushetia, Jordan, Mexico, the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories, and Serbia and Montenegro. It provided food for inmates in ICRC-supported prisons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and Rwanda, and for patients in ICRC-supported hospitals in Liberia and Sudan. In addition, the ICRC distributed essential household items in Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and small-scale essential emergency household items in Colombia, Indonesia and Nigeria.

The ICRC implemented agricultural support schemes in Afghanistan, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Serbia and Montenegro, and Somalia, and carried out veterinary and livestock support programmes (vaccination and endo- and ecto-parasite treatments) in Afghanistan and Mexico. In addition, it conducted a regional livestock study in the Horn of Africa to determine the vulnerabilities of pastoral communities and identify possible responses.

Micro-economic initiatives adapted to the recipients' economic and socio-cultural environment were developed and implemented by the ICRC in Rwanda (for families headed by women and for victims of the genocide), Afghanistan (for households headed by women and for returnees) and in the Balkans and Somalia (for internally displaced people). Micro-economic assistance was provided through community-based cash-for-work projects, vouchers distributed to destitute families in urban areas, opportunities for vocational training, and grants.

### **Human resources development**

The Assistance Division continued efforts to provide adequate training for its various professionals so as to maintain their know-how and, in the case of programme coordinators, develop their management skills. In all, the division organized 12 specialized courses and workshops for 160 of its staff. The topics included micro-economic initiatives and strategies for achieving economic security, hospital management, emergency surgery in war-torn areas, community health and infectious diseases, diagnosis of water infrastructure, and water engineering. The division also contributed its expertise to on-site courses for health-care personnel working in places of detention and to five war-surgery seminars held all over the world.

### **Policies and key issues**

On the basis of an analysis of established practice in the assistance domain, and in accordance with ICRC policies, the division

worked throughout the year on a proposal for a policy that would better define the role of assistance work in ICRC operations. A final document was to be presented to the Directorate and the Assembly for approval in April 2004.

The three units of the Assistance Division produced a number of guidelines and reference tools in 2003, including those on HIV/AIDS, malaria and epidemiology. Practical guidelines on antenatal care, paediatrics, laboratories, anaesthesia, and water and habitat in places of detention were under development. In addition, a policy on training national staff for ICRC physical rehabilitation projects was finalized. These guidelines and protocols were developed after careful review of the existing literature and other sources of information. For example, the Health Services Unit contacted the Roll Back Malaria partnership concerning malaria guidelines, and the World Health Organization and Médecins Sans Frontières concerning epidemiology guidelines.

To support field delegations in their efforts to address the needs of women adversely affected by armed conflicts, the Assistance Division contributed to a guidance document focusing on sexual violence, water, food and essential household items, sources of livelihood, shelter, health, and hygiene and sanitation.

### Contributions to the humanitarian debate

Throughout the year, the division maintained dialogue with UN agencies, such as the United Nations Children's Fund, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization and the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and with non-governmental organizations by participating in conferences and by maintaining and developing a network of contacts with professional associations and academic institutions. The ICRC's expertise in specialized areas such as the rehabilitation of amputees, water and habitat engineering, war surgery, and health and medical ethics in prisons was frequently drawn on in international conferences and workshops. Finally, the division provided specialized input for a range of academic and practitioner degree courses, including the international diploma of humanitarian assistance and the masters in humanitarian assistance at various European universities.

## RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The fundamental mission of the ICRC, which is to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and internal violence, requires efforts both in the field and within the framework of regional and international organizations. The ICRC makes constant efforts to ensure better respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) by all parties involved in a conflict, including States. In multinational fora it promotes knowledge, understanding and, whenever appropriate, development of this body of law. It explains its position on issues of humanitarian concern and takes steps to facilitate its operations in the field and raise awareness of the needs of victims. Above all, it seeks to safeguard its principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence against any militarization or politicization of its humanitarian endeavour.

To this end, the ICRC develops and maintains close relations with a wide range of organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through its headquarters staff and its delegations in New York, Brussels, Paris, Cairo, Addis Ababa and elsewhere. The ICRC's Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit<sup>1</sup> acts as a focal point for relations between the

organization and United Nations bodies such as the General Assembly, the Security Council and the various UN humanitarian agencies. Similarly, it maintains regular contact with regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Council of Europe, and with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The ICRC also cultivates regular exchanges with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which have a considerable capacity for mobilization and advocacy.

The ICRC regional delegations take part in both operations and humanitarian diplomacy. They also pursue dialogue and cooperation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

### Raising issues of humanitarian concern in international fora

Throughout 2003, issues of humanitarian concern remained high on the agendas of various UN bodies and international conferences. In order to keep abreast of developments relevant to its humanitarian activities, and to promote understanding and support for its mandate and work, the ICRC attended as an observer the 58th session of the UN General Assembly and delivered statements on issues of humanitarian concern, particularly to the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) and the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). It played a similar role at the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights, during which the ICRC president delivered an address. In addition, the ICRC delivered other statements on six agenda items of the Commission on Human Rights. The ICRC participated actively in the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session, where the ICRC vice-president made a statement on the transition from relief to development.

The ICRC paid close attention to the various issues addressed by the UN Security Council during 2003. Its president made a statement in the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Iraq. At the beginning of each month, the ICRC met with the president of the Security Council to discuss the most pressing issues of humanitarian concern.

In Europe, the ICRC maintained regular contact with regional organizations dealing with security matters, such as the OSCE, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the European Union. The relationship between the struggle against terrorism and respect for human rights and, where applicable IHL, remained a dominant feature of the contacts with the Council of Europe and the OSCE. In the course of the year, the ICRC was granted observer status at two specialized bodies of the Council of Europe, namely the Committee of Experts on Terrorism and the Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International Law. Also in 2003, the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) issued an opinion on the Geneva Conventions. Representatives of both the office of the Commissioner for Human Rights and the Parliamentary Assembly attended the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, mainly in connection with the issue of missing people.

In 2003, the ICRC attended the IPU assemblies in Santiago de Chile and Geneva. Cooperation with the IPU's Committee to

<sup>1</sup> The Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit resulted from the merger in 2003 of the Division for International Organizations with the office of the adviser on humanitarian diplomacy and its Committee for Humanitarian Diplomacy.

Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law focused on the follow-up to the inter-parliamentary conference entitled “The protection of civilian populations in armed conflicts,” which the ICRC organized in 2002 in Niger, on the question of landmines and on the ICRC’s initiative called “The Missing.”

The ICRC pursued a constructive dialogue with the AU. The ICRC mission to the AU in Addis Ababa was in regular contact with the five regional groups of ambassadors and the AU Commission; it made regular written and oral representations to ensure that the Commission was fully aware of ICRC concerns relating to the African continent. In July, a high-level ICRC delegation attended the AU summit in Maputo. The ICRC also maintained fruitful contact with several of the continent’s regional organizations, including the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern African Development Community.

For the first time ever, the president of the ICRC attended a meeting of the OIC’s supreme governing body, the Islamic Summit Conference, on the occasion of its 10th session.

Numerous meetings were held with various departments of the UN Secretariat to discuss issues of common concern, which were often related to contexts in which the UN and the ICRC were both active.

### **Preserving independent humanitarian action**

In its constant interaction with international organizations and States, the ICRC stressed the importance of preserving neutral and independent humanitarian action and the concurrent need to keep such action distinct from political initiatives and military operations. To this end, it took part in the ongoing dialogue on cooperation and coordination between humanitarian organizations and the military in conflict situations. The “Guidelines on the use of military and civil defence assets to support United Nations humanitarian activities in complex emergency situations,” commonly referred to as the MCDA Guidelines, were finalized and formally launched in Brussels in June. As a member of the committee reviewing the draft MCDA Guidelines, the ICRC strove to ensure that they adequately reflected basic humanitarian principles and safeguarded the scope for humanitarian action vital to its operations. Together with other humanitarian organizations, and with the help of think tanks, the ICRC also took part in extensive discussions on the future of independent humanitarian action.

### **Enhancing cooperation and coordination between agencies**

In recognition of the scale and complexity of needs arising from crises around the world and the increasing number of organizations involved in addressing them, the ICRC stepped up its consultation and coordination with other humanitarian agencies, whether members of the UN system, regional organizations or NGOs. In this context, the ICRC actively participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which is the UN mechanism for coordinating the humanitarian activities of both UN and non-UN organizations. The ICRC’s status as a standing invitee ensures its independence and neutrality within the IASC. In 2003, as in past years, the ICRC took an active part in the IASC working group and plenary meetings. The ICRC’s director of operations attended a special meeting of the IASC principals, also attended by the UN Secretary-General, on the subject of the future role of humanitarian action in Iraq. The ICRC also participated in weekly IASC information-sharing meetings both in Geneva and New York. Throughout the year, the ICRC contributed extensively to the work undertaken by the IASC reference groups and task forces

on subjects such as gender, HIV/AIDS, and contingency planning and preparedness. In particular, the ICRC was involved in the vast UN contingency-planning process for Iraq.

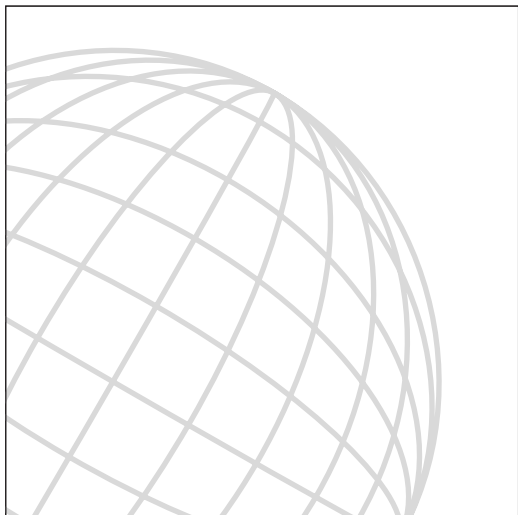
Through its delegations, the ICRC cooperated with the UN country teams in the development of the Common Humanitarian Action Plan, with a view to avoiding duplication or gaps in the aid provided by humanitarian organizations through increased coordination. At headquarters, the ICRC participated in the annual launch of the UN Consolidated Appeals.

A close link was maintained with the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group, which brings together representatives of major donor countries in Geneva to foster dialogue with humanitarian agencies. In February 2003, the ICRC participated in the fourth annual Montreux Donor Retreat organized by this working group.

With regard to its bilateral relations, the ICRC consulted with UN agencies such as the United Nations Children’s Fund and the World Food Programme (WFP). At a senior-level meeting between the WFP and the ICRC in May, a renewal of the exchange of letters that has provided the general framework for the relationship between the two organizations since 1996 was agreed upon.

Contacts with some of the larger NGOs took place on a bilateral basis. At the same time, the ICRC took part in the work of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and maintained close relations with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, within which it has observer status. The ICRC held a new series of seminars on protection activities for NGOs and international organizations at its Ecogia training centre near Geneva in January, February and March. As in previous years, the ICRC also organized seminars on humanitarian and IHL-related issues for diplomats, international organizations and NGOs in Geneva, New York and Addis Ababa.

The ICRC continued to contribute to the international debate on the issue of internally displaced people (IDPs). In its capacity as a standing invitee of the Senior Inter-Agency Network on IDPs, the ICRC presented the issue from the perspective of IHL and ensured that the network’s recommendations built on the operational experience of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC took part in efforts undertaken by the IDP unit of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to identify gaps in protection and assistance activities carried out by various organizations on behalf of IDPs and to issue recommendations to UN agencies. In addition, the ICRC had regular consultations with the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The coordination process with regard to IDPs in the context of the Iraq crisis culminated in an agreement between the ICRC and UNHCR which aimed at better coordination between the two organizations’ protection and assistance activities, and streamlined efforts with regard to family reunifications and child-protection work.



# international law and cooperation within the movement

## POLICY AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE MOVEMENT

The Division for Policy and Cooperation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement helps establish the ICRC's approach to matters of concern to the organization as a whole, prepares and monitors implementation of the decisions taken at the Movement's statutory meetings, facilitates the capacity-building of National Societies in areas of ICRC expertise, and contributes to the smooth running of field activities conducted in cooperation with the other components of the Movement.

### International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The ICRC and the National Societies work as partners toward their shared goal of preventing or at least alleviating human suffering due to armed conflict. During 2003, the ICRC allocated 65.2 million Swiss francs to build the capacity of National Societies in the areas of restoring family links, spreading knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and the Movement's Fundamental Principles, raising mine awareness and providing health care and material relief in the event of armed conflict.

As part of the implementation of its policy vis-à-vis the National Societies, the ICRC launched a process of "strategic dialogue" with some of them. This consisted of consultation between senior officials of the ICRC and selected National Societies on issues of major importance for the Geneva-based organization and for the entire Movement. These issues included the unity of the Movement (i.e. the perceived divide between the Red Cross and Red Crescent), the challenges encountered in applying the Movement's Fundamental Principles, the positioning and involvement of National Societies in response to conflict, raising funds for action, and coordinating operations. The first discussions took place in early 2003 with six National Societies and went on to cover work in various areas ranging from National Society involvement in ICRC operations to supporting the Societies in spreading their message within their domestic environment. The ICRC's aim was to apply the experience gained in these initial encounters to all other National Societies in order to meet its need for true partners to face the challenges involved in working together as a worldwide Movement.

One important advance linked to capacity-building was the launch of the ICRC "Safer Access Framework" for National Societies, designed to help National Societies gain and maintain safer access to those affected by armed conflict.

The Framework sets out specific measures of prime importance for National Societies to take, preferably in peacetime, to ensure that their organizations are able to perform adequately in the event of hostilities and will be accepted by all those potentially present in the conflict environment. It is intended to increase access by humanitarian workers to those in need. Its aim is to make them not only better prepared to carry out their own mandate in response to a conflict but also to contribute more effectively to the increasing number of ICRC operations in which they take part.

In addition, the Framework contains useful material for National Societies already striving to protect and assist the victims of conflict. For example, it helps them bolster their own security by means of security procedures and so on.

The Framework was initiated to ensure that the ICRC's capacity-building work with National Societies was aided by an initiative – to be applied flexibly according to need and context – that could be incorporated into general ICRC development strategies and training for National Societies. A two-year strategy was also being outlined together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to ensure harmonization of the two Geneva-based organizations' approach to disaster management with National Societies.

An important step toward a harmonized application of the "Safer Access Framework" was the convening of a Movement workshop, involving the National Societies of Indonesia, Nepal, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, as well as ICRC and Federation staff working in those countries. The participants learned about the major challenges faced when working in conflict zones. They worked together to incorporate elements of the "Safer Access Framework" into the preparedness work they were already doing. The lessons learned from this exercise were shared with the Movement as a whole.

## Movement coordination

The Movement's international activities are organized in accordance with the 1997 Seville Agreement. In 2003, the ICRC and the International Federation worked to better implement the Agreement by strengthening existing coordination mechanisms and by drawing lessons from complex situations such as the combined natural disaster and armed conflict that occurred in countries such as Ethiopia, Iran and Afghanistan.

During the meeting of the Movement's Council of Delegates in December 2003, many National Societies suggested changes to the Seville Agreement to improve coordination of international relief operations. An ad hoc group from the Standing Commission was formed to examine ways to strengthen the Seville Agreement.

## Implementing the Strategy for the Movement

Progress was made in harmonizing ICRC and International Federation approaches to capacity-building for National Societies in 2003 with the adoption of planning guidelines for support to National Society emergency-relief and health-care services in the event of natural disaster or armed conflict. This measure, carried out in accordance with Action One of the Strategy for the Movement, supplements the efforts made in 2001 to promote IHL and humanitarian values, and to bolster the worldwide Red Cross and Red Crescent tracing network.

## National Society statutes and the process of recognizing National Societies

Through the review of the statutes of some 60 National Societies by the Joint Commission for National Society Statutes of the ICRC and the International Federation, feedback was provided to about 70 Societies. Support was given to the Kazakh Red Crescent Society and to the Red Cross Society of Micronesia to fulfill the conditions of recognition.

## Minimum elements for agreements between components of the Movement and outside operational partners

After consultation with all the partners involved, the ICRC and the International Federation finalized a guide for all Movement components when forming any outside operational partnerships. The guide reminds all partners to respect the need for the Movement's components to adhere, at all times, to their policies, procedures and guidelines. Emphasis was on strict application of the Fundamental Principles and rules on the use of the red cross and red crescent emblems in order to safeguard the Movement's image of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Resolution 10 of the Council of Delegates resulted in the guide's adoption.

## Statutory bodies

### Council of Delegates

The Council of Delegates, which brings together representatives of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation, met in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December 2003. In addition to preparing for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (see below), the Council of Delegates devoted particular attention to the following points.

The resolution "Biotechnology, Arms and Humanity" demonstrated the entire Movement's commitment to promoting this ICRC initiative. The resolution "Explosive Remnants of War and the Movement's Strategy concerning Landmines" extended that Strategy (first adopted in 1999) until 2009 and broadened the definition of what constitutes an explosive remnant of war.

These two resolutions most notably strengthened the Movement's position on questions relating to weapons.

The issue of the Movement's emblem was at the centre of a very open debate. It was resolved to continue assigning priority to finding a universally acceptable and lasting solution to the question. This resolution was also adopted by the International Conference.

The International Federation presented its study entitled *The National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent – Understanding the Public Need in the Humanitarian Domain* and received encouragement to press ahead with its consultation work, in conjunction with the ICRC, to provide updated and more specific guidance for consideration by the next Council of Delegates in 2005 and the International Conference in 2007.

The Council called on the Movement as a whole to promote respect for diversity and fight against discrimination and intolerance. Mr Madanjeet Singh, the goodwill ambassador from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, initiated the discussion, which was followed by a resolution encouraging all members to step up promotion and implementation of humanitarian values, which transcend religious, cultural, political and ethnic divisions, while striving to recognize any bias in their own actions and to anticipate tendencies to discriminate and marginalize.

Finally, the Council examined the follow-up report to its 2001 resolutions, which concerned the Movement's actions regarding refugees and internally displaced persons. It recalled the importance of helping these people and presented a document entitled *Minimal elements that should be included in operational agreements between members and their external operational partners*.

## International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The 28th International Conference was held in Geneva from 2 to 6 December 2003. Co-hosted by the ICRC and the International Federation, the Conference brought together all States party to the Geneva Conventions, all the components of the Movement and a number of organizations attending as observers. These totalled 1,800 participants. Chaired by Mr Jaime Ricardo Fernandez Urriola, president of the Red Cross Society of Panama, the Conference reached a solid consensus on ambitious humanitarian decisions, which will guide the work of its members from now until the 2007 International Conference and beyond. These resolutions were adopted after being negotiated within a drafting committee, chaired by Mr Johan Molander, ambassador of Sweden.

Particular emphasis should be placed on the commitments made in the Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by means of Resolution 1. The declaration reflected the position of both the States and the Movement's components on the crucial humanitarian concerns and challenges facing the world. It also set out general, long-term priorities relating to the Conference theme of protecting human dignity. In this respect, the speeches by the presidents of the ICRC and the International Federation and the 124 recorded statements by delegates during the general debate constituted open exchanges on contemporary challenges to humanitarian endeavour. The ICRC particularly appreciated the broad support for IHL, which served to reaffirm the law's importance and validity in contemporary conflicts, as well as the need to boost compliance.

This was supplemented by the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, which sets out specific and measurable action-oriented goals. The

agenda focuses on four general objectives aimed at enhancing protection in armed conflicts and other violent situations and reducing the risk and impact of natural disasters and disease. These objectives are designed to:

- ▶ address the issue of persons missing in connection with armed conflict or other situations of armed violence as well as aid for their families
- ▶ deal with the human costs of the availability, use and misuse of weapons in armed conflicts
- ▶ reduce the risk and impact of natural and man-made disasters and improve preparedness and response mechanisms
- ▶ reduce the risk and impact of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases on the world's most vulnerable people

These subjects were discussed in commissions, whose main conclusions were presented to the Conference's final plenary session. The Agenda for Humanitarian Action concerned areas in which the International Conference – a unique forum bringing together the States and the Movement's various components – could help meet challenges in the humanitarian field.

The Conference also decided to:

- ▶ adopt the Council of Delegates resolution on the emblem, assigning high priority to securing a comprehensive and lasting solution to the emblem issue on the basis of draft Protocol III additional to the Geneva Conventions as soon as circumstances permit
- ▶ revise the regulations for the Empress Shōken Fund, requiring the Fund's Joint Commission to present its financial report to the Council of Delegates

The Conference also discussed a number of other issues, most notably:

- ▶ the report presented jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation on implementation of the Action Plan of the 27th International Conference and the lessons to draw from the process, in which the two organizations gave the results of a survey of what Conference members thought about the implementation of the Action Plan and action taken on their individual recommendations
- ▶ the 368 individual or collective pledges made by National Societies, governments, the ICRC, the Federation and certain observers as a means of supporting or supplementing the Declaration and Agenda for Humanitarian Action
- ▶ the presentation by the ICRC of its work in connection with *Women facing war*, and the inauguration by Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan of a photographic exhibition on this theme
- ▶ an update on the ICRC's study on customary international law
- ▶ the organization by some of the International Conference's participants of 11 informal workshops, including two co-organized by the ICRC on international humanitarian law and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts (with the Swiss government) and operational challenges in carrying out humanitarian activities in a changing environment (with the International Federation)

By means of Resolution 3, the Conference adopted Resolution 5 of the Council of Delegates asking the Standing Commission "to continue to give high priority to securing, as soon as circumstances permit, a comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of the emblem, in cooperation with the Swiss government as depositary of the Geneva Conventions and with other concerned governments and components of the Movement, on the basis of the proposed draft Third Additional Protocol". Moreover, Resolution 7

of the Council of Delegates "calls upon the International Federation and the ICRC to promote capacity-building of National Societies and to continue to extend operational cooperation also to National Societies awaiting recognition and admission, with the aim of preparing for their membership in the Movement".

### **ICRC contribution to the Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross**

In April 2003, the Chilean Red Cross hosted the 17th Inter-American Conference, bringing together all National Societies from the Americas, the ICRC, the International Federation, a number of UN agencies and other international organizations, all under the slogan "Equity in Health, Road to Development" with "health" and "disasters" being the two guiding themes for the debates. The ICRC was represented by a high-level delegation from Geneva as well as delegates from the field. They took active part in the debates and supported "The Santiago de Chile Commitment", adopted at the end of the Conference, which pledges the participants to strive for better public health and greater preparedness in the face of natural and man-made disaster.

### **ICRC policy making**

#### **Protection of war victims**

In 2003, *The International Committee of the Red Cross and the protection of war victims*, written by François Bugnion, Director of International Law and Cooperation at the ICRC, was published in English translation. The book examines how the ICRC is made up, the tasks that are assigned to it and the principles that guide its work. The author adopts both a historical and legal approach designed to show how the development of IHL, of which the ICRC is both promoter and guardian, is reflected in its humanitarian action.

#### **ICRC cooperation with National Societies**

A new policy to guide ICRC cooperation with National Societies was adopted in May 2003. It provides clear direction on how to work effectively with all the Movement's components in order to provide better protection and assistance to people affected by armed conflict. The policy focuses on ICRC support for National Society capacity-building and on implementing operational partnerships between the ICRC and National Societies, either in their own countries or abroad.

#### **Protecting children**

All components of the Movement continued their efforts to honour the commitments they made in the 1995 Plan of Action concerning children in armed conflict. These included promoting the raising to 18 years of the minimum age for recruitment into the armed forces and the setting up of programmes to help demobilized child soldiers find a place in society.

The ICRC strove to ensure better implementation of humanitarian instruments to protect children in armed conflict, including the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and 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. Knowledge of the rules laid down in these instruments was promoted among armed forces, police forces and other bearers of weapons, and in universities and schools. The ICRC remained committed to preventing the recruitment of children, and was successful in some cases in bringing about the withdrawal of children from military groups and returning them to their families. The "Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation Programme" in Sierra Leone, set up by National

Societies and supported by the ICRC, continued to help reintegrate children into their communities.

In 2003, the ICRC registered some 4,274 children separated from their families, 2,456 of whom were subsequently reunited with them. Over 3,000 minors were visited in detention. Their living conditions, in particular food and hygiene, were closely monitored. The ICRC also engaged in medical activities specifically aimed at children, such as vaccination programmes in Sudan.

### Women and war

Following the publication of the Arabic, French and Spanish translations of the ICRC's *Women facing war* study in 2002, the Russian version was published in March 2003. The launch in Moscow involved meetings with political figures, local women's associations and other organizations, as well as the media.

The ICRC also endeavoured to raise awareness of the situation of women affected by armed conflict – and of the international law protecting them – among international and other organizations. In a number of meetings on the theme of women and armed conflict, the ICRC presented the conclusions of the *Women facing war* study and the protection accorded to women under IHL. The organization took part in meetings organized by Femmes Africa Solidarité, the Commonwealth National Societies Conference, the Committee on the Status of Women, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Amnesty International, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Council of Europe and the UN's Inter-Agency Standing Committee Taskforce on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance.

A photographic exhibition on women and war was set up in Amman and Beirut under the patronage of Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan. Its aim was to promote the Arabic language version of the *Women facing war* study.

As the ICRC was particularly concerned about protecting women against the effects of armed conflict, including the sexual violence that so often accompanies it, the organization devoted greater attention to spreading knowledge of IHL and to preventing sexual violence, and helping survivors. For example, in 2003 the ICRC participated in the training of traditional midwives in one region as a way to increase proximity to women victims of violence. The midwives were trained to provide pre- and post-natal care, as well as to identify victims of sexual violence and to refer them to appropriate health care facilities.

The ICRC worked extensively to improve training for new and existing personnel. The aim was to ensure that course material was consistent with the *Women facing war* study, the Plan of Action, and communication guidelines on women and war and other gender issues. Most training now contains specific material and, where appropriate, role-playing regarding women and war. The Women and War project also prompted the ICRC to take part in outside conferences in order to raise awareness of specific themes such as sexual violence. Within the framework of courses organized for UN peace-keepers by the UN Institute for Training and Research together with the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the ICRC also prepared and conducted training sessions through 2003 in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Pristina and Dili on the rights and needs of women affected by armed conflict.

A special report on women and war was published in March to foster a better understanding of ICRC work for women affected

by armed conflict. The report was intended as an update for donors on the organization's activities since the publication of the *Women facing War* study and the subsequent commitment to the identification and response to both the general and specific needs of women affected by conflict.

To mark the 28th International Conference, the ICRC president gave a speech detailing the organization's progress in the realm of women and war. Queen Rania Al-Abdullah was invited to address the Conference participants and to open a photographic exhibition on women and war. A document was distributed outlining the steps taken over the past four years to implement the pledge on women and war made at the previous International Conference. Also distributed was a guidance document entitled *Addressing the Needs of Women Affected by Armed Conflict*.

This ICRC Guidance Document due to be published on 8 March 2004 was drafted over the course of 2003 in close consultation with a broad cross-section of ICRC units, under the direction of the Women and War Task Force. The effect was to strengthen the in-house consensus on this issue as well as to produce a text to help ICRC staff meet more effectively the needs of women affected by armed conflict. It is hoped that this document will provide a useful operational tool for ICRC personnel working with women caught up in armed conflict. The document is also a way of sharing what the ICRC has learned with staff of other international organizations concerned with the planning, funding and implementing humanitarian programmes for women.

These activities were undertaken as part of the ICRC's ongoing efforts to fulfil its pledge, made at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 1999, to ensure that the needs of women in wartime are properly assessed in its operations. After expiration of the four-year term set for the Women and War project, the organization's Directorate confirmed its wish to see the issue of women and war strongly reflected in its programmes and operations. To this end, a gender equality officer was hired and assigned to the General Directorate to oversee and coordinate activities both at headquarters and in the field to ensure that the specific needs of women were adequately assessed and addressed in their daily work.

### The work of the ICRC when the guns fall silent

A new policy document has been established and an article published in the *International Review of the Red Cross* (September 2003), about ICRC activities in transition situations – after the guns have fallen silent. At the end of active hostilities, when action is no longer only guided by urgent immediate needs, it seems far more difficult to determine the beneficiaries and the direction and scale of humanitarian operations. The way ICRC operates also changes. The policy document has examined these sensitive issues and has tried to find appropriate answers.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The protection of war victims is largely dependent on respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). In accordance with the mandate conferred on it by the international community, the ICRC strives to promote compliance with IHL and contribute to its development. Both at headquarters and in the field, the ICRC encourages States to ratify<sup>1</sup> the various humanitarian instruments in order to promote their universal acceptance, and to implement

1 See table in Annex.

them. The ICRC's Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law provides States with technical advice to help them adopt the required national measures.

Throughout 2003 the ICRC continued making confidential representations to the parties to armed conflicts in cases where IHL was being violated. When new hostilities broke out, for instance in Iraq, the ICRC reminded the parties involved of their obligations under that body of law.

Of particular significance during the year was the adoption of two key documents by the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The first, a declaration entitled *Protecting Human Dignity*, clearly reaffirms the pertinence of IHL in today's armed conflicts and reiterates the obligation of all parties to fully comply with its rules. The second, entitled *Agenda for Humanitarian Action*, addresses, among other concerns, the issue of persons missing in connection with armed conflict and other situations of violence, and the human costs of the availability, use and misuse of weapons. The ICRC distributed several reports on IHL-related topics to the members of the Conference and the Council of Delegates, and co-organized a workshop with the Swiss government on "IHL and the challenges of contemporary armed conflicts" during the Conference.

In order to enhance its capacity to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ICRC concluded new headquarters agreements with Afghanistan, Madagascar, Nepal, Peru and Tajikistan. This brought the number of such agreements, which give the ICRC various privileges and immunities enabling the organization and its staff to work in an entirely independent manner, to a total of 74.

## Promoting universality of IHL

### Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their 1997 Additional Protocols

In 2003 the ICRC's Advisory Service organized and took part in a number of workshops, discussion groups, conferences and seminars, at national and regional levels, to promote the broadest possible debate on subjects relating to the ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation. It was involved in meetings in Belarus, Bhutan, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Egypt, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Côte d'Ivoire, Lebanon, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Tanzania, the United States, Uzbekistan, Yemen and elsewhere. The Advisory Service also took an active part in the Commonwealth Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference on IHL, held in February, where considerable attention was paid to the ratification and national implementation of relevant treaties. During these meetings the ICRC focused its efforts on the promotion or implementation of IHL treaties, depending on the target audience (government representatives, members of national IHL committees, university professors, legal advisers within the armed forces, etc.).

### 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

The Advisory Service also held and participated in various national and regional seminars dealing with the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court as a permanent institution with jurisdiction over the most serious crimes of international concern. These seminars involved the European Union and the Council of Europe, the governments of Georgia, Guatemala, Niger, Malaysia and Romania, and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in those countries. The Advisory Service contributed to

a workshop on the Rome Statute within the framework of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In addition, it maintained and developed contacts with NGOs, such as the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, and with representatives of the Court itself, mainly to coordinate efforts to promote the Rome Statute. Compatibility studies between national legislation and the Statute were launched by the ICRC in many Eastern European countries. In 2003 the organization also published a commentary on the elements of war crimes under the Rome Statute, which provides States, judges, prosecutors and international and national lawyers with the necessary background information to implement IHL in future cases dealing with war crimes. The ICRC further took advantage of various meetings with government representatives to recommend that the ratification and implementation of IHL feature prominently on their agendas.

### 1997 Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel landmines

The ICRC organized or took part in several national and regional meetings on the ratification and implementation of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines, where it emphasized in particular the need to adopt national measures to implement the prohibitions contained in the treaty. In February, it organized a conference in Ukraine, together with the United Nations Development Programme. It also attended a regional mine-action seminar held in Peru in August and a workshop on the subject held in Belarus in December.

### Protection of cultural property in armed conflict

In contacts with various government representatives, the ICRC recommended ratification or accession to the existing treaties on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, in particular the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention. With 20 States having ratified or acceded to the Protocol at year's end, the instrument was due to enter into force in 2004. Throughout 2003, contacts were maintained with UNESCO and other interested bodies in order to coordinate efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of all instruments relating to the protection of cultural property in time of armed conflict.

## Promoting explaining and developing IHL

### Overview

In 2003 experts from the ICRC's Legal Division attended numerous conferences and seminars while continuing to provide a range of international and national institutions and organizations with expertise on a variety of IHL topics. The primary aim of these activities was to promote IHL and stress the relevance of its provisions and the special role of the ICRC.

Whenever new legal instruments are drafted that have an impact on armed conflict, the ICRC strives to ensure that IHL is taken into account. In 2003 the ICRC took part in ongoing negotiations and discussions being held on the drafting of an instrument to protect all individuals from enforced disappearance and on the drawing up of basic principles governing reparations for victims of human rights and IHL violations. The organization also monitored the drafting of resolutions of particular interest to its legal or operational concerns and delivered statements on a wide range of issues, including the rights of women, children, internally displaced persons and missing persons. To this end, it attended the annual session of the UN Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. During the 58th session of the UN General Assembly, the ICRC paid particular attention to legal developments such as the ongoing negotiations in the Sixth

Committee on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, and the discussions on the legal protection afforded by the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The ICRC also took part in the first meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Terrorism.

In 2003, the ICRC's Legal Division continued its efforts to clarify the interplay of IHL and human rights law in protecting victims of violence. The ICRC president addressed the annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights on the role that IHL and other bodies of law play in providing an interlocking web of guarantees for individuals affected by armed conflict and on the need to improve respect for these rules.

Throughout 2003, the ICRC continued working with other international organizations and NGOs on issues of concern to both humanitarian and human rights agencies. This involved providing legal expertise on IHL, taking part in numerous seminars and conferences and giving courses on IHL. The ICRC also continued to participate in the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee task force on humanitarian action and human rights.

### Study on customary rules of IHL

The ICRC continued working on its two-volume study on customary rules of IHL, which was mandated by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The first volume contains a list of rules found to be customary, with a short commentary on why they were so found and indications from practice, where available, as to the scope of application and interpretation of the rules in question. Where uncertainty still exists, trends in practice are outlined. In 2003, this volume was submitted to experts inside and outside the ICRC for their comments. The second volume contains a summary of practice in the area of IHL compiled over five years of research and is divided into six parts: principle of distinction; specific protection regimes; methods of warfare; weapons; treatment of civilians and combatants *hors de combat*; implementation and enforcement. This volume was completed in 2003 and the entire study was due to be published in 2004.

### Project on the reaffirmation and development of IHL

The purpose of the ICRC's project on the reaffirmation and development of IHL, launched in October 2002, is to provide a framework for internal discussions and external consultation on current and emerging issues of IHL, including the applicability of IHL to the fight against terrorism. In 2003, as part of this project, the ICRC organized seven expert meetings (briefly described below); attended government, academic and NGO conferences devoted to IHL and terrorism; provided legal advice to various organizations and institutions; and contributed to scholarly journals. It also set up a special page devoted to this topic on its website. An overview of work carried out under the project and a broad outline of activities envisaged in the years to come was included in an ICRC report entitled *IHL and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts* that was distributed for the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003.

### Direct participation in hostilities

In June 2003 the ICRC, together with the Hague-based TMC Asser Institute, organized an expert seminar aimed at exploring the notion of "direct participation in hostilities" under IHL. The need for clarifying the status and treatment of civilians who have taken a direct part in hostilities pertains to all types of armed

conflicts and has been specifically raised in the legal debates on the fight against terrorism. The seminar participants – distinguished IHL experts from all over the world – agreed that an effort to clear up the notion of "direct participation" was necessary and encouraged the ICRC to continue the process by organizing a follow-up meeting in 2004, which it intends to do.

### Improving compliance with IHL

Despite important successes achieved by the international community in the fields of preventive action and repression of IHL violations, there is no doubt that better compliance with IHL during armed conflicts – i.e. operationalizing States' obligation to "respect and ensure respect" for IHL under common article 1 of the Geneva Conventions – remains an important challenge. In order to address this issue and generate proposals for improvement, the ICRC, in cooperation with other organizations, hosted five regional seminars on "improving compliance with IHL." The seminars, which were attended by government officials, National Society representatives, academics and NGOs, were held in Cairo, Pretoria, Kuala Lumpur, Mexico City and Bruges between April and September 2003. The wealth of ideas and proposals put forward during the discussions should provide a sound basis for further work.

### Interplay between IHL and other legal regimes

"IHL and other legal regimes: Interplay in situations of violence" was the topic of the 27th Annual Round Table on Current Problems of International Humanitarian Law organized by the ICRC and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, in September 2003. The ICRC president, the UN high commissioner for refugees and the acting UN high commissioner for human rights all spoke at the Round Table. The discussions, involving more than 200 participants from all over the world, confirmed that the comprehensive protection of individuals in armed conflict required the complementary application of IHL, human rights law and refugee law, where applicable. Participants expressed a desire to continue with the discussions at a regional level.

### Multinational peace operations and IHL

In December 2003 the ICRC organized a meeting of experts on multinational peace operations, in cooperation with the Geneva-based University Centre for International Humanitarian Law. A panel of 30 academic experts, military legal advisers, ICRC lawyers, and representatives of international organizations and governments discussed various aspects of the applicability of IHL and international human rights law to multinational forces. The discussions focused on the rules relevant to forces acting pursuant to a mandate of the Security Council on whether they are under UN, national or regional command.

### National implementation of IHL

#### Encouraging the enactment of IHL provisions in national legislation

For IHL to be fully respected, it is of paramount importance that States adopt domestic legislation to implement its rules, in particular those relating to the repression of war crimes and governing the use of the red cross and red crescent emblems and other distinctive signs and signals. To encourage States in these efforts, the Advisory Service supplemented and updated its series of fact sheets. It thus produced a new fact sheet on missing persons and their families, with recommendations for drafting national legislation, and one on the exchange of information about national measures for implementing IHL. The Advisory Service also worked on the publication of a manual on national implementation.

## Supporting IHL national committees

National committees responsible for the implementation of IHL include representatives of the various ministries concerned, and national bodies and specialists appointed for that purpose. They are an effective means of promoting respect for this law in the States where they have been set up. Their establishment has therefore always been encouraged by the ICRC's Advisory Service, which also assists them in their work. In 2003, national committees were set up or re-established in Brazil, the Comoros, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Sudan. To facilitate the exchange of information and experience while strengthening contacts between the committees, the Advisory Service launched an electronic forum allowing for interactive discussion and providing access to relevant documentation. In addition, regional meetings were organized by or in cooperation with the ICRC in Belarus, Guatemala, Kenya, Morocco and Slovenia. Practical advice was also included in the report of a meeting of representatives of IHL national committees that was published by the Advisory Service.

## Providing States with legal and technical assistance

In 2003 the Advisory Service provided technical assistance for many States, including East Timor, Egypt, Guinea, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire and Nepal, in drafting legislation on the emblem. In addition, Benin, the Central African Republic, Indonesia, Peru and the Philippines were given assistance in amending or adopting new legislation on the repression of war crimes; Nepal in drafting Geneva Conventions acts; and Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and East Timor in implementing the Ottawa Convention banning anti-personnel landmines. Japan received advice concerning ratification of the two Additional Protocols of 1977 and the drafting of implementing legislation for the Geneva Conventions and their Protocols in the framework of their emergency legislation. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Peru were provided with advice in drafting legislation relating to missing persons.

## Collecting information on national implementation

Information on new national legislation and case law relating to IHL is collected and analysed by the Advisory Service and published twice-yearly in the *International Review of the Red Cross*. In 2003, among other things, Namibia adopted a Geneva Conventions act, Mauritius adopted a Geneva Conventions amendment act and Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, the Netherlands, Niger, Rwanda, Spain and Switzerland passed laws linked to the repression of war crimes. Legislation protecting the emblem was adopted by Burkina Faso and laws prohibiting anti-personnel mines were passed by South Africa and Zambia. This information was entered into the ICRC database on national implementation of IHL, which at the end of the year contained updated entries on domestic legislation and case law in around 100 States.

## Weapons issues

### Biotechnology, weapons and humanity

In September 2002 the ICRC launched a rare public appeal to governments, scientists and industry on "biotechnology, weapons and humanity" reflecting the organization's concern that while advances in the life sciences carry great potential benefit for humanity, they bring enormous risk if turned to hostile use. The appeal, and its follow-up activities, were designed to promote awareness of the rules prohibiting poisoning and the deliberate spread of disease and at the same time draw attention to the duty of all those involved in the life sciences to take practical steps to

ensure that these rules are respected. In 2003 the ICRC's activities in support of the appeal fell into two main tracks:

- ▶ promoting awareness of the issue and raising support among governments for the aims spelled out in the appeal; this was achieved in the negotiations that led to the adoption by the 28th International Conference of the Agenda for Humanitarian Action, in expert meetings held on the Biological Weapons Convention and in efforts to encourage the adoption in 2004 of a ministerial-level declaration reaffirming existing norms such as those contained in that Convention
- ▶ reaching out to professionals and non-governmental institutions within the life sciences community, including the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, academic research institutions and scientific, medical and health professionals' associations, as well as alerting the general public to the problem

## Anti-personnel landmines

Maintaining its high level of engagement in international efforts to end the suffering caused by anti-personnel landmines, the ICRC promoted adherence to and full implementation of the Ottawa Convention prohibiting the use of these weapons, took an active part in the fifth annual meeting of the States party to this Convention held in Bangkok in September, and attended the implementation meetings organized regularly in Geneva. During those meetings, it continued to promote full application of the Convention in a manner consistent with the treaty's humanitarian objectives and to urge States to step up their implementation efforts in advance of the Convention's First Review Conference in 2004. The ICRC also organized and supported a number of regional and national meetings on the Ottawa Convention, held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Italy, Peru, Poland, the Republic of the Congo, South Africa and Ukraine, among other places. The ICRC continued to make available its traveling exhibition on landmines at these meetings and other events. Legal assistance was extended throughout the year to several States party to the Convention so that they could develop national implementation measures. During the Council of Delegates in December, the Movement renewed its commitment to mine action by extending its Strategy on Landmines through 2009, the year of the first mine-clearance deadlines under the Convention and its Second Review Conference. The activities mentioned in the Strategy were also extended to cover all explosive remnants of war, thereby reflecting the reality of the Movement's action in the field.

## Explosive remnants of war and the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

On 28 November 2003, three years after the ICRC first called on States party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) to develop new rules aimed at reducing the civilian deaths, injury and suffering caused by unexploded and abandoned munitions left behind after the end of an armed conflict, a new Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War came into being. The agreement, adopted by the 91 States party to the CCW, including all major military powers, was the fifth protocol additional to this treaty and represented an important development in IHL.

The ICRC participated actively as an observer organization in the three negotiating sessions that took place in 2003. The Protocol contains provisions relating to all the key measures advocated by the ICRC, including requirements for the clearance of explosive remnants of war, the dissemination of warnings to civilians in affected areas and the sharing of information with organizations conducting clearance and risk education. Throughout the year,

ICRC and National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies representatives engaged government authorities in capitals around the world to explain the Movement's views on a variety of issues pertinent to the negotiations. They also promoted ratification of the amendment to the CCW, adopted in 2001, which extends the scope of the entire instrument to non-international armed conflicts. With the 20th ratification of the amendment deposited in November, the extended scope of application was due to enter into force in May 2004.

### **Small arms and light weapons**

The ICRC continued to draw attention to the grave threat that the unregulated availability of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons, constitutes for civilian populations and the implications it has in terms of compliance with IHL and the delivery of humanitarian aid. Throughout the year, the ICRC took part in a number of seminars and conferences with States and NGOs aimed at promoting progress in the control of arms availability. In addition, the ICRC supported National Societies that were engaged in raising this issue at the national level.

In July the ICRC attended the first biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, at which the organization presented a report on its own activities and those of National Societies in support of the programme's objectives.

### **Arms and IHL at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent**

Arms and IHL were among the main subjects on the agenda of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in December 2003. As a result of an extensive preparatory process, which included several rounds of drafting and consultation with States on the Conference documents, the ICRC was able to meet all its key objectives. The Conference acknowledged the central role that humanitarian concerns and IHL must play in addressing issues as diverse as anti-personnel mines, the arms trade, the "weaponization" of biotechnology, explosive remnants of war and new weapons. It also stressed that humanitarian concerns had been the basis for most of the progress made in international efforts to regulate arms in recent years. States, National Societies and the ICRC committed to a range of measures in this area as part of the adopted Agenda for Humanitarian Action.

## **ARCHIVES**

In 2003, the Archives Division handled more than 2,000 requests from victims of past armed conflicts and their next of kin for official documents such as certificates of detention and various other information. Most of the cases related to the Second World War. The remaining requests concerned the First World War or conflicts that occurred after 1950. A newly installed form on the ICRC website, allowing people to request personal data on victims of past conflicts, met with increasing interest.

The ICRC is aware of the value of its archives for historical research and strives continuously to facilitate access to them and improve its services. During the year, the Archives Division answered some 680 requests for information on the ICRC's history and received researchers in its reading room for the equivalent of over 300 working days. The head of the Division also presented a paper, Archives of the ICRC of the Red Cross as a Source to Restore

Victims' Identity, at the XXXVIIth International Conference of the Round Table on Archives in Cape Town, South Africa.

With a view to opening a new set of archives to the public, the Division completed an inventory of the ICRC's general records covering the 1950s. The archives preservation programme was applied in priority to those records. Hundreds of linear metres of files, in particular on ICRC action in relation to conflicts that occurred after the Second World War, were to be made available to historians and the general public in 2004.

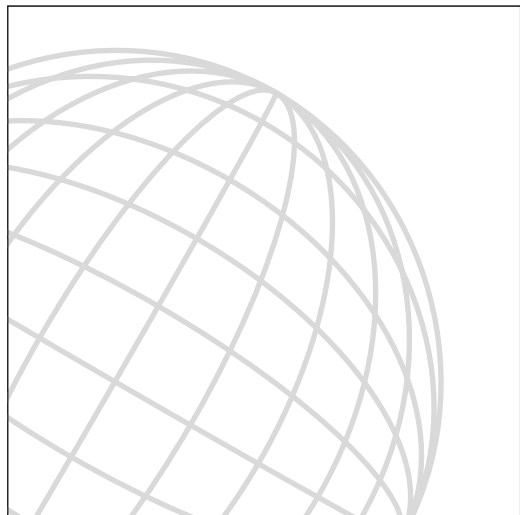
Reports on all ICRC activities, registers of official decisions and legal and operational correspondence have been stored since 1863, the year in which the ICRC was founded. In 2003, the Division created over 8,000 new files and secured 80 linear metres of records from headquarters units and delegations. A project to enhance the ICRC's electronic records management system was adopted by the Directorate and was to be launched in 2004.

In 2003, the Historical Research Unit became part of the Archives Division.

The legitimacy that the ICRC enjoys today owes a great deal to the organization's history. Both the mandate entrusted to the ICRC under the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are deeply linked to that history, as are the ICRC's working principles.

The purpose of the organization's historical research activities is to make its background more widely known. The primary objective set for 2003 was to continue writing up the history of the ICRC for the years 1945-1965. In addition to carrying out that task, members of the historical research team attended meetings of historians and published articles in scientific reviews.

Within the ICRC, the Historical Research Unit assisted staff members carrying out research on the history of conflicts in which the organization operated. The Division as a whole replied to 900 internal requests placed by the ICRC's operations department and legal division.



# communication

## COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Within its field of expertise, the Communication Department provides the ICRC with the leadership, skills and means needed in order to:

- ▶ influence those who can help or hinder ICRC action
- ▶ influence the behaviour and attitudes of those who decide the fate of war victims
- ▶ manage the public image of the organization effectively
- ▶ help the ICRC meet its obligation to account for its action to a wide cross-section of audiences

The overall aim is to strengthen the ICRC's ability to carry out its activities and promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL).

By creating the new Communication Department in 2002, with a member of the Directorate as its head, the ICRC recognized the strategic role communication plays for the organization. In 2003, the ICRC further strengthened its ability to assist and protect victims of armed conflict by integrating communication into all decision-making processes and activities both at headquarters and in the field.

Pro-active, two-way communication with key stakeholders is a main goal for the ICRC, which focuses its efforts on two main groups: bearers of weapons and civil society, particularly the media and opinion-formers. The ICRC's contacts with these groups, whether developed face-to-face or indirectly, are at the heart of its endeavour to promote understanding of, and respect for, both the rights and needs of those adversely affected by armed conflict and the role of the organization, and to maintain the necessary public support.

Communicating information in relation to major humanitarian crises, such as that in Iraq, was a particular focus of the Department in 2003, with dozens of staff from the field and headquarters involved in efforts to ensure that all sides complied with the rules of law protecting victims of armed conflict and understood and respected the ICRC's independent, neutral and purely humanitarian role. These efforts were facilitated and supported by a multimedia approach to reaching key audiences, including

the expansion of the ICRC's website – with, for instance, the launch of the Arabic version mid-year – and the production of professional communication materials.

## ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES, POLICE AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC strives to ensure that all levels of armed forces and security and police forces know and apply IHL and international human rights law in daily operational practice, and that other bearers of weapons either support, or at least do not actively oppose, humanitarian action.

Throughout 2003, the ICRC developed its relations with the armed forces of various countries, especially those of the United States trained for rapid deployment. In order to enhance understanding of the ICRC's role and its operational procedures among US officers, the organization set up a comprehensive dissemination programme and posted a specialized delegate in Washington to implement it. Closer contacts were also made with the British and French armed forces in order to step up the integration of IHL into their policies, training, manuals and procedures. In addition, relations with military academies and institutes, such as the *Collège Interarmées de Défense* in Paris, the US Marine Corps and Staff College and the NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany, were further strengthened.

The regional IHL seminar to be held in conjunction with the ICRC by the Xian Political Academy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army had to be cancelled owing to the SARS crisis. The seminar, which was to be attended by representatives of the armed forces of some 20 countries of the region, was rescheduled for June 2004.

The ICRC's IHL training kit for military instructors was translated into English, French and Spanish. The kit is composed of a slide show, a video and a lessons file, including chapters on non-international armed conflict, internal security operations, peace-support operations and weapons. During two weeks in December, the ICRC also trained 19 naval and air-force officers, involved in peer-to-peer education, in the rules of IHL applicable to air and

maritime operations. They were to join a reserve pool of more than 40 officers, thus increasing the ICRC's capacity to assist armed forces in the training of IHL instructors.

The new interactive DVD for police forces was presented to its sponsor, the Netherlands Permanent Mission in Geneva, in March 2003 and in August to the South African Police Service, which was actively involved in producing this high-tech project. The DVD rapidly became the ICRC's main tool for teaching human rights law worldwide. Production in additional languages was planned for the coming years.

In order to strengthen its ability to include international human rights law in the training of police forces, the ICRC held a fourth course in Brazil for Latin American police instructors. The course provided the organization with a new pool of trainers who, by passing on their knowledge, should be able to multiply the number of trainers in the region.

The ICRC continued to support the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, especially its military department, by providing financial, technical and advisory assistance. In 2003, some 110 military officers from more than 50 countries held ICRC scholarships to attend nine military courses on IHL in San Remo. The 100th such course was held at the Institute during the year.

The ICRC also took part in over 10 international military exercises in Europe and similar events elsewhere in the world. Within the framework of NATO, the ICRC was involved in exercises "Allied Action" in Turkey, "Cooperative Jaguar" in Denmark and "Best Effort" in Azerbaijan. In so doing, the organization's aim was to ensure that IHL aspects were included in the planning phase of military scenarios, to spread knowledge of its mandate and activities and to take part in role-playing during the exercises.

As part of the ICRC's project on missing persons, due to run from 2003 to 2007, work began on the implementation of best practices, such as the provision of means of identification for members of armed forces and the proper handling of human remains.

The ICRC continued to assist in the running and development of IHL and human rights training programmes for armed forces and security and police forces. The ongoing activities of the 21 specialized delegates involved in these programmes, supported by a multinational network of officer instructors, raised training standards in over 100 countries.

## RELATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

The Media Relations Unit faced a challenging year in 2003 owing to the war in Iraq and its aftermath, and continuing post-11 September concerns. Significant efforts were deployed to provide information on ongoing activities and comments on the impact of the war as witnessed by ICRC staff on the ground to a wide range of audiences in a regular and timely manner. The continuing relevance and importance of IHL – in particular of the Geneva Conventions – were stressed, attracting renewed public interest. The ICRC clearly reiterated its position, grounded in IHL, on the use of certain weapons, the treatment of detainees, the protection of civilians and the obligations of occupying powers.

With the deliberate attacks on the ICRC in Iraq and Afghanistan, including its Baghdad headquarters, the ICRC was drawn into the

debate on the future of independent non-militarized humanitarian action in war zones.

As in the previous year, the conditions in which people were being held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility, in particular the contentious absence of a clear legal status for them, was repeatedly called into question by a wide spectrum of media outlets necessitating a response from the ICRC.

Although the ICRC's activities in Iraq and related legal issues drew extensive news coverage, the media also displayed an interest in the organization's other operations, in particular in Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Colombia. Africa, where the ICRC deployed greater resources than in any other single region, also continued to attract regular attention. In all these areas, information was provided to journalists and National Society press officers either on the ground or through timely briefing notes, press releases and *ICRC News* stories. This activity was backed up by more and better photo material and video footage.

The year under review also saw the launch of a new ICRC initiative on people missing in connection with armed conflict and internal violence. The Media Relations Unit strove to raise public awareness of this issue during an international conference held by the ICRC in February and in the run up to the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in December, during which the ICRC pledged to focus special attention on the plight of the missing and their families over the coming four years. Other issues promoted through the media included those covered in the *Women facing war* study, the ICRC's appeal to governments on "biotechnology, weapons and humanity" and the consequences in humanitarian terms of explosive remnants of war. In addition, a communications partnership focusing on the problem of children in war was launched with the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA).

The ICRC's relations with the media benefited from a strengthened Red Cross and Red Crescent communication network in 2003. Greater consistency and coherence was achieved in media-related activities through the training and professionalization of the ICRC's own communication staff in the field, interaction with National Society information officers and greater overall coordination, especially during the war in Iraq. The ICRC produced more timely information by making better use of electronic means of communication. The real-time publication of news items also helped make the organization's website more relevant and more practical as an information tool for the media and others.

## DECISION-MAKERS AND OPINION-FORMERS

One of the aims of the Communication Department is to ensure that key leaders and opinion-formers facilitate the activities of the ICRC because they see it as a credible, independent and efficient humanitarian organization working closely with victims of armed conflict around the world and as knowledgeable about IHL and other humanitarian issues. Another goal is to make them aware of the significance of IHL and encourage them to actively support its implementation.

In 2003, this group was a particular focus of the ICRC's communication strategies and materials devoted to missing persons, "biotechnology, weapons and humanity," explosive remnants of war and the effects of war on women and children in war.

The ICRC's website supported these efforts by providing a wealth of information on ongoing operations, IHL and other issues.

## STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES

The ICRC endeavours to ensure that, through their studies, future decision-makers and opinion-leaders understand the practical relevance of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles. This should encourage them to implement IHL, to influence the humanitarian debate and the development of existing law, and to support the ICRC's activities.

In 2003, the ICRC continued to provide training opportunities in IHL for university students and professors by organizing, financing and moderating national and regional courses and seminars. Holding regional courses on IHL for advanced students and junior faculty remained a priority. The year was marked by the launch of such courses in the Arab world (Syria) and in French-speaking Africa (Senegal). These courses were offered on a regular basis and attracted more and more participants from Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, North America and South Asia.

The ICRC continued to encourage the development of moot court competitions in IHL, which offer a unique opportunity for students to test and build upon the theoretical knowledge they have gained in the classroom through a series of role-playing exercises. National or regional competitions were organized directly by the ICRC in Bosnia and Herzegovina, India, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Serbia and Montenegro, and Tanzania. The ICRC also supported moot courts set up by independent organizations (e.g. the Jean Pictet competition).

As part of its cooperation with university partners, the ICRC conducted a training course and an advanced seminar on "IHL in current conflicts" together with the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research and the Human Rights Program of Harvard Law School. These events were organized to provide an opportunity for mid-career professionals at the UN, in non-governmental organizations and in various diplomatic, media, military and academic circles to acquire and refine the necessary skills to address humanitarian challenges on the basis of IHL. As in 2002, the ICRC provided expertise and financial or documentary support for a number of postgraduate programmes on IHL in Europe, Africa and Asia. The organization also maintained close links with the University of Geneva's Centre for International Humanitarian Law.

The ICRC continued to adapt existing teaching tools and develop new ones to facilitate IHL instruction in universities. *Un droit dans la guerre?*, the French-language version of the comprehensive IHL casebook, *How does law protect in war?*, was released in mid-2003. During the year, its distribution reinforced the ICRC's university-related activities throughout the French-speaking world.

## YOUTH

### "Exploring Humanitarian Law"

In 2001 the ICRC introduced its teaching module for secondary schools, "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL), in the belief that learning humanitarian norms helps prepare young people to become responsible and informed adults in today's globalized world.

By promoting the teaching of humanitarian principles applicable to armed conflict and internal violence, the EHL programme also contributes to developing social awareness among youth and an understanding of the rules that govern peaceful coexistence, in particular the respect that is due to life and human dignity both in extreme situations and in our daily lives.

In order to make IHL an integral part of basic secondary education, the ICRC and National Societies work in close cooperation with educational authorities and national IHL committees worldwide.

By the end of 2003, EHL was available in 15 languages and had been considered for formal inclusion in the national secondary-school curricula of over 90 countries. During the year, some 30 countries started testing the programme in the classroom, while teacher training was ongoing in nine other countries in preparation for similar pilot tests and planning had begun in 32 countries. The authorities of 20 additional countries undertook to begin implementation of the programme in 2004 and it was to be available in 29 languages towards the end of the year.

In order to ensure the programme's success, the ICRC continued to provide academic, technical and financial assistance for translation, teacher training and materials. In an effort to foster the sharing of experience and to build confidence, it held several regional and sub-regional meetings with educational authorities and National Society personnel responsible for the delivery of EHL at country level.

To the same end, the ICRC organized an EHL International Education Leadership Seminar in Budapest from 5 to 11 July 2003, the largest such gathering to date, with 101 participants representing 39 countries from North America, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Western, Central and Eastern Europe.

A similar gathering, the Second Regional Meeting of Arab Educationalists on the Implementation of EHL in Arab Education Systems, was held in Amman, Jordan, in October and was attended by 55 representatives from 14 Arab States. The meeting was hosted by the Jordanian Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the ICRC. The purpose was to examine the extent to which the recommendations adopted at the conclusion of the previous meeting held in Rabat in 2002 had been put into action and to discuss the way forward in 2004.

With a view to assisting national authorities with the implementation and evaluation of the programme, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Education Development Centre, completed two new publications, *Guidelines for Experimentation and Evaluation of EHL* and *Guidelines for Inserting EHL into the Curriculum*.

At the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent held in Geneva in December 2003, the governments and National Societies of the European Union and several other countries pledged to undertake "initiatives aimed at improving understanding of and advancing appreciation for international humanitarian law principles, in particular among youth, including through the provision and promotion of appropriate education material, such as the ICRC programme "Exploring International Humanitarian Law".

The rapid progress achieved in 2003 attested to the educational value of EHL and its strong universal resonance with young people and their teachers. Particular needs and new challenges were highlighted in relation to support systems, training and professional

development for teachers and instructors. A further aim was to introduce web-based resources and multimedia distance-teaching facilities as core elements of a broader support system in order to ensure that confident and well-instructed teachers could implement EHL properly and that educational authorities and communities could take full ownership of the programme.

### Other programmes and initiatives

National Societies and ICRC delegations received assistance and advice for the development of various local and regional dissemination projects. Continuous support was provided for the textbook-based secondary-school programme on IHL in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). The programme, launched in 1995, was estimated to reach over five million pupils and 180,000 teachers annually. According to an exit strategy drafted in 2003, national educational authorities were expected to take over full responsibility for the teaching of IHL by 2007. The focus in 2003 was on producing new ICRC-sponsored textbooks, training teacher trainers, making IHL part of national educational curricula and introducing IHL training in teacher-training institutes and university education departments. Special emphasis was also placed on the inclusion of basic IHL education in pre-military training.

Contacts were made with the World Organization of the Scout Movement with a view to introducing an outdoor IHL training module during the European Scout Jamboree in 2005 and the World Scout Jamboree in 2007. The aim would be to promote humanitarian norms among young people through a major worldwide youth movement.

### MINE/UXO-AWARENESS PROGRAMMES

The aim of the ICRC's programmes relating to mines and unexploded ordnance is to reduce the number of casualties these weapons cause by changing patterns of behaviour and proposing solutions specifically geared to each affected community. Mine awareness, mine marking and surveying, and mine clearance have to become an integral part of wider humanitarian activities if countless lives and limbs are to be spared.

In 2003, the ICRC provided advice or supported programmes in 35 countries. These activities, which were carried out by its delegations, National Societies or both, involved providing expert help-desk services and coordinating the work of three regional mine-action advisers (one in the Russian Federation and southern Caucasus; one in Central Europe and the Middle East; and one in Angola and southern Africa).

The crisis in Iraq was a major focus of ICRC operations in 2003. By May, the ICRC-Iraqi Red Crescent mine-action programme, involving mainly risk education in relation to the dramatic proliferation of explosive remnants of war, had developed into the largest-ever such effort by the Movement. Six expatriate staff were deployed to Iraq for this purpose, working with several hundred ICRC and National Society employees. Although the ICRC's mine-risk activities were suspended following the attack on ICRC and other humanitarian personnel in Iraq on 27 October, Iraqi Red Crescent staff continued their awareness-raising work in various locations. A review of the situation was planned for 2004.

In Afghanistan, where the ICRC remained a key player in mine-awareness activities, the organization continued to collect data on

victims alongside the UN Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan. In Angola, activities based on the "Towards Safer Villages" approach were further developed, while mine-awareness courses were held for Angolan refugees in Namibia and Zambia. Cooperation on mine-action programmes was launched in India, with initial surveys and training sessions being implemented jointly with the Indian Red Cross, in the Punjab and Rajasthan regions.

Throughout the year, constructive dialogue continued with international agencies such as the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), UNICEF, Handicap International and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. ICRC representatives thus contributed expert advice to the drafting of International Mine Action Standards for Mine Risk Education by UNMAS.

The Guidelines for the Movement's involvement in mine action were completed and handed out at the Council of Delegates in December for field testing over the coming two years. Meanwhile, work continued on a "how to" manual and training handbook for mine-action workers, with the aim of sharing existing tools and good practices with them.

### RESEARCH ON STRATEGIES FOR EXERTING INFLUENCE

After two years of work based on four scientific studies, a research team from the Communication Department highlighted the main factors that determine the behaviour of combatants in wartime and the impact of IHL in this regard. The results were to be used as indicators in defining effective policies for disseminating IHL and preventing violations of its rules.

The main findings, to be published in 2004, made it possible to confirm three key hypotheses:

- ▶ the universal character of adherence to humanitarian principles
- ▶ the importance of authority, sanctions, group dynamics and the cycle of violence in determining the behaviour of combatants
- ▶ the existence of mechanisms of moral disengagement when violations of IHL are committed

Information was obtained on the ICRC's impact on the behaviour of combatants, on the relationship between norms and values, and on the existing gap between belief in certain principles and actual behaviour. In addition, various approaches adopted by the ICRC to promote IHL were contrasted to other experiences in the field of behaviour modification.

The initial lessons drawn from the studies can be summed up as follows:

- ▶ compliance with IHL should be viewed as a legal and political obligation rather than a moral one; this means that communication and dissemination activities must focus more on norms than on the underlying values because the idea that weapons bearers are morally autonomous is inaccurate
- ▶ greater respect for IHL is possible only if weapon bearers are properly trained, if they are under strict orders regarding the conduct to adopt and if effective sanctions are applied in the event of failure to comply with them
- ▶ the ICRC must be perfectly clear about its aims when it seeks to influence third parties: if it wishes to impart knowledge, modify attitudes or change behaviour, it must adopt effective

strategies that encompass the full range of activities aimed at preventing IHL violations

These lessons should be applied to the dissemination of IHL among weapon bearers by promoting:

- ▶ the enforcement of legal norms rather than reliance on moral values
- ▶ the issuing of military orders in conformity with IHL requirements
- ▶ systematic sanctions in the event of IHL violations
- ▶ a strategy for preventing IHL violations that distinguishes between knowledge, attitudes and behaviour

In 2003 a plan of action was thus drawn up for the coming years, with a focus on:

- ▶ the dissemination of the research results among National Societies and within appropriate academic and humanitarian circles
- ▶ the drafting of ICRC guidelines for preventing IHL violations by non-State armed groups
- ▶ the incorporation of the lessons learned in the training of ICRC delegates

## NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

The National Societies have a specific responsibility to promote IHL and its underlying principles in their respective countries in general and among their members in particular. The Movement's Statutes require the ICRC to act as a catalyst and an adviser in this respect.

The growing number of questions posed about IHL and other humanitarian issues set in motion an effort by the Movement's components to improve their activities in this area. In 2003, the ICRC thus initiated a review of guidelines for National Society leadership in relation to the promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

## LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICE

The Library and Research Service endeavours to promote knowledge of the ICRC, IHL, humanitarian activities and other issues of humanitarian concern by helping users both within and outside the ICRC find relevant information and documentation in these fields. To contribute to the analysis of the ICRC's activities and to the development of its strategies, it provides comprehensive information on the contexts in which the organization operates and offers guidance on sources of information. In addition, it runs a reference desk and provides access to its collections of over 140,000 items (books, periodicals, photographs and videos) and outside databases. It also cooperates with other organizations, to which it opens its collections on a reciprocal basis.

In 2003, the service responded to some 4,000 requests from National Societies, non-governmental organizations, academics, government departments and the media. The requests concerned topics ranging from IHL to ICRC operational activities. It also responded to enquiries on specific programmes (e.g. mine awareness, Women and War). Furthermore, the service launched a web version of its catalogue in order to improve access to its documents. In-house, the service played a greater role in providing context-specific information for delegates before their departure

to the field, and in drawing their attention to services and information sources they could have access to while away.

Using a systematic approach to tracking external trends and issues, the Library and Research Service provided ICRC staff with more pertinent and timely information throughout the year. It also maintained a daily press-monitoring service and alerted ICRC staff to new academic publications, reports and databases. Lastly, it developed a new platform to provide ICRC staff with accurate information and continued its reflection on how to enhance knowledge management and information flows.

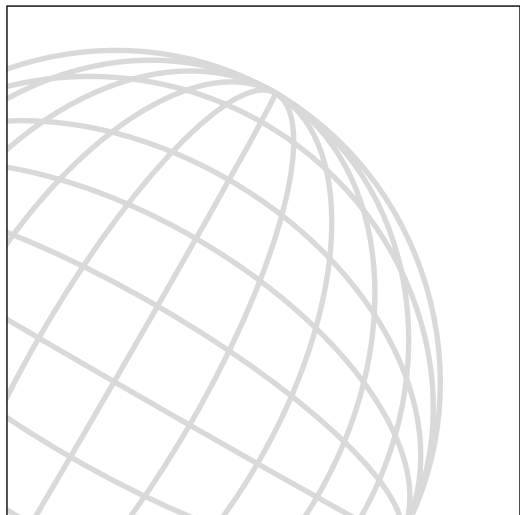
## MARKETING, PRODUCTION AND WEB

Building and maintaining credible and consistent products and an ICRC brand image were priorities for the Production, Marketing and Distribution Division in 2003. Adopting an integrated, multimedia approach allowed the ICRC to respond to changing communication environments flexibly and creatively. The development and introduction of new corporate visual guidelines and more professional, targeted products helped to improve recognition and understanding of the ICRC among key target audiences. Distributing these products to stakeholders more effectively was facilitated by a major change in the stock management and distribution processes. The time it took to deliver publications to stakeholders was reduced from 20 to 30 days worldwide to around five days. Over three million Swiss francs worth of publications were distributed by headquarters to delegations, National Societies and other interested parties. This represented an increase of around 30%. Video orders also increased dramatically with 5,713 ICRC films distributed worldwide, almost double the number sent out in previous years.

For a more rapid transfer of information to stakeholders, the ICRC's websites remained essential. Further development of the main site and its different language versions played an important role in promoting the organization's operations, IHL and global humanitarian issues. In 2003, over 370 million hits (37 million page views) were recorded, with a peak in April of over 50 million hits (5 million page views). The Arabic website launched mid-year was also key to reaching an important target audience, especially in relation to IHL. The Russian language site was expanded and preparations were made for a Chinese site.

In order to better understand the perceptions and needs of stakeholders with respect to brand management, a study was undertaken by the Marketing Unit involving 133 in-depth interviews in nine countries. The encouraging results were to be used in developing further communication strategies and products. With the ever-increasing pressure to reduce costs and the ensuing need to seek alternative solutions, opportunities for the outsourcing and decentralization of production were further explored. A regional production centre was set up in Nairobi in 2002 as a test case, in order better to respond to the production needs of delegations and to reduce Geneva-based costs. This initiative needed to be further implemented and assessed before other regionalized sites were developed.

The Auditorium Service (formerly known as the Visitors' Service) received nearly 11,000 guests in 2003, a record in recent years.



# human resources

## HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Human Resources Department recruits staff to meet the organization's needs and supervises their management and career development. A considerable strain was placed on ICRC field personnel in 2003 by the crises in Iraq, Afghanistan and Liberia. Yet despite a continuous increase in demand for field personnel, only 0.3% of posts remained vacant in November 2003, as compared with 0.8% in November 2002 and 0.7% in November 2001.

The year 2003 was also marked by some tragic incidents with five ICRC staff losing their lives. Two national staff and two expatriate staff were killed in Iraq and one ICRC delegate was killed in Afghanistan.

### Meeting upcoming challenges

In 2003, the ICRC launched a project designed to improve its capacity to meet upcoming challenges arising from changes in its operational environment and staff requirements. An in-depth analysis of its current human resources policy carried out in the first half of the year revealed various shortcomings in relation to future needs and the expectations of expatriate staff.

The purpose of the project was to increase the skills of managers in the field and at headquarters, to clarify managerial responsibilities with respect to human resources development and to specify various stages and requirements relative to different career paths. Another aim was to improve skill complementarity between distinct categories of employees, in particular between expatriate and national staff.

As a first step towards implementation of the project, the ICRC set up a Career Assessment Commission for Senior Staff, comprised of operational managers and human resources specialists, whose purpose was to better guide the careers of managerial staff, in particular heads of delegation.

### Broadening the base for hiring new staff

In 2003, the ICRC adapted its recruitment procedures to changing requirements in the field. As from the end of the year, new delegates were hired under the new procedures.

The number of expatriate staff in the field ranged from 1,174 to 1,415, with an average of 1,325, an increase of more than 10% over 2002. As field operations were stepped up, particularly in Iraq, the permanent reserve pool of 30 delegates made it easier to meet requests that were made for additional staff over the first half of the year. An average of 233 National Society staff worked in ICRC field delegations and 34 national employees occupied temporary positions in delegations outside their home countries.

From January onward, the number of people hired by the ICRC rose to address immediate needs and to prepare for future contingencies. The ICRC pursued and widened the contacts it had established with specialized institutions, such as universities and hospitals, to find delegates, administrators and interpreters. Owing to the crises in Iraq and Afghanistan, the need for interpreters with Arabic, Urdu and Pashtu language skills persisted and led the ICRC to recruit in Beirut and Cairo. Overall the number of newly hired staff increased from 305 in 2002 to 336 in 2003.

### Staff diversity

In keeping with the ICRC's policy of internationalization, the percentage of staff, not including national staff, from countries other than Switzerland rose to an average of 48% for the whole organization in 2003 – an increase over previous years. A total of 57% of field expatriates were non-Swiss, 2% more than in 2002. In addition, 66 national staff held ICRC headquarters contracts.

In order to boost its effectiveness, the ICRC continued to rely on national staff in its delegations throughout the world. Indeed, past experience has shown that giving more responsibility to national staff, along with proper coaching and supervision, clearly benefits ICRC operations.

## Training

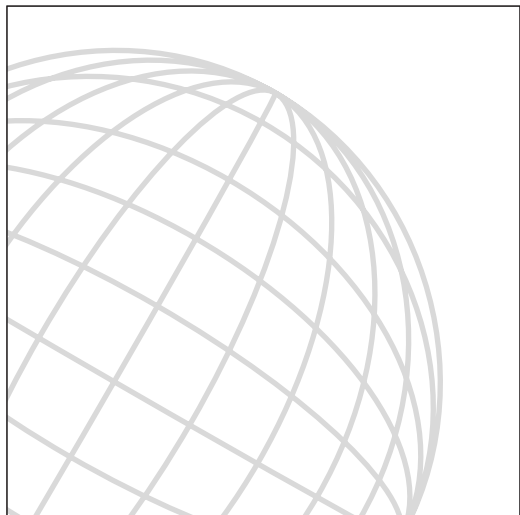
Training efforts continued in 2003, with more than 30 heads of delegation attending a course to help them better manage field operations. The course covered topics such as the operational environment, operational strategies, humanitarian mobilization, and planning and monitoring. A number of other courses were held, including:

- ▶ 19 introductory training courses at headquarters and in the field, for 466 staff
- ▶ 43 in-house courses on leadership and managing security and stress in the field, attended by more than 401 middle-management staff
- ▶ courses on personnel management (for 83 staff) and communication (for 7 staff) provided by outside training companies

## Prevention of sexual abuse by aid workers

The rules of conduct for delegation staff were updated to include provisions on sexual abuse following discussions between expatriate and national staff in a number of delegations.

In parallel, the ICRC joined Save the Children Fund/UK and OXFAM/UK in a peer-review process on the prevention of sexual abuse by aid workers. The three organizations, all members of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, decided to carry out a confidential investigation of staff compliance with the zero-tolerance policy they had adopted on this issue.



# resources and operational support

## DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

The Department of Resources and Operational Support is responsible for raising the necessary funds for the ICRC's activities, managing the organization's financial resources and providing efficient support for its field operations in the areas of logistics, administration, and information and communication technology.

Thanks to the grouping of support services within one department, closer coordination and greater synergy were achieved in 2003. Regular financial forecasts, involving many units at headquarters and in the field, thus contributed to more efficient management of financial risks. The launch of an IT strategy process increased awareness within the ICRC of the need for a more global and longer-term view on the development of information and communication systems. As part of that process, which was to continue in 2004, improvements were made to the interface between the logistics and financial applications used by the organization. In addition, donor reporting was further developed in order to provide better quality and more timely information on the use of funds.

## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

### Financial management

The purpose of financial management is to provide the ICRC with reliable and cost-effective information enabling it to make cautious and well-advised decisions in this area.

In 2003, efforts focused on:

- ▶ improving financial-risk analysis and reporting by means of a detailed review of the system used to assess and respond to exchange-rate fluctuations and related indicators, and redefining the process for monitoring the cash held by delegations
- ▶ enhancing the means used to compare actual expenditure and manpower with budgetary forecasts so as to provide management with more adequate indicators for decision making
- ▶ redefining planning, responsibilities and content in relation to internal financial analysis so as to provide KPMG with

input of the highest standard for the preparation of the ICRC's annual financial reporting to donors

The business requirements for the upgraded finance modules of the Enterprise Resources Planning system installed at headquarters were met between July and October. The configuration of these modules began in November and they should be tested and installed in spring 2004. The introduction of an automated interface between financial and logistics applications for the field was pursued in 2003 and should continue through 2004. The business requirements for that project were met and partial tests were carried out in December.

A training module for financial and administrative procedures was developed for field officers and put into use by a number of delegations in time for the 2004 budget.

### Infrastructure management

The purpose of infrastructure management is to provide the necessary office space, to ensure long-term maintenance of the entire infrastructure and to perform both services at a reasonable cost.

Construction of a day-care centre for the children of ICRC staff began at the end of the year and should be completed in summer 2004.

Taking into account international and local developments, security management at headquarters was stepped up from originally planned levels. Various building maintenance services were reviewed and the plan to contract out the maintenance of one building was postponed.

## FUNDING

All ICRC funding is coordinated by and channelled through its External Resources Division. The External Resources Division raises the funds needed by the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities while ensuring the organization's independent status. The ICRC seeks predictable, sustained and flexible financial support in order to meet its objectives. It guarantees that donor requirements are met appropriately.

## Budgets

The initial budget appeals for 2003, launched by the ICRC in December 2002, totalled 938.7 million Swiss francs (CHF). This was higher by some 23 million than the preceding year's overall budget. The increase was due to the Emergency Appeals for ICRC field operations being set at CHF 788.8 million, compared with the CHF 765.8 million requested in 2002. The Headquarters Appeals remained relatively constant, with CHF 149.9 million being requested in 2003, compared with an appeal for 149.8 in 2002.

In the course of the year, the initial field budget was increased by means of five budget extensions to accommodate unforeseen events and rising needs in humanitarian terms in the following locations: Ethiopia (CHF 40.5 million in January); Iraq (CHF 108.5 million in March); Abidjan regional delegation (CHF 4.9 million in June); Liberia (CHF 2.3 million in June); Israel, the Occupied Territories, and the Autonomous Territories (CHF 11.2 million in June); and finally for the crisis in the Central African Republic, dealt with through the ICRC regional delegation in Yaoundé, Cameroon (CHF 3.5 million in July). A budget extension was also decided upon for ICRC operations in Serbia and Montenegro (CHF 3.6 million in May) but this was covered by the ICRC's contingency fund. The final field budget for 2003 therefore stood at CHF 959.8 million (in cash, kind, and services), higher by 39.6 million than the CHF 920.1 million (in cash, kind, and services) reached in 2002.

## Expenditure

Overall expenditure reached CHF 888.4 million (including overheads), CHF 150.1 million of which was for headquarters and CHF 738.3 million for field operations.

The implementation rate<sup>1</sup> for activities planned as part of the ICRC's objectives for the year was more or less the same as in previous years, with expenditure reaching 79.7% of the overall final Emergency Appeals budget.

Expenditure and implementation rates are not only determined by the nature and cost of the ICRC's humanitarian programmes but are also influenced by the political and security conditions in the countries concerned. Positive developments in places such as Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo resulted in decreased expenditure, and thus in a lower-than-expected implementation rate. At the same time, deteriorating security conditions combined with poor access to those in need, such as in Indonesia and Iraq, also contributed to low implementation rates. By contrast, an unforeseen deterioration of the situation from a humanitarian viewpoint in Ethiopia and the Central African Republic caused greater needs and thus a higher implementation rate.

## Contributions

A total of CHF 896.5 million was received in contributions in 2003 (excluding overheads but including assets). The overall pattern of sources for these contributions was the same as the previous year, with the proportion of support from governments at 79.9% (2002: 84.3%; 2001: 82.3%) and that of National Societies dropping further to 6% (2002: 7.1%; 2001: 8.7%). Funding received from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) grew to 8.8% (2002: 5.1%; 2001: 5.3%), while contributions received from various other public and private sources rose slightly to 5% (2002: 3%; 2001: 3.4%).

The United States remained the ICRC's largest donor. It accounted for 25.84% (CHF 231.7 million) of all contributions received and 28% (CHF 216.7 million) of the contributions received for field

operations. The ICRC's operational flexibility was enhanced by the fact that the US provided advance information on the level of funding and earmarked its contributions in a relatively broad fashion (mostly by region).

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Red Cross extended their partnership agreement with the ICRC to cover the period from October 2002 to September 2006. Like the partnership accord that went before it, this new agreement was intended to boost the ICRC's planning and operational capacities in the spheres of protection, assistance, preventive action and cooperation within the Movement.

Under the partnership agreement, the DFID gave £17.25 million to the ICRC for the period from March 2002 to March 2003. Taking this sum into account, the UK's contribution to the ICRC totalled CHF 113.7 million (1.3 million for headquarters and 112.3 million for field operations), making the UK the ICRC's second largest contributor.

## Contributions in response to the Headquarters Appeals

A total of CHF 122.8 million was received in contributions for the headquarters budget: 115.1 million from 81 governments, 6 million from 60 National Societies and 1.8 million from a number of other private and public sources.

## Contributions in response to the Emergency Appeals

In all, CHF 773.7 million was provided for ICRC field operations by 35 governments (601 million), the European Commission (79.2 million), 41 National Societies (47.5 million), a variety of supranational and international organizations (3.1 million) and other public and private sources (42.9 million) such as Bank Vontobel, the Union of European Football Associations and Rotary International. The cash component of the donor response for field operations amounted to CHF 731 million (2002: 631.8 million; 2001: 659.1 million). The in-kind component was CHF 23.4 million (2002: 19.4 million; 2001: 32.9 million). Contributions in the form of services were equivalent to CHF 17.8 million (2002: 15.6 million; 2001: 17.8 million). Contributions in assets were worth CHF 1.5 million (2002: 0.4 million; 2001: 0.9 million).

This unprecedented level of income is accounted for by the organization's Iraq operation, for which a total of CHF 142.3 million in contributions were received (cash: 132.3 million; kind: 7.1 million; services: 1.8 million; assets: 1.1 million).

## Flexibility in funding

Even though the ICRC has been fortunate not to suffer from major cuts in funding, specific donor requirements in terms of earmarking and reporting were generally the same in 2003 as in 2002.

To meet needs effectively, it is essential that the ICRC enjoy flexibility in the use of its funds and a degree of predictability in terms of individual donor requirements, particularly in relation to earmarking and reporting. Earmarking has become more widespread in recent years, and contributions have often been accompanied by both rigorous timetables for the implementation of projects and stringently specific reporting conditions. Experience has shown that the more restrictive the earmarking policy, the more limited the ICRC's independence and operational flexibility.

<sup>1</sup> Implementation rate = field expenditure (in cash, kind and services) divided by final field budget (excluding contingency) then multiplied by 100.

In 2003, tightly earmarked cash contributions still accounted for a significant proportion of what the organization received for its field operations, amounting as they did to CHF 161.2 million, or 18.9%, of cash contributions (compared with CHF 130.6 million, or 17.4%, in 2002).

At 27.4% (CHF 233.2 million) in 2003, the proportion of non-earmarked cash contributions (“core funding”) in response to ICRC Emergency and Headquarters Appeals was lower than in 2002 (29.4%). Apart from some private donations (Vontobel, Commission de Surveillance des Banques), the majority of these non-earmarked funds for both the Emergency Appeals and the Mine Action Special Appeal came from five governments (Canada, France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom) and the canton and city of Geneva.

Cash contributions loosely earmarked for a given region, country or programme represented about 53.7% of the total (CHF 457.5 million).

Of this amount, CHF 149.2 million represented broad, geographically earmarked funding received from the United States in particular (17.5% of total cash contributions) while CHF 10.2 million was programme-earmarked funding from the United Kingdom (1.2% of total cash contributions).

In terms of earmarking by country, Iraq was the locality most specified by donors, representing 15.5% of all the contributions of this type (compared with 31% for the Afghan conflict in 2002).

The ICRC has drawn up guidelines to ensure greater uniformity and coherence in managing earmarked funds. These standards are designed to reduce the multiplicity of financing and reporting constraints which can stifle the organization’s ability to respond effectively to general donor requirements.

### Predictability in funding

The ICRC’s system of funding does not rely on set (statutory) contributions. Moreover, its programmes are implemented according to need and are not contingent on the level of contributions that have been received or pledged. The organization counts on donors to come forward with the necessary funds in response to its objectives and programmes for a given year. To minimize the financial risk thus incurred, the ICRC seeks, on the one hand, to be realistic as to the objectives and budgets it sets and, on the other, to ensure a degree of predictability with respect to funding. Ideally, the organization needs funding commitments from donor countries spanning several years. It does in fact already have such agreements with some donors. The ICRC is aware that planning restraints on donors, and national budget and finance regulations, do not easily allow them to commit themselves over the medium term that the ICRC would prefer. Nevertheless, it will continue to seek ways of achieving its objective of commitments made over several years. Clear indications from donors, early in the year, as to the annual level of funding and the timing of its transfer would also facilitate financial planning and reduce risk.

Overall predictability of funding improved in 2003, in large part owing to arrangements made early in the year with the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden and — in the case of the headquarters budget — Switzerland. These allowed planning in terms of basic funding levels to take place early on, and favourable timing of transfers helped bring about a marked

improvement in the ICRC’s cash-flow situation as compared with previous years.

### Diversity in the donor base

Despite strenuous efforts to broaden its donor base, the ICRC is concerned with what it perceives as a gradual narrowing of its range of main financial contributors. In view of its universal mandate and worldwide activities, the organization would like to be able to count on the broadest possible support. While the general data provided above would at first appear to indicate broad support in terms of the level and number of sources, a closer look reveals a trend of increasing reliance on the relatively few main donors who account for the bulk of the ICRC’s funding.

Even though 84 governments and the European Commission contributed to the ICRC in 2003 (six more governments than in 2002), the top 10 governments accounted for CHF 638.6 million, or 71.2% (2002: 76.5%; 2001: 78%), and the top five governments for CHF 520.6 million, or 58.1% (2002: 62.6%; 2001: 63.2%), of the overall total of 896.5 million in contributions received. Similarly, contributions were received from 72 National Societies (2002: 83; 2001: 88), with the top 10 accounting for 78.2% (2002: 69.8%; 2001: 77.2%) and the top five for 56% (2002: 45.3%; 2001: 51.1%) of the total of CHF 53.5 million in contributions received from National Societies.

As for contributions received for field operations, 35 governments and the European Commission contributed to the Emergency Appeals (2002: 29; 2001: 29). Of these, the top five accounted for CHF 435.5 million, or 56.3% (2002: 61.4%; 2001: 64.1%) of the total of CHF 773.7 million. The top five National Society contributors accounted for CHF 27.1 million, or 57.1% (2002: 46.9%; 2001: 52.9%), of the CHF 47.5 million received from 41 National Societies in all (2002: 37; 2001: 36).

It is therefore clear that the ICRC needs to continue its efforts to obtain additional funds from government and National Society donors, while at the same time identifying and testing new budget lines among current donors.

### Private sector

Fundraising in the private sector also represents a means of broadening the donor base. 2003 was an exceptional year for ICRC’s private sector fundraising despite a decrease in income from legacies and bequests. This was mainly due to the high visibility of ICRC operations in Iraq. Spontaneous donations from individuals went up by 20% and the revenue from direct mail campaigns was over 50% higher than in the previous year. An unexpected contribution from a Swiss private bank added to the very good result.

During the year a particular emphasis was put on the cultivation of relationships with major donors. A series of lectures “*Les rencontres de l’humanitaire*” provided the opportunity to meet with confirmed and prospective private donors in an environment that stimulates discussion and facilitates better understanding.

### Reporting to donors

The ICRC kept donors informed of its activities through a variety of documents and publications. In December 2002, it launched its 2003 Emergency and Headquarters Appeals, which were followed in the course of the year by six budget-extension appeals.

It reported to donors on all its field operations by means of the *Midterm report*, which covered field operations in the first and

second quarters. The third and fourth quarters are covered by the country reports contained in the present *Annual Report*. These reports discuss progress achieved for each target population in the light of the objectives set in the Emergency Appeals for 2003. Financial updates were similarly provided on a quarterly basis. In September the ICRC issued its *Renewed Emergency Appeal*, which presented the overall funding situation for field operations, detailed the contributions received by that time, and covered 15 major operations for which substantial funding was still required.

Donors were further informed of the main developments in ICRC operations by means of 20 updates covering a wide range of operations, 49 specifically created donor briefing notes on the Iraq crisis, and three special reports, including the 2002 mine-action report.

The ICRC Donor Site, a password-protected extranet site on which all documents issued by the ICRC's External Resources Division are posted, continues to give donors immediate access to reports and other funding-related documents.

## INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The main goal of the Information Systems Division is to align information- and communication-technology projects and services with the ICRC's strategic objectives in order to achieve maximum efficiency and optimize both investments and operating costs through the best possible allocation of human and financial resources.

In 2003, the ACCPAC/SBT field-logistics project was delayed, partly so that the interfaces with the financial applications could be improved. Deployment of the application at major locations was due to start in June 2004.

As regards the re-engineering of field applications, the field supply system (involving purchase-request generation, local stock management and parts distribution monitoring) was developed in the second half of 2003 and should be implemented in 20 locations starting in June 2004.

The application for managing the logistical aspects of the ICRC's fleet of leased aircraft was under development, with deployment scheduled for March 2004.

A new human resources product for the field, which covers payroll and personal/position data, was selected and was being customized so that rollout could start in June 2004.

The migration of the finance software to a new web-based system was in progress and should be completed by the end of April 2004.

As for the ICRC's website, new versions were set up in Arabic, Portuguese and Spanish.

A midterm infrastructure strategy involving functional requirements and major applications was still being developed. Meanwhile, the ICRC began replacing its workstation operating system with Microsoft Windows XP, which was due to be deployed worldwide by the end of 2004.

The new mail application for the ICRC's radio and satellite systems was selected and tested. It should be operational by mid-2004. The 11-year-old telephone system was replaced by a new one capable of transmitting voice and data over a single network.

## LOGISTICS

### Global scale

The ICRC runs a worldwide logistics network. With the range of services available – from airfreight to vehicle workshops – the organization is able to maintain field operations and to take rapid and effective action in emergencies. In 2003 it operated 3,200 vehicles, 300 warehouses and 17 aircraft.

During the year there were two major new logistical undertakings. In the Middle East, in order to make equipment and supplies as readily available as possible during the Iraq conflict, the ICRC substantially strengthened its operational base in Amman, Jordan, and set up new logistics bases in Iran, Iraq, Kuwait and Syria. The organization secured warehousing in cooperation with the National Societies, boosted its air operations, ground transport and light-vehicle support, and positioned medical, shelter, food, water and sanitation supplies. In Ethiopia, a large-scale emergency-aid programme in the drought-affected areas (Harerge, Southern Nations and Tigray) required rapid upgrading of logistics facilities in the country and support from the logistics centre in Nairobi.

After revising its purchasing standards and procedures, the ICRC developed a purchasing code of conduct for all ICRC staff with direct or indirect purchasing or financial responsibilities.

To minimize operational costs, the organization invited new tenders worldwide for key items such as cooking sets, medical kits, heavy trucks, computers and tents, thus ensuring high quality and delivery standards. These tenders took all possible supply sources into consideration and resulted in significant unit-price savings.

The development of integrated logistics software, a field supply system and an air-operations management tool continued, but fell behind schedule owing to other operational priorities. All three applications should be deployed worldwide by mid-2004. The "internal transport, storage and handling" costing applications enabled the ICRC to identify the total logistics costs for the movement of goods from their point of entry in the country to their final delivery to the beneficiary. A detailed database of these costs is centralized and managed in Geneva and information is available to donors upon request.

In 2003 the ICRC had about 140 expatriate logistics experts plus 60 drivers and convoy leaders working in some 30 relief operations supported by more than 2,000 national staff worldwide. Half of the expatriate staff and all convoy leaders came from countries other than Switzerland. The development of specialist training in all logistics functions was completed, and a revised training programme including the use of the new logistics tools was planned for 2004. The level of recruitment was maintained and higher standards were applied.

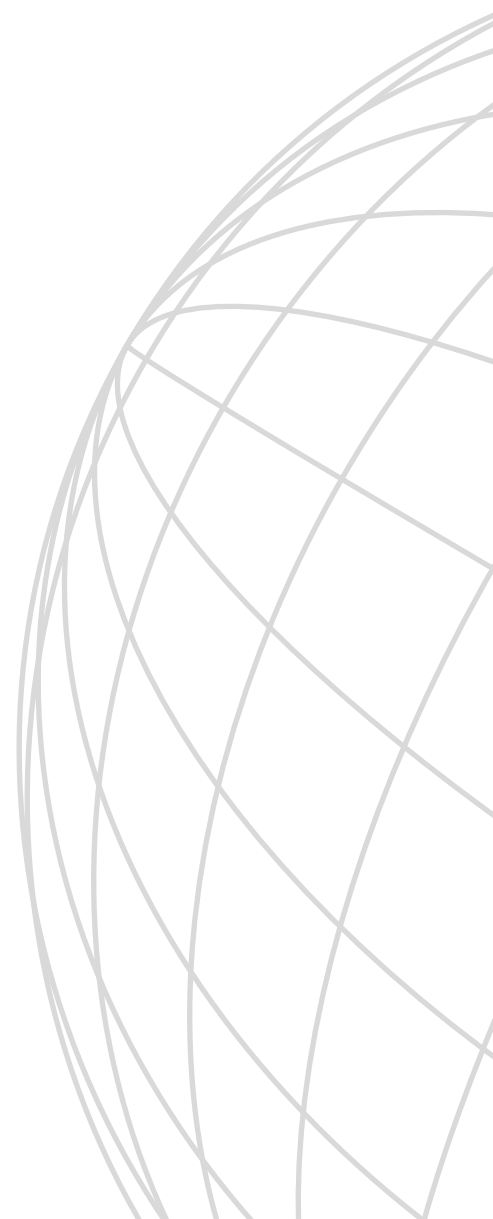
### Working in harmony with partners

During the year the ICRC further developed technical and operational links with other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This work has continued with further studies on the use of logistics emergency-response units.

The standard emergency-item catalogue, developed in conjunction with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, available in book form, on CD-ROM, or on the website [www.redcross.int/en/eric/eric/index.html](http://www.redcross.int/en/eric/eric/index.html), was under revision and a second edition was expected in 2004. This catalogue was

intended to eliminate difficulties in ensuring that items supplied for the Movement's operations meet minimum specification standards.

The ICRC also strengthened its working relations with various agencies in the United Nations system. In responding to the complex emergency in Iraq, all UN agencies followed the procedures set out by the UN Joint Logistics Centre. The ICRC maintained constant dialogue with the Centre on logistics issues, in particular those relating to air operations, security, fuel supplies and rates for transportation and warehousing. The advantages for both organizations were to ensure that logistics infrastructure was not unnecessarily duplicated, to maximize efficiency, and to coordinate approaches and promote information-sharing in the field and at headquarters.








# OPERATIONS





# the ICRC around the world



	<b>AFRICA</b>
	<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>
	<b>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>
	<b>EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA</b>
	<b>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</b>



ICRC headquarters



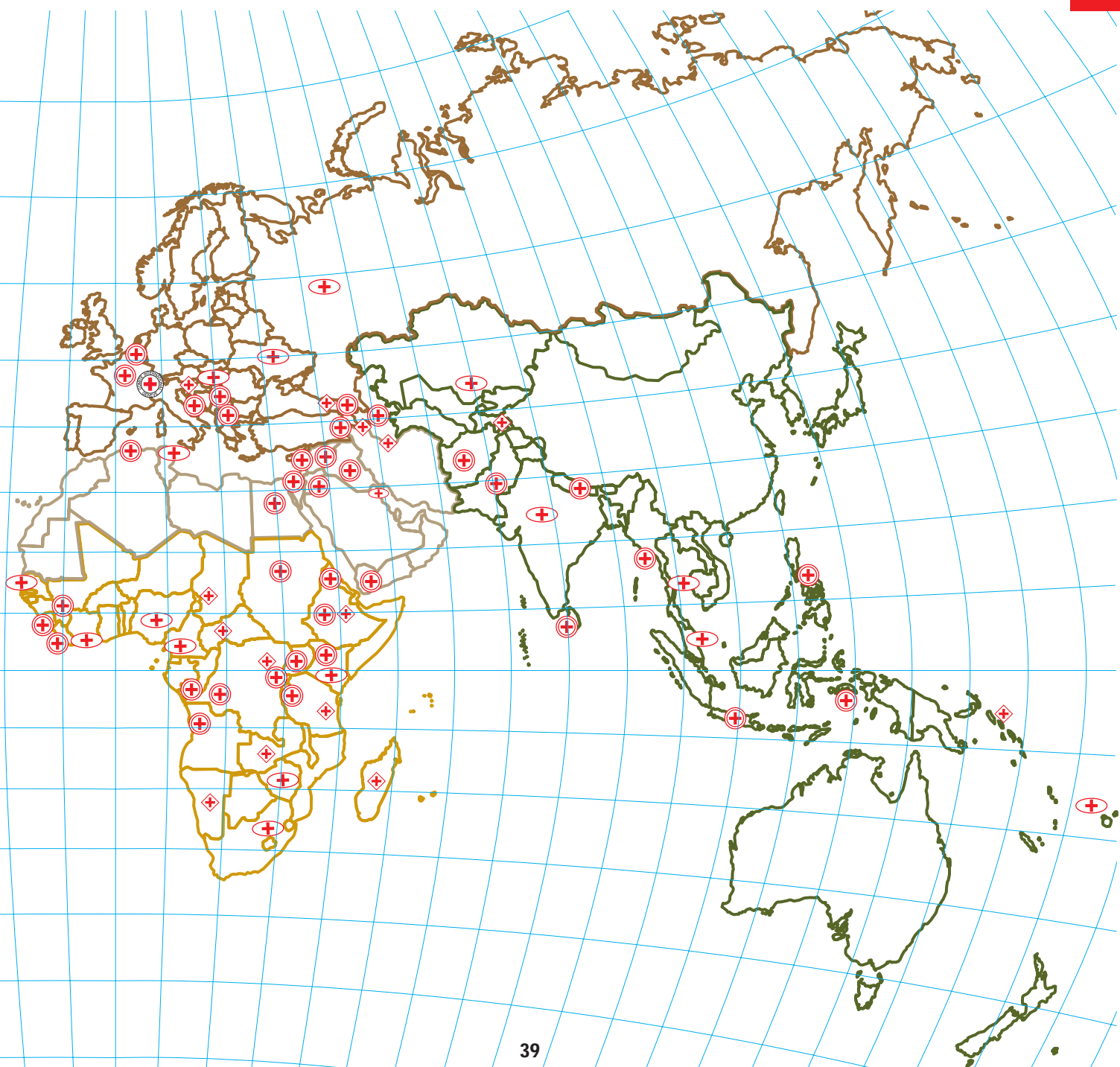
ICRC delegation

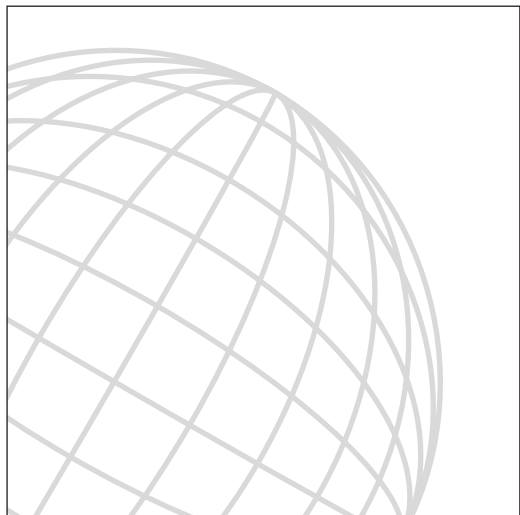


ICRC regional delegation

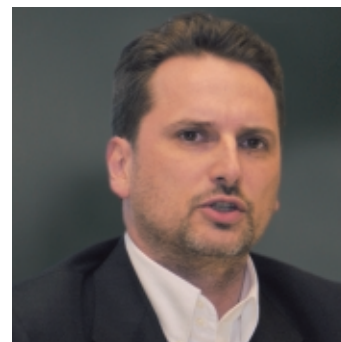


ICRC mission





# operational highlights



Pierre Krähenbühl  
Director of Operations

## ENVIRONMENT

The year 2003 will be remembered as a time when the world became a more unpredictable and dangerous place.

The consequences of the attacks of 11 September 2001 continued to be felt around the world. There was renewed polarization between the countries engaged in what has become known as the “fight against terrorism” and the groups and networks that violently opposed them, increasingly relying on non-conventional and indiscriminate methods in doing so. Polarization was also apparent in the resurfacing of tensions between the so-called North and South in connection with issues such as poverty, terms of trade and access to and control of resources.

The global struggle conducted by the United States of America and its allies continued to take on different forms in the course of the year. Operations by police and security forces were extensive. A number of States used the pretext of the “fight against terrorism” to increase pressure on internal opposition or resistance groups, or to attack them openly. In many cases, the consequences for the civilian population were serious. Against this backdrop occurred the international armed conflict against Iraq and a subsequent occupation of that country.

On a more positive note, a number of protracted armed conflicts edged closer to resolution as attempts to put an end to hostilities led to stabilization efforts or ushered in transition phases. This was the case in countries such as Angola and Sudan, and to some extent also in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in parts of West Africa.

In a number of countries, from Nepal to Burundi and from Liberia to Myanmar, conflict or violence stemmed from internal causes and resulted in significant suffering.

While not disappearing altogether, the identity-driven or ethnic conflicts of the 1990s, with their massive casualties and large-scale population displacements, no longer appeared to be the commonest form of confrontation. Tactics connected with the “fight against terrorism,” including acts of indiscriminate violence perpetrated

by non-State entities and the spread of repressive policies in individual States, were much more in evidence.

## OPERATIONS

The primary effect of this increasingly unpredictable environment on the ICRC was a drop in levels of security. The ICRC has always viewed the security of its staff and beneficiaries as one of its primary responsibilities. While working in contexts of armed conflict or other situations of violence evidently implies being confronted with significant levels of risk, the ICRC has sought to develop approaches to security issues and instruments of security management that limit exposure to the inherent dangers of its work, so far as that is possible.

The ICRC has never viewed the security of its staff as distinct from that of other people in the places where it works. The ICRC’s humanitarian endeavour has been based on its commitment to alleviate the suffering of people adversely affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence – a commitment that extends to its own staff.

Previously, the greatest risk to ICRC staff had simply been that of being in the “wrong place at the wrong time.” In 2003, however, the ICRC was the victim of three deliberate attacks that together claimed the lives of four of its staff in Afghanistan and Iraq. A fifth ICRC staff member died when he was caught in crossfire in Baghdad. National Societies were also targeted, and two staff members of the Afghan Red Crescent Society were killed.

While two of the deliberate attacks – those that took place near Kandahar in March and Baghdad in July – appeared to be the result of a mistaken association of the ICRC’s presence with international political and military action, the October car-bomb attack against the ICRC offices in Baghdad had all the hallmarks of a direct and planned targeting of the organization.

For the ICRC to work in a given area, it used to be sufficient to assess local risks and determine the organization’s level of acceptance. This began to change last year and now ICRC

delegations are also required to assess the impact that global threats and misperceptions could have in their local environment.

The increasingly polarized environment that has emerged since the events of 11 September 2001 has also prompted debate on the future of independent humanitarian action. In this environment, there has been increasing pressure on all organizations to take sides. In a year that saw a considerable focus of attention on two contexts in particular – Iraq and Afghanistan – the ICRC was determined that its humanitarian tasks should be performed in all countries where they were needed. As always, the particular advantage of the ICRC's operational approach was the organization's proximity to the people it was attempting to help. Despite the security challenges, the ICRC's 11,660 staff carried out vital work in 79 contexts worldwide, often in conjunction with National Societies and their International Federation.

## AFRICA

Africa remained the continent where most ICRC activities took place. No resources were diverted from the ICRC's operations in Africa despite the pressures in Iraq.

In the Horn of Africa, the ICRC became involved in an important food-security programme to help avert famine in parts of Ethiopia affected by internal strife or violence. In Sudan, a gradual shift in strategy was made in view of the peace talks under way. At the same time, the ICRC began dealing with the serious consequences in humanitarian terms of the conflict in the Darfur region.

In West Africa, Liberia became the primary operational challenge in view of the succession of bouts of conflict and violence in the late spring and early summer of 2003. Despite having to work under extremely volatile security conditions, ICRC staff managed to maintain medical and surgical services and to assist numerous displaced persons. The ICRC also continued to deal with consequences of the ongoing conflict in Côte d'Ivoire.

In the Great Lakes region, significant ICRC operations continued in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the organization sought in particular to restore family links and provide medical support. In Burundi, an expansion of the geographical scope of the ICRC's operations was under way.

## ASIA

Despite the murder of one of its delegates near Kandahar, the ICRC remained committed to working in Afghanistan. The organization's visits to people deprived of their freedom held by Afghan authorities and United States armed forces continued, as did its medical and limb-fitting activities. In Afghanistan, the challenge of explaining the ICRC's role and its neutral and independent humanitarian work was considerable.

Operations in Indonesia – especially in Aceh – experienced both setbacks and progress. The Indonesian Red Cross Society supported the ICRC in talks with the authorities that led to a resumption of activities in Aceh after a four-month suspension.

The ICRC delegation in Kuala Lumpur continued to devote considerable effort to strengthening its contacts and developing humanitarian diplomacy and communication activities in countries of East and South-East Asia. Substantive discussions held between

the ICRC and China on opening an ICRC regional delegation in Beijing were particularly noteworthy.

## MIDDLE EAST

The situation in the Middle East was dominated by the conflict and subsequent occupation in Iraq. The ICRC made a deliberate decision to remain on the ground and operational when hostilities began on 19 March 2003. ICRC medical teams in Baghdad, Basra and Arbil carried out essential and often life-saving activities. In the aftermath of the fall of Baghdad came the dual challenge of adapting the ICRC's operations and dealing with a rapidly worsening security situation. The ICRC lost four staff members between April and October, and the United Nations suffered a devastating blow when its Baghdad headquarters was attacked on 19 August. But it was the Iraqi population that paid the highest price of all. After the 27 October attack against its office in Baghdad, the ICRC's decision not to resort to military protection entailed the temporary closure of its offices in Baghdad and Basra. Nevertheless, the ICRC remained committed to pursuing its activities in Iraq, in particular those relating to detainee welfare and emergency aid, and devised new working methods that were due to be applied in 2004.

The situation in Israel and the Palestinian territories remained very worrying. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians continued and the impact of the "West Bank barrier" on Palestinian civilians became increasingly severe.

## EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

The situations in the northern Caucasus and Colombia continued to cause the greatest concern to the ICRC in Europe and the Americas.

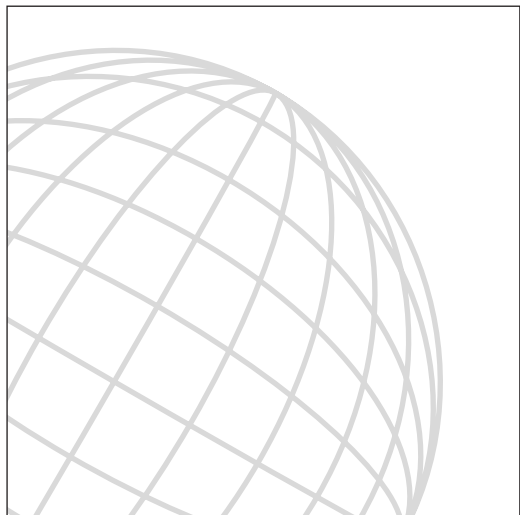
While fewer population movements occurred in Colombia than initially feared, people adversely affected by the ongoing conflict continued to face serious problems that required action on the part of the ICRC.

In the Russian Federation, the ICRC continued to seek unrestricted access to people detained in connection with ongoing security operations in Chechnya. The ICRC raised its concerns on this matter on several occasions with the Chechen and Russian authorities. In addition, it continued to carry out important aid programmes in Ingushetia, Chechnya and Daghestan.

ICRC visits to internees held at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station continued for a second year. Differences of opinion on the status of internees and concerns relating to conditions of internment and treatment were discussed repeatedly with the US authorities.

## NEUTRAL AND INDEPENDENT HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The relevance of international humanitarian law, in particular in the context of the "fight against terrorism," was challenged in the aftermath of 11 September 2001. Neutral and independent humanitarian action was similarly questioned. The ICRC, together with many others, took up the challenge. Through its operations in the field it sought to demonstrate in concrete terms that international humanitarian law and the ICRC's operational approach were not only credible but necessary in a polarized world.



# ICRC operations in 2003: a few facts and figures

## PRESENCE

The ICRC maintained a permanent presence in **79** countries throughout the world.

Its delegations were distributed as follows:

- ▶ Africa: **27**
- ▶ Europe & the Americas: **25**
- ▶ Asia: **16**
- ▶ Middle East/North Africa: **11**

## PERSONNEL

The number of ICRC staff at the end of 2003 was as follows:

- ▶ Headquarters: **823**
- ▶ Field: **11,660**  
(1,058 expatriates, 34 local staff on temporary international mission, 233 National Society staff, 10,335 local staff)
- ▶ Total: **12,483**

## VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited **469,648** detainees held in **1,923** places of detention in about **80** countries. Of this number, **34,418** detainees were registered and visited in 2003 for the first time. A total of **9,667** detention attestations were issued.

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected and distributed **1,286,326** Red Cross messages, thus enabling members of families separated as a result of conflict, disturbances or tension to exchange news.

It established the whereabouts of **4,142** people for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families.

The ICRC also helped **2,640** people to rejoin their families. It issued travel documents that enabled **9,667** people to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

## ASSISTANCE

In 2003, **48** of the ICRC's **79** operational and regional delegations ran aid programmes. The bulk of the work was carried out in **Afghanistan, Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories, Iraq, the Northern Caucasus, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sudan and Colombia.**

## ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security directly benefited some **1,281,000** people worldwide. Among them up to **210,000** internally displaced people, **104,000** people deprived of their freedom (including some 86,000 Rwandans) and **930,000** residents received aid in the form of food, essential household and hygiene items as well as through sustainable food production programmes or micro-economic initiatives. These included diverse response mechanisms ranging from the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation systems in Afghanistan, urban voucher schemes in Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories to small-scale community-based cash for work and livestock management / support projects. The remaining recipients were refugees.

## WATER AND HABITAT

In 2003, the ICRC's water and habitat unit was involved in water, sanitation and construction work in **36** countries. These projects catered for the needs of some **19 million** people worldwide at a cost of about CHF **92** million / USD **68** million / EUR 61 million. They were implemented by a team of some **85** expatriate engineers and **370** local engineers and technicians.

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

During the year, the ICRC regularly supported **67** hospitals and **305** other health-care facilities around the world and gave **556,211** outpatient consultations. Community programmes were implemented in **12** countries, in many cases with National Society participation.

No fewer than **15,918** war-wounded were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals where **88,803** surgical interventions were performed. The organization regularly supported **15** first-aid posts situated near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment for **303** war-wounded.

## CARE FOR THE DISABLED

The ICRC's physical rehabilitation unit provided support to **59** prosthetic/orthotic centres in **26** countries, enabling patients to be rehabilitated and fitted with **16,570** prostheses and **16,919** orthoses. In addition, **1,592** wheelchairs and **15,849** pairs of crutches were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training of local staff was a priority to improve sustainable services for patients.

## ICRC COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

An increasing number of ICRC activities for victims of conflict and internal strife are implemented jointly with National Societies.

In 2003, a total of 44 National Societies in countries affected by armed conflict or internal strife worked with the ICRC in programmes ranging from aid distribution and medical services to tracing and preventive action. Furthermore, 41 National Societies from third party countries capable of mobilizing support and taking a direct part in international relief activities were also involved in the implementation of ICRC objectives as part of specific projects carried out in 60 countries.

In 2003, the ICRC spent CHF **55** million/USD **41** million/EUR **36** million for its programme to strengthen National Society capacity (cooperation programmes), providing support for:

- ▶ 144 National Societies in their work to promote and spread knowledge of humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles
- ▶ 103 National Societies in their work to restore family links
- ▶ 93 National Societies in their preparedness for health and relief assistance during conflict
- ▶ 20 National Societies in their community-based programmes aimed at raising awareness of mines and explosive remnants of war.

## COMMUNICATION

Communicating information in relation to major humanitarian crises, such as that in Iraq, was a main priority of the Communication Department in 2003. The communication activities were based on a multimedia approach which included the expansion of the existing ICRC website and the launching of the Arabic website in mid-year.

Numerous seminars on IHL were held throughout the year worldwide for armed and security forces, other weapon bearers and police forces. The ICRC participated in more than 10 military exercises in Europe and similar events elsewhere in the world. These activities were carried out by **21** specialized delegates supported by a multinational network of officer instructors.

The Media Relations Unit in Geneva issued **84** press releases, **165** news items, **29** information bulletins and **136** briefing and information notes, and organized **19** press conferences in 2003.

The teaching module, "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL), launched in 2001, was trialed in some **30** countries during the year.

In 2003, the ICRC provided advice and supported programmes related to mines and unexploded ordnance in **35** countries.

The Library and Research Service responded to some **4,000** requests from National Societies, NGOs, academics, government departments and the media. **5,713** films were distributed worldwide and more than **370** million hits on ICRC's website were recorded. The Auditorium Service received nearly **11,000** visitors.



An ICRC delegate talks in private with a detainee.

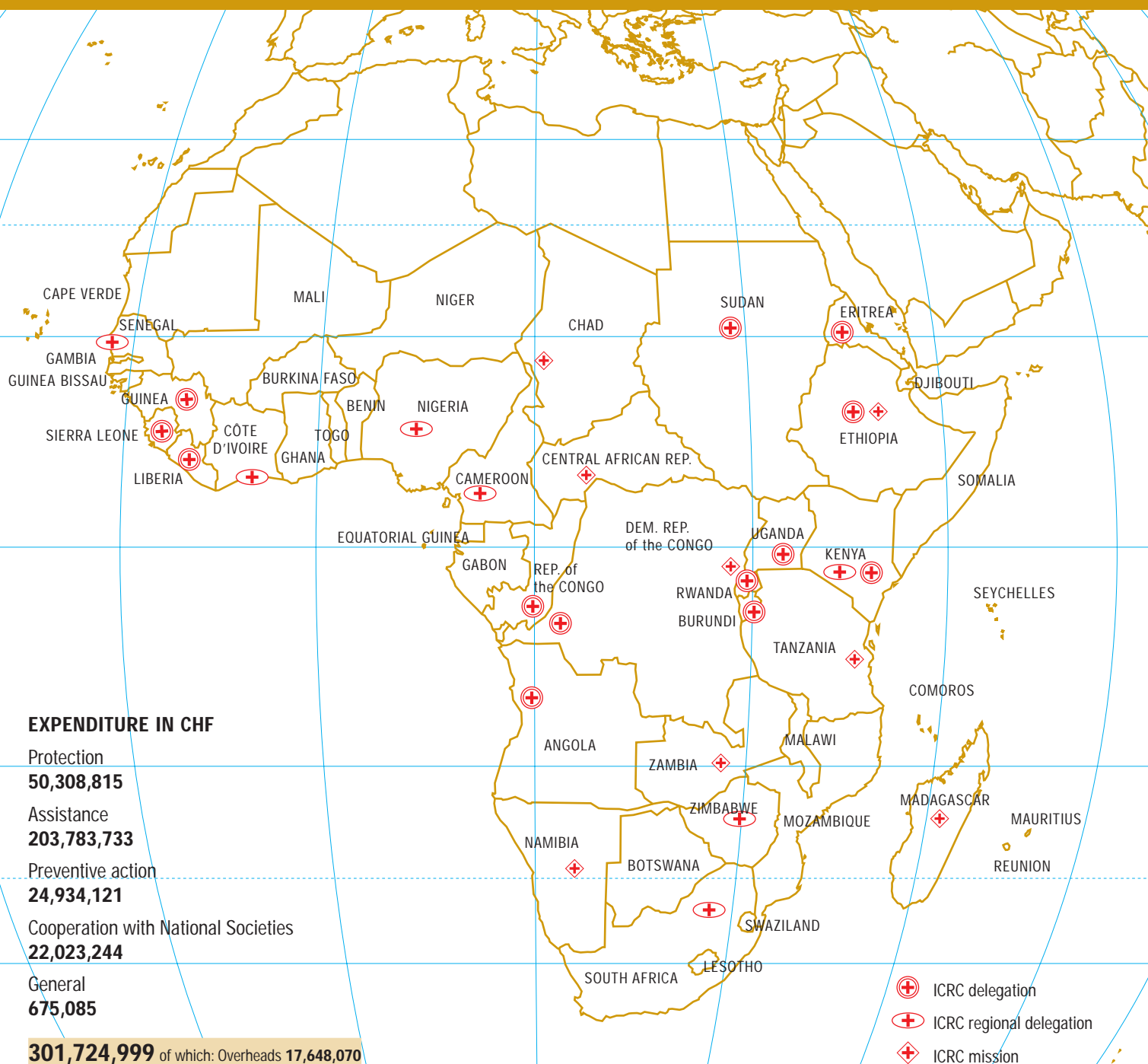
## DELEGATIONS

Angola  
Burundi  
Congo, Democratic Republic of the  
Congo, Republic of the  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
ICRC mission to the AU  
Guinea  
Liberia  
Rwanda  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
Sudan  
Uganda

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Abidjan  
Abuja  
Dakar  
Harare  
Nairobi  
Pretoria  
Yaoundé

# AFRICA



Africa remained the continent with the largest number of conflicts. Nevertheless, with the exception of West Africa, most African conflicts stabilized or abated during the year under review. However, any sense of optimism had to be carefully tempered in view of the fact that many of the conflicts' underlying causes lingered, and that the lull appeared fragile.

On the whole, the situations in Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Angola and Madagascar continued to evolve in a positive manner. But while diplomatic initiatives and pressure from the international community helped silence the guns in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and on the Ethiopia-Eritrea border, the medium-term prospects remained unclear. Elsewhere, deep-rooted conflicts, such as the ones in Somalia, Uganda, Burundi, Liberia and the Republic of the Congo prevailed.

The continent seemed unable to exert a significant influence on the international political agenda, and stayed very much on the fringes. Individual countries' efforts to emerge from economic, political and diplomatic isolation continued to be thwarted, and for many, whether conflict-ridden or stable, the question of how to tackle widespread poverty remained the key challenge. Numerous hurdles stood in the path of sustainable economic development. These included political instability, corruption, poor governance and weak political structures, looting of natural resources, waging war as a means of survival, non-existent or derelict public services (such as health care and education), low commodity prices, difficult climatic conditions, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and insufficient emergency and development aid.

Through its 20 delegations, seven of them regional, the ICRC maintained a high level of activity accounting for over 40% of its field budget, and wide operational coverage that reached 29 countries. This enabled the ICRC to offer protection and assistance to victims of all conflicts, both old and new. Major new emergency operations were carried out in 2003, as evidenced by the issuing of Budget Extension Appeals for activities in Ethiopia, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Central African Republic.

In Liberia instability and renewed fighting escalated in 2003 leading to successive massive population displacements, and worsening an already poor humanitarian situation. The signing of the Accra Peace Agreement on 17 August 2003, the arrival of international peace-keepers and other positive

developments nonetheless brought increased signs of hope, greater access and humanitarian assistance to victims of conflict. At the height of the fighting in June-July, the ICRC was one of the few organizations to remain in Monrovia providing an urgently needed emergency response: surgical care at JFK Hospital, water and sanitation facilities, material and shelter support for IDPs and residents. As field access and security improved during the second half of the year, activities were consolidated and gradually expanded from the capital to residents and re-settlers in the country's 15 counties.

In Côte d'Ivoire, where many fundamental issues are unresolved, the security situation remained volatile. In spite of diplomatic efforts to break the political deadlock the humanitarian situation, particularly in the north and west, continued to be worrisome. Red Cross action concentrated on protecting people at risk who were not, or were no longer, participating in hostilities. It supported public structures that maintained vital services and supplies such as water, health care and electricity, and provided emergency assistance to IDPs, returnees and residents in conflict-affected zones. The Red Cross worked to restore family contacts and reunite children with their families, and promoted IHL to prevent or limit excesses attributable to conflict.

The presence of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone helped keep the overall political and security situation in that country calm. In December the government announced the completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for ex-combatants. In line with the country's changing needs in 2003, the ICRC scaled down its operations.

In the Central African Republic the ICRC boosted staff numbers and activities to meet the needs of victims of the internal armed conflict. The ICRC rebuilt eight urban water systems serving more than one million people, provided basic supplies needed to resume health services, and extended the tracing and Red Cross message service to refugees from the Central African Republic in Chad.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo many questions remained unanswered regarding the ongoing transitional process. While the situation continued to normalize in western regions, the east remained volatile, dogged by insecurity and emergencies of a humanitarian nature. The ICRC maintained its large-scale operation, focusing on providing timely assistance and protection

to vulnerable victims of armed conflicts and violence. The aim of this was to ensure the survival of displaced people and residents while fostering self-sufficiency. The organization also supported the authorities in providing adequate health care for the war-wounded and the civilian population. The ICRC conducted protection activities for different categories of people deprived of their freedom, and worked to restore contact between separated family members – where possible reuniting children with their families. It also promoted the development of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Following the killing of six ICRC staff members in Ituri district in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in April 2001, ICRC field operations in Uganda were placed on standby. In 2003 the ICRC continued its efforts to guarantee a thorough investigation by the Ugandan authorities into the killings. In parallel, the organization provided the Ugandan Red Cross Society with a substantial level of support to help it deliver emergency aid to victims of conflict, run the tracing and Red Cross message service and disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles. At the same time, in view of the serious impact of the fighting in the northern and north-eastern regions on civilians, the ICRC decided to resume field activities progressively, in close partnership with the Ugandan Red Cross.

In Burundi, although fighting and clashes continued during the year, the country made marked progress towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. ICRC work focused on protecting people deprived of their freedom, and on enabling civilians to overcome the worst consequences of war. In particular, it supported projects aimed at providing care for hundreds of female victims of sexual violence, while also working to restore contact between separated children and their families. The ICRC also continued assistance programmes to improve access to water and sanitation facilities, and supported health structures that provide medical care for tens of thousands of civilians and detainees.

In the Republic of the Congo a ceasefire agreement in March 2003, between government forces and the armed opposition, ended fighting that had resumed the previous year. During 2003, the ICRC expanded its protection activities to cope with the increased number of people displaced by the conflict and to ensure that those who had been separated from their families,

particularly children, were put back in touch, and if possible, reunited with them. Assistance was also stepped up to ensure adequate nutrition for residents in the Pool, and to offer them, together with those in Brazzaville and Bouenza region, the means to achieve self-sufficiency. The organization worked to improve hygiene in IDP camps and places of detention, and assisted hospitals treating the war-wounded and rehabilitated certain public health centres. It conducted extensive IHL/human rights dissemination sessions for the armed forces, the police and the Ninja militias. It also encouraged the authorities to make IHL compulsory in military training and operations, and human rights law and aspects of IHL applicable to police action compulsory in police training and operations.

In 2003 Angola was a country in transition, emerging from a long and devastating civil war and seeking a return to stability and economic self-sufficiency. The ICRC had adjusted its operational set-up and strategy following the ceasefire in April 2002. In the year under review, tracing programmes to re-establish family links were significantly expanded, with the support of the Angola Red Cross, to enable people in newly accessible areas to restore contact with family members separated from them during the conflict. Assistance activities were scaled down to reflect the country's transition. At the same time, in conjunction with the Angola Red Cross, the ICRC increased its mine-awareness campaigns as more areas became accessible. It also continued its support to victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war, providing them with artificial limbs and paying their transport costs to treatment centres.

In Sudan expectations for peace between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army were high. However, the 20-year conflict, pitting the northern part of the country against the south, remained the principal source of suffering for the Sudanese people. An estimated four million people remained displaced and tens of thousands separated from family members. The conflict continued to have a devastating effect on health, water and sanitation services.

In a separate development, fighting broke out in February in Darfur state, between government forces and Janjaweed militias against the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement. A ceasefire in September broke down and the conflict escalated. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced and

tens of thousands fled to nearby Chad. From mid-November, government restrictions and insecurity effectively blocked humanitarian organizations' access to the conflict-affected areas.

Improved security and fewer travel restrictions allowed the ICRC to further develop its programmes to protect and assist victims of the north-south conflict. The ICRC worked together with the Sudanese Red Crescent to provide emergency aid, mainly water, shelter material, first-aid supplies and essential household items, for the worst-off IDPs and residents affected by conflict. In Darfur, emergency supplies were distributed to some 50,000 IDPs, and 80,000 IDPs were given clean water. The ICRC maintained one of the largest tracing services in the world, and continued offering medical assistance for the war-wounded and support for prosthetic/orthotic centres.

In Ethiopia the threat of famine eased during the year as a result of generally good rainfall and a major international response to calls for food aid. However, isolated cases of drought persisted. The ICRC carried out one of its biggest emergency operations in recent years, distributing some 55,000 tonnes of food and seed to avert famine for over 750,000 people suffering from the combined effects of drought and armed violence or insecurity.

Meanwhile, tension remained high over the ruling on the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia, made in 2002 by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in The Hague. In October, the Commission announced an indefinite delay in the planned demarcation process. The ICRC worked on several fronts to address needs outstanding from the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

In Ethiopia internal armed violence between government forces and rebel groups, tribal clashes and political unrest persisted, resulting in civilian casualties, population displacements and arrests. The ICRC monitored potential hot spots in Afar, Gambella, Oromiya and the Somali National Regional State, and reacted swiftly to provide emergency aid.

The ICRC also pursued its visits to detainees held for reasons of State security or in connection with the 1991 change of government. Cooperation with the prison authorities and access to detention facilities improved. ICRC programmes to promote IHL were expanded, targeting the armed forces, police and schools.

In Eritrea the ICRC continued to concentrate on different areas of activity that address outstanding needs occasioned by the Eritrea-Ethiopia war. These included protecting and assisting the population displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict, and working to ensure that the detention conditions and treatment of any Ethiopian nationals still held in Eritrea following the end of the war complied with IHL norms. The ICRC assisted over 60,000 IDPs in camps with water, shelter, fuel and essential household items. Water systems, health-care facilities and homes were rebuilt, benefiting residents and recent returnees in war-affected regions. Seed and emergency food rations were given to over 100,000 drought-affected returnees in former war zones. The ICRC also supported the Eritrean Red Cross in developing its tracing, emergency preparedness and response and dissemination activities.

In Somalia, the Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities signed by Somali political leaders in October 2002 had little effect on the levels of violence during 2003. Armed confrontations occurred in several parts of central and southern Somalia. The causes ranged from political disputes to control over income-generating infrastructures, property rights, limited natural resources, and the culture of score settling. Though localized and often short-lived, these confrontations frequently claimed high numbers of casualties because of the widespread availability and use of weapons.

The ICRC remained the main provider of emergency aid in central and southern Somalia, distributing relief goods to some 200,000 people displaced by conflict or natural disasters. In 2003 the organization reinforced its medical programme in order to provide treatment for the war-wounded and other patients needing emergency surgery. Some 300 short- and medium-term ICRC projects were also carried out to improve access to clean water or boost food production and income for nomadic and farming families whose fragile livelihoods were threatened by ongoing insecurity.



# angola

The ICRC has been present in Angola since 1975, when the conflict that devastated the country's economy began, leaving vital infrastructure in ruins and the civilian population dependent on humanitarian aid. Following the signing of the Luena peace agreement in April 2002, access to most parts of the country improved although the presence of mines remains a major constraint. The ICRC has extended its tracing network, with the support of the Angola Red Cross, enabling more family members separated during the conflict to be reunited. Together with the National Society, it also strives to raise awareness of the dangers of mines and other explosive remnants of war.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**7,448,505**

Assistance

**13,516,524**

Preventive action

**2,114,737**

Cooperation with National Societies

**441,623**

General

**7,659**

► **23,529,049**

of which: Overheads **1,432,212**

## PERSONNEL

**46** expatriates

**336** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Tracing programmes to restore family links were significantly expanded.
- Mine-awareness campaigns were stepped up as more areas became accessible.
- Medical facilities were supported and gradually handed over to the health authorities.
- Distribution of food and essential household items stopped at the end of the year.
- Major water-supply projects were completed and handed over, while others were ongoing.
- Dissemination of IHL and human rights law continued for the military and the police.

## CONTEXT

The year 2003 was marked by transition in Angola, a country emerging from a long and devastating civil war and seeking a return to stability and economic self-sufficiency. Countless people – refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and demobilized fighters – were on the move, returning to their places of origin or resettling. With mines and other explosive remnants of war scattered across the countryside, many of these people converged on the towns and cities, putting extra pressure on existing infrastructure. Others returned to rural areas only to face harsh living conditions and the dangers of mines.

Apart from sporadic clashes between the Angolan armed forces and the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave, the country gradually advanced towards peace and stability. Perhaps the key achievement of 2003 was the completion of a programme to demobilize fighters. Over 400,000 people, of whom about 25% were former fighters and the rest members of their families, were regrouped in “quartering family areas” before being sent back to their places of origin, where they were to receive vocational training in an attempt to reintegrate them into society.

The political situation remained uncertain, with no date set for legislative or presidential elections. José Eduardo Dos Santos, the Angolan president, remained the uncontested leader of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), while Isaias Samakuva won a resounding victory as the new leader of the National Union

for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). The president stated that before a general election was held, a new constitution and electoral law should be adopted and a national census carried out.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC scaled down its assistance activities in Angola in view of the country's transition from the end of the conflict to increasing stability. Towards the end of the year it stopped providing food and essential household items, and began to hand over responsibility for health care and water supply to the authorities. However, the organization continued its protection activities in the Cabinda enclave, making representations to the authorities on behalf of detainees.

Restoring family contacts remained the ICRC's key focus in 2003 as hundreds of thousands of people, uprooted during the conflict, returned to their places of origin or resettled. The organization gave special priority to reuniting children, including demobilized child soldiers, with their families.

With large tracts of land still contaminated by mines and other explosive remnants of war, the ICRC lent support to Angola Red Cross efforts to inform returnees and residents of the dangers they faced. It also continued to provide mine victims with artificial limbs and pay for their transport to treatment centres.

Spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law was also a priority, and the ICRC met with representatives of the armed and police forces to discuss including these bodies of law in training programmes. However, progress was hampered by reorganizations within both forces.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

Pursuing its efforts to restore contact between family members dispersed during decades of war, the ICRC expanded its Red Cross Message (RCM) network by setting up tracing posts where other means of communication had broken down. It also covered transport costs for children being reunited with their families.

The ICRC launched and distributed the first and second editions of the *Gazette*, a booklet listing missing Angolans that was distributed by delegations in Angola and neighbouring Zambia, Namibia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also made the list available on its website (<http://www.familylinks.icrc.org>).

In cooperation with the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration, the ICRC registered several hundred new cases of children separated from their parents and demobilized child soldiers. It reunited 354 such children with their families, providing all the families with essential household items.

- ▶ 68,663 RCMs collected and 74,777 were delivered
- ▶ 346 children separated from their families were registered
- ▶ 354 children, including 62 child soldiers, were reunited with their families
- ▶ 486 cases of children separated from their families were still pending
- ▶ 9,811 tracing requests of all kinds were received and 253 cases solved

### Protecting the civilian population

The ICRC checked on the health and living conditions of returnees in the "quartering family areas" set up for former UNITA fighters and other transit centres, before they were closed. It also made representations to local military or civil authorities wherever necessary and monitored the return of people to their places of origin in a bid to alleviate tensions with those currently residing there.

In the Cabinda enclave, where sporadic clashes continued, the ICRC set up an office to better monitor the situation of civilians and try to reach people detained in connection with the fighting. While it was not granted access to security detainees in 2003, the ICRC was nevertheless able to establish closer relations with the armed forces and make representations that were to be passed on up the chain of command.

The ICRC assisted a number of vulnerable women (widows, abandoned wives) left behind in the camps. With the consent of the authorities, it enabled them to rejoin their relatives and provided them with food and essential household items. When the camps closed, however, many women moved on, sometimes to unknown destinations, and were often reported to be living in precarious conditions.

The organization carried out regular visits to former fighters from Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo who had fought alongside UNITA and were now stranded in Angola. It collected messages for their families and pressed the authorities to make their status clear. By the end of the year, however, no progress had been made on the issue of their repatriation.

### Providing economic security

Owing in part to the devastation wrought by 27 years of war, Angola remained dependent on food aid in 2003 despite a two-year rise in crop yields. The ICRC continued to support over 240,000 people who lacked access to agricultural production or income-generating activities, including IDPs living in camps, returnees and needy residents.

All in all, the ICRC distributed over 3,000 tonnes of food in Angola and played a major role in supplying essential household items such as kitchen utensils, blankets, cloth, soap and buckets. It donated tens of thousands of vegetable kits and hoes and over 200 tonnes of seed to help returnees and vulnerable residents regain a measure of self-sufficiency. It also continued to carry out reforestation and composting projects, boosting the quality of the soil. In 2003 some 160-190 hectares of forest were created from seedlings grown in the previous two years, and more seed was made available for future reforestation.

All the families helped by the ICRC received a combination of three types of assistance – food, essential household items and agricultural tools/seed – except those living in the Caala and Huambo camps, who were given only food and hygiene items. The hardest-hit areas taking in most of the returnees, such as Bié and Huambo provinces, received the greatest amount of assistance. These efforts were halted when the situation improved at the end of the year and the ICRC duly informed the authorities and other humanitarian agencies of this development.

During the year the ICRC also provided essential household items for a group of people – thought to be former UNITA fighters expelled from Namibia – who were living in poor conditions in a transit camp in Cuando Cubango. It made representations to the authorities, urging them to determine the status of the group so that they might qualify for some kind of benefit.

- ▶ 10,444 IDP families received some or all of the following: maize, beans, salt, oil, soap
- ▶ 17,590 resident families received some or all of the following: maize, beans, oil, salt, tarpaulins, jerrycans, buckets, machetes, blankets, soap, kitchen sets, vegetable kits, hoes.
- ▶ 36,748 returnee families received some or all of the following: maize, beans, salt, oil, soap, blankets, buckets, tarpaulins, vegetable kits, hoes, kitchen sets, fertilizer, second-hand clothing

- 3,307 tonnes of food, 77,589 blankets, 53,928 items of clothing, 145,044 kg of soap, 38,990 kitchen sets, 41,990 buckets, 34,328 vegetable seed kits, 162 tonnes of bean seed, 45 tonnes of maize seed, 4.9 tonnes of sorghum seed, 10 tonnes of groundnut seed and 28,128 hoes were distributed

### Improving water and habitat

The ICRC built or repaired water-supply systems in Huambo, Bié, Uíge and Huíla provinces, where shattered structures posed a health risk for both the resident and resettled populations. It handed over completed projects to the water authorities, while providing maintenance and hygiene training for local teams.

The largest project in 2003 consisted in supplying about 40,000 people in the town of Caála, Huambo province, with safe water. Work included draining the catchment area, partially replacing a raw-water pipeline, repairing the filtration chamber and reconnecting public tap stands. The project was handed over in mid-December to the provincial water board. In rural areas, the ICRC restored access to or tapped 20 springs and continued work on a further 11. It also strove to rehabilitate three health posts in Huambo, two in Huíla and three in Uíge, and completed sanitation projects at 12 IDP camps.

Responding to an emergency, the ICRC trucked in water and sanitation supplies to a transit centre in Huambo. It also built up sufficient contingency stocks to be able to assist some 3,000 people in Huambo and Bié.

- latrines were built or maintained for 16,000 beneficiaries
- 30 public tap stands were installed or repaired
- 30 spring catchments in rural areas were built or repaired
- 126,000 people were provided with access to clean water

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

#### Protecting and assisting detainees

As sporadic fighting continued in the Cabinda enclave, the ICRC strove to gain access to detention centres in the area. It maintained a dialogue with the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, reminding them of their obligations towards the detainees. The ICRC also carried out visits to places of detention in the rest of the country to check

on conditions and to register people who had been arrested in relation to the former conflict.

- 47 visits were carried out
- 17 detention places were visited
- 40 detainees were registered

### WOUNDED AND SICK

#### Supporting primary health care

In 2003 the ICRC lent significant support to the Angolan health sector, which had suffered severe neglect during the war. It rehabilitated and assisted 22 health posts, enabling them to care for up to 60,000 out-patients per month. It also ensured that the health posts were equipped with water points, latrines and waste-disposal facilities, and organized refresher courses on the treatment of common diseases, including sexually transmitted ones.

By the end of the year, the ICRC had handed over 12 health posts to the Ministry of Health. It had also stopped providing medicines and other medical supplies for the paediatric department of Huambo Central Hospital, having donated a total of five months worth of supplies to facilitate the transition.

- 16,535 patients were admitted to paediatric wards
- 322,991 ante/postnatal consultations, immunizations and curative consultations were given
- 1 hospital (paediatric ward) and 22 health posts were supported

#### Assisting amputees and other disabled people

In 2003, demand for artificial limbs increased as road access improved and more people were able to reach prosthetic/orthotic centres. The ICRC, which has assisted mine victims and other amputees in Angola for more than 20 years, continued to support three limb-fitting centres run by the Ministry of Health in Luanda, Huambo and Kuito. It also supplied training in physiotherapy and the manufacture of prosthetic/orthotic components, supplemented staff salaries, provided managers with technical advice and reimbursed transport costs for patients.

- 3 centres were supplied with equipment, technical expertise and training
- 1,643 patients (including 1,235 mine victims) were fitted with prostheses (674 for the first time)
- 48 new patients received orthoses, 54 orthoses were delivered

- 271 wheelchairs and 2,639 crutches were distributed
- 660 patients were reimbursed their transport costs

### AUTHORITIES

#### Accession to IHL treaties

In 2003 the Angolan government had not yet adhered to certain IHL treaties, even those approved by parliament, or incorporated any of their provisions into domestic legislation.

So as to encourage the process, the ICRC provided Portuguese translations of seven main treaties and held several meetings with representatives of the armed forces and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. Efforts were also made to arrange further meetings with ministers and the armed forces chief of staff.

Two members of the National Assembly and two representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs attended IHL seminars in Pretoria and agreed to promote ratification of the treaties by the government.

#### Dissemination among the authorities

The ICRC held various information sessions for civilians and community leaders, including traditional and religious ones, concerning its mandate, principles and activities in the areas of tracing, mine awareness, health care, water supply and hygiene.

- 15,150 civilians took part in dissemination sessions
- 900 community leaders took part in dissemination sessions

### ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

#### Armed forces

Since the Angolan armed forces were being restructured, the ICRC made limited progress in its efforts to ensure that IHL was introduced into military training. It nevertheless established contact with military personnel throughout the country to discuss the matter. It also held courses for military instructors, gave a number of presentations on its mandate and activities to military units and organized a five-day course on IHL for some 40 officers from a newly established peace-keeping battalion.

- ▶ 1,320 officers, non-commissioned officers and troops attended dissemination sessions
- ▶ 40 officers from a peace-keeping battalion took part in a five-day IHL course

### Police

New police training facilities were being set up around the country and the ICRC received assurances from heads of instruction programmes that it would be involved in future training sessions. However, this plan was awaiting formal approval by the minister of the interior and the chief of the national police.

- ▶ 1,415 members of the police force took part in dissemination sessions

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Reaching the general public

The ICRC continued to seek out the Angolan media so as to publicize its tracing and family reunification programmes. The delegation gave interviews and appeared on regular radio spots in Bié, Moxico and Cuando Cubango, broadcasting names listed in the *Gazette*.

The ICRC contacted the vice-minister of education, who had expressed an interest in its "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme, and meetings were held to examine the possibility of introducing the study of IHL into the Angolan school system. There was subsequently a change of vice-ministers and the new appointee was briefed on the subject.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Restoring family links

The ICRC continued to cooperate closely with the Angola Red Cross on a wide range of activities, including restoring family links, rehabilitating health posts, raising awareness of the dangers of mines and disseminating IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. To bolster the work of the 135 tracing posts set up by the National Society throughout the country, the ICRC provided volunteers and coordinators with incentives, in particular covering their transport costs (e.g. paying for fuel and the repair of cars, motorbikes and bicycles). It also furnished basic office equipment and supplies for volunteers involved in processing RCMs, held training sessions for them and supported field trips.

### Raising mine awareness

As a result of years of fighting, Angola continued to be one of the most mine-contaminated countries in the world. In order to better define the needs of affected communities and coordinate an adequate response to the problem, the ICRC and the Angola Red Cross took part in regular

meetings organized by the new mine-action coordination body CNIDAH (the National Inter-Sectorial Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance to Mine Victims), sharing information with international demining organizations, UN agencies and other humanitarian players.

To support the National Society in its efforts to implement community-based mine-awareness activities, the ICRC provided some 40 Red Cross volunteers with training and equipment, including uniforms, bicycles and waterproof materials for the rainy season. During their visits to Bié and Benguela provinces, the volunteers taught returnees and residents about the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war. They also gathered information about contaminated areas, passing it on to the relevant authorities and other mine-action organizations, encouraging them to take action to make the areas safe.



# burundi

The ICRC has been monitoring the situation in Burundi since 1962 and intervening on an ad hoc basis. Since 1999 it has been continuously present in the country. Current activities focus on protecting people deprived of their freedom and enabling civilians to overcome the worst consequences of war. The ICRC supports projects aimed at providing care for hundreds of female victims of sexual violence, it works to restore links between separated children and their families, and conducts programmes to improve people's access to water and sanitation facilities. It supports health structures that provide medical care for tens of thousands of civilians and detainees.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,307,465**

Assistance

**4,460,567**

Preventive action

**740,376**

Cooperation with National Societies

**125,120**

General

**10,806**

► **6,644,334**

of which: Overheads **405,523**

## PERSONNEL

**16** expatriates

**83** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Support for government health and social programmes for women was expanded.
- A partnership with the national water board was reinforced with the launch of new projects.
- Hospitals treating the war-wounded were provided with medicines, materials and training.
- 47 places of detention, including 8 civilian prisons, were visited and assistance was provided to over 10,000 detainees.
- 20 Burundian children, including 12 in Tanzania, were reunited with their families.
- Special attention was given to restoring family links for Burundian child soldiers.

## CONTEXT

Despite the ceasefire agreement of 2 December 2002, hostilities between forces of the Burundian transitional government and the main Hutu opposition group, Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) resumed in January in numerous provinces, quashing hopes of an end to the 10-year civil war. In July, fierce clashes also broke out in the capital between government forces and a second Hutu rebel group, Forces for National Liberation (FNL). All the while thousands of civilians were suffering from attacks.

Amidst the violence, efforts continued on a political level to enact a power-sharing agreement between Pierre Nkurunziza's FDD and the transitional government. A highly sensitive succession issue in May, for instance, passed smoothly when Vice-President Domitien Ndayizeye, a senior figure in the largest Hutu party, the Front for Democracy in Burundi (FRODEBU), replaced Pierre Buyoya, a Tutsi from the National Unity and Progress Party (UPRONA), as head of the transitional government. However, endeavours to persuade the rebels to stop fighting took longer to bear fruit.

On 16 November, President Ndayizeye signed a ceasefire agreement with the Nkurunziza-led movement, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy – Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) at a summit of African leaders in Tanzania. This incorporated earlier peace accords as well as new protocols (the Pretoria protocols) on power-sharing.

As part of the agreement, Nkurunziza took up the post of State Minister in charge of good governance in Bujumbura and his associates were integrated into the transitional institutions. Local and legislative elections were also promised within the year before the transitional period expired in November 2004.

The fighters of the two forces generally observed the new ceasefire although there were pockets of ongoing conflict as the FNL continued to reject negotiations with the government. To help with the implementation of the peace accords, the African Union deployed a peace-keeping force of some 2,800 troops in Burundi.

With improved security in the country, the repatriation of some 600,000 Burundian refugees got under way, with about 1,000 people per week returning in December (not including those who returned home by their own means). The Burundian authorities visited the camps in Tanzania where many were based to evaluate the situation. Over the year, some 90,000 refugees returned to the country, about half of whom went home on their own initiative.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC stepped up its activities in Burundi as fighting continued for most of 2003. It supported female victims of sexual violence by reinforcing government-run reproductive health programmes, and helped the war-wounded by providing materials and training for hospitals. It brought about reunions for children who had been separated from their families with an expansion of its tracing programme and resumed a programme for demobilized child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to restore their family contacts and ensure their repatriation.

The ICRC monitored the living conditions of security detainees and where necessary made representations to the authorities. It provided the prisons with material assistance to improve health and hygiene conditions and organized occupational programmes such as literacy courses for the detainees. It also sponsored initiatives to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS in places of detention and among the civilian population as a whole.

In meetings with the armed and security forces, the ICRC promoted the integration of IHL and human rights law into training programmes. Its efforts to include humanitarian law education in secondary schools were endorsed by the education authorities who authorized that the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme be included in the next school year.

## CIVILIANS

### Supporting action for improving women's health

The ICRC continued to support the Ministry of Health in its efforts to care for victims of sexual violence. It assigned a consultant for three months to the Ministry of Health's National Reproductive Health Programme to lead a team of experts in drafting a training manual on medical and psychological care for victims. The team was also involved in preparing a course module on medical management, psychological support, legal advice and community-based support to be ready by March 2004. According to local human rights group Iteka there were at least 961 cases of rape in five of the 17 provinces it surveyed.

The ICRC sought to promote safe child delivery and organized refresher courses for 60 traditional birth assistants, providing

them also with basic materials. At the same time it paved the way for more complicated cases to be referred to the main hospital in Bujumbura, Prince Regent Charles (PRC) hospital. The ICRC worked to promote proper care for the victims, helping the assistants and community health workers to deal with the sensitive issue of sexual violence and seeking monthly feedback on their activities. In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, it monitored the use of medical and surgical kits supplied to the PRC hospital for caesarean sections on vulnerable women. It also introduced emergency obstetric courses for nurses at 11 health centres and two hospitals.

The ICRC participated in a 16-day campaign against sexual violence and distributed a video entitled "Women facing war" to health centres and TV stations. In conjunction with the health authorities in Bujumbura, it organized two days of training on HIV/AIDS.

- ▶ 60 birthing assistants were trained in Bujumbura
- ▶ courses on emergency obstetrics were held at 11 health centres and two hospitals
- ▶ 5,694 gynaecology/obstetric patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals

### Restoring family links

As security conditions improved towards the end of the year, the ICRC expanded its tracing activities focusing on registering minors and establishing first contacts with the families of separated Burundian children living either in different parts of the country or in refugee camps in the DRC, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It registered 540 minors, mostly Burundian children, in Tanzanian refugee camps, and established first contacts for some 84 children, including 36 in Tanzania. It also worked to register and restore family links for Congolese and Rwandan children stranded in Burundi.

The ICRC collected over 800 Red Cross messages (RCM) and distributed over 900, although the numbers were limited by the fact that the delegates were working without local partners. To complicate matters, many children were either too young or traumatized to be able to provide much information. In total, the ICRC helped reunite 20 children with their relatives, including 12 from Tanzania, and provided them with some material assistance to ease the reintegration process.

Following discussions with the national structure in charge of the demobilization of child soldiers in Burundi as well as with UNICEF, it was agreed that the ICRC would be responsible in future for restoring family links for Burundian child soldiers in the east of the DRC and ensuring their repatriation. In 2003, the ICRC began registering these child soldiers and collecting messages from them.

- ▶ 20 separated children were reunited with their families
- ▶ 30 separated children in Burundi, 40 in the DRC and 450 in Tanzania were yet to be reunited with their families
- ▶ 822 RCMs were collected and 913 RCMs were distributed

### Providing safe water

Following years of upheaval in the country, the damage to public infrastructure had been quite extensive and vital services functioned poorly or not at all, particularly in rural areas where people had difficulty in gaining access to clean water. The ICRC carried out a number of repairs and construction projects around the country.

In the town of Kayanza and its surroundings, the ICRC initiated a project to build a 12 km transfer line, as well as a pumping station, two elevated water tanks and a distribution network, after carrying out hydraulic studies on groundwater. This ensured the delivery of water to more than 25,000 people. It also worked on rural projects in the districts of Busiga, Gihanga and Rukeko, installing pumps and electric and hydraulic equipment at water sources and training local engineers and community leaders. An urban water pilot project in the town of Cankuzo was cancelled.

In the most needy districts of Bujumbura it worked with the national water board, Regideso, to repair several pumping stations. In December it signed a large contract for the complete rehabilitation of the town's pumping station SP3, with work due to start in January 2004. In the town of Rumonge it carried out a geophysical survey to locate an alternative water source and worked on a proposal for a project to be undertaken by mid-2004.

In the first two weeks of November, 17 engineers and technicians from the Burundian Regideso and three from the Congolese national water board attended an ICRC training course on maintaining electro-mechanical equipment in pumping stations.

- 86 public tap stands were constructed or repaired
- 7 spring catchments in rural areas were constructed or repaired
- 500,000 people were provided with access to safe water

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Protecting the rights of detainees

The ICRC carried out some 250 visits to nearly 50 places of detention in Burundi in 2003. This included eight of the 11 civilian prisons, where over 90% of all detainees, i.e. some 9,000 people, were being held. It registered members of armed groups and other vulnerable individuals in new and temporary places of detention such as lock-ups (administered by the Ministry of Defence) and police stations (Ministry of the Interior), and monitored the conditions of detention. Owing to the fact that by law detention periods in temporary centres were short, it did not provide these places with assistance. Instead it reminded the military and political authorities on the length of time that people could be held in custody, as stipulated by penal laws and human rights law and IHL. It also monitored the situation of individuals in the centres, alerting the authorities to problems such as poor treatment and prolonged periods of custody whenever necessary.

For the fourth year running, the ICRC worked with the penitentiary administration to improve the daily management of civilian prisons. It continued its medical and hygiene programmes, and encouraged the separation of women and minors from men's quarters. It also took up the cases of vulnerable prisoners or those who had been in detention for a long time. The ICRC trained a newly appointed officer as well as teams of detainees to maintain prison infrastructure, and held regular meetings with the Ministries of Justice, Health and Finance.

The ICRC discussed the process of reintegrating former fighters from the armed forces into civilian life with the authorities. It provided material assistance to former Burundian detainees to help them to reintegrate into society.

- 10,211 detainees benefited from ICRC assistance
- 251 visits were carried out to 47 places of detention
- 109 detainees were registered and monitored on an individual basis
- 8 civilian prisons were visited

### Maintaining health care

The basic medical needs of detainees continued to be covered by the ICRC, which provided medicines and hygiene material to the health authorities and worked to improve sanitation in detention centres. It organized a five-week course on electrical engineering for prison staff in Ruyigi and Gitega and upgraded a waste-evacuation system in Ngozi prison. It also trained a prison manager to oversee maintenance and construction work in all Burundian prisons. The ICRC urged the authorities to take on more responsibility for health and hygiene.

As regards disease prevention, the ICRC held a seminar for prison health workers on a new protocol for malaria, the most common cause of death in Burundi. It also worked with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) in the three main prisons of Mpimba-Bujumbura, Gitega and Ngozi to offer counselling and voluntary, anonymous screening for HIV/AIDS. It trained wardens and detainees to act as peer educators and provided medicines for sexually transmitted diseases and opportunistic infections. In two other prisons, it ran awareness-raising activities with the SWAA.

- 5 central prison dispensaries were monitored to determine the quality of health care available to detainees
- 5 health authorities were given monthly supplies of essential drugs and medical material
- 40 detainees were trained as peer group educators in health matters

### Improving water supply and habitat

The ICRC made sure that detainees had access to 20 litres of safe water a day and adequate hygiene conditions. It worked on two sewage-disposal systems in Muramvya and Bubanza prisons and conducted vector control with the authorities, who helped cover the costs. It continued to train detainees to install and maintain water-supply facilities.

- the inmates of 8 of the 11 prisons were ensured of access to safe water
- rehabilitation work was carried out in Muramvya and Bubanza prisons

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating the war-wounded and the sick

With the health-care system in ruins from years of civil war, the ICRC provided medicines and materials to hospitals treating

the war-wounded. To ward against disease transmission (HIV, hepatitis B and others), it upgraded sanitary facilities at the hospitals. For example, in Gitega hospital it constructed an incinerator, installed two kitchen stoves, repaired a leaking roof and built the foundations of a septic tank. In Ngozi it fitted and sealed the door of an incinerator. It also provided medical training for staff. An ICRC surgeon contributed to a week-long seminar on the management of the war-wounded for surgeons and nurses at Bujumbura's PRC hospital, and gave a talk on the rational use of drugs and antibiotics.

Towards the end of the year, the number of war-wounded in the north-east of the countryside declined sharply and, as a result, the ICRC halted assistance to the two northern hospitals of Kirundo and Muyinga. However, it continued to provide them with medical and surgical kits to carry out caesarean operations on poor women in need of such help. It stopped its assistance to Ruyigi hospital in the east as other humanitarian actors were active there.

- 6 hospitals were given medicines and materials for treating the war-wounded
- 1 surgical training session was held at a hospital treating the war-wounded
- 650 war-wounded were admitted, 2,063 operations were performed and 98,000 curative consultations were undertaken at ICRC-assisted hospitals
- 8 primary health care centres, covering 280,000 people, received drugs and medical material

### Treating and preventing HIV/AIDS

The ICRC supported hospitals and health centres treating HIV-positive patients, providing medicines and materials on a monthly basis and organizing a system of vouchers for impoverished civilians to give them access to screening, prevention and treatment for opportunistic infections. According to the Ministry of Health, an estimated 330,000 adult Burundians, or over 8% of those aged between 15-49 and 55,000 children under the age of 15, were living with HIV/AIDS.

The ICRC collected and analysed AIDS statistics from the centres it supported and distributed materials on the infectious nature of the disease. It provided the SWAA and some local NGOs with supplies to treat AIDS sufferers in their home areas. In an effort to prevent workers from contracting or spreading the HIV virus, it provided the PRC hospital and Bujumbura health centre

with hygiene materials and monitored their use and the working habits of HIV-positive medical staff.

- 5 hospitals were provided with drugs and material for treating HIV/AIDS patients

## AUTHORITIES

The delegation met with members of the armed opposition movement CNDD-FDD prior to their return to Bujumbura, to brief them on the ICRC's mandate and activities and any adjustments to its working methods in the country. It also met Alain Mugabarabona of the FLN and Jerome Ndiho, spokesman for the Jean Bosco wing of the FDD (a signatory to the peace accords of October 2002), upon their return to Bujumbura early in the year.

During the second part of the year, delegates had regular contact with high-ranking officers of the African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), which included troops from Ethiopia, Mozambique and South Africa. The objective was to build up a working relationship with the AMIB on subjects as varied as medical assistance, the detention of ex-fighters and members of the armed opposition forces, and the dissemination of IHL.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Ensuring IHL training

The ICRC continued to meet high-ranking officers of the Burundian armed forces to encourage them to introduce IHL into military training. Consequently, the officers implemented semi-formal instruction in IHL in command and staff courses and invited the ICRC to give presentations. As IHL was not fully integrated into military training, the ICRC submitted a plan of action for 2004 that formalized IHL training at all levels.

Over the year, the ICRC held various IHL courses and seminars for junior and senior officers. These included a first-time training course at the NCO college in Bururi and a separate train-the-trainer course for 30 officers. The ICRC arranged for two officers to take part in the San Remo IHL course, empowering them to train other trainers in Burundi in the future.

In October the ICRC began a series of presentations on IHL and the mandate and

activities of the ICRC for officers in five military regions. The participants received copies of the *Soldier's handbook*, translated into Kirundi, for distribution among the troops.

Three human rights training sessions were also held for police officers from different branches of the police forces and schools.

- some 190 officers and NCOs and 58 police officers took part in dissemination sessions on IHL, human rights law and the ICRC
- 12,000 copies of the *Soldier's handbook* in Kirundi were distributed

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Establishing relations with the media

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates were able to explain the principles of IHL to the general public via the media, which broadcast or printed their views. During the year, an ICRC video entitled "Women facing war" aimed at changing society's perception of rape victims, was broadcast on television. On World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in May, the delegation presented the Burundian media with an album of songs which had a humanitarian theme. These were played often by the radio stations. In December, it gave a presentation for some 40 members of international NGOs working in Burundi.

### Integrating EHL into secondary school education

Following a positive evaluation of a pilot project to introduce humanitarian law studies into secondary school education, the education authorities agreed to include the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme into secondary school civic education courses in the 2004-2005 academic year. The authorities with the support of the ICRC held training workshops for civic education teachers. The ICRC also supported an initiative to help teach EHL to youths out of school.

- 19 teachers and 6 schools participated in the second EHL pilot phase
- 10 training courses on the content and methodology of EHL were organized for a total of 339 civic education teachers
- literature was provided to an IHL club set up by a judge at Ngozi secondary school
- 2 workers at the Kamenge Youth Centre were trained to teach EHL to youths outside of school

## Integrating IHL into law studies

The ICRC pressed ahead with efforts to ensure that IHL was offered as an optional course for law students at the country's universities. In October, it sponsored the professor in charge of an optional 30-hour IHL course at the University of Burundi to participate in the pan-African IHL course in Dakar. The university undertook to include an obligatory IHL course in its specialized diploma course on human rights in the 2003-2004 academic year.

The ICRC established contact with the rectors' offices at the Universities of Ngozi and the Great Lakes of Kiremba (Bururi) to encourage them to offer an optional course on IHL. Both universities indicated their interest in doing so in 2003-2004.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Strengthening cooperation with the Burundi Red Cross

To enable the National Society to respond more effectively to the consequences of internal armed conflict or natural disaster, the ICRC and its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worked to help restructure the Burundi Red Cross. A Movement task-force, comprising representatives of the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the German, Rwandan, Seychelles and Spanish National Societies met on a monthly basis to discuss the best ways of approaching and supporting reform of the Burundi Red Cross. The objective was to raise its profile in the country and increase respect for the Fundamental Principles, IHL and the red cross emblem.



# democratic republic of the Congo

The ICRC opened a permanent delegation in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in 1978. It focuses on providing assistance to vulnerable groups affected by armed conflict and armed violence. This includes ensuring that displaced people and residents can survive and have the means to become self-sufficient, and that the authorities can provide adequate health care for the war-wounded and the civilian population. The ICRC conducts protection activities for people who have been deprived of their freedom, and works to restore contact between separated family members – where possible reuniting separated children with their families. It also promotes the development of the National Society.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**7,850,390**

Assistance

**24,794,786**

Preventive action

**2,237,888**

Cooperation with National Societies

**2,289,292**

General

**90,869**

► **37,263,226**

of which: Overheads **2,274,281**

## PERSONNEL

**53** expatriates

**446** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- 1,700 children (including 170 child soldiers) were reunited with their families.
- 200,000 Red Cross Messages were collected and distributed.
- 7 hospitals and 25 health-care centres received medicines, materials and training.
- Over 50 projects in rural and urban water supply and sanitation were ongoing.
- 80,000 families benefited from ICRC efforts to improve their economic security.
- 60 detention centres were visited; 1,400 detainees received partial food rations.

## CONTEXT

The DRC has been embroiled in a complex war involving various Congolese factions and six foreign countries, that has led to the death, displacement and abuse of millions of Congolese and involved the exploitation of the country's natural resources (e.g. diamonds, oil and coltan). In 2003, after five years of conflict, months of talks and pressure from the international community, the parties to the conflict agreed to an all-inclusive power-sharing agreement, which was formally ratified on 2 April. Under a new constitution, an interim transitional government led by President Joseph Kabila would rule for two years and oversee democratic elections. By May, the last of the foreign States had officially withdrawn its troops and on 17 July, four vice-presidents from the ruling party, the civilian opposition, and two of the main former rebels groups – the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) and the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD-Goma), took an oath of office. The IMF and World Bank included the DRC in its initiatives for "heavily indebted poor countries", making it eligible for debt relief of about US\$10 billion – more than 80 per cent of its foreign debt.

Calm returned to large parts of the DRC and goods started moving once more, albeit gradually, on the nation's main highway – the Congo river. In the east, however, armed violence continued, in some cases between those involved in the political process, driven by strategic and economic interests. Owing to a lack of proper judicial structures, a culture of impunity prevailed with bearers of weapons committing widespread IHL and human

rights abuses such as rape, summary killings and abductions. To protect the civilian population in the hard-hit vicinity of Bunia, the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of an interim emergency multinational force led by France, on 30 May, in north-eastern DRC. Two months later, the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) took over responsibility, following the adoption of resolution 1493 by the Security Council. The resolution prolonged MONUC's mandate by a year, doubled the force to 10,800 men, and gave it a mandate under Chapter seven to exercise more force to protect people.

Towards the end of 2003, there were still large swathes of country, such as the Ituri region, North and South Kivu, Maniema and North-eastern Katanga, that were not under the control of the transitional government. Thus in November, the DRC and Rwanda recommitted themselves to complete the repatriation within a year of Rwandan Interahamwe militia (Hutu militias) and former soldiers in the Congo. In December, the UN Security Council urged the transitional government to put in place a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programme to accelerate reform of the Congolese armed forces and police fighters, and end the practice of fighters operating outside the peace process. The programme represented one of the major challenges faced by the new DRC. Those qualifying for reintegration included fighters from the former Congolese armed forces, the RCD-Goma's military wing – the Congolese National Army (ANC), the MLC, and a loose association of Congolese local defence militias known as the Mai Mai.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued its protection efforts for IDPs and residents in order to prevent poor treatment by bearers of weapons, making oral or written representations to the relevant authorities where necessary. It expanded its Red Cross message (RCM) service in conjunction with the National Society, to restore family links for hundreds of thousands of people, while it reunited over 1,500 separated children and nearly 170 child soldiers with their families. It continued large-scale projects to help people access clean water, food, essential household items, tools and seeds to ensure their survival and means to self-sufficiency.

The ICRC conducted nearly 300 visits to places of detention to ensure proper treatment for the inmates, including adequate nutrition levels, access to health care and sanitation. For hospitals treating the war wounded, it provided medicines, medical materials as well as prostheses, and surgical training to staff. It worked to ensure that the armed forces fully understood IHL so that they could integrate it into their training, and continued to encourage the DRC to accede to all IHL treaties.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting the civilian population

The ICRC continued its protection activities to prevent abuses against civilians, collecting testimonies, recording its observations and where necessary making oral or written representations to the relevant authorities. It carried out dissemination sessions for influential members of society to promote respect for its mandate and activities and to ensure the safety of those it was helping. In eastern provinces, with fighting ongoing and the central authority not in control, the ICRC continued to make representations to the local authorities.

### Restoring family links

The poor security situation in the east led to more displacements of residents on top of the millions that had already fled to other parts of the DRC or neighbouring countries. To enable people to maintain family contact in the absence of a postal system, the ICRC expanded its RCM service in conjunction with the National Society. It opened up six new tracing posts in the west and reopened posts in the north-east that had been closed since 2002. It provided the National Society, on whose efforts it depended, with training, transportation (110 bicycles and spare bike parts), and

office materials. This helped ensure the collection of over 250,000 messages and distribution of nearly 200,000 in the year, including messages from Congolese refugees in countries such as Tanzania and Zambia.

A prime focus for the ICRC remained separated children, who were often most at risk from abuse, exploitation or recruitment into armed groups. It improved coordination with other humanitarian organizations such as UN agencies, Save the Children-UK and local NGOs, to ensure that some 1,700 children were reunited with their families in 2003. It also regularly visited five centres, which hosted separated children before a reunion, to repair the water and sanitation systems and improve access to health care and food.

The ICRC registered more than 600 child soldiers in the year, reuniting some 170 of them (including 130 in the east) with their families in cooperation with the National Office for Demobilization and Reintegration, UNICEF and the International Labour Organization and NGOs. (A new national commission for demobilisation and reintegration would have responsibility for child soldiers). When reunited, the children received food and essential household items to facilitate their reintegration. According to government sources at least 15,000 child soldiers were still to be demobilized.

- ▶ 259,729 RCMs were collected
- ▶ 198,243 RCMs were delivered
- ▶ 1,874 separated children were newly registered
- ▶ 1,518 separated children were reunited with families
- ▶ 1,411 cases of separated children were pending
- ▶ 166 child soldiers were reunited with their families
- ▶ 625 child soldiers were registered
- ▶ 647 cases of child soldiers were pending
- ▶ 1,344 tracing requests were being dealt with
- ▶ 959 tracing requests were resolved positively

### Providing health assistance

Widespread poverty contributed to the spread of influenza, measles and cholera epidemics in the year, while the government's national programme against AIDS reported that one in five people in certain areas were infected with HIV. To improve the health situation in the country, the ICRC supplied medicines, materials, and training to numerous hospitals and health centres, which were more accessible to the population as security gradually improved.

- ▶ 25 primary health centres in the provinces of Equateur, Kasai Orientale and South Kivu, covering more than 130,000 people, were supplied with medicines, materials and training
- ▶ 72,720 consultations were provided by the centres

### Providing clean water

The ICRC had over 50 projects under way in urban and rural water supply and sanitation. It repaired selected urban treatment plants, in close cooperation with the water authorities Regideso, supplying chemicals and essential spare parts. In conflict areas, it built facilities such as wells, gravity-fed systems, and spring or rainwater catchments.

A major urban project was the repair and upgrade of the Ndjili and Ngaliema water-treatment plants and six booster stations in the capital, Kinshasa, to ensure water for six million people. Another was the delivery of chemicals (280 tonnes of calcium hypochlorite, aluminium sulphate and filtering sand) to the Kisangani water board as part of the first large convoy to reach the city in five years, to ensure clean water for 600,000 inhabitants for eight months.

In rural areas projects included the setting-up of a rudimentary rainwater collection system in the villages of Mudja and Rusayo (north-west of Goma); a gravity-fed water system in Uvira, (South Kivu) inaugurated after two years of work with Coopération Hydraulique Rurale and the Congolese water board; and the tapping of four springs in Djolu, (Equateur).

- ▶ over 50 projects in rural and urban water supply and sanitation were under way
- ▶ 14 blocks of latrines were constructed/maintained in health centres, hospitals and prisons
- ▶ 70 wells and spring catchments in rural areas were constructed or repaired
- ▶ 6,000,000 people in Kinshasa benefited from improved access to clean water

### Improving economic security

After several years of conflict, tens of thousands of residents and IDPs were unable to provide for their most basic needs or develop coping mechanisms to ensure self-sufficiency. ICRC teams carried out several assessments in the most affected areas of the country, looking at the state of household economies and the social wellbeing of communities. As a result, in coordination with other humanitarian organizations and with support from the National Society, they implemented large-scale programmes to provide

food, household items and agricultural assistance to over 80,000 families. The ICRC also retained an emergency supply of essential household items in eastern DRC to cover emergencies.

During 2003, the ICRC launched or continued new income-generating micro-projects, ranging from seed multiplication, to fishing, sewing and soap production (the latter two being income-generating activities specifically targeted at women) to help more than 10,000 families. Of particular relevance were the seed multiplication programmes in the eastern provinces of Kasai, Maniema, and North and South Kivu, given the recent degeneration in seed quality that had drastically reduced production. As part of the seed programme and in cooperation with the local authorities, the ICRC provided tools, seeds and training to small associations and field agronomists in more than 20 communities, to ensure better quality seed production.

- 81,260 families received seeds, food, and essential household items (56,650 families in the east, and 24,610 in the west)
- 275 tonnes of food were supplied
- 500 tonnes of vegetable and crop seeds were supplied
- over 2 million essential household items were supplied including: blankets, tarpaulins, jerrycans, buckets, kitchen sets, soap, second-hand clothes, pieces of fabric, fishing twine and hooks, machetes and hoes
- 10,000 families benefited from 17 income-generating micro-projects
- 4,000 kits of essential household items in the east were in place for emergencies

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Ensuring adequate conditions of detention

The ICRC conducted regular visits to some 60 places of detention to monitor conditions of detention and the treatment of those detained as a result of the conflict. It registered new security detainees, spoke with them in private, and reminded the authorities of their obligations under IHL towards the detainees. The main problem remained the poor living conditions and access to medical care, hygiene and food. The ICRC suggested ways for the authorities to make improvements and provided detainees with access to its RCM service.

- 59 places of detention were visited
- 274 visits were made
- 6,305 detainees were visited
- 603 detainees were newly registered

### Ensuring adequate nutrition and health care

The ICRC continued to contribute to the food requirements of detainees in six detention centres, where supplies were deemed to be insufficient. In cooperation with religious groups and local organizations, it covered 10 per cent of monthly food needs of some 1,400 detainees. Where the nutritional status of detainees was particularly alarming, it launched therapeutic feeding programmes to ensure the recovery of inmates – in Buluo and Kasapa prisons in North Katanga, 150 inmates benefited from therapeutic feeding. The ICRC supported initiatives to boost the production of vegetables in the two prisons. It reminded prison authorities in general of their responsibility to provide adequate nutrition.

The delegation supported health programmes that provided prison medical services with basic medicines and it negotiated with the detaining authorities regarding access to medical care for the detainees. It provided ad hoc water and hygiene assistance, when the authorities were unable to do so. In all the prisons, the detainees received 0.5 kg of soap per month. In Kinshasa, the ICRC fumigated and repaired various wings of the prison, and provided disinfectant, jerrycans, and brooms. Sometimes it also provided mats and blankets.

- 1,400 detainees were provided with 10 per cent of monthly nutrition needs (a total of 143 tonnes of food)
- 42,000 pieces of soap were distributed

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Assisting hospitals for the war-wounded

After years of conflict, the hospitals lacked supplies and skills to adequately cope with the war-wounded, so the ICRC supplied medicines, medical materials, and war-surgery training to numerous hospitals and one health centre in Kisangani. It undertook work to improve certain centres on an ad hoc basis, for example by building showers or latrines.

The delegation held a reserve of medicines and materials in case of emergencies. It provided training in first aid and evacuation of the wounded, in conjunction with

the National Society, to 1,000 stretcher-bearers from the Congolese armed forces and to 400 from the ANC of the RCD-Goma, while also providing them with some basic equipment.

The ICRC reimbursed certain centres assisting war amputees. Some 161 patients were fitted with prostheses at the Kalembe-Lembe centre in Kinshasa, the Yamak centre in Lubumbashi and the St-Jean Baptiste centre in Mbuji Mayi.

- 7 hospitals (Kisangani, Uvira, Kalemie and Panzi in the east and Ikela, Military Hospital in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi in the west) received medicines, medical materials, and war-surgery training for staff; the eastern hospitals admitted 483 war wounded
- 1 health centre in Kisangani received war-surgery training for its staff
- 1 hospital (Ikela) and 6 health centres in the east were repaired or upgraded
- 161 patients were fitted with prostheses in ICRC-assisted centres

## AUTHORITIES

### Encouraging the DRC to ratify IHL instruments

The delegation continued to encourage the DRC to accede to all IHL treaties. It held discussions with the Director of Legal Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation towards the end of the year, with a view to the possible ratification of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. In December 2002, the DRC had ratified the Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions and issued a declaration accepting the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission provided for by Article 90 of Additional Protocol I.

The delegation also assisted the government with the domestic implementation of treaties that it had already ratified. In November, the ICRC drafted a national act to implement the 1997 Ottawa Convention prohibiting anti-personnel mines. This draft was submitted to the relevant government authorities and considered in a workshop organized by the ICRC in Kinshasa in December. The outcome of the workshop was that the draft law was adopted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and passed to the Council of Ministers for further review.

## Raising awareness of the ICRC's mandate

Given the large number of humanitarian agencies operating in the DRC, the ICRC worked to ensure that its specific mandate and activities were understood. The delegation reached representatives of government ministries, the RCD-Goma and the civilian authorities, to raise awareness for IHL and the ICRC. It maintained contact with international and supranational organizations, MONUC, embassies and NGOs in the DRC, and issued fact sheets as a complement to personal contacts.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Integrating IHL within the armed forces

After the Ministry of Defence, Demobilization and War Veterans Affairs had signed a directive integrating IHL into all training courses of the new Congolese armed forces, the ICRC worked towards ensuring that the military had a full understanding of both IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities, and knew how to integrate this knowledge into their operations. Delegates conducted information sessions for army instructors and distributed numerous copies of the *Soldier's handbook* in Lingala, Swahili and French.

Dissemination sessions were also held on different occasions for members of the General Police Inspectorate and its special services and police officers in Kinshasa and the provinces, as well as members of MONUC.

The ICRC reached the armed opposition groups, with several meetings taking place between the delegation and Mai Mai representatives, as well as members of RCD-Goma and its ANC.

- ▶ thousands of members of the military/police attended dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ hundreds of members of armed opposition groups took part in dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ dozens of members of MONUC attended dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness of IHL

The delegation worked to raise awareness of IHL and the ICRC among the different sectors of society, using a combination of methods such as dissemination sessions, printed fact sheets, press releases and campaigns and events. It targeted the broadcast media in order to be able to discuss its activities directly, while delegates also gave interviews to the press.

- ▶ hundreds of traditional leaders and tribal authorities attended dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ dozens of members of human rights NGOs took part in dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ dozens of journalists attended dissemination sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ thousands of civilians and Red Cross volunteers attended ICRC awareness-raising sessions

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

On 11 May, two volunteers from the Red Cross Society of the DRC were killed while carrying out humanitarian duties in the north-eastern town of Bunia, the administrative capital of Ituri District. It was the second time that personnel from the Movement had been killed in that part of the DRC; six ICRC employees were murdered in the same region in April 2001.

### Supporting capacity building

The ICRC helped repair or construct three offices for National Society committees and provided financial and logistical support for assemblies of the Red Cross committee in eastern Congo.

### Restoring family links

While the National Society continued to demonstrate operational strength thanks to an extensive volunteer network, it still faced vast distances, poor transport and communication. The ICRC supplied motorcycles, bicycles, and training for provincial tracing coordinators and gave monthly financial support for the position of a national tracing coordinator in Kinshasa. It also provided office equipment for tracing posts that volunteers used when distributing RCMs and tracing separated children.

## Conflict preparedness and response

The ICRC trained first-aid instructors as part of a plan to enable the National Society to conduct its own training sessions. It provided volunteers with courses in first aid as well as materials like plastic sheeting to construct training rooms. In Kinshasa, it distributed 35 first-aid kits, cotton wool, bandages, and other materials to National Society evacuation teams. The ICRC organized a one-week meeting in Kinshasa for all provincial heads of conflict-preparedness and -response units, to promote better management in all 11 provinces. This was attended by representatives from the International Federation and other senior National Society staff.

### Supporting micro-projects

The ICRC provided financial support for the National Society's micro-projects that covered agriculture, assistance to IDPs, nutrition for the sick in hospital, public toilets in the Lodja market, holiday camps and literacy courses for women.

### Raising awareness of IHL and the Movement

The ICRC held dissemination sessions on the basic rules of IHL, Red Cross activities and respect for the emblem at various times throughout the year for Red Cross volunteers and the public. More than 11,500 people attended such sessions and were provided with leaflets and a newsletter on humanitarian issues. This activity not only enabled the National Society to raise its profile with the public, but also allowed it to strengthen its capacity to conduct its own awareness-raising activities. The ICRC worked with the Society's North and South Kivu branches to produce a weekly radio broadcast on the Movement's activities in eastern DRC.

### Operational cooperation

About 350 Red Cross volunteers participated in ICRC activities ranging from tracing to assistance, medical care and water and habitat schemes, not only to ensure the smooth running of the projects, but also to familiarize themselves with the work.



# republic of the Congo

The ICRC has been operating in the Republic of the Congo since 1994, first as part of the Kinshasa regional delegation and from 1998 onwards as a separate delegation. Through regular dialogue with the authorities the ICRC aims to improve the treatment of civilians and detainees and ensure that the basic rules of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights law are respected. The delegation works to ensure the formal inclusion of IHL in the instruction of the armed forces, police and *gendarmerie*, and seeks to spread knowledge of that law to all armed groups. The ICRC provides IDPs, returnees and residents who have been affected by the conflict with household and agricultural items. It improves water, sanitation and health-care facilities and raises awareness of hygiene practices. It also restores contact between separated family members, reuniting children wherever possible.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection	
<b>1,154,231</b>	
Assistance	
<b>4,110,993</b>	
Preventive action	
<b>1,140,538</b>	
Cooperation with National Societies	
<b>99,338</b>	
General	
<b>0</b>	
	<b>► 6,505,100</b>
	of which: Overheads <b>396,000</b>

## PERSONNEL

<b>10</b>	expatriates
<b>88</b>	national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- 22 children were reunited with their families.
- 11,000 IDPs were provided in full or part with household items, food, seeds, tools.
- Some 250 surgical operations were performed in an ICRC-assisted hospital.
- Quarter of a million people were provided with access to safe water.
- IHL/human rights sessions were held for 8,700 armed forces, police and Ninjas.
- The National Assembly ratified the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

## CONTEXT

In March 2003, a ceasefire agreement between government forces and the armed opposition National Resistance Council (NRC) ended a renewed outbreak of fighting that had started the previous year, and reaffirmed a peace agreement signed between the parties in 1999. Under the latest agreement, the government and the NRC established a joint body called the Comité de Suivi ad hoc to further implement the 1999 agreements, particularly those on the disarmament, reintegration and reinsertion of the NRC's militia – the Ninjas and Nsiloulous. In a move towards reconciliation, both sides simultaneously released prisoners in March and by the end of May, the NRC leader Frédéric Bitsangou, better known as the Reverend Pasteur Ntumi, officially reinstalled himself in his stronghold of Vinza (Pool) but his long-awaited arrival in Brazzaville did not materialize. Although the fighting stopped, the Ninja and Nsiloulou militia did not disarm pending the outcome of further discussions between the government and the NCR on the future status of Ntumi and his close associates, and on signs of concrete steps taken on the reintegration of its members into military and civilian life.

Meanwhile, on the ground, there was a gradual return to normal life with the major traffic routes in the Pool region reopening to commercial transport. Regional and local authorities returned to their place of work and tens of thousands of displaced people that had fled the fighting in 2002/2003, returned home by the end of the year. Still with villages and towns devastated by

the conflict, there was much to do in setting the country on a path to future development. The hospitals in the capitals of the main Pool districts of Kinkala, Mindouli and Kindamba were barely functioning, while the health centres in key villages such as Kibouende, Madzia, Massembo Loubaki, Matoumbou and Missafou had been partly destroyed with no personnel and no medication available; water points and hygiene facilities were also largely defunct. Most of the residents who had stayed in the Pool during the period of conflict were destitute as were the people who had returned after displacement.

## ICRC ACTION

During the year, the ICRC expanded its protection activity to ensure that some 11,000 displaced people in camps south of Brazzaville received proper treatment and that those separated from their families – above all children – were reunited or put in contact with their relatives. It scaled up its assistance programmes to supply water, sanitation and essential household items to the IDPs.

After receiving security guarantees for free movement from both the government and opposition forces (following an incident involving the abduction of two ICRC staff members in December 2002), the ICRC resumed its activities in the Pool in August. It donated household items, agricultural goods and small amounts of food to nearly 5,000 destitute resident and returnee families in the Pool, and provided dilapidated hospitals and health posts with medicines, materials and training, and started work on upgrading health posts.

Throughout the year the delegation visited detention centres (mostly police stations in Brazzaville) to assess and help improve conditions, particularly in the area of hygiene. It also conducted extensive IHL/human rights sessions for the armed forces, the police and the Ninja and Nsiloulou militia, and encouraged the authorities to include compulsory IHL/human rights instruction in training and operational guidelines.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

In relation to the conflict, the ICRC gathered information about events that had affected civilians, or allegations of abuses of the civilian population. The information formed part of a confidential report that covered the twelve-month period to April 2003 and which was due to be submitted to the military authorities in early 2004. Thereafter most of the incidents reported by civilians concerned sporadic acts of violence and banditry committed by isolated armed gangs.

### Restoring family links

Operating throughout the country (except in the Pool until after August), the Red Cross message service (RCM) restored or maintained contact between family members who had been separated from each other including Rwandan and other foreign nationals. Registering children and reuniting them with their families was a key

focus. The ICRC ensured that minors whose cases were under active tracing, were placed in secure lodging with either host families, orphanages, or the government's Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Refugees pending a result. Refugees from the DRC and Rwanda, who had no other means of contacting family back home, were also offered access to the RCM service.

- ▶ 22 children were reunited with their families
- ▶ 97 separated children were registered
- ▶ 89 cases of children separated from their parents were still under active tracing
- ▶ 2,765 RCMs were collected and 4,593 distributed
- ▶ 31 tracing requests were received and 22 cases were in progress at the end of the year

### Providing water and housing

In rural regions such as the Pool, Niari, Bouenza and Lékoumou, the ICRC's water and habitat unit focused on constructing or repairing nearly 40 safe water points and seven communal latrine blocks. The work consisted of repairing hand pumps and creating hand-dug wells and spring catchments; residents were encouraged to take an active part in the projects. The ICRC set up local committees to manage the maintenance and proper use of the installations. It also carried out numerous water and hygiene activities for some 11,000 IDPs at camps south of Brazzaville, installing more than 110 showers, repairing three wells and constructing eight dormitories. It provided disinfectant materials for latrine maintenance and installed four flexible reservoirs that contained 15,000 litres of water and were connected to tap stands. It trucked in about 120,000 litres of drinking water to the sites each week, amounting to a total of some four million litres.

In urban centres like Kinkala, Dolisie, Madingou, Mossendjo and Brazzaville, the ICRC worked with engineers from the National Society for the Distribution of Water, to repair and maintain water production and distribution installations, providing chemical treatments as well as spare parts and expertise. An estimated 100,000 residents benefited directly from the activities, aside from the numerous beneficiaries in Brazzaville.

- ▶ 2,000 people (children at school, patients at health posts) benefited from newly built latrine blocks
- ▶ 46 safe water points were constructed or repaired, including tap stands at flexible reservoirs

- ▶ 250,000 residents and IDPs were provided with access to safe water

### Providing economic security

To help the thousands of IDPs in camps south of Brazzaville and others in Dolisie, Bouenza forest and Brazzaville town, the ICRC supplied mosquito nets, mats, blankets, buckets, soap and cooking materials. It also made a second delivery of soap and provided basic hygiene training. Over 1,000 IDP families either in the Bouenza region or in the care of a Brazzaville community centre benefited from food assistance, as did 60 to 100 undernourished patients at Kinkala hospital. The latter was a joint ICRC/Congolese Red Cross project to provide two meals a day to patients for a few months in early 2003.

After August, the ICRC conducted a needs assessment in Kinkala where the majority of families had returned. Given the high level of destitution in the district, it supplied both returnees and residents with household items to help them resettle and reinforce their coping mechanisms. Over 7,000 families received hygiene kits, 5,000 of them also received seeds, tools and essential household items and 300 of them received food packages.

- ▶ over 9,160 families were given essential household items
- ▶ 1,426 families received food
- ▶ 4,981 families received seeds and tools
- ▶ 81,063 pieces of soap, 13,840 blankets, 3,491 tarpaulins, 1,204 kitchen sets and some 45,000 other essential items were distributed
- ▶ 70 tonnes of food were distributed
- ▶ 75 tonnes of crop and vegetable seeds, 4,981 hoes and 4,981 machetes were provided to families

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Officiating at the release of prisoners

On request from the government and the Ninjas, the ICRC attended a public ceremony in Brazzaville marking the simultaneous release of prisoners. Prior to their release a week after the March ceasefire agreement, it had held private interviews with the detainees to assess in particular their state of health. Fourteen members of the Congolese Armed Forces and two women and their infants, and 22 suspected Ninjas were released.

## Ensuring standards of detention

Under an agreement signed with the government in 1999, the ICRC visited various detention centres to assess the treatment of detainees and their living conditions. It worked with the Ministries of Justice, Defence and Security, and the police to facilitate improvements. This included the construction of latrines in two police stations in Brazzaville, while the police authorities repaired other hygiene facilities.

Following the reactivation of the country's criminal justice system and re-functioning of former abandoned prison structures, the ICRC provided limited assistance to an increasing number of detainees in the justice ministry's prisons. It initiated agricultural projects to enable detainees to produce food and repaired some water systems.

- 122 visits were carried out to 60 places of detention
- 754 detainees were visited, of whom 5 were registered for the first time
- numerous detainees benefited from water and sanitation projects in 2 police stations

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating the war-wounded and sick

To meet the needs of the war-wounded and civilians who were injured as a result of security incidents, the ICRC provided monthly supplies of medicines and materials to the Central Army Hospital in Brazzaville. The supplies helped the hospital treat some 300 wounded and perform some 250 operations. However, in August, the ICRC stopped providing monthly supplies, although it did step in on occasion to help people affected by security incidents.

To ensure elementary health care for thousands of residents in the Pool, the ICRC focused on renovating five health centres. It provided basic instruments and medication as well as some field-based training for staff. A lack of qualified personnel in the centres meant that Red Cross volunteers with rudimentary knowledge would often have to conduct consultations; so in November the ICRC received assurances from the Director of Health that new medical staff would be recruited in 2004. To cover future emergencies, the ICRC maintained a supply of medicines and materials to treat up to 200 war-wounded.

- 1 hospital was supplied with medicines and materials on a monthly basis
- 250 surgical operations were performed in the ICRC-assisted hospital
- 5 "integrated" health centres in the Pool were in the process of being renovated

## AUTHORITIES

The government, which had already ratified the Geneva Conventions in 1967, moved towards formally approving and sanctioning other major IHL instruments in 2003; in November, the National Assembly adopted a law authorizing the ratification of the ICC Statute, which the Senate was expected to vote on in 2004. The ICRC promoted the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and submitted further comments on the adoption of the Code of Military Justice. The Assembly was due to discuss this, as well as a law on the emblem in 2004. The ICRC planned to submit comments on the emblem law.

The ICRC encouraged the Congolese authorities to develop and adopt national legislation to implement treaties to which it was party. In April, the ICRC attended a seminar in Brazzaville on implementing the 1997 Ottawa Convention, which the Republic of Congo ratified in 2001. The country, in the process of drafting national implementing legislation for the Ottawa Convention, proceeded in September to destroy its stock of anti-personnel mines.

To keep the political authorities informed of its activities and to disseminate IHL, the ICRC maintained contact with leading parliamentarians and government officials holding two IHL seminars. It also distributed to its contacts in the field and elsewhere, some 2,000 copies of a quarterly news bulletin outlining the ICRC's activities, the Movement's components and IHL.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Encouraging compulsory IHL instruction

The ICRC continued to encourage the government to adopt a decree making IHL and human rights instruction compulsory for the Congolese armed forces, the police and *gendarmérie*. In the absence of a formal decree, it focused on reaching senior personnel to promote a solid knowledge base. Several high-ranking members of the army, the air force, the navy, and the *gendarmérie*, as well as members of the COMUS special

police force attended a three-hour conference on IHL/human rights organized by the ICRC at the military academy.

The ICRC also provided technical backup such as televisions, videos, projectors, transparencies and fact sheets to instructors of IHL/human rights at the military schools, police academies, and operational units in the field. It sponsored two army officers to take part in a regional seminar on IHL in the Seychelles and organized specialist seminars for high-ranking and regular policemen to promote norms in policing and detention. In close cooperation with the national police authorities, it contributed to the basic training of police.

### Encouraging militia to understand and respect IHL

After the ceasefire agreement in March, the ICRC re-established contact with members of the opposition NRC, notably those close to Reverend Pasteur Ntumi and his armed militia. It was the first time since the end of 2001 and the kidnappings of two ICRC delegates in December 2002 that the ICRC had been able to reach the Ninjas. On 1 August, the delegation obtained a written statement from the NRC accepting the ICRC and its mandate and undertaking to make its followers aware of this position.

- 6,309 members of the armed forces attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- 1,789 members of the police and *gendarmérie* took part in sessions on IHL/human rights and the ICRC
- 550 Ninja militiamen attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Informing the general public

The ICRC held brief presentations on its mandate and activities for people who had directly benefited from its assistance programmes in the Pool and elsewhere in the country.

### Informing the media

The delegation regularly informed the media about the ICRC, its mandate and activities, IHL and the Movement, through press communiqués, interviews and other reports. It maintained contact with 70 journalists, especially those working in radio in Brazzaville, and organized a two-day seminar for journalists on two occasions. In February, a television company broadcast a one-hour special on IHL and the ICRC in the country.

**Integrating IHL at university level**

To promote IHL, the ICRC formed contacts with various academic bodies. IHL was offered as an optional course for fourth-year international law students at the State university and at the National School of Administration and the Magistrature. The ICRC sponsored the participation of a representative of the High Commission of Civic Instruction and Moral Education to the first French-speaking pan-African course on IHL, which was jointly organized by the ICRC delegations in Abidjan and Dakar.

- ▶ 50,000 people attended brief presentations on the ICRC's mandate and activities in the Republic of Congo
- ▶ 400 references to the ICRC, Red Cross or IHL were made by the media, mostly the national press and broadcasters

**Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles**

- ▶ the ICRC supported the National Society in its efforts to get a national law on the emblem passed; its comments on a draft law were integrated by the Red Cross in its proposals

**Restoring family links**

- ▶ the ICRC provided input to the National Society's five-year strategic plan that included the National Society taking over responsibility for tracing

**Operational cooperation in assistance**

- ▶ the National Society delivered food assistance, provided by the ICRC, to displaced people in Kinkala

**NATIONAL SOCIETY**

Further to its change of statutes in 2002, the National Society appointed a new Director General and new programme directors, and endeavoured to separate governance and executive and establish a solid income-generating policy with proper accounting procedures. The ICRC provided input to the Congolese Red Cross's five-year strategic plan and sponsored the participation of two CRC members to the Council of Delegates and the International Conference of the Movement in Geneva.



# eritrea

The ICRC opened a delegation in Eritrea in 1998 in the context of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and is responding to the needs outstanding from the two-year international armed conflict. The ICRC's priorities are twofold: to protect and assist the population displaced or otherwise affected by the conflict; and to ensure compliance with IHL regarding any remaining persons protected by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The ICRC also supports the Eritrean Red Cross in developing its activities in the areas of tracing, dissemination and emergency preparedness and response.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,907,411**

Assistance

**6,070,876**

Preventive action

**360,695**

Cooperation with National Societies

**857,439**

General

**53,367**

► **9,249,788**

of which: Overheads **564,541**

## PERSONNEL

**19** expatriates

**72** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC provided more than 60,000 IDPs living in camps with water, shelter, fuel and essential household items.
- War-damaged health-care centres were rebuilt, benefiting some 60,000 people.
- Over 100,000 drought-affected returnees in former war zones received 458 tonnes of seed and emergency food rations.
- Some 1,000 civilians of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin were voluntarily repatriated under ICRC auspices, and over 10,000 RCMs were distributed in Eritrea, enabling family members separated by the closed border to communicate.
- The ICRC regularly visited detainees of Ethiopian origin in Eritrea, including prisoners of war who had declined repatriation.
- A course was conducted for the first time to train Eritrean armed forces officers as IHL instructors.

## CONTEXT

Tension remained high between Eritrea and Ethiopia over the border ruling handed down in 2002 by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in The Hague. The pegging out of the new 1,000-kilometre border, postponed twice, was scheduled to start in October. In September, the UN extended the mandate of its Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea – the 4,000-strong peace-keeping force patrolling the border – for another six months, until March 2004. The Mission's mandate included assisting in physically demarcating the border. However, at the end of October, the Boundary Commission announced that the demarcation process could not go ahead as planned, but would be delayed indefinitely.

With the border demarcation process stalled, more than 60,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) remained in camps throughout the year, unable to return to their homes in former war zones until mines were cleared, the border established and war-damaged public infrastructure rebuilt. Many of these people had been in the camps since the outbreak of the war five years earlier. Tens of thousands of residents in the border regions still lacked adequate water and health-care facilities.

Insufficient rainfall in 2002 led to Eritrea's worst harvest in 10 years. IDPs who had only recently returned home to former war zones were especially hard hit when their crops failed.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to focus on three main areas of activity in order to address needs outstanding in the aftermath of the two-year war between Eritrea and Ethiopia.

1. Following the release in 2002 of the last prisoners of war (POWs) regularly visited by the ICRC, the organization continued to monitor the situation of the small number of POWs who had declined repatriation and remained in Eritrea. It also followed up other individual pending or alleged cases of POWs with the authorities, as required by the Geneva Conventions.
2. The ICRC pursued its efforts to ensure that the rights of civilians of Ethiopian origin living in Eritrea, including detainees, were respected, regarding living conditions and repatriation, in accordance with international humanitarian norms. Together with the Eritrean Red Cross, the ICRC ran the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service, enabling tens of thousands of families still separated by the war to locate and communicate with relatives. It also assisted in the voluntary repatriation of people of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin, and reunited particularly vulnerable people – children, the elderly, the infirm and the destitute – with family members across the border.
3. The ICRC was the main organization providing shelter, water and household goods to the more than 60,000 IDPs still living in camps in Eritrea. It also

began distributing kerosene in camps situated in areas that had been stripped of firewood and introduced innovative, fuel-saving ovens. To help residents in war-damaged border regions regain their self-sufficiency, the ICRC rebuilt health-care centres, restored water facilities in towns and villages and, in a new initiative, helped former IDP families reconstruct their homes. The drought and subsequent poor harvest demanded an emergency response. Between April and June, the ICRC distributed seed and food to some 100,000 IDPs who had recently returned to former war zones, only to have their crops fail.

In addition, ICRC programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) continued, targeting the authorities, armed forces, police, universities and the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea. In a significant breakthrough, a course was held for the first time to train Eritrea's military instructors as IHL teachers.

With substantial ICRC support, the Eritrean Red Cross developed its capacity to respond to emergencies, carry out mine-awareness activities, run the tracing service and disseminate IHL.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links and repatriating civilians

The border between Eritrea and Ethiopia remained closed and cross-border telecommunication and postal services were not yet functioning. This meant that thousands of family members still separated in the aftermath of the international armed conflict relied on the tracing and RCM service to keep in touch. Under the ICRC's family reunification programme, vulnerable people – unaccompanied children, the elderly, the infirm and the destitute – were reunited with relatives across the border who could care for them.

With local Red Cross support, the ICRC assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia, accompanying them from point of departure to destination and providing basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp.

As a result of the hostilities, human remains lay exposed along the Transitional Security Zone (TSZ). On 25 July, the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea handed over the remains of some 220 war victims to the Ethiopian authorities, with the ICRC acting

as a neutral adviser and observer. The remains were buried with due respect, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

### Key aid provided for IDPs

More than 60,000 internally displaced people remained in some 18 camps in the Debub, Gash Barka and Southern Red Sea regions, unable to return home until all the border issues were settled. The ICRC was the main agency providing these people with shelter, fuel, clean water and essential household items. This involved repairing and installing water systems, mainly generators and hand pumps, replacing weather-beaten tents, providing blankets in highland camps, and distributing jerrycans and soap. To provide more culturally acceptable shelter material, the ICRC paid the Adi Kesh community to produce palm mats for distribution in a nearby camp in 2004. This pilot project also aimed to foster relations between the IDPs and their host community.

A new problem for IDPs, identified by an ICRC assessment at the end of 2002, was a lack of fuel for cooking and heating. More than five years of daily foraging for firewood had stripped areas around many camps of vegetation. In the seven most affected camps, the ICRC began distributing kerosene and launched a pilot project to introduce new fuel-saving ovens jointly designed by the ICRC, the Eritrean Women's Association and the Ministries of Agriculture and Energy. An assessment revealed that the ovens consumed up to 50% less firewood than the traditional ones and saved women valuable time and energy otherwise spent collecting wood. By year's end, some 1,900 new ovens were being used in four camps and kerosene distributions had stopped in all but one camp.

### Assisting residents and recent returnees

Since the 2000 peace agreement, some 190,000 people had returned to their villages or resettled elsewhere in the former war zones of Debub and Gash Barka. The ICRC, in coordination with local authorities, continued to help rebuild vital facilities, mainly water systems and health-care centres, so both residents and returnees could resume their normal activities and be self-sufficient again.

The ICRC restored water-supply systems in the village of Endembastifanos and town of Adi Quala in Debub and in the village of Bushuka in Gash Barka, and handed over the facilities to the local authorities, who had received training and tools to maintain the systems. Several rural water points were also

refurbished, over 40 hand pumps were repaired, and four technicians were being trained to repair and maintain all types of hand pumps in the border areas of Debub. The ICRC rebuilt two war-damaged health-care centres in Gash Barka, one in Shilao and the other in Shambuko, serving some 60,000 people. The authorities took over the running of the centres.

Two projects were launched in Debub to help former IDP families – the majority headed by women – to rebuild 184 traditional homes in four villages badly damaged by shelling. In some cases, the families were living in tents outside the ruins of their homes. By December, 102 homes had been rebuilt.

### Emergency aid for drought victims

Insufficient rain in 2002 had led to an exceptionally poor harvest, which the Eritrean government and the UN estimated would cover only 15% of Eritrea's food needs in 2003. On the basis of its own assessments at the end of 2002, the ICRC distributed some 457 tonnes of locally bought seed and 1.9 tonnes of food between April and June to around 100,000 people living within the TSZ in Debub and Gash Barka. The distributions targeted former IDPs who had recently returned to the regions, only to have their crops fail. The aim was to provide the beneficiaries with seed to grow crops and become self-sufficient again, and a one-month food ration to ensure that they were not forced to consume or sell the seed to survive. The programme was coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Its impact was monitored from mid-June. By December, the ICRC had identified several villages in the target areas whose 2003 harvest had failed, and was preparing to provide them with aid.

### Protection

- ▶ 10,108 RCMs were delivered in Eritrea and 10,701 collected
- ▶ 43 people whose families had filed tracing requests were located in Eritrea, and 24 in Ethiopia
- ▶ 141 people were voluntarily repatriated to Eritrea and 897 to Ethiopia
- ▶ under the Eritrea-Ethiopia family reunification programme, 57 people were reunited with relatives, including 19 children

### Economic security

- ▶ 100,000 drought-affected returnees received 456.5 tonnes of seed and 1.9 tonnes of food
- ▶ some 63,000 IDPs received a combination of 497,040 litres of fuel,

3,406 tents, 11,471 tarpaulins, 6,439 blankets, 18,260 jerrycans and 725,094 pieces of soap

- 0.9 tonnes of high-energy biscuits were distributed to children recovering from malnutrition and to IDPs
- civilians being repatriated were provided with 0.6 tonnes of high-energy biscuits, 285 jerrycans containing drinking water, 180 blankets, 55 sets of kitchenware and 153 pieces of soap

### Water and habitat

- 9 projects were completed, benefiting some 87,000 people (including 57,000 IDPs)
- water systems were restored in 3 towns and villages
- 2 health-care centres were rebuilt

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Prisoners of war

In 2002, Eritrea and Ethiopia released the last prisoners of war (POWs) registered and regularly visited by the ICRC, and the majority were repatriated under ICRC auspices. In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC continued to visit the few remaining POWs of Ethiopian origin in Eritrea who had declined repatriation, in order to monitor their situation until the authorities found a permanent solution to their status. The ICRC provided basic medical supplies, milk powder, clothing and recreational items to contribute to the POWs' health and welfare. Discussions also continued with the authorities over other POW issues, including alleged or presumed individual cases still pending.

### Visiting detainees of Ethiopian origin

The ICRC visited detainees of Ethiopian origin in detention facilities countywide, mainly prisons and police stations, to ensure that their rights were being respected in accordance with international humanitarian norms. The findings were presented to the authorities. Detainees were offered the RCM service so they could communicate with their families, and they received medical supplies, blankets, clothing, hygiene kits and recreational items, as needed.

- 342 detainees of Ethiopian origin, including POWs, were visited in 29 places of detention during 78 visits
- 121 former detainees of Ethiopian origin were repatriated
- 124 RCMs were distributed to detainees

- 110 certificates of detention were issued to former detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Decades of armed conflict had severely damaged Eritrea's health-care infrastructure. The country was not yet able to cope with the large number of war-disabled people as well as new victims of explosive remnants of war and other emergency cases. To address the shortage of skilled medical staff, the ICRC and the Ministry of Health together organized two intensive courses on trauma management, attended by 32 doctors, anaesthetists and nurses. In parallel, eight Eritrean medical staff were trained to take over the teaching of the courses, with the ICRC continuing to provide funds and expertise, as needed, to continue the training. The ICRC also donated prosthetic and orthotic material and equipment to the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare, which opened a new limb-fitting centre near Asmara.

## AUTHORITIES

Eritrea acceded to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions in August 2000. To encourage the process of incorporating IHL into national law, the ICRC had the Conventions translated into Tigrinya, a national language in Eritrea, and personally presented a copy to the justice minister for comment. Copies were also given to the office of the president and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The ICRC remained in contact with the Eritrea Relief and Rehabilitation Commission and government ministries concerned to discuss a variety of issues related to protecting and assisting civilians in conflict situations.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Training military IHL instructors

The Eritrean Defence Forces (EDF) took significant steps towards integrating IHL into their standard training curricula. At a two-day round table in March, the ICRC and armed forces representatives agreed on an IHL training programme for 2003. As a result, in August the ICRC held its first course to train EDF personnel as IHL instructors, with 33 officers attending. Another round table followed, at which the ICRC and EDF and Ministry of Defence

officials drew up a training programme for 2004. In addition, two officers helped to produce a Tigrinya translation of an ICRC manual on teaching IHL to the military, and the ICRC donated IHL reference material to the national military school in Sawa, Gash Barka.

### Human rights training for police

At a round table in June, the ICRC and six senior police instructors discussed a training programme aimed at introducing international human rights law and humanitarian principles into standard police curricula. The start of the programme was delayed by the postponement of the opening of the new police training centre in Dekemhare and the appointment of a new police commissioner. The ICRC also sent some 2,000 copies of its booklet *Human rights and humanitarian law in professional policing concepts*, translated into Tigrinya, to the police training centre in Asmara.

### IHL for UN peace-keepers

The ICRC maintained a close working relationship with the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), with the aim of reinforcing peace-keepers' understanding of IHL in the context of their work in both countries. The organization had regular briefings with Mission officials and gave presentations on IHL during training courses for newly arrived peace-keepers in Asmara, Barentu and Assab.

- 33 armed forces IHL instructors were trained
- 10 presentations on IHL were held for UNMEE officers and newly arrived peace-keepers
- the ICRC participated in a round table on IHL held at UNMEE headquarters to mark International Human Rights Day

## CIVIL SOCIETY

ICRC efforts aimed at incorporating IHL into the University of Asmara's law curricula met with growing interest among faculty and students (see bullet points below). To raise awareness of IHL across a broad spectrum of civil society, the ICRC kept Eritrean journalists and international correspondents well informed about issues of humanitarian concern to the organization. This resulted in international media coverage by the BBC, Radio France Internationale and Agence France-Presse of the plight of IDPs and drought victims in Eritrea, and families still separated in the aftermath of the war with Ethiopia.

- ▶ a University of Asmara law lecturer attended a five-day regional seminar on IHL organized by the ICRC in Tanzania
- ▶ 80 political-science students at the University of Asmara attended an introductory course on IHL, and IHL publications were donated to the law and political-science faculty libraries
- ▶ ICRC gave presentations on IHL to other organizations and NGOs active in Eritrea at monthly meetings chaired by OCHA

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Eritrean Red Cross continued to work with the ICRC to assist war victims, helping to distribute aid, repatriate civilians and distribute RCMs. The ICRC provided financial, material and technical support to help the Eritrean Red Cross strengthen its capacity to respond to emergencies, run the tracing service and disseminate IHL. On the basis of a joint assessment in 2002, this support focused on developing a broad network of trained Red Cross staff and volunteers, and standardizing programmes countrywide.

### Responding to emergencies

With ICRC support, "action teams" were set up in each of the six Red Cross branches and at headquarters, totalling 175 volunteers. Each team was divided into groups responsible for a particular activity, including first aid/conflict preparedness and response, dissemination/mine awareness, tracing, and water/sanitation. The teams took part in the drought-relief programmes run by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In addition, the ICRC helped the Eritrean Red Cross launch a water and sanitation project in the Southern Red Sea zone.

An ongoing priority was to upgrade the Red Cross ambulance service, which responded free of charge to medical emergencies countrywide, and make it self-financing. The ICRC helped cover the service's running costs and salaries for 18 drivers, while working with the Eritrean Red Cross to solicit support for the fleet from municipal authorities.

To further reinforce the ambulance service and the overall capacity of the Eritrean Red Cross to respond to emergencies, the ICRC organized first-aid training for Red Cross staff and volunteers and donated five four-wheel drive vehicles for field work, as well as first-aid kits, stretchers, tents, tarpaulins

and jerrycans. In July, the Eritrean Red Cross launched its first mobile first-aid teams at branch level.

### Mine action

With ICRC support, the Eritrean Red Cross launched a mine-awareness project, in coordination with the Eritrean Demining Authority (EDA). A week-long workshop on mine-risk education and collecting data on mine injuries was organized jointly by the ICRC, the Eritrean Red Cross, the EDA and the UNMEE Mine Action Coordination Centre, with 30 Red Cross volunteers graduating as certified teachers. The volunteers then held several mine-risk sessions for communities in contaminated regions, and started collecting data, which were forwarded to the EDA and the UNMEE.

### Restoring family links

The Eritrean Red Cross made major progress towards creating a more standardized and efficient countrywide network of trained tracing staff and volunteers. The ICRC and the National Society tracing coordinator met regularly to review the workload and draw up tracing guidelines, to be finalized in 2004. Three workshops on tracing were held for headquarters and branch staff and volunteers. Some 20 community sites per branch were identified where people could write and collect RCMs, and signs were produced to mark these spots.

### Promoting IHL and the Movement

To promote IHL and raise awareness of the role of the Eritrean Red Cross and the Fundamental Principles, the ICRC and the Red Cross jointly designed a dissemination-training policy for staff and volunteers, with standardized guidelines, a curriculum and a model presentation adapted to Eritrean customs. With ICRC support, 23 staff and volunteers were trained as disseminators. The ICRC also helped the Eritrean Red Cross to produce and distribute a wide variety of dissemination materials, including *Profile*, a new magazine on Red Cross activities. Other joint dissemination projects included a Red Cross stand at the annual 10-day Eritrea Festival in Asmara, a nationwide children's painting competition, with entries exhibited in Asmara to mark World Red Cross/Red Crescent Day, and a first-aid demonstration at a government ceremony on National Health Day.



# ethiopia

The ICRC has been continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977. It responds to needs remaining from the 1998-2000 international armed conflict with Eritrea and arising from internal armed conflict and disturbances, needs which are often aggravated by poor seasonal rainfall. The ICRC focuses on ensuring that Eritrean nationals protected by the Geneva Conventions are treated according to the provisions of those treaties, and protects and assists people displaced or otherwise affected by war or internal conflict. It also visits detainees held in connection with the 1991 change of government or for reasons of State security. In the Somali National Regional State, the ICRC carries out integrated health, veterinary and water-management programmes for nomads and farmers.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**5,229,701**

Assistance

**44,949,760**

Preventive action

**2,249,446**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,831,402**

General

**352,324**

► **54,612,633**

of which: Overheads **2,686,000**

## PERSONNEL

**74** expatriates

**366** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC delivered some 55,000 tonnes of food and seed to avert famine for more than 700,000 people suffering from the combined effects of drought and armed violence or insecurity.
- Irrigation systems were upgraded and water points constructed or repaired to improve the economic security of some 45,000 farmers and nomads in the violence-prone Somali National Regional State.
- More than 1,000 civilians of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin were voluntarily repatriated under ICRC auspices.
- Cooperation with prison authorities and access to detainees improved.
- The ICRC supported 8 prosthetic/orthotic centres that fitted some 2,000 war-disabled people.
- The ICRC helped the police incorporate international human rights law into its training programmes and held the first courses to train army field personnel as IHL instructors.

## CONTEXT

The threat of famine eased during the year as a result of generally good rainfall and a massive international response to the government's appeal for food aid. However, local pockets of drought persisted, and in some regions the population lived constantly on the brink of destitution for various reasons including environmental degradation, population increases, primitive agricultural methods and debts following poor harvests.

Tension remained high between Eritrea and Ethiopia over the border ruling handed down in 2002 by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in The Hague. The pegging out of the new 1,000-kilometre border, postponed twice, was scheduled to start in October. In September, the UN extended the mandate of its Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea – the 4,000-strong peace-keeping force patrolling the border – for another six months, until March 2004. The Mission's mandate included helping to physically demarcate the border. However, at the end of October the Boundary Commission announced that the demarcation process could not go ahead as planned but would be delayed indefinitely. Thousands of relatives remained separated by the closed border. In war-damaged areas of Tigray, mines posed risks and many people still lacked vital water and health care.

Sporadic fighting between government troops and rebel forces as well as ethnic clashes – often short-lived but intense – continued, resulting in civilian casualties, people fleeing their homes, and arrests.

The worst affected regions were Afar, Gambella, Oromia and the Somali National Regional State (SNRS).

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC carried out one of its biggest emergency operations in recent years, distributing some 55,000 tonnes of food and seed to avert famine for more than 700,000 people suffering from the combined effects of drought and armed violence or insecurity. The preventive action was completed on schedule and within the ICRC's 40.5 million Swiss franc budget-extension appeal launched in January. As the situation improved, the ICRC handed back responsibility for food aid to Ethiopia's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission, as agreed.

The ICRC monitored potential hot spots and took rapid action to provide emergency aid, mainly essential household items, to victims of internal armed violence. It was, for example, the first organization to send staff and relief goods into Gambella following armed clashes.

In the SNRS, a violence-prone state with a harsh climate, the ICRC carried out "integrated" water, agricultural, veterinary and health-promotion projects aimed at strengthening the fragile livelihoods of nomadic and farming communities and so make them less dependent on outside aid.

The ICRC continued to visit detainees arrested on the grounds of State security or in connection with the 1991 change of government. Cooperation with prison authorities and access to detention facilities improved. This was to some extent the result of workshops held with prison officials in Amhara, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) to discuss international detention norms.

The ICRC worked on several fronts to address needs remaining from the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia. It pursued its dialogue with the authorities concerning pending, alleged or presumed cases of persons still protected by the Geneva Conventions. To treat the war-disabled, the ICRC supported eight prosthetic/orthotic centres and taught Ethiopia's first prosthetics/orthotics diploma course. With the local Red Cross, it ran the tracing and Red Cross message service, enabling thousands of relatives to communicate across the closed Eritrea-Ethiopia border, and assisted in the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals. It also reunited vulnerable people, i.e. children, the elderly, the infirm and the destitute, with family across the border who could care for them. In war-damaged Tigray, the ICRC was

rebuilding an urban water system and health clinic.

ICRC programmes to promote IHL were expanded, targeting the armed forces, police and schools. With ICRC support, the police incorporated a course on international human rights law into its standard curriculum, and the first courses were held to train military personnel to teach IHL to field units. The ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) education programme for young people was integrated into the Harar secondary-school curriculum, with EHL projects under way in three other regions.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society remained the ICRC's main partner in the country and was key to the smooth running of the emergency food and seed distributions in drought-stricken areas affected by armed violence or insecurity. The National Society received substantial ICRC support to help build its capacity, focusing on the ambulance service, headquarters, and branches in insecure areas.

## CIVILIANS

### Aiding 800,000 drought victims in insecure regions

Between February and December, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross delivered some 55,000 tonnes of food, seed, fertilizer and tools to more than 700,000 subsistence farmers suffering from the combined effects of prolonged insecurity and drought in Erob/Adigrat (Tigray), Eastern and Western Hararghe (Oromia) and Wolayita and Sidama (SNNPRS). This operation – one of the ICRC's biggest in recent years – was completed on schedule and within the 40.5-million Swiss franc budget extension decided on in January. The seeds were delivered by March for the planting season. The food rations helped to ensure that the farmers were not forced to sell or consume the seeds in order to survive and were healthy enough to tend their crops. Constant monitoring of crop growth and the beneficiaries' health revealed that the emergency aid, combined with generally good rainy seasons, averted famine in ICRC-targeted areas. By the end of the year, the ICRC had handed back responsibility for food aid to Ethiopia's Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission (DPPC), as agreed. The ICRC was also preparing a report for the authorities on the underlying factors contributing to chronic poverty among its beneficiaries. To tackle some of these factors in the worst-off regions focused on by the organization, the

ICRC, supported by the Ethiopian Red Cross, introduced small-scale pilot projects. With community participation, trees were planted in Wolayita and vegetable gardens and fuel-saving wood ovens introduced in Erob to reduce soil erosion and provide alternative sources of food and income. In Eastern Hararghe, water catchments were built to improve access to water.

In another emergency action, the ICRC distributed around 10,000 tonnes of monthly food rations between October 2002 and April 2003 to some 118,000 semi-nomadic farmers in zone 3 of the Afar region and the neighbouring Shinile zone of the Somali National Regional State where, as a result of the drought, community clashes over water and pastureland had escalated. When the spring rains arrived, the ICRC handed back responsibility for food aid to the DPPC, as agreed. In isolated areas of the two targeted zones, where no other organizations were active, the ICRC was working with the communities on projects to provide basic health care via ICRC-trained community workers, to build water points and to form local water and hygiene-promotion committees.

### Emergency aid for conflict victims

The ICRC regularly monitored violence-prone regions and, as a result, was able to deliver aid rapidly, often together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, to victims of internal armed violence or disturbances. The majority of emergency aid was distributed in the SNRS, the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State (SNNPRS) and Gambella. It comprised medical supplies with which to treat the wounded and shelter material and household items for internally displaced people (IDPs) and residents whose homes had been destroyed or looted. For example, when armed violence erupted again in Gambella in December, the ICRC was the first organization to send in staff and relief supplies. It donated medical supplies to four health-care facilities, visited detainees arrested during the fighting, distributed household items to some 800 families, and gave the Ethiopian Red Cross pens and notebooks for children returning to school. In exceptional circumstances, the ICRC provided food rations to victims of armed violence, i.e. to families whose breadwinners had died during fighting or as a means of tiding over IDPs until government food aid reached them.

## Repatriation

The ICRC, together with the local Red Cross, assisted in the voluntary repatriation of Eritrean and Ethiopian nationals, accompanying them from point of departure to destination and providing basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp. The ICRC also monitored the living conditions of Eritrean nationals still in Ethiopia, and covered medical fees for the most vulnerable of those registered for repatriation.

## Restoring family links

Thousands of family members still separated in the aftermath of the war with Eritrea or as a result of internal armed conflict relied on the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service to communicate with one another. The ICRC and Ethiopian Red Cross together delivered almost 27,000 RCMs inside Ethiopia and, under the ICRC's Eritrea-Ethiopia family-reunification programme, arranged for vulnerable people – i.e. children, the elderly, the infirm and the destitute – to be reunited with relatives across the border who could care for them.

In December, the ICRC took the first steps to expand the tracing service to Sudanese living in refugee camps in western Ethiopia. A priority was to help some 2,000 child refugees contact relatives in Sudan and, where possible, be reunited with their parents. This initiative was coordinated with Ethiopia's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs as well as child-protection organizations active in the country.

A large number of war-related human remains lay exposed along the buffer zone called the Transitional Security Zone. On 25 July, the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea handed over the remains of some 220 war victims to the Ethiopian authorities, with the ICRC acting as a neutral adviser and observer. The remains were buried with due respect, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

## Restoring livelihoods in Tigray

In Tigray's former war zones, the ICRC, acting in conjunction with the regional authorities, worked to rebuild the municipal water system in Zalambessa and upgrade the health-care centre in Fazi. Meanwhile, the ICRC was trucking in water for the 10,000 recent returnees in Zalambessa, providing blankets, jerrycans and tarpaulins to the most needy, and supporting a mobile health-care unit in Fazi run by the Tigray authorities.

In a new initiative, the ICRC provided some 80 women, who had returned to Tigray from Eritrea and were supporting their families, with machines, materials and a three-month sewing course to help them generate income.

## Securing livelihoods in the Somali National Regional State

In the SNRS, a region prone to political instability, sporadic armed violence and drought, the ICRC ran integrated water, agricultural, veterinary and health projects aimed at helping nomads and farmers preserve their livelihoods so they could weather crises and be less dependent on outside aid.

To help farmers along the Wabi Shebele river manage their water resources more efficiently and so increase agricultural yield, the ICRC improved pump-driven irrigation systems. In addition, as part of the organization's food-for-work flood-management programme, local people in 17 communities received food and tools in return for helping to repair or upgrade irrigation systems, mainly by digging or cleaning water channels. The ICRC also distributed 21,000 saplings of fruit and neem trees to around 12,000 families in some 100 riverside cooperatives and villages that irrigated with pumps. The trees provided an extra source of food, prevented soil erosion and created shade and a windbreak for crops. In addition, neem acts as a natural crop pesticide. To further promote the use of this free, environmentally friendly and effective pesticide, the ICRC trained farmers in 12 cooperatives to regularly treat their crops with the tree's seeds. The farmers saw a clear decrease in infestation compared with untreated crops. In April, when heavy floods hit some 90 villages along the river, the ICRC worked with local authorities, the Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Commission and other organizations to carry out an emergency distribution of medical supplies, shelter material, household goods and 630 tonnes of food and seed to 35,000 flood victims.

The ICRC also dug or repaired 13 wells and four *berkads* (traditional sub-surface reservoirs) to provide sufficient clean water for farmers and nomads, mainly in the Afder and Gode zones. In the same two zones, the ICRC trained 98 nomads to diagnose, treat and prevent livestock diseases. In the Afder zone, where there were no medical facilities, the ICRC monitored the progress of 31 "village health women" whom it had trained to provide basic health care and hygiene education. Late in the year, dele-

gates assessed the effects of a local drought in the Gode zone, and the organization was planning an appropriate response early in 2004, aimed at helping the worst-affected communities save their weakened livestock.

## Protection

- 26,923 RCMs were delivered and 24,446 collected, including 18,858 to be delivered in Eritrea to link loved ones still separated in the aftermath of the international armed conflict
- 43 people whose families had filed tracing requests were located in Eritrea, and 24 in Ethiopia
- 1,041 civilians were voluntarily repatriated from either Eritrea or Ethiopia under ICRC auspices
- 30 people, including 12 children, were reunited with families in Eritrea and 11 people, including 7 children, in Ethiopia
- 54 education certificates were forwarded from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 29 from Eritrea to Ethiopia

## Economic security

- 818,000 people were assisted
- 64,520 tonnes of food and 2,694 tonnes of seed were distributed

## Water and habitat

- 45 projects were completed, including 15 for nomadic communities and 15 for IDPs, benefiting in all some 45,000 people, of whom 10,000 were IDPs

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2002, the Eritrean and Ethiopian authorities released the last prisoners of war registered and regularly visited by the ICRC, and the majority were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the authorities concerning the status of prisoners of war and civilian internees released or transferred within the country, as well as alleged or presumed individual cases still pending. Delegates also monitored the living conditions and treatment of the few remaining Eritrean nationals detained in Ethiopia.

The ICRC made more than 300 visits to some 200 detention facilities, mainly prisons and police stations, to individually follow up around 4,000 detainees held on State-security grounds or in connection with the 1991 change of government. Following the visits, the ICRC reported its findings to the authorities. To maintain

basic health standards, the organization built or repaired water and sanitation systems in prisons, benefiting some 16,000 inmates, and donated medical supplies and hygiene items such as soap, brooms and buckets for detainees.

Cooperation with detaining authorities and access to detainees improved. A contributing factor was the intensive workshops organized for prison personnel by the ICRC and regional prison officials, covering internationally recognized detention standards and the ICRC's reports on local prison conditions. Four such workshops were held for administrators and health-care staff from 84 prisons in Amhara, Oromia and the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regional State. In addition, at the Federal Prison Administration's request, the ICRC made recommendations on prison staff training and the structure of the proposed new Federal Prison Commission.

- ▶ 60,230 detainees were visited (including 1,484 newly registered and 4,046 followed up individually) in 200 places of detention during 347 visits
- ▶ 1,627 certificates of detention were issued
- ▶ water and sanitation projects were completed in 13 prisons, benefiting some 16,000 detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating disabled people

Health-care facilities in Ethiopia lacked the trained staff and infrastructure to treat the roughly 22,000 people registered as disabled as a result of the international conflict with Eritrea and internal armed violence.

To ensure adequate treatment for war amputees and other disabled people, the ICRC provided eight prosthetic/orthotic facilities with materials, training and supervision. The organization also reimbursed those centres for fitting with artificial limbs and orthotic appliances people disabled as a result of the war with Eritrea. Four of the ICRC-supported centres were in Addis Ababa (the main Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre, plus Alert Hospital, Cheshire Polio Centre and Tibebe-Micili centre), and the other four centres in Mekele, Harar, Dessie and Arba Minch.

In 2002, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the World Bank launched a demobilization project whose goals included providing adequate physical rehabilitation

services for disabled war veterans. In March, as part of this initiative and at the Ministry's request, three ICRC specialists began teaching Ethiopia's first prosthetics/orthotics diploma course, attended by 21 students at the new Addis Ababa training centre. The ICRC was also sponsoring five Ethiopian technicians on one- to three-year courses at the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists.

During a 20-day mission in August and September at the Armed Forces General Hospital in Addis Ababa, an ICRC surgeon operated on 16 former soldiers who suffered severe facial injuries during the war with Eritrea. She also furnished surgical supplies for the hospital and trained two surgeons in maxillo-facial techniques. Since 2000, the ICRC has operated on 149 such patients.

### Special Fund for the Disabled

In accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with the Addis Ababa centre run by Ethiopia's Labour and Social Affairs' Ministry, the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled continued to provide substantial support to ensure the continuity of former ICRC prosthetic/orthotic centres for the war-disabled and other rehabilitation facilities, mainly in Africa. During the year, the Fund supplied 23 centres in 10 countries with prosthetic/orthotic equipment, technical expertise and training. This included six one-month courses on ICRC prosthetic techniques held in Addis Ababa for 26 trainee prosthetic technicians from 18 countries.

- ▶ 8 prosthetic/orthotic centres were supported
- ▶ 1,568 prostheses (730 for mine victims), 2,050 orthoses (34 for mine victims), 75 wheelchairs and 5,085 pairs of crutches were delivered
- ▶ 852 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 1,187 with orthoses

## AUTHORITIES

Ethiopia was party to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols but had not adopted national legislation implementing them. To encourage this process, the ICRC presented parliament with a draft translation into Amharic – an official language in Ethiopia – of its parliamentary handbook *Respect for international humanitarian law*.

In conjunction with the Ethiopian Red Cross, the ICRC also stepped up its programme to

promote IHL among local authorities and traditional leaders, particularly in violence-prone regions. Presentations on the law were given in Afar, Oromia, the SNNPRS, SNRS and Tigray during the emergency food and seed distributions necessitated by the drought, and in Gambella.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### IHL training increased for armed forces

At the start of the year, the Ethiopian Defence Forces asked the ICRC to train more military instructors and legal advisers to teach IHL to army units in the field. In response, the organization expanded its already extensive armed forces programme aimed at incorporating IHL into all Defence Forces training, and held the first courses to train army field staff as IHL instructors.

### Police incorporate IHL

With ICRC support, Ethiopia's Federal Police College, the main training institution for police countrywide, decided to include 34 hours on international human rights law and humanitarian principles in its curricula. As the year ended, a new teaching handbook was being examined by ICRC legal experts. At the same time, the ICRC gave presentations on human rights law to the government's special police force as well as local investigators, crime-prevention officers, and members of the command structure in regions directly affected by armed violence. Since the ICRC launched its IHL-promotion programme for regional police personnel in 2001, access to detainees in police stations has improved.

- ▶ 266 army and air force instructors, including 199 for field units, were trained to teach IHL
- ▶ some 6,200 military personnel, including 4,000 peace-keepers leaving for Burundi and Liberia, attended IHL presentations
- ▶ 2 military instructors were sent to an IHL course in San Remo
- ▶ 1,577 police attended presentations on international human rights law and humanitarian principles

## CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise awareness of IHL in civil society, the ICRC focused on introducing the subject into university and school curricula and informing the media about issues of humanitarian concern.

In December, the University of Addis Ababa agreed to introduce an ICRC-supported programme in 2004 aimed at introducing IHL into the law curriculum. Prior to that, the ICRC and the university co-hosted a half-day round table in June on the effects of conflict on women and the family. The event was attended by the president of Ethiopia, the university president and the ICRC vice-president, victims of conflict, and representatives of military, political, religious and academic circles, as well as non-governmental organizations. The ICRC also gave introductory talks on IHL to law students at the universities of Addis Ababa and Mekele.

Ethiopia's regional education authorities reacted very positively to ICRC initiatives to introduce its "Exploring Humanitarian Law" education programme for young people into the State-school curriculum. After laying the groundwork in 2002, EHL was integrated into Harar region, reaching some 6,000 students. In Amhara and Tigray, EHL steering committees were set up and teachers trained to use the programme. EHL was expected to be fully incorporated into all secondary school programmes in both regions in 2004, reaching more than 200,000 students. The SNNPRS authorities agreed in December to launch an EHL project in 2004.

- EHL was integrated into Harar's secondary-school curriculum, reaching 6,000 students
- 537 teachers were trained in EHL
- the ICRC sent a 3-student team from the University of Addis Ababa to the international IHL moot-court competition in Arusha, Tanzania

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society remained the ICRC's main partner in the country. With its in-depth knowledge of the local situation, countrywide network of branches and experience of aid operations, the National Society was a key factor in the smooth running of the ICRC's large-scale food and seed distributions in drought-stricken and insecure regions. The Society and the ICRC also worked together to facil-

itate repatriations, run the tracing service and promote IHL. The ICRC provided substantial support – funds, training, relief supplies, equipment and expertise – to help the Ethiopian Red Cross develop these activities, focusing on the ambulance service, headquarters, nine branches in regions affected by conflict, and branches with heavy tracing workloads. A regional Red Cross office was set up in Awasa, in the SNNPRS, and a new branch in Awash for Afar zone 3.

### Responding to emergencies

Plans progressed to upgrade the country-wide ambulance service and make it self-supporting. Meetings with municipal authorities resulted in over half (32) of Red Cross ambulance sites receiving community support to maintain the fleet. The ICRC paid for 16 new ambulances and participated in an ambulance-review workshop in November attended by members of 23 branches and their municipal representatives. In addition, 27 branch instructors were trained in the management guidelines in the new ambulance manual.

To strengthen the overall capacity of the Ethiopian Red Cross to respond to emergencies, the ICRC donated relief supplies to priority branches and other branches as needed, and helped organize first-aid courses and relief-management workshops for staff and volunteers. It also assisted the National Society in completing a sanitation project in Gode and improving the impact of a project in Adigrat, in Tigray, to help street children return to school.

### Mine awareness

With ICRC support, the Ethiopian Red Cross continued to hold mine-risk education sessions and distribute mine-awareness leaflets, posters and stickers in communities in the contaminated border districts of Tigray. A six-day workshop on first aid was held for 89 Red Cross participants and first-aid teams were set up in 32 municipalities in Tigray. The mine-awareness programme was coordinated with the Ethiopian Mine Action Office, the Tigray authorities and other organizations concerned.

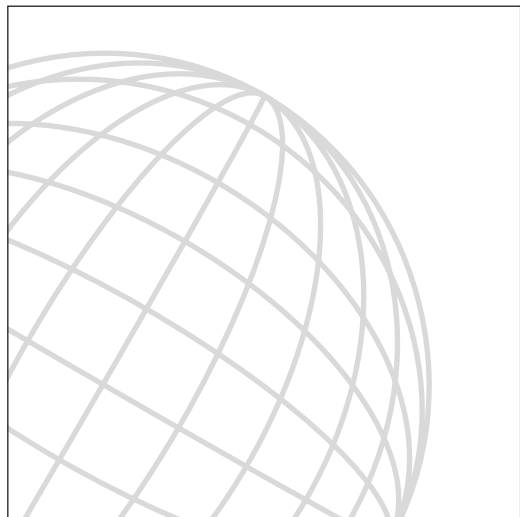
### Restoring family links

A two-day workshop on tracing was held for 50 members of the main branch and local offices in Tigray, which processed thousands of RCMs written by people separated from their loved ones by the closed border with Eritrea. Another workshop was organized for Red Cross tracing workers in other regions. The ICRC also monitored the tracing programme in several branches,

including all seven in the SNNPRS. An extensive evaluation of the tracing network was being planned jointly by the ICRC and the National Society.

### Promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC helped the Ethiopian Red Cross train promotional staff and produce and distribute materials to spread knowledge of IHL, the role of the National Society and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The two organizations held numerous joint IHL-promotion events that reached a wide audience. In particular, the emergency-aid operation in drought-stricken and insecure regions brought increased appreciation countrywide of the role of the Red Cross.



## icrc mission to the african union

The aim of the ICRC's permanent mission to the African Union (AU) is to gain a broad insight into African politics and issues of humanitarian concern and to build strong relations with African governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. By this means, the ICRC endeavours to draw attention to problems requiring humanitarian action, to promote greater recognition and much wider implementation of IHL throughout Africa, and to raise awareness of the ICRC's role and activities, mainly those on the African continent.

The ICRC gained official observer status at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) under a 1992 cooperation agreement, and this continued under the AU. In 1993, the ICRC opened a permanent mission to the OAU in Addis Ababa.

### EXPENDITURE IN CHF

See Ethiopia

### PERSONNEL

See Ethiopia

### KEY POINTS IN 2003

- ▶ New AU personnel were briefed on IHL and other issues of humanitarian concern in Africa, and encouraged to include IHL on the agenda of relevant AU meetings.
- ▶ The ICRC attended meetings of the AU and other pan-African or regional bodies to highlight problems requiring humanitarian action and promote the integration of IHL into African policy.
- ▶ The AU adopted a protocol on women's rights, additional to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; the new instrument, which had received ICRC input, included the protection of women in armed conflicts.
- ▶ The AU framework document to establish a standby African peace-keeping force specified IHL training for the force.
- ▶ East Africa's Inter-Governmental Authority on Development formally called on its 7 member States to ensure that national policies on internal displacement were consistent with IHL.
- ▶ The ICRC had regular contacts with UN agencies and international and African NGOs working on the continent to ensure a coordinated approach to humanitarian diplomacy.

### CONTEXT

Following its establishment on 9 July 2002, the African Union (AU), successor to the Organization of African Unity, undertook to set up the bodies cited in its Constitutive Act. In the opening speech of the second AU summit, held in July in Maputo, Mozambique, the outgoing chairman, South African president Thabo Mbeki, said that the creation of new continental bodies, including a security council and a parliament, were vital to achieving peace and stability. By the end of December, separate protocols setting up a Pan-African Parliament, which was to convene for the first time in March 2004, and a Peace and Security Council had been ratified by the requisite number of AU member countries. The proposal to create a standby African peace-keeping force to carry out the Council's wishes was still under discussion.

In September, the former president of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, officially took over as permanent chairman of the AU Commission, replacing the interim chairman, Amara Essy. By the end of 2003, four of the AU's seventeen proposed bodies were up and running: the Commission (chairman, vice-chairman and eight commissioners); Assembly (AU heads of State and government); Executive Council (all foreign affairs ministers) and Permanent Representatives Committee (AU-accredited ambassadors). In addition to the Peace and Security Council and the Parliament, other AU bodies still to be created were the Economic, Social and Cultural Council, the African Court of Justice, the Specialized Technical Committees (of which there were to be seven) and the Financial Institutions, comprising three pan-African banks.

The AU is based in Addis Ababa and, as of 31 December 2003, its 53 members encompass all African countries, with the exception of Morocco.

### ICRC ACTION

Throughout the year, the ICRC met new members of the AU Commission and other staff to ensure that they were familiar with international humanitarian law (IHL) and ICRC operations in Africa, and that IHL was on the agenda of relevant AU meetings. It also maintained a regular dialogue with AU-accredited ambassadors to share viewpoints on problems requiring humanitarian action.

The ICRC attended a variety of AU meetings, taking every opportunity to draw attention to issues of humanitarian concern and to promote the integration of IHL into AU policy, focusing on the need to protect and assist civilians affected by armed conflict. ICRC input appeared in a number of documents recognized at the AU Maputo summit, i.e. concerning IHL training for the proposed standby African peace-keeping force, and the need for member States to facilitate access by humanitarian organizations to conflict victims so as to provide medical aid.

The ICRC also remained in close contact with the African Parliamentary Union to encourage its member States to ratify IHL treaties and incorporate their provisions into national law. Likewise, it continued its dialogue with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, focusing on promoting compliance by parties to a conflict with their obligations under IHL. The

ICRC helped the Commission write a section on protection in armed conflicts that was included in a draft protocol on women's rights, additional to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The protocol was adopted at the AU summit.

To maximize the impact of humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC mission to the AU coordinated its activities with those of UN agencies and international and African NGOs that had AU-observer status or worked in Africa.

The ICRC was represented at the AU by a full-time head of mission and a deputy.

### **Armed forces and IHL**

ICRC efforts contributed to the AU's decision to incorporate IHL into any training programme designed for the proposed standby African peace-keeping force. When African armed forces chiefs of staff met in Addis Ababa in May to discuss the draft framework for setting up such a peace-keeping force, the ICRC stressed the need to teach IHL to all armed and security forces and to monitor troops' adherence to IHL. The meeting recognized the ICRC's expertise in this field and included IHL training for the force in the framework document. This was subsequently noted by the AU summit in Maputo. ICRC president Jakob Kellenberger followed up with a letter sent on 12 November to the AU Commission chairman, reiterating the ICRC's willingness to support IHL training for a peace-keeping force.

### **Protecting women and children in conflict**

ICRC support helped to ensure that a section on protection in armed conflict was included in a protocol on women's rights to be added to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. In March, at the Experts and Ministerial Meeting of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Addis Ababa, the ICRC advised on the context and wording of IHL content in the draft protocol. In July, the AU summit adopted the protocol, which included an Article 11 on Protection of Women in Armed Conflicts, and called on its members to ratify the instrument.

In February, at the second meeting of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, held in Nairobi, the ICRC distributed its "Children and War" kit, which outlines the rights and needs of youngsters caught up in armed conflict. As a follow-up, at the third meeting of this AU specialist body, held in November in Addis Ababa,

the ICRC gave a presentation on the rights of children in times of armed conflict. It also outlined ICRC experience and activities in the field of child protection, covering child soldiers, children displaced and separated from their parents, mine-risk education, and the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" education programme for young people. The final report and recommendations of the meeting referred extensively to IHL and the ICRC's related objectives aimed at improving the plight of children affected by armed conflict.

The ICRC also offered its support and expertise in IHL in relation to a proposed new AU post, funded by the Canadian government, with the brief to encourage member countries to protect civilians, especially women and children, in conflict situations. In discussions with the AU Political and Humanitarian Affairs Directorate, the ICRC advocated that the special envoy be extensively informed about IHL and consult with humanitarian organizations, drawing on their background knowledge and field experience.

### **People displaced by conflict**

The ICRC was very active in promoting protection and assistance for people displaced by armed conflict. At a number of AU and African regional meetings, the organization emphasized the primary need to implement existing legal instruments, such as those of IHL, and provide IHL training for armed and security forces in order to protect displaced people. At the AU summit in Maputo, the report of the AU Commission on Refugees cited the ICRC and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as AU partners in creating a framework to respond more rapidly and effectively to the needs of internally displaced people and refugees. Similarly, following September's Conference on Internal Displacement in the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Sub-Region, held in Khartoum, Sudan, the IGAD Council of Ministers issued a declaration, calling on its seven member States to ensure that any national policies on internal displacement were consistent with IHL, and to step up efforts to respect, and ensure respect for, IHL in the region.

### **Access to the wounded and sick**

To draw attention to the plight of the wounded and sick during conflict, the ICRC delivered a paper entitled "Armed violence and health: global needs and preventive action" at the first AU Conference of African Ministers of Health, held in April in Tripoli, Libya. The Conference's recommendations

were accepted at the AU summit in July, including a paragraph calling on States to facilitate access by humanitarian organizations to conflict victims in order to provide them with medical assistance, in accordance with IHL.

### **African Parliamentary Union**

The ICRC encouraged and repeatedly offered its support to help the African Parliamentary Union (APU) follow up the Niamey Declaration. The Declaration, issued by the APU in 2002, formally committed the Union to ensuring that, with ICRC assistance, its member States acceded to IHL treaties and incorporated the provisions of that law into their national legislation. At the APU's Executive Council meeting and Annual Conference in October in Accra, Ghana, the ICRC advocated setting up a special committee to follow up the status of member States' implementation of IHL. This recommendation was included in an adopted resolution on the "Role of parliamentarians in the promotion of human rights".

### **IHL training**

To further raise awareness of IHL within the AU, the ICRC sponsored the AU's interim legal adviser to attend the third regional seminar on IHL for South African Development Community countries plus Madagascar and Kenya, which took place in Pretoria, South Africa, in June. The event was held under the auspices of South Africa and organized by the ICRC around the theme "Compliance with IHL".

### **Coordinating humanitarian diplomacy**

To maximize the impact of humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC coordinated its work with that of UN agencies, especially the UN Development Programme, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund, the International Labour Organisation and the World Health Organization, and international and African NGOs that had AU observer status or were working in Africa. The ICRC remained an active member of the AU Inter-Agency Task Force that helped prepare the agenda for meetings of AU health ministers and the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission. In addition, the ICRC organized meetings in November, involving 10 international organizations, to discuss how best to coordinate humanitarian diplomacy within the AU's new structure, and attended UNHCR's meeting on 18 December on the same theme.



# guinea

The ICRC has been stepping up its protection activities in Guinea since 2002, focusing on re-establishing family links, visiting detainees throughout the country and promoting IHL among armed and security forces, political authorities, media and the general public. It also cooperates with the Red Cross Society of Guinea, focusing on enhancing the National Society's capacity to respond to emergencies and to restore family links.

The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, first through its Yaoundé regional delegation (Cameroon), and then, from 1992, through its regional delegation in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). In 2001, in response to the developing conflict in Guinea and its impact on the population, it set up its operational delegation in Conakry.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**3,515,454**

Assistance

**2,686,877**

Preventive action

**1,132,546**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,170,053**

General

**63,247**

► **8,568,177**

of which: Overheads **522,940**

## PERSONNEL

**25** expatriates

**139** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Some 280 children were reunited with their families in Sierra Leone and Liberia, under the auspices of the ICRC.
- The ICRC handled some 9,700 RCMs, primarily on behalf of the refugee population.
- Over 110,000 IDPs were assisted, in cooperation with the National Society.
- Some 126,000 people were provided with access to clean drinking water.
- IHL sessions were conducted for several thousand members of the armed and security forces and representatives of political authorities and civil society.

## CONTEXT

Fighting in northern Liberia in 2003, as well as ongoing civil strife in Côte d'Ivoire, sent waves of Liberian, Ivorian, Burkinan and Malian refugees into Guinea. Furthermore, Guineans who had settled in Côte d'Ivoire chose to return home. Though numbers declined at the beginning of 2003, some 16,000 refugees arrived in Guinea in February. Fresh waves of refugees from Liberia between July and September swelled the figure to around 30,000. Many of the refugees remained in the country, burdening the local infrastructure, particularly in Guinea's forest region. Although the overall situation in Guinea remained stable, eastern border areas were under strain as a result of the massive influx of refugees and the cross-border activity of armed elements. Similarly, Nzérékoré and surrounding areas remained volatile owing to the presence of several refugee camps, in particular Lainé, and transit centres, which exposed the local and camp population to armed elements seeking supplies and recruits.

On the political front, President Lansana Conté and his Party for Unity and Progress actively pursued election campaigning – notably for the incumbent's own succession. The state of the President's health continued to be the key parameter for political forecasting. The issue of President Conté's successor lingered despite his re-election for another seven-year term on 21 December.

A wave of discontent swept through the country in 2003 as witnessed in Conakry, where residents took to the streets in violent protest over increasing electricity outages and shortages of clean water.

There was a broad spectrum of local, regional and international organizations operating in Guinea. Among these were UN agencies such as UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO, and various NGOs. These organizations were involved in both emergency relief activities, particularly for the benefit of refugees, and long-term development aid such as rural water and sanitation projects.

## ICRC ACTION

Because of the unstable situation along Guinea's border with Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC increased its staff in Guinea and modified its objectives for 2003 in response to needs generated by the Ivorian crisis. The ICRC also completed several outstanding objectives from 2002, which security conditions had prevented it from achieving in that year. Emergency food aid was given to more people fleeing across the Ivorian and Liberian borders – 5,000 families instead of 3,000. Distributions of food and essential household items to conflict victims were conducted in conjunction with the National Society.

In the forest region, the ICRC's Kissidougou sub-delegation monitored the relocation of the Kouankan refugee camp to a new site further north. The ICRC's tracing services restored family contacts for both newly arrived and established refugees, giving priority to reuniting children with their families. In order to expand its water and sanitation programmes, the ICRC began evaluating needs in villages and sub-prefectures where substantial numbers of Guineans had returned. The ICRC also pursued its

other core programmes in Guinea, notably visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Supported by its well-established IHL programmes, the organization continued working with the Guinean authorities and armed and security forces to encourage IHL implementation, both nationally and regionally.

The ICRC maintained its status as lead agency for the Movement's operations in Guinea, and worked hand in hand with the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the International Federation.

## CIVILIANS

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the UNHCR so as to monitor any new developments in the humanitarian situation in camps. The threat to refugees seemed to abate with the departure of Liberian armed elements from camps following the calm that returned to Liberia in the latter part of the year. The ICRC handled 9,745 RCMs, primarily on behalf of the refugee population.

### Reuniting children with their families

The conflicts in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire turned hundreds of thousands of Liberians into IDPs, or refugees in Guinea and Sierra Leone. Over 1,000 of the refugees were children separated from their families. In 2003 the ICRC carried on reuniting Sierra Leonean and Liberian children with their families in Sierra Leone.

Working with the National Societies from these countries, the ICRC continued to run large-scale tracing campaigns, putting up posters and pictures in prominent places to track down the children's parents. Between January and March, 127 Liberian and Sierra Leonean children in Guinea were reunited with their families in Liberia. Subsequently, security conditions in Liberia made it unsafe to continue such activities. However, the incoming wave of Liberian children separated from their families by violence in their country continued. The ICRC recruited and trained several additional people to work in camps in Kissidougou and Nzérékoré, not only in anticipation of a considerable number of RCMs arriving from Liberia, but also to look out for children separated from their families. In the third quarter alone 279 such children were registered. The organization also set up a halfway house in Conakry to shelter children waiting to be reunited with their families. On several occasions the ICRC met with other organi-

zations such as the IRC, Save the Children Fund, and UNICEF to coordinate child-protection activities.

### Completing assistance planned for 2002

In January, vulnerable residents in Koyamah, in Macenta prefecture, received material assistance from the ICRC's Nzérékoré sub-delegation. Close to 2,000 residents were provided with essential household items such as mats, blankets and cooking utensils. Those whose homes had been destroyed or damaged also received plastic sheeting. With these distributions, the ICRC completed its aid activities for resident victims of the Guinean conflicts of 2000-2001. Owing to a shift in priorities and access difficulties, it had not been possible to carry out these distributions in 2002 as originally planned.

### Supporting victims of the Ivorian crisis

Since the beginning of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, the Red Cross Society of Guinea had been assisting the returnee and refugee populations from that country at border crossing points. To help civilians who had fled the fighting, the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of Guinea set up 15 reception centres known as Groupes d'Alerte de Première Urgence (GAPUs). Red Cross volunteers staffed the GAPUs and provided families with first aid, food, water and essential household items using emergency stocks. This aid was focused on areas where returnees overwhelmed residents' resources. The food covered a family's needs for a month. The GAPUs assisted both people displaced in areas close to the Ivorian and Liberian borders and those who arrived in Conakry from Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia by boat or plane.

### Improving water and sanitation

The ICRC worked to ensure that over 124,000 people in the forest region had access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. The water-treatment plants of Guéckédou and Macenta were rehabilitated in cooperation with the Guinea Water Services. In addition, a mobile laboratory was set up to test water stations in the region. A course was organized to train local workers to promote good hygiene practices, including the use of clean water.

The ICRC built 610 latrines for IDPs in the villages of eight sub-prefectures around Kaddadou, Macenta and Nzérékoré.

### Enhancing civilians' access to medical care

During the first three months of 2003, the ICRC distributed medicines to three hospitals in the Guinean capital and in the forest-region prefectures of Faranah and Nzérékoré. With support from the International Federation, the Red Cross Society of Guinea provided medical services in four IDP camps. In Guéckédou Hospital, the ICRC repaired the operating theatre and surgical ward and renovated a water reservoir.

- 508 children separated from their families were reunited with them (286 in Guinea, 184 in Liberia, and 38 in Sierra Leone)
- 1,306 children separated from their parents in neighbouring countries were registered and remained in Guinea
- 13,148 people received essential household items
- some 75,000 people fleeing Côte d'Ivoire were registered as they crossed into Guinea and provided, where necessary, with medical assistance, temporary shelter, water and WFP-supplied food (biscuits and hot meals)

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued visiting detainees, putting particular emphasis on those held in temporary places of detention. For foreigners who were being held, the ICRC notified their embassies or the UNHCR, whichever was appropriate. The visits were followed by a series of interventions with the authorities, with the object of ensuring that the prisoners' treatment and living conditions complied with IHL and humanitarian principles. The ICRC also handled 398 RCMs, thereby enabling detainees to re-establish or maintain contact with their families.

- 2,643 detainees were visited in 40 places of detention and provided with soap, other toiletries and chlorine to improve hygiene conditions
- 50 detainees were registered and followed up individually by the ICRC
- sanitation and water-supply systems were repaired in prisons in Conakry, Fria, Kissidougou and Boké
- training in the use of insecticides in prisons was given to 25 National Society personnel

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC provided five civilian and military health-care facilities with dressings and other first-aid materials to treat up to 350 war-wounded patients, and two military infirmaries along the Liberian border received similar supplies to treat up to 100 war-wounded. The organization also conducted first-aid training for military nurses in the forest region, and repaired the surgical ward of the district hospital in Guéckédou. Following the UNHCR's decision to close the health post at the transit centre in Lola, the ICRC ended medical support to the facility in April. ICRC support had enabled the post to carry out 617 consultations.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC furnished the Guinean authorities with legal advice and documentation on national IHL implementation, particularly related to special protection for children in detention and armed conflicts. A positive outcome of its efforts was the approval by Guinea's National Assembly of the Children's Code, in conformity with ICRC recommendations.

With the support of the organization, government representatives attended the 28th International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in Geneva in December.

Through regular meetings with the national and local authorities, the ICRC informed them of its activities in their respective regions. In addition, the ICRC kept the authorities, civil society leaders and opinion-makers abreast of Red Cross activities throughout the country through a quarterly newsletter.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC provided financial and technical support for the government's national campaign to heighten security forces' awareness of humanitarian principles. Support included sponsorship for IHL courses in San Remo, Italy, and conducting five sessions on the ICRC, humanitarian principles and human rights law applicable to law enforcement for 750 newly trained police officers.

Field deployment of ICRC delegates and field officers made it possible for the organization to maintain regular contact with the army and hold a series of sessions on IHL,

not only for officers and troops in the various battalions, but at military academies as well. The ICRC also provided technical support for the armed forces' IHL office.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Bilateral meetings were held regularly with representatives of various international organizations, such as OCHA, which published ICRC information in one of its reports. The ICRC also held an information session in Kissidougou on the Movement's role and Fundamental Principles for 31 UNHCR staff.

The ICRC organized round-table talks and training sessions for journalists to consolidate its cooperation with the local media in heightening public awareness of its mandate and activities, the Movement and IHL. These efforts paid off. The media used ICRC press releases to bring to the attention of the public Red Cross action on behalf of flood victims in Boké, contingency plans in the event of any disturbances related to the general elections in December and the reunification of families dispersed by conflict.

In October a professor of law at the University of Conakry was sponsored to attend a pan-African IHL course organized in Dakar. The training enabled him to consolidate the teaching of IHL at the university. The ICRC also made presentations at the university on humanitarian principles and the history of the Movement, and furnished law students with documents on IHL.

- some 5,100 people, among them students and religious, local and traditional leaders, attended a total of 90 information sessions

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Emergency preparedness and response

In partnership with the International Federation, the ICRC helped the Red Cross Society of Guinea strengthen its capacity to meet the needs arising from fresh influxes of people in the country. Both organizations contributed towards the GAPUs' disaster-response budget.

With technical and logistic support from the International Federation and the ICRC, a contingency plan involving National Society volunteers was put in place in 28 locations in the latter part of 2003. The ICRC presented the contingency plan to the

authorities to ease the way for security guarantees and movement of the Red Cross throughout the country. The ICRC funded Red Cross staff and volunteers' training and provided first-aid materials. Other support involved enabling the National Society to provide Guinean returnees from Côte d'Ivoire with hot meals and furnish flood victims with essential household items. The Red Cross Society of Guinea was also actively involved in the hygiene education component of the ICRC's rural water and sanitation project. Through ICRC support, one Red Cross committee constructed its headquarters, and four others obtained land from their respective local authorities on which to construct their offices.

### Restoring family links

With the recent adoption of its new statutes, the National Society established its own tracing department. The Guinean Red Cross selected and trained 72 tracing officers and volunteers to integrate into conflict-preparedness and response teams and revitalize the RCM network managed by the Kissidougou chapter. The teams worked closely with the ICRC in Nzérékoré, Kissidougou and Kankan. The ICRC supported the production of a tracing manual for the National Society. The manual was the product of a document created during a regional seminar on tracing held in Dakar in June, and then adapted to the National Society's needs.

### Promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC provided support for the National Society's campaign to prevent misuse of the red cross emblem in Guinea. Red Cross GAPU volunteers conducted awareness campaigns to heighten the residents' level of tolerance and acceptance of tens of thousands of returnees from Côte d'Ivoire. Through the GAPUs' activities, the National Society managed to offer victims timely aid, and in so doing raised the image of the Red Cross in the eyes of the general public.

The ICRC also jointly organized IHL dissemination activities with the National Society and supported the production of the latter's quarterly newsletter.

Members of the Red Cross School project, (a basic HIV/AIDS prevention course for 45 primary schools, 15 secondary schools and 5 teachers' colleges) and teachers involved in it were trained, with ICRC support, in order to pave the way for the project's expansion into secondary schools.



# liberia

Because of the spread of intense fighting in the first half of 2003, and the subsequent peace agreement in August, the ICRC stepped up its operations in Liberia. Assistance and protection activities were extended for IDPs, vulnerable residents of host communities, the war-wounded, detainees and children separated from their families. Additionally, the ICRC supports the Liberia National Red Cross Society and runs programmes to promote IHL among armed forces present in Liberia.

The ICRC has worked in Liberia since 1970, first through its Yaoundé regional delegation (Cameroon), and then, from 1992, through its regional delegation in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). Its operational delegation was opened in Monrovia in 1990.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection	
<b>2,849,721</b>	
Assistance	
<b>21,493,519</b>	
Preventive action	
<b>557,805</b>	
Cooperation with National Societies	
<b>1,601,190</b>	
General	
<b>3,681</b>	► <b>26,505,917</b>
of which: Overheads <b>1,535,696</b>	

## PERSONNEL

<b>31</b>	expatriates
<b>95</b>	national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC surgical team at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital treated 7,789 patients and carried out 4,039 surgical operations, including 1,619 on the war-wounded.
- ICRC sub-delegations were opened in Zwedru and Voinjama.
- Over 10,500 RCMs were distributed in cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross, and 368 Liberian children were reunited with their families.
- The ICRC visited detainees held by the government and other armed groups.
- Essential household items and shelter materials were distributed to over 500,000 IDPs and vulnerable residents, and over 100,000 people received food.
- Some 180 wells were built or repaired for IDPs and residents in Monrovia, and some 60,000 displaced people in camps were provided with clean water and sanitation facilities.

## CONTEXT

Instability and violence intensified in Liberia in 2003. In January, armed conflict in Côte d'Ivoire caused large numbers of people to cross the border into Liberia. Internally, Liberians United for Democracy and Reconciliation (LURD) stepped up their offensive, while the newly formed dissident group, Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), launched attacks against government forces, taking control of the south-east of Liberia. By May, the two opposition forces controlled some two-thirds of the country, including strategic ports and timber-rich areas. The ongoing fighting led to a succession of massive population displacements, exacerbating an already dire situation.

On 18 June, all three parties to the conflict signed a ceasefire agreement that raised the hopes of thousands of war-weary civilians. However, while taking part in the peace talks in Ghana, then-Liberian President Charles Taylor was indicted for war crimes in Sierra Leone by the prosecutor of a United Nations-backed tribunal for Sierra Leone. A few days after the signing of the ceasefire agreement, a second round of fighting broke out over control of the capital, once again sending thousands fleeing in search of safety. Fighting continued until President Taylor left for exile in Nigeria. After more than two months of sporadic fighting, a peace accord was signed in Accra, Ghana, on 18 August.

With the arrival of some 3,500 West African peace-keepers (ECOMIL) and their incorporation into what was expected to become

a 15,000-strong UN force (UNMIL), people were again able to move around freely in Monrovia and its environs to the north and east. Some commercial activity resumed. Nevertheless, many of the city's estimated one million inhabitants and tens of thousands of displaced people who were still living in temporary shelters in the capital were weak, hungry and destitute. While Monrovia became relatively stable and secure, sporadic fighting continued in other areas, especially the north-eastern counties.

At least one in three Liberians has been displaced since the onset of the war in 1989. Over the years the international community has faced considerable problems in implementing programmes for populations constantly forced to relocate. Lack of security was the greatest constraint for humanitarian action in the field, limiting access to affected populations and curtailing the scope of activities. As the war unfolded over the past years, it destroyed and emptied cities and villages, particularly in the fertile and previously densely populated Lofa County.

## ICRC ACTION

As the conflict intensified in Liberia in 2003, it became increasingly difficult to reach most parts of the country. Owing to the volatile and insecure situation, between March and August no humanitarian organization had access to much of Liberia's northern and eastern counties. This left at least half of the population without aid or protection. In addition, apart from the ICRC and a handful of other organizations, all humanitarian agencies, including those of the UN, pulled out of the country in early June and only returned in mid-August.

The ICRC has earned a reputation as a major player within the humanitarian community in Liberia, particularly since increasing its activities in 2002 to meet the conflict-affected population's growing needs. As lead agency, the ICRC continued to coordinate the Movement's response in Liberia. In 2003 ICRC activities focused on: medical care for the war-wounded, mainly by ensuring that the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital maintained its capacity to provide medical and surgical care; protection of detainees/internees; emergency aid for IDPs and residents; and programmes to restore family links, in cooperation with the Liberia National Red Cross Society. A network of contacts was also maintained among all stakeholders in Liberia to improve understanding of and respect for IHL and the mandate and working methods of the ICRC and its Movement partners.

The International Federation resumed its activities in Liberia in March 2003, concentrating on the organizational development of the Liberian Red Cross. Between August and the end of 2003, over 100 organizations, including the UN and its agencies, returned to Liberia.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

Owing either to direct attacks, harassment or the stress inflicted on their daily lives, residents in conflict-affected areas remained the principal victims of the fighting. Many families were forced to flee, only to find themselves in equally perilous situations during the trip and upon arrival at IDP camps. In the last quarter of the year under review, when the deployment of UNMIL troops helped restore an uneasy calm, the ICRC was able to visit all counties. It regularly monitored the situation in Nimba County, which remained a hot-spot because of recurring clashes between MODEL and government fighters. The organization raised

issues concerning the protection of civilians with UNMIL, and maintained contact with commanders of former armed groups. The ICRC also continued its dialogue with other organizations and agencies working to protect children caught up in conflict, such as UNICEF, UNHCR, Save the Children Fund, IRC and Don Bosco Homes.

### Helping families separated by conflict stay in contact

The Red Cross message (RCM) service continued to provide a much-needed means for Liberians to re-establish or maintain contact with family members in Liberia and abroad. The ICRC, working in cooperation with the Liberia National Red Cross Society, distributed over 10,500 RCMs in 2003. The number of RCMs distributed rose as the year wore on, averaging some 2,000 per month. Concerted efforts to strengthen the National Society's tracing network in order to meet the demand included the creation or revival of several tracing stations throughout the country, mobilization of 200 volunteers, and training for National Society staff and volunteers. In addition, the opening of ICRC sub-delegations in Zwedru, in the MODEL-held south-east, and in Voinjama, in the LURD-controlled north-west, accelerated the expansion of the RCM network.

### Reuniting children with their families

In the first half of 2003, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross, continued working to reunite children with their families. During and after the June attacks on Monrovia, these efforts were intensified in the Greater Monrovia area to meet increased demand. In addition to screening populations in IDP centres in search of such children, the ICRC continued to run mass tracing campaigns, posting pictures of the children in prominent places throughout the country. Radio broadcasts were also used, both to raise public awareness of the family-reunification programme and help track down children and parents being sought.

### Helping civilians cope with the effects of conflict

In 2003 insecurity and constant population displacements often hampered access to beneficiaries of ICRC assistance programmes or made it necessary for the organization to review its activities in order to adapt to changing needs. For instance, in early 2003, IDPs in three counties were provided with essential household items, but between June and September, planned aid distributions were curtailed by insecurity and priorities

had to be redefined to take into account emergency needs arising from the fighting in Monrovia. During 2003, the ICRC provided over 500,000 IDPs and vulnerable residents with essential household items and shelter in five counties (Montserrado, Margibi, Bong, Grand Bassa and Gedeh). In addition, some 100,000 people received food.

### Boosting civilians' economic security

The ICRC assessed the needs in the various IDP camps and nearby resident communities in Montserrado, Bong, Margibi, and Grand Bassa counties, with a view to providing agricultural assistance in these places. On the basis of the assessments, 10,000 families were registered in the four counties and received agricultural tools and seeds in the course of the year. Security was a constant concern, and between June and September fighting in all four counties disrupted the distributions.

### Providing water and sanitation

The ICRC worked to ensure that all IDPs living in camps as well as the residents of Monrovia, including children in orphanages, had access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. The organization built water points and permanent latrines and repaired wells and hand pumps. The ICRC also upgraded Don Bosco Center for children, building new latrines, bathrooms, bathhouses and wells and repairing pumps.

### Restoring family links

- ▶ over 10,500 RCMs were distributed
- ▶ 112 children were registered in Liberia and 133 Liberian children registered in Guinea and Sierra Leone were reunited with their parents in Liberia
- ▶ photos of over 800 separated Liberian children were posted

### Economic security

- ▶ 488,654 IDPs and 11,382 residents received essential household items and shelter materials and 100,300 people received food
- ▶ 745 tonnes of food, 35,761 tarpaulins, 99,823 blankets, 37,659 kitchen sets, 55,200 buckets, 19,300 mosquito nets, 44,950 sleeping mats, some 74 tonnes of clothes, 13,100 jerrycans and some 1,000,000 pieces of soap were distributed
- ▶ 10,000 families received agricultural assistance
- ▶ 30,569 tonnes of seed, 0.55 tonnes of fertilizer and 12,508 tools (hoes, shovels, cutlasses, watering cans, rakes, sprayers and wheelbarrows) were distributed

## Water and habitat

- water was trucked in for up to 250,000 IDPs in 110 temporary sites during intense fighting in June and July
- 60,000 IDPs in 5 camps were provided with access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities
- 176 wells, 380 permanent latrines and 250 bathhouses were built/repared for IDPs or Monrovia residents

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to visit places of detention to monitor the treatment and living conditions of security detainees and to register any new detainees falling within its mandate. ICRC findings were documented and passed on to the authorities concerned. By mid-September, all ICRC-registered detainees, except for seven who were still unaccounted for at the end of 2003, had escaped or been released. The organization continued to document and follow up with the relevant authorities and UNMIL cases of people allegedly detained.

In late 2003, the ICRC monitored the release of 42 detainees held by MODEL forces in Zwedru and Buchanan, and provided nine of them with transport to Monrovia.

### Providing assistance to detainees

In early 2003 the ICRC visited Monrovia Central Prison, the cells at the Liberian National Police headquarters and Barclay Training Centre (BTC) military prison to assess the medical condition of detainees. Where needed, the ICRC provided emergency medical care, for example for skin diseases and malnutrition. On the basis of the assessment, recommendations were made to the detaining authorities. In addition, hygiene conditions were assessed at several prisons, following which septic tanks were emptied at the BTC facility and Monrovia Central Prison and water and sanitation facilities were built or repaired at three prisons. The ICRC also regularly distributed food and essential household items, as required, to all detainees in all prisons visited.

- 488 detainees were visited in 21 government- or MODEL-controlled detention centres
- 121 RCMs were distributed on behalf of detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital

The ICRC-run trauma and surgical ward in the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Memorial Hospital in Monrovia, known as the JFK/ICRC Trauma Centre, treated 7,789 patients and performed 4,039 operations, including 1,619 on the war-wounded. At the height of the fighting in the capital, the ICRC surgical team was handling a daily influx of over 50 military and civilian war-wounded and had 500 patients under its care. As the year progressed, the need for surgical services for the war-wounded declined owing to improvements in the political situation and the deployment of UNMIL troops, but the demand for surgical care for trauma patients, mainly victims of road accidents, burns and violence remained steady. The centre's physiotherapy department, set up by the ICRC at the end of 2002, functioned smoothly, providing inpatient and outpatient care. An ICRC-supported training programme for local medical staff and other technical assistance given by the organization safeguarded the quality of services provided.

### Other medical support

For war-wounded patients in rural areas, the ICRC supplied seven partially functioning referral hospitals that were situated in the countryside close to conflict zones with medicines and dressing materials on an ad hoc basis.

In August the ICRC began efforts to revive the Stephen A. Tolbert Memorial Hospital in Buchanan. The organization provided the hospital with surgical materials, drugs, training and incentives for personnel, and renovated the water-supply system. By the end of the year, the hospital was operating as a 20-bed surgical facility able to handle trauma cases and obstetric emergencies that could not be transferred to JFK-ICRC Hospital. Outpatient consultations accounted for a considerable proportion of the hospital's activities.

After gaining access to LURD-controlled areas in Tubmanburg in October 2003, the ICRC supported a clinic in the town, providing it with basic supplies and arranging for several patients to be transferred to JFK-ICRC Hospital to ensure they received adequate care. The ICRC also helped to get a clinic up and running in the empty County Hospital in Tubmanburg, including negotiating safe passage for patients seeking to reach the clinic. The clinic became very active, providing first aid and curative care. Although the clinic did not meet the demand for health care in the region, it represented

a first step towards satisfying that demand. ICRC support for the clinic was phased out by the end of the year.

- JFK/ICRC Hospital treated 7,789 patients and performed 4,039 surgical operations, including 1,619 on the war-wounded
- ICRC-supported hospitals and other health-care facilities admitted, in total, 3,352 patients, including 1,781 war-wounded, and treated 31,154 outpatients

### Giving hope to disabled people

To provide treatment for the war-disabled and other people needing artificial limbs, the ICRC worked closely with Handicap International, which supported the rehabilitation centre in Monrovia. The two organizations jointly developed and implemented a referral system for patients requiring prostheses, with Handicap International providing the prostheses, using ICRC polypropylene technology.

## AUTHORITIES

In order to obtain security guarantees and thus improve access to conflict victims, the ICRC maintained close contact with the government ministries concerned with State security. The organization regularly briefed representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Defence and National Security on the ICRC's role and activities, including protecting and assisting IDPs and promoting respect for IHL. When the new government was sworn in in October, a dialogue was again established with key contacts, particularly in the Ministries of Defence, Justice, Foreign Affairs and Health.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC organized two IHL train-the-trainer seminars for 50 instructors from Liberia's armed forces and anti-terrorist units, and gave a presentation on IHL as part of a two-day workshop organized by OCHA for representatives of the Secretary of Defence, the armed forces and the anti-terrorist unit. The organization also conducted four dissemination sessions at checkpoints, reaching 57 members of the armed and police forces. In the latter part of the year, the ICRC focussed on conducting IHL sessions for military and police forces at checkpoints along main roads used by the organization to reach conflict victims in areas previously off-limits owing to

insecurity. ICRC plans to launch a programme to integrate IHL and human rights law into military and police training in Liberia were put on hold until the new government re-established the army and security forces. The ICRC maintained a dialogue with various people linked to the dissident movement and used every opportunity to explain the organization's mandate, working methods and activities.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC held several discussions with representatives of local human rights NGOs to explain its mandate and activities, as well as the interest of the institution in developing contacts with local civil society to raise awareness of issues related to the protection of civilians and detainees. In addition, as part of a workshop organized by the UNDP for local human rights organizations, the ICRC gave a presentation on IHL and answered questions about its working methods.

The ICRC organized nine musical and theatrical events for the general public, which attracted approximately 16,700 participants. The events focussed on the mandate and activities of the ICRC and the history of the Movement, as well as on promoting hygiene and HIV/AIDS-awareness. The ICRC also organized six "Respect the rules" football matches in various counties, attended by 7,200 people. The matches stressed the importance of respecting rules, be it on a football field or in times of hostilities and crisis.

To further raise public awareness of IHL, the ICRC issued a series of press releases on its various activities to protect and aid conflict victims in Liberia. This resulted in domestic and international media coverage of various issues of humanitarian concern, including reports by the Cable News Network, Voice of America and the British Broadcasting Corporation. In addition, UNMIL radio began broadcasting "Family reunion", a weekly ICRC programme on its tracing and RCM service.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The International Federation returned to Liberia in March 2003 to help strengthen the National Society's organizational development. With the support of the International Federation and the ICRC, the Liberia National Red Cross Society drew up its first annual plan of action and a five-year development strategy.

### Restoring family links

The collection and distribution of RCMs within Liberia was on hold until mid-August because of insecurity and constant population displacements. Nevertheless, in neighbouring countries the collection of RCMs, many of which were destined for Liberia, continued. This meant that when the RCM service resumed in Liberia in mid-August, the Liberia National Red Cross Society had to deal with its biggest caseload ever, collecting, on average, 1,000 messages and distributing 400 a week. The ICRC supported the National Society's tracing activities by helping set up or re-activate eight tracing stations in Monrovia and 31 outside the capital, providing materials and training and incentives for Red Cross personnel.

Tracing activities were carried out in early September on behalf of Liberian children – including those associated with fighting forces – who were separated from their families and living in Liberia or in neighbouring countries. The Liberian Red Cross helped the ICRC register such children and set up Red Cross mailboxes for tracing activities at four chapters along the border with Côte d'Ivoire. In October the National Society helped the ICRC launch "Where are our parents?", a large-scale tracing campaign, covering West Africa, to find the relatives of 707 children, whose pictures were displayed on posters in public places.

### Conflict preparedness and response

Emergency-response teams, comprising six members, were established in each of the National Society's 15 chapters. Several Red Cross volunteers and staff received training. Furthermore, the nationwide volunteer-network database became functional. First-aid kits, teaching materials, a generator, motorbikes, and office equipment were among items donated by the ICRC to the National Society to enhance its readiness to respond to emergencies. The organization also supported the Society by funding field trips and providing insurance and incentives for staff. During the fighting, Red Cross volunteers helped hundreds of wounded people, administering first aid and organizing transport to hospital under difficult conditions. In addition, some 500 Red Cross volunteers took part in ICRC water, sanitation and economic-security programmes to aid conflict victims.

In conjunction with the National Society, the ICRC conducted its second first-aid course for military first-aid personnel, held in Monrovia in February. Owing to the prevailing security situation, only 15 participants were able to attend the course.

Those who passed the exam received a first-aid kit.

### Promoting IHL

Three sessions on the Fundamental Principles were held for 40 National Society headquarters staff and volunteers. The Liberian Red Cross conducted a series of sessions for secondary and primary school principles, teachers and students in Montserrado County to promote knowledge of the Movement and the Fundamental Principles, and respect for humanitarian values. Additionally, Red Cross clubs were established in 12 schools in Monrovia to propagate knowledge of the Red Cross and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, water-borne diseases and good hygiene practices.

A session on the activities of the Red Cross was organized with 18 IDP camp leaders in Buchanan. In Monrovia, six campaigns on the theme "Bringing the Red Cross to the people" were conducted, involving clean-up activities, street theatre and traditional songs and dances.

In February, a preliminary working session was held with 12 journalists. The aim was to establish a media network in Monrovia and raise the journalists' awareness of IHL and the Movement.

### Coordinating activities within the Movement

In November a meeting was held in Monrovia to ensure cooperation and coordination of Red Cross activities in Liberia. Participants came from the Liberia National Red Cross Society, the International Federation, the ICRC and seven partner National Societies. A framework agreement was drafted defining cooperation and coordination among partners interested in supporting the Movement's action in Liberia within the scope of programmes identified by the ICRC, the Liberian Red Cross and the International Federation. The object of this memorandum of understanding was to ensure an adequate response to humanitarian needs, and to harmonize the Movement's approach.



# rwanda

The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990, prior to which it had covered the country from its regional delegation in Kinshasa. The organization focuses its activities in Rwanda on visiting detainees held in civilian prisons, military facilities and district *cachots* (lock-ups), helping children find families they became separated from in the exodus of 1994 or during the mass repatriations in 1996/1997, assisting vulnerable genocide survivors and victims of the internal conflict between 1990 and 1994 (predominantly widows and orphans) struggling to rebuild their lives, and aiding people whose local water-distribution networks remain damaged from the time of the conflict and the genocide.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**4,086,377**

Assistance

**14,308,122**

Preventive action

**950,453**

Cooperation with National Societies

**558,064**

General

**27,219**

► **19,930,234**

of which: Overheads **1,216,397**

## PERSONNEL

**38** expatriates

**255** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Some 89,000 detainees in military, civilian prisons and *cachots* were visited.
- In all, 551 children separated from their parents were reunited with their loved ones.
- Over 94,000 residents benefited from repairs completed on water networks.
- Large supplies of food and hygiene materials were given to orphanages and prisons.
- The first IHL course for instructors was incorporated into RDF training for officers.
- The Ministry of Education agreed to incorporate the “Exploring Humanitarian Law” (EHL) programme into secondary education.

## CONTEXT

Almost ten years after the genocide in 1994, the government in Rwanda released more than 20,000 detainees in January to speed up the judicial process and reduce chronic overcrowding in the country's prisons. These people were sent to “solidarity camps” to receive “orientation” for a few months before being freed and facing the traditional *gacaca* trials. Their release eased pressure on the system, though the closure of three prisons and several *cachots* limited the positive effects. The opening of a new prison in Mpanga was postponed until mid-2004.

The released detainees included those who had confessed to participating in the genocide (but not “Category 1” offenders who had led and organized it), those whose case files lacked sufficient evidence to warrant detention, and those who had already spent more time in detention than they would if convicted of the crimes they had allegedly committed. Inmates who did not qualify for release continued to await trial. By the end of 2003, the UN's International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, set up in Tanzania to try the major culprits, had convicted 17 people since its inception.

Meanwhile, Rwanda remained dependent on outside aid not only for essential services in prisons but also throughout the country, where poverty compounded the damage caused by war. The authorities did, however, assume more of their State responsibility in 2003.

Politically, Rwanda moved towards reconciliation and stability, with voters in May backing a draft constitution which specifically banned incitement to ethnic hatred. The constitution also marked the end of the period of transition. In August, Paul Kagame (president since 2000) claimed a landslide victory in Rwanda's first presidential elections since 1994. In October, Rwanda held its first multi-party parliamentary elections with President Kagame's Rwandan Patriotic Front winning an absolute majority.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to focus on monitoring the general conditions of detention in order to limit the impact of chronic overcrowding in the prisons, and providing aid where needed in the form of food, medicine and sanitary improvements. It continued to reunite dozens of children with their families – including child soldiers – separated in the aftermath of the genocide. Adult civilians, detainees and Rwandan refugees also continued to use the Red Cross message (RCM) service that operated throughout Rwanda and neighbouring countries (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, Tanzania and the Republic of the Congo) to trace or maintain contact with relatives. The ICRC helped ensure that the population had access to clean water as defined by national standards, repairing and upgrading a number of supply networks. It continued to provide financial and material aid for orphans and women living in difficult circumstances. Discussions with the armed forces and police continued to pave the way for the incorporation into training of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights courses.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

There were large population movements in Rwanda as a result of the armed conflict that began in 1990, and these grew dramatically with the genocide of 1994. Households were uprooted by the violence and families forced apart. Even almost 10 years on from the genocide, there were still many children who had not yet been reunited with their families. The RCM service continued to offer Rwandan refugees the chance to trace or maintain contact with relatives (particularly refugees living in camps in areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo that had previously been inaccessible to the RCM service for security reasons, but also in other neighbouring countries). The service was also available to demobilized combatants, including child soldiers, in the north-western Mutobo transit camp. The ICRC reunited 551 separated children in 2003 (157 of whom were registered in Rwanda and 394 abroad).

The ICRC edited the sixth tracing photo album of children separated from their parents, who were either too young or too traumatized to provide information. This album was distributed throughout the country to help family members find them. The organization also dealt with requests from National Societies in Europe and North

America seeking to trace people or obtain more information, such as detention certificates, on Rwandan refugees applying for asylum.

- ▶ 6,828 RCMs were collected and 7,865 delivered
- ▶ 171 children separated from their parents were registered
- ▶ 551 children separated from their parents were reunited with their families
- ▶ 1,356 cases of children separated from their parents were still being actively traced
- ▶ by year's end, 81,451 children had been registered and 70,545 reunited with their families since 1994

### Improving water and housing for residents

The ICRC ran projects in Rwanda to improve water-supply systems, which had been damaged by conflict or were inadequate through neglect. These projects were either urban (concentrating on the repair or expansion of existing water treatment plants) or rural and consisting of small water-supply schemes and the protection of springs. A key aspect of the projects was the involvement of the local communities and authorities, thus ensuring greater sustainability.

The ICRC improved the drinking-water supply in several areas such as Muhanga (Gitarama prefecture), Gashora-Rilima (Kigali rural), Kigarama and Muhazi (Kibungo) and Kagohe (Ruhengeri) for some 94,000 beneficiaries. It handed the resulting facilities over to the local authorities upon completion. Elsewhere, in Mushubi (Gikongoro), Kinyinya-Remera (Kigali rural), Rwamagana-Nzinda (Kibungo), Nyanza (Nyanza) and Gitarama (Gitarama), the organization continued projects already initiated, while it conducted feasibility studies on a further four projects to benefit some 90,000 people.

- ▶ 52 public tap stands were installed or repaired
- ▶ 49 spring catchments were constructed or repaired
- ▶ 180,000 people were provided with access to safe water

### Assisting women and children

For children who were orphaned or impoverished by the conflict or the genocide, the ICRC continued to pay school fees, thus guaranteeing them an education. A high percentage of such pupils, who sat the examination after six years of study, obtained a secondary school diploma.

The ICRC also supported shelters for repatriated children who had not yet been reunited with their families. It set up a tracing system at the Mutobo camp to help demobilized child soldiers, repatriated in December, locate and be reunited with their families.

The organization continued to support agricultural micro-projects for associations of particularly vulnerable women, mostly widows, to increase their economic security by providing technical training and support, goats, seeds, tools and fertilizer. A survey conducted in 2003 showed that with the help of the projects most women improved their food supply and were better able to cope generally and find their way in society. All this served the general purpose of enhancing their dignity.

- ▶ 1,900 orphans or destitute secondary school children had their school fees paid in 2003
- ▶ three-quarters of 422 of the pupils subsidized obtained a secondary school diploma
- ▶ 36 agricultural micro-projects for some 4,000 beneficiaries were supported by the ICRC
- ▶ 80,000 tonnes of food and 2 tonnes of soap and kitchen material were supplied to 20 orphanages

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Protecting detainees, particularly minors

The ICRC resumed its visits to the two main military prisons and a number of military camps following meetings with the Ministry of Defence. At the end of 2003, it continued to visit some 85,000 detainees (including about 74,700 suspected of having participated in the genocide) in 16 civilian prisons run by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and some 83 municipal *cachots* and police posts. While conditions were generally poor and unsanitary they were particularly bad in the civilian prisons, where overcrowding was chronic. The ICRC made representations to the authorities on this issue in order to prevent a crisis arising.

The ICRC offered all new detainees, in particular minors, access to the Red Cross message service. In several prisons it contributed quite significantly to the construction, in conjunction with the authorities, of separate quarters for minors. Following the submission in February of an in-depth report to the prime minister and the judicial authorities in order to bring the situation of

minors to their attention, numerous minors under the age of 14 were released.

Efforts continued to enhance the know-how and performance of prison administrations. The ICRC worked with the non-governmental organization Penal Reform International to help design training programmes for prison staff.

Regarding the *cachots* and police stations, the ICRC made representations to the authorities on issues such as interrogation methods and access to water. It monitored periods during which suspects were held in police stations before being charged.

- 89,000 detainees were visited, 1,468 of whom were newly registered
- 74,679 detainees were visited individually
- 25,386 detainee releases in 2003 were verified
- 501 visits to prisons were made
- 116 places of detention were visited
- 829 RCMs were delivered to detainees

### Food, health care and water for detainees

For the first time since 1994, the ICRC was able to withdraw food assistance, halting its supplies to Kigali prison (6,695 detainees) and handing the responsibility over to the authorities. It also reached an accord in December with the Ministry of Internal Affairs to hand over responsibility for food in Byumba, Cyangugu, Gisenyi, Kibungo, Miyove and Ruhengeri prisons on 15 January 2004. Throughout the year it supplied the prisons with half of their food requirements, and checked whether supplies provided by the authorities were adequate. It continued to support projects enabling detainees to grow food, based on their success rate.

The ICRC pressed ahead with efforts to limit the spread of disease in prisons by collecting and analyzing epidemiological data and encouraging staff to respond quickly to outbreaks. It continued to supply essential medicines (the use of which it monitored), hygiene items, and vitamin supplements to detainees. It urged the hospitalization of sick detainees requiring more sophisticated care. Owing to prevailing needs, it decided not to halt medical aid to Kigali and Nyanza prisons. Nevertheless, it planned to lower the total amount of medical aid to all prisons. The ICRC also urged the national council on HIV/AIDS to initiate programmes in prisons, while encouraging other national programmes set up to fight malaria and tuberculosis to extend their activities to places of detention. To further counter HIV/AIDS, the

ICRC launched a project in Nsinda prison (Kibungo), in conjunction with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, to train detainees as peer educators. It promoted a voluntary testing service in the nearby hospital, facilitating access to tests and providing drugs to treat main sexually transmitted infections. This project produced very positive results, according to an assessment conducted by a consultant mid-year.

The ICRC maintained its commitment to upgrading prison infrastructure, sharing the cost with the authorities. The organization increased production of drinkable water at Nsinda prison with the installation of three tap sources and a reservoir, while providing technical and financial support for two new septic tanks at Ruhengeri prison. It helped stabilize tanks at Gitarama and set up separate showers and toilets for detained minors at Kibungo. It rehabilitated facilities in Karubanda and Rwandex prisons, and improved paving and water canals at Nyanza. The ICRC continued distributing hygiene aid to the prisons, but towards the end of the year it began reducing the amount of materials supplied. It provided documentation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs on a "programme of hygiene" for the prisons.

- some 96,088 detainees received daily half-rations at the beginning of 2003, with the number dropping to 74,792 by end of the year
- 7,400 tonnes of food and 425,000 litres of oil were supplied to prisons
- 27 water and sanitation projects were completed including a hygiene programme in each prison, and 325,000 pieces of soap were supplied to the prisons.

### WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC set up train-the-trainer courses in first aid for Rwandan Defence Force soldiers aimed at helping them cope with events such as a sudden influx of wounded.

### AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to encourage the government to ratify and implement IHL treaties. At the African Union human rights conference in Kigali, it approached the Rwandan Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs for information on measures taken to implement the IHL treaties to which Rwanda was already party and progress toward adhering to the others.

The ICRC also advised Rwanda's National Assembly on technical aspects of a law to repress crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, which was subsequently adopted. The ICRC held information seminars on IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement for members of the municipal councils in Kigali town, Gitarama town and Ruhango (Gitarama).

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military, police and local defence forces

The ICRC continued its close cooperation with the Rwandan Defence Force (RDF) in order to ensure that IHL was better integrated into training and operations. Discussions took place with the defence minister and the chief of general staff, paving the way for a comprehensive plan of action on training. The ICRC held a first train-the-trainer course for 32 RDF officer instructors representing all training centres in the country. It sponsored a senior officer to attend a course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

The ICRC continued to organize events to promote knowledge of IHL at brigade level, as well as a one-day introduction to the law for soldiers and non-commissioned officers. It organized 12 information sessions on IHL and ICRC activities for some 1,700 RDF personnel and arranged a one-day IHL workshop for writers of a bi-monthly RDF publication, which included a two-page spread on human rights and ICRC activities in relation to the armed forces.

The ICRC surveyed the police to find out how the force could be assisted in incorporating humanitarian principles and values into training. It organized 11 sessions on human rights law (with the focus on detention) for 250 national police staff. It also held 17 half-day information sessions on its mandate and the basic rules of IHL for 2,200 members of local defence forces.

- 32 RDF officer instructors took part in a train-the-trainer course on IHL
- 1,700 RDF personnel attended information sessions on IHL and ICRC
- 250 national police staff attended sessions on human rights law
- 2,200 local defence forces personnel attended sessions on IHL and ICRC

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising public awareness of ICRC activities

The ICRC continued to hold informal meetings with local journalists and regularly appeared on national radio and television to discuss issues of concern to it, including water projects in Mutura and Muhazi, an AIDS project in Nsinda prison and a train-the-trainer course in Ruhengeri. The local and international media showed keen interest in the ICRC's announcement of a strategy to reduce its activities in the prisons in 2004.

- ▶ 9 information sessions were held for 280 members of civil society including politicians, teachers, journalists, NGOs, students and members of the Rwandan Red Cross

### Raising awareness in schools and universities

The ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme was incorporated into different areas of the six-year civic education course for secondary school pupils, as agreed with the Ministry of Education in August 2002. The printing of teaching guides and training for staff were both postponed until 2004 owing to the election. In November, the ICRC held a presentation on EHL for about 100 educators from all over Africa who had congregated in Kigali for the seventh congress of the International Federation of Teachers of French.

Despite the prolonged closure of universities, the ICRC developed and maintained contacts with university authorities and professors, and distributed publications on IHL to various institutions. In March, the ICRC enabled a team of three students from the University of Butare to participate in the Jean Pictet international humanitarian law competition in Italy. The delegation also sponsored participation by a professor from the Université Laïque Adventiste de Kigali in the pan-African course on IHL for academics from French-speaking countries, held in Senegal in October.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC increased its support to the Rwandan Red Cross to enable it to improve its skills in the areas of promoting IHL, conflict preparedness, and restoring family links. It held a series of four preparatory meetings with the National Society, ahead of the Council of Delegates and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva. These meetings were attended by the regional representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as well as representatives of government ministries.

### Promoting law and fundamental principles

The ICRC trained Rwandan Red Cross district IHL-promotion officers in IHL, the Seville Agreement, Movement strategy and the Fundamental Principles. It helped the National Society promote its image through mass media events on occasions such as World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. For the occasion it organized a press conference on the coming year's themes, which for the Movement included protecting human dignity and for the National Society focused on non-stigmatization of and countering discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

### Enhancing conflict preparedness

To enhance the National Society's ability to respond to conflict and other crises, the ICRC increased its support for first-aid brigades, extending the programme to brigades in five other prefectures. It supported 10-day courses in conflict preparedness and response for first-aid volunteers, while also helping set up volunteer disaster-management committees in Kigali-rural, Cyangugu and Gitarama.

### Supporting the restoring of family links

The ICRC boosted the Society's tracing activities by supporting the training of volunteers at four new branches. It provided two-day training sessions for Society volunteers from the prefectures of Gikongoro, Byumba, Kibungo, Kibuye and Cyangugu on tracing and the distribution of RCMs. Eleven volunteers in Byumba, Gikongoro and Kigali-rural received three days of training to enable them to follow up children that have been reunited with their families.



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation

# sierra leone

Since the end of the war in January 2002, the ICRC has adapted its operations in Sierra Leone. Following up cases of Liberian children separated from their families and visits to people deprived of their freedom remain the ICRC's protection priorities. Meanwhile, the ICRC has completed its health, housing, water and sanitation projects for vulnerable civilians in the worst-affected eastern districts. While some shelter assistance will continue in Kailahun district, other types of relief aid have all but ceased. The ICRC has maintained a continuous presence in Sierra Leone since 1991.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection  
**2,918,543**  
Assistance  
**2,651,673**  
Preventive action  
**451,226**  
Cooperation with National Societies  
**940,427**  
General  
**0**  
► **6,961,868**  
of which: Overheads **424,903**

## PERSONNEL

**16** expatriates  
**118** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- ▶ 3,000 RCMs were handled in conjunction with the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society.
- ▶ Housing conditions were improved for 300 destitute households (1,000 beneficiaries) headed by women.
- ▶ 700 latrines and 22 wells were constructed.
- ▶ 38 children registered in Sierra Leone were reunited with their families in Guinea and Liberia.
- ▶ Material assistance was given to 219 fishing associations, 23 women's associations and 19 youth groups.

## CONTEXT

Helped by the continued presence of United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) troops and international support to local civil and military structures, the overall political and security situation in Sierra Leone remained generally stable. UNAMSIL maintained its strength in the eastern part of the country, while continuing to reduce its overall deployment. By the end of December, its force was down to around 11,500 troops.

Sierra Leone progressed in consolidating State authority throughout the country. Government officials were fully deployed in all districts. The creation of the National Council of Paramount Chiefs, comprising all 149 paramount chiefs was a positive development in the effort to entrench traditional leaders and devolve power to the local authorities. Internal tensions, however, persisted, as evidenced on 13 January when the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces' (RSLAF) Wellington Barracks in East Freetown was attacked in an attempted coup. Some 90 suspects were arrested in connection with the incident.

In December the government announced the completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme for ex-combatants. Reportedly, 32,900 of the 56,700 ex-combatants who had registered for the programme had completed their training. However, a new category of ex-combatants surfaced, in unknown numbers, in districts bordering Liberia.

The country was affected by the conflict in neighbouring Liberia. In mid-February, the dissident movement, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), attacked Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) positions in south-western Liberia. As a result, several hundred AFL soldiers crossed the border into Sierra Leone and surrendered to the RSLAF. Between February and May, a fresh wave of over 8,000 people fled Liberia into eastern Sierra Leone, bringing the total population in the country's refugee camps to 75,000. In the second half of the year, several thousand refugees returned to Liberia. However it was impossible to state with certainty the number that returned as some subsequently headed back to refugee camps in Sierra Leone. Since the closure of IDP camps throughout the country, the remaining 10,000 or so IDPs have been reclassified as squatters.

In 2003, the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone issued indictments to, inter alia, President Charles Taylor of Liberia, the late Foday Sankoh, leader of the Revolutionary United Front, now deceased, and Chief Sam Hinga Norman, Minister for Internal Affairs at the time of his arrest. Among those indicted but still at large was Johnny Paul Koroma, former head of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council. On 7 May, the Special Court released the news that the Front's former general, Sam Bockarie, also indicted, had been killed in Liberia.

## ICRC ACTION

In keeping with the shift in the country's needs in 2003, the ICRC reduced the size of its workforce and operations. While ensuring adequate living conditions for vulnerable populations, including access to clean drinking water, the organization continued to focus on areas in which it remained a reference point: activities for detainees, protection of civilians, and handling Red Cross messages (RCMs) for newly arrived Liberian refugees. The organization carried on coordinating the restoration of family contacts in Sierra Leone and within the entire sub-region. Through its activities the ICRC sought to ensure that children separated from their parents and living mostly in refugee camps in Guinea were reunited with their families in Sierra Leone. By the same token the ICRC identified Liberian child refugees in Sierra Leone requiring reunification with their parents in Liberia.

The ICRC-supported Kenema Government Hospital project formally ended in December 2002 with its handover to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation. The ICRC continued to provide supplies for the hospital's operating theatre and surgical ward until June 2003. The recently completed two-year ICRC programme in Kono and Kailahun districts focused on assisting the Ministry in bringing basic health services to the most remote and conflict-damaged areas. The ICRC continued supporting the Ministry by providing equipment and materials until December. With the return of peace to the country, an increasing number of organizations came into the health sector and were willing to take over where the ICRC left off. Accordingly, no further health-care or medical-support programmes were planned.

The ICRC carried on working with its Movement partners to restructure the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society and develop sustainable community-based activities. The ICRC and the International Federation signed a new framework agreement in May defining the respective core responsibilities of all of the Movement partners in Sierra Leone, on the basis of the Seville Agreement. In the country there was a shift towards development-oriented organizations, active in such areas as micro-credit and community-based activities for Sierra Leonean civilians and Liberian refugees. The ICRC participated in coordination events with other actors, complementing their efforts.

The security situation in Sierra Leone remained relatively stable in 2003, although isolated incidents were reported, such as a

cross-border attack in January by Liberian fighters, which caused temporary displacements of civilians in Kailahun district.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians

Residents of several isolated villages bordering Liberia were again victims of incursions by Liberian fighters. Some lost all their belongings as a result of looting and the burning of homes. Dozens of people were temporarily displaced to Beudu in Kailahun district, where they were assisted by organizations present in that area. The ICRC interviewed incoming refugees and collected information to gain a clearer picture of what was happening in Liberia. The organization continued to monitor the situation of the population and maintained contact with civil society, the police and armed forces, as well as with UN agencies and UNAMSIL.

### Restoring family links and reuniting families

The conflicts in Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire forced tens of thousands of Liberians, including many children, to flee and seek refuge in Sierra Leone as well as in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. The ICRC and the National Societies of the countries concerned conducted a massive poster campaign to locate the parents of separated children.

In Sierra Leone, a series of sessions were conducted, involving religious and traditional leaders, youth groups, women's groups, schools and other humanitarian organizations, to raise their awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities in general and its tracing service in particular. Additionally, lists of people sought were posted in communities and announced on the radio. A play on tracing and family reunification, produced by the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, was performed throughout the country. As a result, some people sought by their families were found and the number of tracing requests increased. The RCM network continued to enable civilians in Kailahun district to re-establish contact with family members. However, considering the difficulty of offering this service to refugees who were constantly on the move, and the large number of refugee children separated from their families, priority was given to reuniting these children with their families.

In Guinea, the ICRC continued to monitor 1,306 Sierra Leonean, Liberian and Ivorian children and stepped up efforts to trace the

families of over 887 children who were searching for relatives in neighbouring countries.

In Sierra Leone, the ICRC maintained an almost daily presence in eight refugee camps in the south-east of the country. It worked side by side with its contacts there, monitoring the situation of children separated from their families. In January, in a preliminary repatriation from Sierra Leone, 11 Liberian children were returned to Liberia to be reunited with their families. Thereafter, the events in Liberia interrupted the reunification programme until the end of 2003. Altogether 38 Liberian children were reunited with their relatives in Liberia and Guinea. Awareness campaigns were conducted in refugee camps to prevent the children from exposing themselves to the risks involved in returning home on their own. Efforts to find and monitor Liberian children associated with fighting forces intensified, particularly with regard to those who, along with adults, surrendered to the Sierra Leonean government.

### Enhancing civilians' access to water and sanitation facilities

Within the purview of its water and sanitation project for Kailahun district, the ICRC provided technical assistance and materials for the construction and repair of latrines, water points and wells. The community contributed labour and locally available materials like sand and gravel. A health and sanitation committee was established or reinforced in each community and became the focal point for communal activities. Several volunteers from the communities received training in promoting health education and maintaining water pumps. In addition, sessions were conducted in all villages to raise awareness of domestic hygiene, water-borne diseases, proper water storage and other health issues.

By the end of the year under review, 680 traditional pit latrines, 20 public latrines and 20 water points, including hand-dug wells and protective covers for springs, had been constructed or repaired in the Yawei and Penguia chiefdoms of Kailahun district. All new wells were sunk to the lowest possible water table, making it unlikely for them to dry up during dry seasons. The objective of constructing 600 latrines was surpassed to take into account the demographic implications of the steady return of refugees from Guinea and Liberia. The project was much appreciated by the communities, particularly because, in the past, this area of the country had received very little humanitarian aid.

In Kono district, the water-supply system serving Kamiendor and Mafindor chiefdoms was repaired and extended to the newly constructed peripheral health unit, as planned. This concluded water and sanitation activities in Kono district.

### Supporting vulnerable households headed by women

This project began in October 2002 with the identification of women who headed households in Penguia and Yawei chiefdoms of Kailahun district. On the basis of this survey, construction of 300 houses for 1,000 beneficiaries was completed in June. The ICRC's contribution involved providing materials not available locally, such as nails and corrugated iron sheets, as well as technical support to 60 local carpenters who each received a set of tools. The communities helped the women by putting up the framework for the houses.

### Boosting civilians' self-sufficiency

During the first three months of the year, the ICRC identified, registered and equipped 219 fishing associations. The ICRC had also planned to help a number of ex-combatants, but as it turned out, not all were willing to become farmers. In early 2003 the National Committee for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration presented the ICRC with 150 beneficiaries for the organization's agricultural programme. However, in May, only 116 beneficiaries showed up to receive seed and tools.

Following assessments in the region adjacent to the Liberian border (Kailahun district), the ICRC distributed its remaining stocks of seeds and tools to women's associations and youth groups.

### Restoring family links

- 3,000 RCMs were handled in conjunction with the Sierra Leonean Red Cross
- 230 children were registered in refugee camps and issued with ID cards, bringing the total number of Liberian children separated from their families to 456
- 114 children associated with fighting forces were registered
- 38 Liberian children were reunited with relatives in Liberia and Guinea

### Economic security

- 300 houses were built for households headed by women, comprising 1,000 beneficiaries
- seeds and implements were distributed to 116 ex-combatants, 219 fishing associations, 23 women's associations and 19 youth groups

### Water and habitat

- 680 pit latrines, 20 public latrines and 20 water points were rebuilt or repaired
- 1 water-supply system was upgraded

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC maintained its visits to detainees held in connection with conflicts and for security reasons to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Observations and recommendations were submitted to the detaining authorities. In addition, a presentation on the Movement, the ICRC's mandate, IHL and human rights law was conducted for 21 prison officers at the Kenema district prison. Because detainees were allowed family visits and telephone contact with relatives, their need for the Red Cross message service was limited to up-country or distant destinations.

During the first half of 2003, the ICRC continued to monitor the large influx of Liberian army troops held at the Mape and Mafanta internment camps. The internees included children associated with fighting forces, and women. Through bimonthly discussions with the Internment Task Force, the ICRC advised the authorities on their obligation to ensure that the internees' treatment and conditions of detention were consistent with IHL and humanitarian principles. In October some of the internees were granted family visits, a positive development and outcome of ICRC lobbying.

- 547 detainees were visited, including 35 children, during 26 visits to 16 places of detention
- 132 detainees were visited by family members, with ICRC support
- 2,598 RCMs were handled on behalf of detainees
- 2 wells were built to provide sufficient water to detainees in Mafanta camp
- tarpaulins, blankets, mats and clothes were distributed to internees
- educational material and equipment were provided for a classroom and library in Kenema prison

### WOUNDED AND SICK

#### Assisting surgical patients

The ICRC provided a monthly supply of surgical materials to the Kenema General Hospital for the treatment of destitute patients and other vulnerable people

needing surgery. However, an ICRC follow-up revealed that no "strictly" vulnerable patients benefited, as most of the patients paid for both drugs and surgical procedures. None of the patients were war-wounded. The last ICRC delivery of supplies to Kenema Hospital in May was sufficient to cover needs until the end of 2003. The ICRC continued to monitor the hospital's use of these supplies. With ICRC help and expertise, the hospital was able to rearrange its pharmacy and introduce a filing system to keep track of its stock.

The ICRC also made a substantial donation of drugs and medical and surgical materials to Connaught Hospital in Freetown.

#### Supporting medical patients

Construction of the fifth and final peripheral health unit was completed in January. In the second half of 2003 the ICRC completed all planned support to seven peripheral health units in Kono and Kailahun districts (construction and opening of a clinic, repairs to a maternity wing and construction of latrines), and provided them with a three-month supply of essential drugs. The opening of the new clinic resulted in a clear decline in the number of babies delivered at home. All stakeholders had been duly informed of the phase-out of ICRC support and a final report was submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Two Sierra Leonean Red Cross health officers were hired to strengthen health teams in the Kambia and Port Loko branches. In addition, three nurses were recruited to revive the health clinic in Kambia. Furthermore, primary health-care services were maintained in seven permanent clinics, two mobile clinics and one school clinic.

#### Consolidating women's health services

At the beginning of the year, an initial donation of drugs and medical/surgical materials was given to Princess Christian Maternity Hospital to help the struggling facility maintain basic services. At the same time, Kenema Government Hospital continued to receive monthly supplies of drugs and surgical materials for the benefit of vulnerable women requiring life-saving surgical operations.

#### Providing community-based healthcare

The network of volunteers of the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society continued their community health-promotion activities and house-to-house visits in all 58 communities targeted. The volunteers focused on

reducing maternal and infant mortality by promoting the use of health-care facilities for antenatal and post-natal care, immunizations and other mother-and-child care issues. Nine National Society-run clinics provided medical treatment. Sierra Leonean Red Cross programmes, which received technical and material support from the ICRC, not only helped reduce infant mortality rates, but also raised awareness of HIV/AIDS and other social and health concerns.

### Bringing hope to disabled people

Handicap International remained the only NGO with the potential to carry out programmes for disabled people in the country. The Ministry of Health, with material support from the ICRC, enabled the NGO to continue providing prosthetic and orthotic services in Freetown, Bo and at the Kenema Government Hospital.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the national authorities as part of efforts to encourage Sierra Leone to incorporate the provisions of IHL treaties to which it was party into its national legislation and to ratify other IHL instruments. The efforts included a one-day seminar conducted for over 30 government officials, which dealt with their role in promoting the Red Cross and IHL.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces introduced internal training directives, which, among other things, made it mandatory for each soldier to complete some IHL training each year. With 55 ICRC-trained IHL military instructors and two officers who had attended advanced IHL courses at San Remo under ICRC sponsorship, the ICRC was convinced that the RSLAF was now capable of conducting its own IHL training. The organization was very satisfied with the IHL sessions conducted by the military instructors for their troops and planned, therefore, to limit its future support to helping the armed forces develop its training capacity.

The ICRC conducted a series of presentations for officers and non-commissioned officers from various UN peace-keeping contingents in Sierra Leone, focusing on the activities of the ICRC and the UN Secretary General's bulletin on the observance of IHL by UN peacekeepers.

- ▶ 1 IHL course was conducted for 19 military instructors
- ▶ 1 lieutenant was sponsored for the 103rd International military course on IHL in San Remo
- ▶ refresher courses on IHL and the Movement and Fundamental Principles were held for the army's rank and file
- ▶ with ICRC support, armed forces instructors carried out several IHL-training sessions for troops

## CIVIL SOCIETY

With the country no longer divided between the government and former dissident forces, there was a marked improvement in the public's perception of the ICRC. Nonetheless, there was still a need to improve understanding of the differences between the ICRC and other humanitarian organizations, and between the various components of the Movement. Likewise, it was important to reinforce the image of the organization as a reference for IHL. Finally, the reasons for the ICRC's reduction of its activities had to be properly explained to the media and general public.

The delegation delivered a presentation on the theme "The Geneva Conventions and the legal basis of ICRC's action" to 53 participants, including resource people in refugee camps, representatives of child-protection agencies such as UNICEF, IRC, SCF-UK and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs, as well as ICRC field officers and National Society tracing workers. In addition, the ICRC kept the authorities, civil-society leaders and opinion-makers regularly informed of Red Cross activities throughout the country through a quarterly news bulletin.

Initiatives to enhance contacts with the media were stepped up, with the result that ICRC activities, such as efforts to help reunite family members separated by conflict, particularly children with their parents, received positive and wide media coverage.

The ICRC and Sierra Leone Red Cross Society initiated talks with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology to promote the introduction of the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) education programme for young people into secondary schools. Although the discussions were still at the embryonic stage, the authorities shared the view that EHL could be inserted into the peace-education package in the current curriculum.

Under ICRC sponsorship, the professor in charge of teaching international public law at the University of Sierra Leone travelled to South Africa to take part in an all-Africa course on IHL in Pretoria. His participation was aimed at motivating him to promote and teach IHL at the university.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Restoring family links

To consolidate and expand tracing services in refugee camps, the ICRC and the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society worked together to set up tracing booths in eight camps and to strengthen the technical skills of their resource people in the camps. Workshops and courses on tracing were organized with National Society staff and volunteers. In addition, an incentive scheme was put in place for tracing workers in refugee camps, and the ICRC provided the National Society with motorbikes to carry out its tracing activities in the field. The ICRC also sponsored the participation of the Secretary General of the National Society at the ICRC-organized international conference on missing persons, held in Geneva in February.

The ICRC supported the National Society's child advocacy and rehabilitation project, launched to assist children affected by war. Three community centres set up as part of the project, functioned well, and the National Society carried out awareness sessions in several communities to facilitate the rehabilitation of the children.

### Conflict preparedness and response

The National Society provided an emergency response to the influx of Sierra Leonean returnees and Liberian refugees by distributing emergency aid. The ICRC supported the National Society in expanding branches and Red Cross groups in Koinadougou, Kailahun and Pujehun Districts to ensure its services were offered countrywide. The National Society collected and re-distributed four tonnes of seed rice to 200 vulnerable farming households in five chiefdoms of the Koinadugu District.

### Promoting IHL

The ICRC continued supporting the dissemination activities of the National Society, aimed at raising awareness of IHL and the Movement's role, Fundamental Principles and activities, particularly among community leaders, teachers and students, refugees and the general public. Donation of a four-wheel drive vehicle and visual aids for use in presentations helped increase

the National Society's capacity to organize dissemination sessions. All 11 Red Cross branches in the Pujehun district received a consignment of ICRC publications. The ICRC also financed the production of a video featuring the National Society's child-advocacy and rehabilitation project in Waterloo. The project was helping raise awareness of the Red Cross response to the plight of children affected by armed conflict.

### **Coordination within the Movement**

A task force was set up in January 2003 to draft a memorandum of understanding aimed at formally terminating the ICRC's role as lead agency of the Movement in Sierra Leone and outlining the respective roles and responsibilities of all Movement partners in the country, as well as mechanisms for communication and coordination. The Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, the International Federation and the ICRC signed the memorandum on 16 May 2003.



⛶ (ICRC delegation in Nairobi) ⛶ SRCS/ICRC hospital

# somalia

The ICRC has maintained a presence in Somalia since 1982, basing its delegation in Nairobi since 1994. It focuses on providing people with emergency aid to alleviate the direct effects of conflict, which are often compounded by natural disasters. Its activities include medical care for the war-wounded and providing essential household items and water and sanitation facilities. The ICRC also carries out programmes with a medium-term outlook, designed to preserve the livelihoods of extremely vulnerable groups. It works closely with the Somali Red Crescent Society.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**440,615**

Assistance

**19,178,490**

Preventive action

**481,281**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,047,584**

General

**0**

► **21,147,970**

of which: Overheads **1,273,632**

## PERSONNEL

**14** expatriates

**27** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC was the main provider of emergency aid in central and southern Somalia; some 225,000 people displaced by conflict or natural disaster received relief items.
- To treat the war-wounded, the ICRC supported 5 hospitals and 25 health-care posts, and assessed the medical care available in Somalia with a view to supporting more health-care facilities.
- Over 1,000 life-giving water points were built, repaired or maintained, providing access to clean water for some 1.4 million farmers and 1 million nomads.
- Some 150 projects designed to boost community food production and income benefited 110,000 vulnerable people.
- Some 17,000 RCMs were forwarded, enabling Somalis separated by conflict to communicate with family in Somalia and abroad.
- The Somali Red Crescent received substantial support in assisting victims of conflict and natural disaster.

## CONTEXT

Thirteen years after the fall of President Siad Barre, Somalia remained the only State in the world without a functioning or recognized national government. The national reconciliation process, launched in October 2002 under the aegis of the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development, made some progress towards establishing a central authority. However, disagreements among the participants over the selection of a parliament delayed adoption of a transitional charter that would pave the way for a federal system of government, excluding Somaliland.

The Declaration on Cessation of Hostilities, signed by Somali political and faction leaders on 27 October 2002, had little effect on the level of violence throughout 2003. Armed confrontations occurred in several areas of Galgudud and southern Mudug in central Somalia, and in the south in Bay, Lower and Middle Juba and Middle Shabele. The fighting was triggered by political disputes, competition for control of income-generating infrastructure, property or scarce natural resources, and the custom of settling scores through violence. These confrontations were generally localized and short-lived, but on occasion claimed a high number of casualties.

Thanks to generally good rainfall in 2003, the availability of food and water and the health of livestock improved in Somalia. However, the cumulative effects of ongoing fighting and a series of natural disasters meant hundreds of thousands of people still faced severe economic hardship in

central and southern regions, in particular in Bay, Bakool, Gedo, Hiran, Lower Juba and Mogadishu. In the north, the Sanaag and Sool areas suffered from a prolonged lack of rain.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC was the main provider of emergency aid to displaced people and residents caught up in conflict or natural disasters in central and southern Somalia. Stocks of medical supplies were positioned in potential hot spots and distributed to communities, as needed, to treat an influx of war-wounded. The ICRC also distributed shelter and construction material, household goods and seeds for planting, and restored water and sanitation facilities.

The organization stepped up its medical programme aimed at providing an acceptable level of treatment for the war-wounded and other patients needing emergency surgery. It supported two surgical referral hospitals, three regional hospitals that stabilized war-wounded patients requiring surgical care before transferring them to referral hospitals, and 25 primary health-care posts that offered free first aid and curative care. The ICRC also launched a survey of available medical care in Somalia, with a view to identifying more “pre-hospital care” centres it could support.

Some 300 short- to medium-term ICRC projects were carried out to improve access to clean water or boost food production and income for nomadic and farming families whose fragile livelihoods were threatened by continuing insecurity. Many of the communities were also suffering the effects of drought or seasonal floods. In the majority of projects, a water-supply facility vital to the community's survival was rebuilt or otherwise improved. In one third of the projects, the poorest members of a community received cash in return for working on the projects.

The ICRC's flexible set-up, well adapted to Somalia's situation, meant it was able to maintain a significant field presence and level of activities in a difficult environment. The organization had no permanent facilities in Somalia, so security problems were limited. Instead, a team of 14 ICRC expatriate staff based in Nairobi made regular field trips to assess the situation, averaging two expatriates per day in Somalia. The team focused on the overall strategy and management of the programmes as well as developing and evaluating individual projects and providing training and know-how. Meanwhile, a network of some 20 Somali national staff identified and carried out projects, oversaw security and logistics, hired local workers and procured local goods, negotiated with political, faction and community leaders, and liaised with the Somali

Red Crescent. They thus had far more autonomy and responsibility than national staff in ICRC operations elsewhere.

The ICRC maintained a substantial level of support to help the National Society develop its activities, in particular preparing for and responding to emergencies and running the tracing and Red Cross message service.

To coordinate and thus maximize the impact of humanitarian activities in Somalia, the ICRC maintained its observer status on the Somali Aid Coordination Body, a voluntary group of donors, UN agencies and NGOs, and had regular meetings with its partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## CIVILIANS

### Emergency aid for displaced people

Despite the 2002 ceasefire, armed conflicts continued in central and southern Somalia, driving thousands of people from their homes. Internally displaced people (IDPs) had often fled without their belongings and some had no clan to turn to for support. Many were living in communities with little food or water to spare. The ICRC distributed emergency supplies (tarpaulins, kitchenware and clothing) to the worst off displaced families, mainly in Bay, Bakool, Galgudud, Hiran, Lower and Middle Juba and Lower Shabele. Some long-term displaced families on the brink of destitution received seeds for planting. Those able to return home were given tarpaulins, wire and tools to help rebuild their homes. On the basis of its assessment of the condition of long-term IDPs living in camps in urban areas, the ICRC distributed tarpaulins, mosquito netting, clothing and hygiene items to some 12,000 displaced families in Mogadishu and Kismayo.

### Boosting crop production and income

After living for over a decade with conflict, a series of natural disasters and a weak government, many Somalis were close to exhausting their resources, despite strong clan networks. The ICRC ran some 150 short- and medium-term projects designed to help weakened farming and nomadic communities in central and southern parts of the country preserve their livelihoods and so be in a better position to weather another crisis without outside aid.

One-off, short-term “Community Intervention Projects” (CIPs) were completed in 109 communities. Each CIP paid cash to

needy members of the community – in total 9,500 people – in return for their labour in repairing vital local infrastructure, usually a water catchment or irrigation channel. The aim was to provide the community with a short-term economic injection and at the same time a facility that would aid long-term productivity. The communities helped design the CIPs, which lasted on average 28 days, and received training and tools to maintain the refurbished facilities. In some cases, a distribution of emergency aid to IDPs was complemented by a CIP to help the host community cope with the new arrivals.

Along the Juba and Shebele rivers, ICRC “gravity irrigation projects” repaired 24 sluice gates so that farmers could regulate the irrigation of their crops and prevent their fields and homes from being flooded during heavy seasonal rains. While floods in May damaged several hundred hectares of farmland, areas where the ICRC had repaired sluice gates experienced no flooding. The organization also provided riverside communities with sandbags that protected an estimated 38,000 hectares of farmland from being inundated during seasonal floods.

ICRC “pump irrigation projects” strove to boost crop production by modernizing irrigation practices in the Hiran region. Powerful diesel-driven pumps were installed in six communities that already practised rain-fed irrigation and were willing, after ICRC training, to maintain the pumps themselves. In addition, a self-help scheme was launched in the Gedo region. Eight selected communities were given small pumps that they would pay for over time. A field survey showed the pumps were being used extensively, with each one irrigating cash crops on eight to 10 hectares of land for 10 to 15 families. Initial results indicated that four growing seasons would produce enough money to buy a new pump.

To vary the local source of food and income, the ICRC set up a tree nursery in December 2002 in Janale, in the Lower Shabele region, managed by the local community. One year on, the nursery had produced some 100,000 neem, eucalyptus, casuarina, and fruit saplings. Neem were distributed free of charge to neighbouring communities as part of an ICRC campaign to encourage cultivation of the tree, the seeds of which act as a free and environmentally-friendly pesticide. Tree sales were lower than expected and more promotion activities were planned for 2004.

To cover crop failures caused by too little rain or by flash floods, the ICRC distributed seeds ahead of the planting seasons to about 16,900 families in central and southern Somalia and Puntland who practised rain-fed agriculture. It also gave vegetable seeds to grow as an alternative source of income to some 16,000 families on small-scale farms who faced long-term food insecurity but had access to water.

### Providing clean water

The ICRC built or repaired 127 water points, mainly shallow wells and boreholes, and donated cement to maintain 885 *berkads* (traditional subsurface reservoirs) throughout central and southern Somalia, thus providing some 350,000 farming and nomadic families and their livestock with access to clean water within a reasonable distance. To identify the neediest communities, the ICRC assessed availability of water together with the economic situation and clan-support network.

### Restoring family links

Thousands of Somalis who had been uprooted by conflict were able to restore contact and stay in touch with family members through the tracing service and Red Cross messages (RCMs – brief personal messages to relatives) provided by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent. In addition, names of people sought by their families were broadcast on the BBC Somali service's "Missing Persons" radio programme, sponsored by the ICRC. A spot-check survey of 300 names read out revealed that, through the show, one in three enquirers managed to restore contact with the person they sought.

### Restoring family links

- ▶ 9,459 RCMs were delivered
- ▶ 6,921 names of people sought were broadcast by BBC

### Economic security

- ▶ 212,000 IDPs and 14,400 returnees received shelter materials and essential household items
- ▶ 147 community projects designed to boost food production/income were completed, benefiting some 109,000 people

### Water and habitat

- ▶ 8 water-catchment devices, 77 shallow wells, 23 boreholes, and 19 *berkads* were built or repaired; cement was donated to maintain 885 *berkads*, serving some 1.4 million farmers and 1 million nomads

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating the war-wounded

The ICRC supported two surgical hospitals in Mogadishu that served as referral units for war-wounded people from a large part of the country, three regional "pre-hospital" care centres, and 25 health-care posts located in remote rural areas. Emergency medical supplies were positioned in potential hot spots and distributed, as needed, to health-care facilities and community leaders to treat any influx of war-wounded.

The ICRC provided funds, training, medical and surgical supplies and food to Mogadishu North's Keysaney Hospital (110 beds) run by the Somali Red Crescent, and Medina Hospital (65 beds) in Mogadishu South. Both hospitals signed formal agreements with the ICRC in 2003 that set out each party's objectives and responsibilities in terms of management and surgical care. As part of cost-recovery programmes introduced by the ICRC in 2001, both hospitals charged bed fees, when patients could afford them, and solicited community support. Keysaney was covering around 10% of its running costs and Medina about 20%.

The ICRC delivered monthly stocks of pharmaceuticals and other supplies to the emergency wards of Mudug Regional Hospital in Galkayo and Baidoa Hospital in the Bay region. By mid-year, both hospitals were suffering internal problems and could no longer guarantee an adequate level of surgical care. The ICRC therefore focused on providing first-aid supplies so that the hospitals could treat minor injuries and stabilize seriously war-wounded people before transferring them to referral hospitals.

In addition, the ICRC continued to provide funds and dressing material to 25 primary health-care posts run by the Somali Red Crescent. The posts offered free first aid and curative care to a combined population of some 580,000 residents and IDPs in remote, violence-prone areas of central and southern Somalia (10 posts in Hiran, seven in Lower Juba, four in Galgudud, two in Gedo and two in Bakool).

### Expanding first aid

As the year ended, the ICRC was carrying out an extensive assessment of medical care available in Somalia with a view to identifying and supporting more facilities that could handle minor cases and stabilize seriously war-wounded patients before transferring them to an appropriate hospital. Thus far, Brawa Hospital in Lower Shabele had met the

standards and received appropriate supplies and equipment.

### Fighting cholera

The ICRC supported five centres run by the Somali Red Crescent (four in Mogadishu South and a new centre opened in 2003 in Mogadishu North) that dispensed oral rehydration salts to patients dehydrated by diarrhoea. The centres were open between April and June, the high-risk period for cholera outbreaks. Severely dehydrated patients were referred to the two cholera-treatment centres in the capital run by Action contre le faim and MSF-Spain. Cholera-prevention plays, songs and jingles, co-produced by the ICRC and HornAfrik, a Mogadishu radio station, were broadcast on HornAfrik and BBC Somalia. The ICRC also helped chlorinate local wells.

- ▶ 4 hospitals, 25 primary health-care posts, 1 first-aid centre and 5 oral-rehydration centres were supported
- ▶ 7,635\* patients were admitted, including 3,156 war-wounded, 21 of them mine victims
- ▶ 6,432 operations were performed
- ▶ 13,006 outpatient consultations were given
- ▶ 190,715 curative consultations were carried out by health-care posts and oral-rehydration centres

\* The figures in entries 2-4 refer to ICRC-supported hospitals.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Given the weakened transitional national government and ongoing armed conflicts between various militias and clans, the ICRC was not able to adopt a structured approach to raising awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL) among all armed and security forces. The organization instead focused its efforts on promoting the basic rules of IHL among police and security forces in Puntland and Somaliland, and helped the Somali Red Crescent to spread knowledge of IHL in areas inaccessible to the ICRC.

- ▶ 4 IHL workshops and a week-long first-aid course were conducted for Somaliland security forces and police, and 2,000 IHL booklets delivered to their headquarters in Hargeisa
- ▶ 1 half-day session on IHL was held for 58 police recruits in Puntland

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC worked mainly with institutions of higher learning and women's groups to raise public awareness of IHL. Two workshops were held for women's groups in Mogadishu and Hargeisa to discuss their particular concerns when conflict erupts, as well as the relationship of IHL to traditional Somali customs governing conflict. With ICRC support, the women in turn organized 13 similar discussion groups involving other influential women in their communities.

- 14 IHL workshops were conducted in Mogadishu and Somaliland for women's groups, university students and other decision-makers in civil society
- 16,000 leaflets explaining IHL in the Somali context were handed out during seed distributions in June to families in conflict-prone areas
- 12,000 calendars promoting IHL were distributed countrywide

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Somali Red Crescent Society remained a key partner in all areas of ICRC activity. With ICRC support, the Society carried out tracing programmes, distributed emergency aid, ran a hospital and health-care posts, and promoted knowledge of IHL. Amid ongoing conflict involving scores of factions and clans, the Society's major challenge was to preserve its internal unity and its ability to assist people in an impartial and balanced manner throughout the country.

### Building capacity

To ensure the National Society had a solid management infrastructure, the ICRC continued to contribute to the salaries of core staff and the running costs of the headquarters in Mogadishu, coordination offices in Hargeisa and Nairobi, and the 19 branches.

To help build a well-trained network of volunteers, the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Somali Red Crescent organized a workshop, attended by representatives of all 19 branches, on how to manage and motivate volunteers. With the support of the ICRC, the International Federation and the Norwegian Red Cross, the National Society also held four other management workshops (two in Belet Huen, one in Galkayo and one in Hargeisa), reaching all 19 branches, to discuss how to

prioritize and develop community-based activities such as AIDS-prevention campaigns and first-aid courses.

### Conflict preparedness and response

The ICRC maintained its level of funding and material and technical support to help the Somali Red Crescent improve its ability to administer first aid and conduct first-aid courses in communities countrywide. With ICRC assistance, two courses were held to train first-aid instructors in all 19 branches. The ICRC provided the National Society with first-aid kits and training mannequins, and some 2,500 first-aid manuals were drafted, printed and distributed through a joint effort by the ICRC, Somali Red Crescent, International Federation and Kenya Red Cross Society.

### Restoring family links and promoting IHL

The ICRC continued to financially support the pay of 22 branch field officers and two coordinators responsible for both tracing and IHL-promotion programmes in their regions.

The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent jointly evaluated the tracing services and produced a revised tracing manual, which was distributed at a workshop for all tracing officers. New promotional posters and leaflets explaining the service were produced and distributed to branches. The ICRC and the National Society also worked together to devise and carry out a survey to assess the impact of broadcasting the names of people sought by their family on BBC Somalia's "Missing Persons" radio programme. Measures were agreed and introduced to improve the programme's already impressive response rate.

To help the National Society promote IHL and highlight its own role as a national and impartial humanitarian organization, the ICRC helped to produce and distribute promotional material that included calendars and an annual newsletter to all branches and offices. It also provided audiovisual equipment.



# sudan

The ICRC opened its first office in Khartoum in 1978 in response to the Ethiopian conflict. In 1984 it launched operations in connection with Sudan's internal conflict. The organization focuses on protecting and assisting IDPs and residents affected by conflict; medical assistance for the war-wounded and support for prosthetic/orthotic centres; restoring family links; monitoring the living conditions and treatment of people detained in connection with the conflict; spreading knowledge of IHL among government forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and other bearers of weapons; and cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection  
**3,196,797**  
Assistance  
**32,139,335**  
Preventive action  
**2,223,040**  
Cooperation with National Societies  
**1,868,609**  
General  
**0**  
**► 39,427,781**  
of which: Overheads **2,405,361**

## PERSONNEL

**84** expatriates  
**768** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Sudan was the ICRC's third largest operation worldwide.
- Some 35,000 RCMs were delivered and 38,000 collected, enabling separated family members to communicate with one another in Sudan and abroad; 28 children displaced by conflict were escorted across front lines and reunited with their parents.
- The ICRC supported 2 surgical hospitals that admitted some 8,000 patients (10% war-wounded), and 3 prosthetic/orthotic workshops that delivered some 1,400 artificial limbs.
- In Darfur, 42,000 IDPs received emergency supplies and 80,000 were provided with clean water.
- With improved access in the south, the ICRC assessed and responded to the needs of victims of conflict in areas previously off-limits.
- The Sudanese government set up an inter-ministerial committee for the implementation of IHL.

## CONTEXT

After 18 months of Kenya-based talks, observers were generally optimistic that the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) were close to signing a peace accord to end two decades of internal armed conflict.

Although ceasefires were in force in the south and generally held, civilians continued to come under attack during clan feuds, sporadic clashes between pro-government and opposition militias, and fighting in Equatoria linked to the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan opposition group. An estimated four million people were still displaced and tens of thousands remained separated from members of their families. Over 20 years of conflict had also had a devastating impact on health, water and sanitation services.

In a separate development, fighting broke out in February in the western region of Darfur, pitting government forces and Janjaweed militias against the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement. A ceasefire brokered in nearby Chad in September collapsed and the conflict escalated. Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced and tens of thousands fled across the border to Chad. From mid-November, government restrictions and insecurity effectively blocked humanitarian organizations' access to the conflict-affected areas.

## ICRC ACTION

Improved security and a reduction in travel restrictions allowed the ICRC to further develop its programmes to protect and assist victims of the north-south conflict. It coordinated these activities closely with UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC worked together with the Sudanese Red Crescent to provide emergency aid, mainly water, shelter materials, first-aid supplies and essential household goods, for the worst-off internally displaced people and residents affected by conflict. In response to the conflict in Darfur, the ICRC launched a large-scale relief operation, distributing aid to some 42,000 IDPs and providing some 80,000 with clean water.

The ICRC maintained one of the most extensive tracing services in the world, handling more than 72,000 Red Cross messages (brief, personal messages) written by people separated from their loved ones by conflict. The service was extended to areas of southern Sudan previously off-limits. For the first time in years, the ICRC, with permission from the government and SPLM/A, was able to escort a large group of displaced children across front lines and reunite them with their parents.

The ICRC's hospital and prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Lokichokio, Kenya, continued to treat war-wounded people evacuated from southern Sudan. With a long-term view to improving medical and surgical facilities inside Sudan, the ICRC assessed

health-care facilities in the south and stepped up support for Juba Teaching Hospital and Sudan's two prosthetic/orthotic centres.

The ICRC pursued its mandate to visit all detainees held in connection with conflict. It remained the only organization granted regular access to hundreds of government soldiers held by the SPLM/A. This access was initially restricted in 2003, but after discussions with the SPLM/A, visits resumed and were carried out in accordance with standard ICRC procedures.

A number of milestones were reached in the ICRC's programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among the authorities, armed forces, other bearers of weapons and civil society. These achievements included the creation by the Sudanese government of an interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL and the first advanced course on IHL held for police instructors.

The ICRC maintained support for 13 facilities that provided primary health care (PHC) in government- and SPLM/A-controlled areas of the south. Recognizing that, in the event of a peace accord, rebuilding health-care services in Sudan would be an international development priority, the organization made plans to hand over a part of its PHC programme in 2004 to partner National Societies.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

The ICRC's tracing service in Sudan, set up in 1986, enabled family members separated by conflict to restore and maintain contact with one another by writing RCMs that were collected and delivered in Sudan and abroad. As security improved and travel restrictions eased, the ICRC expanded this service into conflict-affected areas such as the states of Eastern Equatoria and Upper Nile and the Nuba mountains, to which access had been limited for several years. To run the service in both government- and SPLM/A-controlled areas, the ICRC provided key support – funds, training, supervision and materials – to some 200 national ICRC and Sudanese Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

Restoring contact between children and parents separated by fighting remained a priority. In a breakthrough, the ICRC received permission from both the government and SPLM/A to cross front lines in order to reunite 27 children and a baby with their parents. On 28 November, in its

biggest operation of this type in years, the ICRC escorted the children from an IDP camp in an SPLM/A-controlled area to Raja and Wau, where they rejoined their parents after a two-year separation.

### Emergency aid for IDPs and residents

Often working together with the Sudanese Red Crescent, the ICRC delivered emergency aid (mainly shelter materials, water, first-aid supplies and household goods) to people affected by clashes between ethnic groups or armed militias in southern and eastern Sudan. The majority of beneficiaries were either people forced to flee fighting or former IDPs returning home in western Upper Nile/Unity and Kassala states and the Raja region.

In response to the escalating conflict in Darfur, the ICRC launched a major relief operation together with the Sudanese Red Crescent. Between late September and early November, tarpaulins, blankets, clothing and soap were distributed to some 42,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs in camps in Kurma and Kabkabiya in Northern Darfur state, and a water-supply system was set up for 80,000 IDPs. Plans to distribute more aid were interrupted when, in mid-November, access by humanitarian organizations to the conflict-affected areas was effectively blocked by government restrictions and insecurity. The ICRC made repeated representations to all parties involved, but by the end of December the situation had not changed.

### Improving primary health care

The ICRC continued to develop its community-based, primary health-care (PHC) programme, launched in 1998 to prevent public health from deteriorating in vulnerable areas of southern Sudan. The organization provided medical supplies, staff, training, supervision and building maintenance to 13 PHC facilities serving some 225,000 people in and around Juba, Raja and Wau (government-controlled) and Chelkou and Yirol (SPLM/A-controlled). In addition, three clinics damaged during fighting in 2001 reopened in the Raja region towards the end of 2003. The majority of facilities offered curative, prenatal and mother-and-child care, vaccination programmes and health education. There was a general improvement in the quality and range of treatments and in community support for the programme. In the Yirol region, for example, a community campaign to eradicate river blindness was carried out by 300 ICRC-trained local volunteers, who distributed the required drugs, provided

by HealthNet International, in around 200 villages, reaching some 60,000 people.

To complement the work of the PHC facilities, the ICRC helped form and train local committees to keep water points clean, and trained PHC staff and community members to promote good hygiene practices. In Yirol, with the ICRC providing spare parts and ongoing training, a local water board was set up, responsible for servicing 50 water points benefiting some 100,000 people. Similarly, in Wau, committees trained and equipped by the ICRC took over maintenance of hand pumps serving around 10,000 people. A hygiene-promotion workshop was held in Juba for 20 staff from all ICRC-supported PHC facilities and, in a new initiative, 20 local teachers in Yirol were trained to carry out hygiene-promotion programmes in schools.

At the end of the year, when a peace accord seemed likely, the ICRC made plans to hand over part of its PHC programme in 2004 to Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. This was in line with ICRC strategy to phase out longer-term assistance programmes occasioned by deficient infrastructure rather than needs caused directly by conflict.

### Restoring family links

- 37,800 RCMs were collected and 34,800 distributed
- 39 people (35 of them children) were reunited with their families
- 24 people whose families had filed tracing requests were located

### Economic security

- some 56,000 residents and IDPs received essential household items, including shelter materials, soap, mosquito netting, kitchen utensils and clothing

### Water and habitat

- 3 water projects were completed for 100,000 people, including 20,000 IDPs
- 2 water projects were in progress, aimed at benefiting 180,000 people, including 80,000 IDPs
- 10 training sessions were held for hygiene instructors working in communities totalling 60,000 people
- 2 PHC facilities (serving 10,000 people) were repaired with community support

### Primary health care

- 13 PHC facilities were supported
- 169,650 consultations were given
- 47,617 immunization doses were administered
- 127 health-education sessions were held

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC pursued its mandate to visit all those held in connection with armed conflict in Sudan. Access to government soldiers held by the SPLM/A was initially restricted in 2003, but visits resumed following discussions with SPLM/A authorities. The ICRC monitored treatment and living conditions and reported its findings to the authorities. It also offered the Red Cross message service to detainees, and provided items such as clothing, soap and cooking pots to contribute to their health and welfare.

Immediately following the outbreak of conflict in Darfur, the ICRC, in accordance with its mandate, proposed its services to the government, requesting access to all those detained in connection with the fighting. This offer was declined.

- ▶ 610 people (including 126 newly registered) held by armed opposition groups were seen individually in 17 detention facilities during 21 visits
- ▶ 3,390 RCMs were distributed to detainees and 3,315 RCMs collected for forwarding to family members

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating war-wounded people

To provide comprehensive treatment for the war-wounded in southern Sudan and other patients needing emergency surgery, the ICRC continued to run Lopiding Hospital (600 beds) located across the border in Lokichokio, Kenya and to supply Juba Teaching Hospital (500 beds) with staff, medical supplies, training, and food for patients and personnel. The ICRC also donated medical supplies to the hospital in Nyala, in the Darfur region, to cope with an influx of wounded people.

Because of the lack of qualified staff at Juba Teaching Hospital, ICRC surgeons performed the majority of emergency operations. At the same time, ICRC-supported in-hospital training programmes for some 60 certified nurses and 35 student medical assistants, launched in 2002, began to show results. The medical assistants who graduated from the first 10-month course started six-month residencies in the hospital. As a result, patient care improved, owing particularly to more accurate surgical diagnoses and better triage. The second course started in October, in cooperation with the Health Sciences Training Institute. The ICRC also

supplied materials and technical expertise to help renovate the Nursing School.

With improved access to conflict-affected regions, the ICRC reassessed procedures for treating war-wounded people and surveyed the quality of medical services in some 20 health-care facilities in southern Sudan. The assessment would be used to draw up proposals, in coordination with other organizations, to improve surgical care inside Sudan.

- ▶ 2 surgical hospitals were supported
- ▶ 8,114\* patients, including 712 war-wounded, were admitted
- ▶ 4,917 surgical operations were performed
- ▶ 37,474 outpatient consultations were given
- ▶ 1,860 people (patients and their relatives) were evacuated to Lopiding Hospital
- ▶ renovation and maintenance of infrastructure, including water, sanitation and electrical facilities, were carried out in the 2 ICRC-supported hospitals

\* The figures in entries 2-4 refer to ICRC-supported hospitals.

### Fitting amputees

The ICRC provided Sudan's two prosthetic/orthotic centres – the centre in Khartoum run by the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO) and the Juba Orthopaedic Workshop – with funds, materials and training, while running its own workshop in Lokichokio, Kenya, which treated war amputees evacuated from southern Sudan and other physically disabled patients. At the same time, efforts were stepped up to improve and expand prosthetic/orthotic services within Sudan. NAPO received substantial ICRC support for its initiative to set up four satellite workshops (Damazin in Blue Nile state, Dongola in Northern state, Kassala in Kassala state, and Nyala in Southern Darfur state). The Kassala workshop opened in June. In addition, as part of an ongoing programme launched in 1999, Sudanese running small prosthetic/orthotic repair workshops in southern Sudan received training in Lokichokio.

- ▶ 6 prosthetic/orthotic centres and smaller workshops were supported
- ▶ 1,392 prostheses (including 239 for mine victims), 852 orthoses, 1,702 crutches and 49 wheelchairs were delivered
- ▶ 217 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 294 with orthoses

- ▶ under ICRC sponsorship, 4 technicians from Khartoum's Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre started 3-year courses at Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists

## AUTHORITIES

### National IHL committee created

An interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL was created by presidential decree in February, marking a milestone in the ICRC's programme to promote the incorporation of IHL into national law in Sudan. The ICRC advised the new committee on legal and technical matters, in particular advocating the ratification of the two Protocols additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- ▶ supported Sudan's creation of a national IHL committee
- ▶ produced and distributed 1,000 copies of a booklet on IHL implementation to committee members and other authorities
- ▶ sent 4 committee members to an ICRC-organized regional meeting of legal experts in Rabat, Morocco
- ▶ sent 2 committee members and a Ministry of Foreign Affairs' legal expert to the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, in Geneva in December

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Stepping up IHL training for armed forces

The Sudanese army incorporated IHL into its standard curriculum in 2002, using its own instructors trained by the ICRC. The ICRC stayed in close contact with the armed forces' training department and gave lectures on IHL at the Military Academy and staff headquarters. The ceasefires meant the ICRC was able to work more in the field, giving presentations on IHL to Sudanese troops stationed in conflict-affected regions such as Raja, Wau and the Nuba mountains. The air force agreed to organize, with ICRC support, a combined introductory and advanced IHL course for pilots in 2004.

### Police and security forces

Significant advances were made in the ICRC's programme, agreed with the Ministry of the Interior, to incorporate international human rights law and humanitarian principles into training for the Sudanese police force.

The first advanced course was held for police instructors and, with the improved security, the ICRC conducted its first presentations, ranging from short talks to five-day courses, to police covering conflict-affected regions, including forces in Juba, Kadugli and Torit.

In another positive development, Sudan's security services agreed in principle to launch, with ICRC support, a training programme for its members in 2004, covering international human rights law and humanitarian principles. This followed several meetings with directors of the security services to discuss training.

### Other bearers of weapons

Thanks to the ceasefires and easing of travel restrictions, the ICRC conducted IHL sessions, sometimes combined with first-aid training, for SPLM/A members in areas previously restricted or off-limits in Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile, western Upper Nile/Unity state and the Nuba mountains. It also held a four-day IHL seminar at the SPLA's main training centre, the Institute for Strategic Studies.

Following longstanding discussions, the head of military intelligence gave the ICRC permission to give IHL presentations to pro-government militias. A three-day seminar was held in Raja for 35 officers of the South Sudan Defence Forces, followed by introductory IHL talks for pro-government militias in Equatoria.

- 20 police instructors attended an advanced course on human rights law
- 200 security personnel attended presentations on human rights law
- 3,300 SPLM/A members and 205 pro-government militia members attended IHL presentations

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising public awareness of IHL

The ICRC regularly organized activities to generate interest in IHL and issues of humanitarian concern across a broad spectrum of civil society. One of the best-attended events was an exhibition in Khartoum of paintings by local artists that reflected the "Protecting human dignity" theme of December's Red Cross and Red Crescent international conference in Geneva. The exhibition, along with other cultural activities, debates and a round table on IHL, ran from 16 to 22 December.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- held IHL presentations for the Sudan Bar Association, Legal Training and Reform Institute and National Press Council, and in SPLM/A-controlled areas for the Law Society of New Sudan and New Sudan Council of Churches
- organized a panel discussion on the history of IHL for 20 journalists
- delivered the opening address for a workshop on the Ottawa Convention organized by the Sudan Campaign to Ban Landmines
- conducted IHL presentations for staff of the UN and other organizations at monthly security workshops of Operation Lifeline Sudan, a UN-sponsored umbrella group

### Promoting IHL to educators

In 2002, the ICRC was instrumental in setting up an IHL network, comprising heads of university law faculties and prominent lawyers. The network made rapid progress towards its goal of introducing IHL into university studies.

Under ICRC sponsorship, two Education Ministry officials attended a regional conference in Amman, Jordan, on "Exploring Humanitarian Law", the ICRC's education programme for young people.

With ICRC support, the IHL network:

- agreed on the content of a standard, university-level IHL course, started drafting the textbook and distributed IHL reference materials to 10 universities
- set up an IHL essay competition for university students
- held, together with the Legal Training and Reform Institute, a week-long IHL course for academics, covering topics such as IHL and sharia law, and the International Criminal Court
- sent a network member to an ICRC course on IHL in Pretoria, South Africa

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Strengthening the Red Crescent in conflict-affected areas

Decades of conflict had weakened the Sudanese Red Crescent, but a number of branches continued to perform well under difficult circumstances. In coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continued to provide funds, training, materials, relief supplies, and technical support to help the Red Crescent prepare for and respond to emergencies and carry out

tracing and IHL promotion. This support focused on the headquarters and on nine branches in conflict-affected regions (Bentiu, Damazin, Juba, Kadugli, Kassala, Malakal, Nyala, Raja and Wau). With extensive ICRC support, the Raja branch, which was destroyed during fighting in 2001, reopened.

First-aid training continued for National Society staff and volunteers in the priority branches. The Bentiu and Kassala branches received what they needed to provide relief supplies, water, first aid and medical care to people displaced by fighting and flooding. In Darfur, two workshops were held on relief management.

The ICRC relied heavily on the Sudanese Red Crescent to carry out tracing work in government-controlled areas. Regular joint meetings were held to develop the network, with continuous training organized for Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

To promote IHL, the Red Crescent's work and the Fundamental Principles, the ICRC funded World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebrations for the majority of branches. In Khartoum, the ICRC and Red Crescent organized joint activities to spread knowledge of IHL. These included events for the media and courses in the law for the armed forces.

The ICRC, the International Federation and the Sudanese Red Crescent met regularly to coordinate the Movement's activities in the country. In December, the ICRC drafted a memorandum of understanding to provide a framework for the Movement's response, including that of other interested National Societies, to a north-south peace agreement. A meeting was scheduled for March 2004 to discuss coordination of the Movement's work.



# uganda

The ICRC opened a fully-fledged delegation in Uganda in April 1997. Prior to that, its activities in the country had been supervised by the regional delegation in Nairobi. Following the killing of six ICRC staff members in Ituri district in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in April 2001, ICRC field operations in Uganda were placed on standby.

The ICRC is continuing its discussions with the Ugandan authorities aimed at obtaining answers regarding the circumstances of the killings. In parallel, the ICRC provides the Uganda Red Cross Society with a substantial level of support to help it deliver emergency aid to victims of conflict, run the tracing and Red Cross message service and disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles. At the same time, in view of the serious impact of the fighting in the north and north-east on civilians, the ICRC has decided to progressively resume field activities in 2004, in close partnership with the Ugandan Red Cross. The priority will be to protect and assist victims of the internal armed conflict between Ugandan troops and the Lord's Resistance Army.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**361,438**

Assistance

**1,005,895**

Preventive action

**212,637**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,329,200**

General

**11,667**

► **2,920,837**

of which: Overheads **178,267**

## PERSONNEL

**2** expatriates

**81** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued discussions with the Ugandan authorities in an effort to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the killing of 6 ICRC staff members in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in April 2001.
- The Ugandan Red Cross received increased ICRC support to help it provide emergency aid to some 52,000 households affected by the escalating conflict in the north and north-east.
- The ICRC donated medical supplies to health-care facilities in the north and north-east to treat the wounded as well as ill IDPs.
- The ICRC visited security detainees in prisons in Kampala.
- In November, the ICRC decided to gradually resume operations in Uganda during 2004, in view of the increased need for humanitarian aid in the north and north-east.

## CONTEXT

The 17-year internal armed conflict between the Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) escalated further, spreading eastwards and destabilizing virtually the whole of the north. In November, under UPDF pressure, the LRA retreated from the eastern districts of Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kotido, Kumi and Soroti, and refocused its attacks on Acholiland (districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader) and on Lira in the Lango region. Internal peace initiatives failed, as did attempts by the UPDF to flush out the LRA on Sudanese soil, under a renewable agreement between the Ugandan and Sudanese governments. According to the UN, the number of people displaced in northern and eastern Uganda had reached more than one million by the end of 2003. The majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) were in Acholiland, crowded into some 60 camps that lacked adequate water and sanitation facilities. Raids on the camps were commonplace, with civilians killed and women and children abducted to serve as sex slaves and child soldiers. Looting, torture and sexual violence were widespread in the countryside. Hundreds of thousands of people were dependent on food aid from the World Food Programme because they were not able to tend their fields, hunt or go to market for fear of being attacked or stepping on a mine. Every night, thousands of civilians left the countryside at dusk to sleep in the relative safety of towns. People in the north-east faced the added dangers of cattle rustling by the Karimojong and clashes between the tribe and the UPDF. Widespread insecurity meant only a few

organizations, the Uganda Red Cross Society among them, were delivering aid outside urban areas.

On the international front, Uganda's relations with the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda improved. Ugandan troops withdrew from Ituri district in north-eastern Congo in May, in line with a peace deal. Following the withdrawal, clashes between the rival Hema and Lendu ethnic groups escalated dramatically in the town of Bunia in Ituri district. This triggered the flight of thousands of refugees from the Bunia area into western Uganda, bringing the country's total refugee population to some 155,000.

## ICRC ACTION

As the received explanations still appeared to be inconclusive, the ICRC pursued its dialogue with the Ugandan authorities in an effort to shed light on the circumstances surrounding the murder of six ICRC staff in 2001 in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Meanwhile, all ICRC field operations outside Kampala remained suspended. ICRC offices in the north in Gulu and Kitgum and in the south-west in Kasese stayed in contact with other humanitarian organizations and the local authorities, but carried out no operations. As relative security had returned to the south-west and almost all the IDPs had resettled, the ICRC closed down its Kasese office in October.

Although the ICRC's own activities outside Kampala remained suspended, it maintained a high level of cooperation with the Uganda Red Cross Society, which was very active in the field. With the escalation of fighting in the north and the spread of the conflict eastwards, the National Society stepped up its provision of relief goods, tracing services and promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the Fundamental Principles. The ICRC provided funds, training, materials and logistic and technical back-up to help the Ugandan Red Cross strengthen its capacity to carry out all these activities.

The ICRC donated medical supplies to hospitals and other health-care facilities in the north and north-east to help them cope with influxes of war-wounded patients and treat ill IDPs.

With field activities suspended, ICRC visits to detainees were restricted to detention facilities in Kampala run by the Uganda Prison Service.

In November, in response to the extensive needs in the north and north-east, the ICRC decided to gradually resume operations in Uganda during 2004. In view of its two-year absence from the field, the ICRC initiated a constructive dialogue with the authorities to ensure that its mandate and standard working procedures were understood and supported.

## CIVILIANS

### Helping the Red Cross deliver emergency aid

Although its own field operations were on standby, the ICRC cooperated very closely with the Uganda Red Cross Society and even increased its support during the year, sharing its knowledge, skills and resources to help the National Society deliver emergency aid to residents and IDPs affected by the escalating conflict in the north and north-east of the country. Under these exceptional circumstances, the ICRC monitored the situation closely and assisted the National Society in assessing needs. It procured relief goods, mainly blankets and tarpaulins, and paid for the transport and handling charges to get the supplies from the ICRC's logistics centre in Nairobi to Kampala and then to the north for distribution by the Red Cross. Vehicles and radio-communication sets were donated to assist the National Society in delivering aid.

The ICRC also provided training to reinforce the skills needed by Red Cross staff and volunteers to continue working in a difficult environment. The Ugandan Red Cross had to suspend its relief operations in the north for two months following two LRA attacks on vehicles in January and February in which six National Society volunteers were seriously wounded. Following the second attack, the ICRC held a special course for 12 senior Red Cross staff on security management, as part of its new "Safer Access" training (see Part 1, *Policy and Cooperation within the Movement*). This was the first course of its kind conducted for an African National Society. Putting in place the new security guidelines, the Ugandan Red Cross resumed aid activities in the north in mid-April. In December, ahead of the National Society's planned aid operations targeting some 40,000 families in the north, the ICRC and the Red Cross jointly organized training on relief management and, again, "Safer Access" for staff and volunteers in Kitgum and Gulu.

In response to the escalation of violence and the LRA attacks on the Ugandan Red Cross, the ICRC helped the National Society step up its communication activities in the north and east. With ICRC support, radio spots were produced and broadcast on local stations, stressing the need to respect IHL and the red cross emblem, and outlining Red Cross activities and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Leaflets and posters with the same message were also distributed widely in the north and east.

To coordinate the activities of the Movement, the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Ugandan Red Cross held monthly meetings, to which partner National Societies supporting the Ugandan Red Cross were also invited.

### Restoring family links

With ICRC financial and technical support, the Ugandan Red Cross ran the Red Cross message (RCM) and tracing service, enabling family members separated by conflict to locate and communicate with one another. The majority of RCMs were exchanged on behalf of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Sudan who were living in camps in Uganda. The ICRC and the Red Cross also worked together to reunite vulnerable refugees, particularly children, with family in their home country.

### Restoring family links

- 6,622 RCMs, including those for detainees, were delivered and 7,412 RCMs collected
- 6 child refugees who were unaccompanied or separated from their parents were reunited with their families
- 15 people whose family had filed tracing requests were located

### Economic security

- with substantial ICRC support, the Ugandan Red Cross delivered essential household items to some 32,500 households, and food, provided by the WFP, to some 20,000 households

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

With field activities suspended, ICRC detention visits remained restricted to facilities in Kampala district under the authority of the Uganda Prison Service. The ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees in these prisons and reported its findings to the authorities concerned. Detainees were offered the RCM service, enabling inmates to maintain regular contact with their families. The ICRC also paid the transport costs for family members to visit prisoners on death row and detainees regularly visited by the ICRC. Upon release, ex-detainees received basic supplies and a transport allowance from the ICRC. The Ugandan Red Cross supported the ICRC by distributing RCMs to detainees' families and organizing family prison visits.

- ▶ 3,361 detainees were visited, including 119 followed up individually, in 3 prisons during 14 visits
- ▶ 533 RCMs were distributed to detainees and 997 collected for distribution to their families
- ▶ transport costs were covered for 1,234 visits by family members to detainees
- ▶ 55 ex-detainees received basic supplies and a transport allowance
- ▶ 63 detention certificates were issued
- ▶ 1 hospital was supported per month, on average
- ▶ 41,077 patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals, including 443 war-wounded
- ▶ 4,423 operations were performed
- ▶ 5,967 outpatient cases were treated

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Because of the fighting, travel by road was dangerous in the north, which meant civilians had problems getting to hospital. The delivery of medical supplies was also extremely unreliable, leaving health-care facilities hard pressed to cope with an influx of war-wounded. To help treat the wounded and care for ill IDPs, the ICRC donated drugs, dressing material and other medical supplies on an ad hoc basis to hospitals in the conflict-affected districts. The ICRC also gave iodized salt to the Kitgum Concerned Women's Association, which was caring for 130 children who had been abducted by the LRA and escaped, and provided tarpaulin to help Action contre la faim build a feeding station in Gulu for malnourished displaced children.

To further contribute to improving treatment for the war-wounded, the ICRC presented a paper on war surgery at a regional conference of the Association of East African Surgeons, held in Kampala in November. Drawing on data of some 200,000 war-wounded patients treated at ICRC-supported hospitals worldwide, the paper presented the pros and cons of removing pieces of metal such as a bullet or shrapnel from a patient while operating on a war wound.

IDPs received medical treatment under the government-run national health system. Until May, the Ugandan Red Cross, with ICRC support, continued to collect and analyse data on the five main causes of death in over 20 representative camps for IDPs in northern and south-western Uganda, which it forwarded to the district authorities. The ICRC suspended the data collection as of 12 May because of growing insecurity in the north and the return home or resettlement of most IDPs in the south-west.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### IHL in universities

The ICRC met the dean of the social sciences faculty and a representative of the law faculty of Makerere University, Kampala, to discuss incorporating IHL into the curricula. The response was positive, and the ICRC was preparing an IHL programme to submit to the university. In addition, under ICRC sponsorship, a team of three students from Makerere University took part in November in the third international moot-court competition on IHL in Arusha, Tanzania, organized by the ICRC and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. A record 11 university teams from six African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda) competed in the six-day event.



ICRC regional delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC office

# abidjan

Since the outbreak of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in 2002, the activities of the ICRC's regional delegation in Abidjan have focused on maintaining and expanding its operational capacity to protect and assist victims of the crisis, visit places of detention and monitor the situation in the country – in order to be prepared for possible outbreaks of violence. The ICRC also closely coordinates its activities with the region's National Societies. In all the countries covered by the regional delegation, the ICRC supports the efforts of the authorities to implement IHL and raises awareness among the armed and security forces of the need to respect IHL rules.

## COVERING

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**2,236,163**

Assistance

**6,131,682**

Preventive action

**1,917,764**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,554,564**

General

**0**

► **11,840,172**

of which: Overheads **707,750**

## PERSONNEL

**28** expatriates

**95** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Over 110 health centres and hospitals in Côte d'Ivoire were supported, including regular deliveries of medical and surgical supplies.
- Over 30 convoys carried humanitarian aid across front lines in Côte d'Ivoire; some 7,500 people were provided with food aid on a monthly basis, in conjunction with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire; and over 100,000 people received essential household items.
- Provision of 765 tonnes of chemicals to 70 water-treatment plants ensured an uninterrupted supply of clean water to 1.7 million people in the north and west of Côte d'Ivoire.
- In cooperation with the National Society, some 2,300 RCMs were collected in Côte d'Ivoire and 1,800 distributed to help civilians re-establish or maintain contact, and 87 Liberian children separated from their families were registered, two of whom were reunited with their families in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire.
- Some 350 detainees held in relation to the conflict were registered in over 40 places of detention in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Burkina Faso ratified the Rome Statute of the ICC. Togo adopted a law authorizing ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

## CONTEXT

A year after the outbreak of armed insurrection in Côte d'Ivoire the situation remained uncertain. Despite progress in the peace process – the signing of the Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement in January and the formation of a government of national reconciliation in March – many obstacles lay ahead.

The humanitarian situation, particularly in the north and west, continued to cause concern. The country remained divided into three zones. The south was controlled by government troops, the north by the rebel group *Forces nouvelles*, and the buffer zone by French forces and peace-keepers provided by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The economy in the north was adversely affected, and public services deteriorated owing to the absence of a civil authority since the outbreak of conflict. In the west, along the border with Liberia, local tensions over nationality and agrarian rights heightened, regularly pitching people of local origin against residents from other West African countries. As a result of these tensions and the flight of Ivorian civilians from the western part of the country, cocoa production declined by about 20% compared with 2002.

The south, where some 80% of the country's wealth was concentrated, was affected by the conflict, but to a lesser degree. Nevertheless, the economy slowed and the arrival of IDPs had a negative impact on living standards. While it was extremely difficult

to state accurately the number of people forced to flee the fighting and seek refuge in other parts of the country, the estimate was put at over one million. This included IDPs, refugees and third-country nationals in Côte d'Ivoire. Many of these were people in need.

## ICRC ACTION

Military personnel and civilians were detained in connection with the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The ICRC obtained access to detainees held in all places of detention under the authority of the Ministries of Defence, Justice and the Interior, and in areas controlled by the *Forces nouvelles*.

As lead agency, the ICRC continued to coordinate the activities of its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in response to the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. The ICRC had authorization and security guarantees from all parties involved, and therefore access to almost the entire country. The organization's activities included: protection of populations threatened by conflict; support to facilities that provided essential services such as water and health care to people in hard-to-reach areas, especially in the north; and enhancement of economic security for vulnerable populations.

The ICRC managed its activities in Côte d'Ivoire out of its main delegation in Abidjan and through its sub-delegations in Bouaké, Korhogo and Man. In addition the ICRC continued to help the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire strengthen its capacity, especially to provide emergency aid to civilians affected by conflict. The ICRC coordinated and financed the activities of volunteers and staff of the National Society, which comprised 42 active branches.

The organization carried on promoting IHL in the field, paying particular attention to the Ivorian armed forces and armed opposition groups in the country, and to civil society in regions at risk.

The International Federation was present in Abidjan and responsible for the organizational development of the Ivorian Red Cross, and for coordinating the activities of National Societies in the neighbouring countries receiving refugees or returnees from Côte d'Ivoire. Partner National Societies, including the Belgian, Danish, French, German, Spanish, and Swiss Red Cross Societies, were also present in the region, carrying out activities ranging from providing Burkinan returnees with aid to reintegrating street children.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting civilians from the effects of conflict

Reports of alleged IHL violations were collected by the ICRC, primarily in the western parts of Côte d'Ivoire, but also in other areas

directly affected by the conflict. Whenever it deemed necessary, the ICRC brought these allegations to the attention of the military and political authorities to help prevent such incidents. The ICRC also handled protection requests from the families of people considered to be in danger.

Furthermore, in the *Forces nouvelles*-controlled zone, the ICRC made representations to the parties concerned on behalf of medical personnel in ICRC-supported health-care facilities who were regularly prevented from gaining access to the field. The organization also facilitated the transportation into and delivery of medicines in this area.

### Helping people re-establish family links

The ICRC set up a tracing network and introduced a system using greeting cards to help family members dispersed by the conflict restore contact. The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire, together with the ICRC, also accepted tracing requests from family members wishing to locate elderly and sick people living alone in conflict zones.

### Providing civilians access to clean water

Soon after the crisis began, the ICRC put in place a major water and sanitation programme to ensure that people in regions of Côte d'Ivoire directly affected by the fighting had access to safe water. The organization supplied 765 tonnes of chemicals during the year to ensure the proper functioning of 70 water-treatment plants in the north and west. It also provided transport for spare parts and technicians to maintain the plants and make emergency repairs, and disinfected 1,500 latrines in conflict-affected areas. To safeguard water and electricity supplies in troubled regions, the ICRC encouraged the authorities to protect the personnel of public-utility companies.

### Providing food and other relief to civilians

Because of the volatility of the situation along the front line and other troubled regions in the south-west of Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC responded to various needs as they occurred. With normal supply routes disrupted by the conflict, food deliveries were infrequent, leaving the sick, the elderly, orphans and destitute people in *Forces nouvelles*-controlled territory particularly vulnerable. In conjunction with the ICRC, the Red Cross delivered food provided by the WFP and the *Cellule de solidarité et action humanitaire* to around 100 social and medical institutions (hospitals, orphanages and leprosaria). Through two NGOs, the *Centre*

*National Islamique* and the *Évêchés*, the Red Cross also delivered food to the most vulnerable people in the poorest neighbourhoods of Bouaké, Korhogo and Daloa. Additionally, some 1,800 Burkinan migrants in Duékoué received food.

In April and May a daily average of 120 IDPs from the western part of the country near the Liberian border found shelter in the ICRC transit centre in Man. Through the centre, some 7,200 IDPs and other vulnerable people received aid, primarily food. Essential household items such as mats, soap, buckets, blankets, clothes, kitchen sets and tarpaulins were distributed on an ad hoc basis.

In the south and west, during the second half of the year, a monthly average of 23,200 IDPs and residents returning home after months of displacement received food and essential household items, and another 850 families were provided with material to help reconstruct their homes.

### Restoring family links

- ▶ 2,332 RCMs were collected in Côte d'Ivoire and 1,865 distributed to help relatives re-establish or maintain contact
- ▶ 41 people whose families had filed tracing requests were located
- ▶ 87 Liberian children separated from their families were registered in Côte d'Ivoire, 2 of the children were reunited with their families in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire

### Economic security

- ▶ 432.3 tonnes of food, 34,837 blankets, 45,778 mats, 32,674 tonnes of soap, 15,831 buckets, 14,191 cooking sets, 3,054 tarpaulins, 500 mosquito nets, 12,831 tonnes of clothes, 20,730 loin cloths and 852 home-reconstruction kits were distributed

### Water and habitat

- ▶ 1.7 million people had an uninterrupted supply of clean water as a result of ICRC programmes

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC obtained access to all places of detention in Côte d'Ivoire under the authority of the Ministries of Defence, Justice and the Interior. In keeping with its mandate, the ICRC visited military personnel and civilians detained in connection with the conflict, monitored their conditions of detention and conducted private talks with them.

Those visited were registered by the ICRC and are due to be monitored individually until their release. To relieve their anxiety, family members of detainees were informed once the visits had taken place. After the release of 50 detainees in August, the ICRC followed up the situation of the ex-detainees who had sought its protection, fearing for their safety.

In December 40 military personnel were released by the *Forces nouvelles* under the auspices of the ICRC. Subsequently, the ICRC accompanied the personnel to Abidjan where they were handed back to the Ivorian army.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the detaining authorities to ensure that the treatment and detention conditions of common-law prisoners in government-run prisons conformed to minimal human standards. To help the authorities improve the conditions and meet urgent needs, the ICRC put in place a nutrition programme to supplement meals provided at the Toumodi prison for four months. The programme benefited 121 detainees. The organization also provided food and hygiene products to other prisons under government control, as needed.

Contacts were strengthened with other NGOs concerned about the welfare of common-law detainees, which proved crucial during the last quarter of the year when the ICRC was alerted to a cholera epidemic in Sassandra prison. This helped minimize loss of life.

- 347 detainees held in relation to the conflict were registered in 44 places of detention under the control of the government, the *Forces nouvelles* or the Patriotic Movement of Côte d'Ivoire

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The early part of 2003 witnessed the flight of medical personnel, particularly doctors and surgeons, from the insecure rebel-held northern and western regions of Côte d'Ivoire. A temporary health post, set up in the ICRC office in Man to cope with the health-care needs when fighting intensified, treated some 6,000 people between December 2002 and February 2003, when other health facilities became operational in Man. Assessments carried out by the ICRC and other actors, such as WHO, revealed that basic health-care needs primarily concerned epidemics affecting the most vulnerable sectors of the population, such as children and pregnant women, rather than war injuries.

To respond to needs, particularly in troubled zones inaccessible to the health ministry, the ICRC focused its efforts on safeguarding medical services by protecting medical personnel and ensuring the regular delivery of medical supplies to some 110 rural and urban health-care centres and hospitals serving an estimated 2.3 million people. ICRC support involved organizing the transport and delivery of medicines provided by the Central Pharmacy in Abidjan, and providing vaccines and medical and surgical supplies to the health-care facilities. The organization also supervised the health-care facilities and shared its findings with the ministry on a monthly basis. To help health-care centres retain their staff, the ICRC put in place a food-for-work programme for health personnel that ran throughout 2003.

Cooperation with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire enabled the ICRC to set up a medical team in Toulepleu in the south-west to provide medical care (including evacuations) for war-wounded IDPs and residents. The two institutions worked together to strengthen the capacity of clinics operated by local Red Cross committees in the region to deliver health-care services and implement a nutritional programme for IDPs and vulnerable residents. ICRC support mainly concerned providing the clinics with medical supplies, and training personnel.

- 52,679 ante- and post-natal consultations, 318,500 vaccinations, and 292,292 curative consultations were carried out by ICRC-supported health-care facilities in Côte d'Ivoire

## AUTHORITIES

In May the Ivorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed an interest in IHL implementation and in submitting a bill on protecting the red cross emblem. In August the authorities, supported by the ICRC, revived the previously inactive interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL. Subsequently the ICRC participated in a series of meetings of the commission and provided technical support in drafting laws on the protection of the emblem and repression of IHL breaches. Meanwhile, Côte d'Ivoire's national assembly held an ordinary meeting to discuss implementation of the Marcoussis peace agreement. The assembly ruled out amnesty for anyone convicted of grave violations of IHL.

The Burkinan government approved the ratification of the Rome Statute of the ICC and completed the process for the ratification of

the 1980 UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. An exemption agreement concerning the ICC was signed between Togo and the United States, paving the way for Togo's adherence to the Rome Statute. Togo also adopted a law authorizing ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts.

In Benin the outcome of municipal and legislative elections at the end of 2002 brought IHL implementation to a standstill. The ICRC re-established contact with the parliament of Benin and continued efforts, including meetings and a workshop, to revive IHL implementation.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Promoting IHL among armed forces

The sound working relations between the ICRC and armed and security forces in Côte d'Ivoire helped the delegation to maintain a high degree of operational capacity. The ICRC planned to resume its traditional IHL programme once the situation in Côte d'Ivoire was resolved. In the meantime, the ICRC sponsored two senior officers from the Ministry of Defence on an IHL training course in San Remo. It was hoped that the two officers would play a key role in implementing the IHL programme initiated and developed by the ICRC at the beginning of 2002, and endorsed by the chief of general staff before the outbreak of the insurrection.

- 3,700 Ivorian army recruits and staff of government combat units were briefed on IHL, the ICRC and its activities
- 25 Ivorian army instructors received IHL training and technical support on teaching IHL
- 160 ECOWAS and French troops and 100 militia members in southern regions attended sessions on IHL and ICRC activities
- Sessions were conducted for rebel forces at numerous checkpoints in the north
- An ICRC music project "*L'homme, un remède pour l'homme*" ("Man, a cure for man") was aired throughout the country
- 5,000 comics portraying IHL were printed for distribution to armed groups
- 3,000 workbooks based on the music project were produced for training and dissemination

- ▶ 4,000 copies of IHL manuals for soldiers were produced for government troops and other armed groups

### Security forces

The ICRC conducted seven sessions at the two *écoles de gendarmerie* in Côte d'Ivoire to raise the awareness of 510 junior police officers of the organization's mandate and activities, and gave presentations on human rights law and aspects of IHL applicable to the maintenance of law and order. Furthermore, an officer from the *gendarmerie* who, through ICRC sponsorship, had attended an IHL course in San Remo, introduced 20 hours of IHL training into the *gendarmerie* syllabus.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Working with the media to enhance the public's knowledge of IHL

In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, the ICRC conducted workshops on IHL for media representatives, which included presentations of the ICRC's musical project "*L'homme, un remède pour l'homme*". The project, which promotes IHL through song, attracted a lot of interest in all the countries covered by the ICRC's regional delegation, with the video clips reaching a large public.

The region's media helped establish an accurate profile of the ICRC and its activities, and included coverage in Côte d'Ivoire of the release of 40 soldiers under the auspices of the ICRC, and the first family reunification across front lines, which involved reuniting a child registered in the north with its family in the government-controlled south.

### Boosting knowledge of IHL among academic institutions

The ICRC's Abidjan regional delegation provided considerable material and technical assistance in organizing the first pan-African francophone IHL course, initially planned for Abidjan, but held in Dakar in October. The course brought together a score of law professors from French-speaking sub-Saharan Africa, thus helping enhance the IHL-teaching capacity in the universities concerned. In Burkina Faso, the ICRC organized an IHL moot-court competition in March for six teams from five of the country's institutions of higher learning. Efforts to promote IHL in Benin bore fruit when the University of Cotonou's law faculty and the *École Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature* integrated IHL into their curricula, and made the subject compulsory.

- ▶ A cultural evening in Côte d'Ivoire on the theme of the project "*L'homme, un remède pour l'homme*" was attended by some 600 spectators; numerous sessions on the activities of the ICRC and its Movement partners were held for representatives of NGOs, local authorities and civil society
- ▶ IHL sessions were conducted in Togo for 48 participants, including lawyers, human rights activists and students, and at the *École Nationale d'Administration* in Côte d'Ivoire
- ▶ ICRC publications were donated to Togo's University of Lomé and an IHL library was given to Côte d'Ivoire's *Ecole Nationale d'Administration*

### Bringing IHL to young people

In Côte d'Ivoire, plans to integrate the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) education programme for young people into the school system began picking up steam. Representatives of the education ministry attended a workshop in Grand-Bassam to map out a plan of action for EHL implementation in Ivorian schools. A 13-member steering committee, comprising ministry and Red Cross officials, was set up. A decision was reached to profit from the ongoing review of high-school curricula by inserting EHL modules into five subjects. The education ministry expressed confidence in the EHL project by wanting to bypass the usual preliminary pilot phase of the programme. Elsewhere, 12 EHL-trained members of the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire began experimenting with the programme in various parts of the country. The pilot project, carried out with students during after-school hours, generated considerable enthusiasm, particularly in *Forces nouvelles*-controlled areas. In Bouaké, a television crew hired by the ICRC produced a report, "A day in the classroom", showing trainers and students working with EHL.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The National Societies of the countries affected by the Ivorian crisis worked together with the ICRC to assist civilians in need. Their efforts included disinfecting water wells, collecting and identifying corpses left in the street, disposing of some 40 metric tonnes of waste weekly, and building or repairing hygiene facilities in regions affected by conflict. The Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire also set up food programmes at four IDP sites and prepared up to 500 hot meals daily in various locations for IDPs in transit.

On the western front and in Bouaké, Ivorian Red Cross doctors, nurses and trained volunteers provided medical care for thousands of IDPs, and administered first aid to hundreds of wounded civilians and combatants. The ICRC provided food-for-work rations to encourage Red Cross staff to continue their work providing vital services such health care, drinking water and electricity in the north and west of the country. The organization also conducted an awareness campaign to ensure better security for Ivorian Red Cross staff and volunteers, and helped monitor the National Society's activities.

The ICRC conducted specialized training for selected Ivorian Red Cross personnel and held seminars on emergency-preparedness for local committees of the Burkinan Red Cross Society. The ICRC promoted EHL implementation in Côte d'Ivoire by training Red Cross members to teach the programme, and supported the salaries of dissemination coordinators in four of the countries covered by the regional delegation. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Red Cross, with ICRC support, organized tracing and communication workshops for its staff and volunteers throughout the country.

In 2003, the ICRC also:

- ▶ provided Red Cross emergency-preparedness team leaders in 4 countries covered by the regional delegation with financial, technical, material and logistic support
- ▶ assisted the Red Cross Societies of Benin and Togo in preparing for any violence related to elections
- ▶ supported a youth camp for 120 Ivorian Red Cross members
- ▶ supported 3 National Societies so that they could attend the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva
- ▶ helped organize workshops involving all the region's National Societies
- ▶ assisted in producing the quarterly newsletters of 3 National Societies, and tracing posters
- ▶ supported training for dissemination officers, staff and volunteers of the Burkinan Red Cross
- ▶ helped 4 National Societies organize tracing-awareness campaigns and paid the salaries of their tracing and information staff



# abuja

The ICRC works in close cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross Society, helping it to strengthen its preparedness to respond to emergencies anywhere in Nigeria. Preventive activities, such as promoting awareness and implementation of IHL among the political authorities, armed forces, police and members of civil society (media, non-governmental organizations and university students) represent the other main components of the delegation's work. The ICRC also continues to support the "Alternative to Violence" project (delegated to the British and German National Societies in 2003) and carried out in cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross.

The ICRC was active in Nigeria during the Biafran War (1966–70). In 1988, a headquarters agreement signed with Nigeria established the legal status of the Lagos regional delegation. On 28 March 2003, the ICRC moved its delegation headquarters from Lagos to Abuja, where it maintains an operational capacity to provide protection and assistance to people displaced by sporadic outbreaks of violence.

**COVERING** Nigeria

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

0

Assistance

**891,666**

Preventive action

**1,475,973**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,752,273**

General

**25,233**

► **4,145,145**

of which: Overheads **252,990**

## PERSONNEL

**7** expatriates

**40** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The delegation conducted sessions to spread knowledge of humanitarian law among several hundred members of the military.
- The ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross jointly continued the "Alternative to Violence" project and organized events to focus on inter-ethnic problems.
- In a coordinated operation among the ICRC delegations in West Africa, the ICRC in Nigeria increased efforts to identify children separated from their parents and unaccompanied children.
- The ICRC and the Nigerian National Society jointly organized a prison-sanitation programme throughout the Nigerian prison system for the benefit of approximately 40,000 detainees.
- The delegation relocated its headquarters from Lagos to Abuja to achieve closer links with the government.

## CONTEXT

Presidential and legislative elections took place in 2003 amidst fears of unrest. However, the processes were conducted with relative calm and occurred without incident.

During the year, various cases of internal violence erupted in several areas of Nigeria and represented the greatest challenge to society. Tensions resulting from ethnic clashes, political struggles, issues of land ownership and religious unrest continued in northern states, where clashes left hundreds dead and thousands displaced during the past few years. The introduction of sharia (Islamic) law in some states was also a major cause of violence, resulting in the Sharia Implementation Committee being publicly castigated and disbanded for "incompetence". It was reorganized and relaunched later in the year.

Nigeria's poor socio-economic situation failed to improve significantly during the year, with high unemployment, half of the population still living below the poverty line and a continuing lack of essential services. The country's ability to efficiently exploit its energy resources failed to show improvement, and the economic outlook remained bleak.

On the south-eastern most tip of Nigeria, the people of the Bakassi Peninsula demonstrated to stress their unwillingness to become Cameroonians, apparently fearing suspected plans to transfer sovereignty of the area to Cameroon.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC remained the only organization in the country, together with the Nigerian Red Cross, which continually addressed the needs of internally displaced people and other victims of internal violence. It did this through aid programmes in all 37 states.

Intercommunal clashes, urban riots, political disturbances and sharia-induced violence remained the causes of the conflicts that most concerned the ICRC during the year. As a result, the delegation concentrated its resources on assisting and protecting the victims, and endeavoured to minimize the negative effects of violence through dialogue with the authorities, bearers of weapons and civil society. Events were organized for the armed and security forces to promote international humanitarian law and the ICRC strengthened its already close cooperation with the National Society to build more capacity to respond to emergencies.

## CIVILIANS

In response to recurrent ethnic and inter-communal conflicts in Gombe, Adamawa and Delta states, the Nigerian Red Cross gave first aid and took the injured to hospital, with support from the ICRC.

Owing to tribal tensions, economic problems and land-ownership issues, 34 villages were destroyed early in the year in conflict in the states of Cross River, Adamawa, Gombe, Delta and Warri. They left 10,000 people displaced, 1,000 injured and a reported 144 dead. With ICRC support, the National Society branches in those states responded to these disasters by helping people who had fled their homes, caring for the wounded and taking those needing additional care to hospital.

In June 2003, more than 100 villagers were killed when an oil pipeline exploded near Umuahia, in Abia state. The National Society administered first aid to the wounded, transported them to hospital and provided dressing materials for local medical facilities.

Nigerian Red Cross staff visited the Oru refugee camp in south-western Nigeria, which housed refugees from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The influx of 2,198 Liberians, who had fled the Ivorian crisis, increased tracing needs substantially.

In an operation coordinated between the ICRC delegations in West Africa, ICRC staff in Nigeria increased their efforts to identify Liberian children separated from their parents and living in the Oru camp. Dozens of interviews were conducted with minors aged between 13 and 17 to clarify their personal situation and assess whether they could and should be reunited with their families in Liberia. The interviews revealed that many were orphans, and that not all registered children wished to go back to their home country. The ICRC stressed the need for these vulnerable children to have free access to education to help them find their way in society, and lobbied UNICEF, the UNHCR and several non-governmental organizations on this issue to encourage them to act.

- ▶ delegates visiting Oru refugee camp (Ogun State) collected 12 tracing requests
- ▶ 741 RCMs were collected and 10 distributed
- ▶ 10 children separated from parents were newly registered

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

During the year the ICRC maintained support of the Nigerian Red Cross Society's prison-sanitation activities. The prison sanitation programme provided effective fumigation and distributed soap in 100 prisons throughout Nigeria, benefiting some 40,000 detainees. The ICRC Lagos warehouse supplied this programme, which was carried out by teams composed of prisoners who were in charge of maintaining hygiene in the facilities.

Good cooperation was established with the Federal Prison Controllers Service in Abuja. The Service sent directives to all state prisons to allow the ICRC unhindered access (when accompanied by the National Society) for sanitation work. Representatives of both organizations visited 24 National Society branches to deliver sanitation materials and gather feedback on the programme's distribution scheme. During visits, delegates discussed implementation of the programme and possible improvements with the branches and prison coordinators. The programmes will be expanded to target sewage systems, which represent the greatest health hazards for inmates and people living near the prisons.

As the year ended, the ICRC and the National Society acknowledged the need for an agreement regulating such joint projects. A Nigerian Red Cross health officer was appointed to manage the programme and select annual micro-projects, i.e. water-intake and distribution systems.

Some National Society branches held information classes for detainees on HIV/AIDS and first aid, and several branches were thanked by local and federal authorities for improving the health of inmates.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Early in the year, an ICRC prosthetic technician based at the ICRC's Special Fund for Disabled office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, assessed three orthopaedic hospitals and prosthetic/orthotic centres in southern Nigeria (Lagos, Enugu and Eturu). Steps were taken to more effectively identify areas of potential cooperation between the ICRC and the Enugu orthopaedic hospital and the Eturu prosthetic/orthotic centre. The ICRC continued to monitor the activity of these two facilities throughout the year.

In October the ICRC organized a limb-fitting workshop conducted by a prosthetic technician working for the Fund in Enugu. Its aim was to familiarize participants with technically simple and economically affordable techniques. The six participants included three representatives of the national orthopaedic hospital in Enugu, two from the Marist limb-fitting centre in Uturu, and another from the national orthopaedic hospital in Lagos. Throughout the year the ICRC delegation in Nigeria facilitated communication and logistical support between the Fund and these facilities.

## AUTHORITIES

Nigeria had previously signed and ratified several treaties of international humanitarian law but implementation remained a problem. In December, ICRC representatives visited the new attorney-general and justice minister to urge incorporation into domestic law of the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the declaration concerning Article 90 of Additional Protocol I and ratification of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. During the meeting, the ICRC briefed the minister and requested his assistance in supporting and urging support for these humanitarian treaties not yet ratified and incorporated into national law. The justice minister supported preparation of the documents needed for the National Assembly to proceed with legislation and for the National Executive Council to move toward ratification.

During 2003 close contact was maintained with senior officials of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The delegation developed its relations with ECOWAS in order to remain informed about matters of humanitarian concern in the region and relevant events. ICRC representatives met with the deputy executive secretary in charge of political, security and defence affairs, the director of legal affairs and the director of humanitarian affairs to share information on the region (particularly regarding the situation in Côte d'Ivoire) and implementation of the cooperation agreement signed by ICRC and ECOWAS. The ICRC requested the organization's participation and support for a planned West African workshop on anti-personnel mines.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military

In 2003 the ICRC concentrated on training the Nigerian army in international humanitarian law (IHL) and supporting it with the materials needed to achieve self-sufficiency in IHL training. For military officers deployed in potentially volatile states, the delegation continued its presentations on its mandate and activities in Nigeria and the region. Of primary importance was the goal of securing access by the ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross to victims of internal conflicts.

As part of a training programme for peacekeepers, an IHL-promotion session was held for 24 senior officers attending the newly established Nigerian Army College of Logistics in Lagos. IHL was included as part of a training programme for 45 senior officers and 48 junior officers of the National Air Defence Corps of the Nigerian Air Force. In November a session on IHL was held at the Nigerian Navy Western Command for 100 officers undergoing the Long Officers' Course.

Training military officers was the object of IHL promotion conducted by the ICRC and the National Society. Sessions on IHL and Red Cross activities were organized in military training institutions and operational units (Nigerian Defence Academy, Infantry Centre and School, Nigerian Army College of Logistics, Air Force Base Command and Staff College, various naval units and the medical corps). In October, an IHL-promotion session was carried out at the Jaji Command and Staff College for 129 officers from Nigeria and other countries.

The ICRC met with the Nigerian chief of defence staff about opportunities for the army, i.e. San Remo and train-the-trainer courses, which the ICRC supports as a means of incorporating IHL into all main training courses. Some military training institutions, such as the Nigerian Defence Academy, made a concerted effort to integrate IHL into their programmes. Three Nigerian officers from different training centres attended the 98th San Remo course. The delegation provided IHL materials for three officers in preparation for a train-the-trainer course being organized for 2004.

An introductory visit was made to the commanding officers of the 88th Military Airlift Group in Lagos to impart elementary knowledge of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

### Police

The ICRC delegate in charge of police programmes made an assessment in Nigeria in July. After discussions with the police inspector general in charge of training, the ICRC gained permission to send a delegate to conduct courses for instructors for police officers deployed in the field.

### CIVIL SOCIETY

In the course of several field missions, the delegation developed new relationships, maintained existing contacts with the authorities and leading opinion-formers at different levels, and informed them about ICRC activities in the country. Delegates met with the Nigerian non-governmental organization Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action and discussed ICRC activities, prison issues and, in particular, ICRC detainee-welfare programmes. This organization promotes human rights for prisoners and supports their reintegration into the community.

As the period under review drew to a close, Nigerian universities had been on strike and students out of classes for a year as a result of disputes between university teachers and the federal government concerning wages. ICRC activities were therefore very limited. Several students and lecturers visited the delegation's IHL library during the year, and a visit was made to four university faculties of law in the south of the country (Obafemi Awolowo University, University of Ibadan, Lagos State University, University of Lagos) to assess the introduction of IHL in the curricula of law faculties and to offer assistance through donations of IHL materials and publications.

A law teacher from the University of Jos was sponsored by the ICRC to attend the All Africa Course on IHL in Pretoria, which gathered 36 participants from 22 countries. Also, three law students in their final year of study at Obafemi Awolowo University Ife-Ife participated in the third international moot court competition on IHL in Arusha, Tanzania. The aim of these activities was to encourage and broaden the horizons of those who teach the subject and to strengthen the interest of the students.

ICRC press releases were sent regularly to the majority of Nigerian media offices and ICRC news bulletins received adequate coverage in the print and electronic media. The media network (including electronic media) reported on several ICRC press releases, particularly concerning the organization's

activities in Liberia and World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May). During the year the Abuja delegation put out the first issue of its newsletter and distributed it to key contacts. In order to strengthen the media network, a workshop was organized in August and attended by 25 journalists from the print and electronic media.

### NATIONAL SOCIETY

#### "Alternative to Violence" programme

This project – which focuses on violence-prone youth and their communities, and aims to effect behavioural change that would, in the long term, reduce levels of violence – was in 2003 delegated to the German and British National Societies.

In January, the National Society staff running the "Alternative to Violence" programme reviewed its work and progress towards the goals set for 2002. The impact on the intended beneficiaries was examined and amendments made to strategy, with a view to extending the programme to new areas. The delegation and the Nigerian Red Cross Society identified three potential new locations in Osun, Nassarawa and Anambra states, and contacted local officials, leaders and media about the project.

Although the security situation occasionally restricted field travel, many programme workshops were organized in 2003, including specialized events to address particular and long-standing tensions within specific communities. Two such workshops were held in Osogbo, Osun State, and in Obi, Nassarawa state, and focused on inter-ethnic problems. Another workshop (for workshop leaders) took place in Jos in October, with 20 participants from three target states in northern Nigeria.

#### Conflict preparedness and response

During the various outbursts of violence that occurred throughout the country in 2003, the Society's branches took quick action to help the victims, mostly by administering first aid and taking the wounded to hospital. The ICRC closely monitored both the crises and the tasks carried out by the National Society.

Several meetings on conflict preparedness and response were held between the ICRC, the National Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to gain a better understanding of the state of readiness for relief operations of the Nigerian Red Cross, whose first-aid teams responded to a diverse number of

disasters, ranging from epidemics and floods to armed conflict. Noticeable improvements were made in the teaching of disaster-management techniques, reporting to donors and situation assessment.

In order to support the National Society in coping with the results of internal violence, the ICRC pre-positioned supplies in six areas, stocked non-food items for 1,200 families in four areas, replenished medical supplies in the health-care facilities of six areas and donated additional first-aid equipment for the emergency teams at National Society branch level. Examples of disasters that required National Society volunteers to respond with first aid and evacuation of the injured were an explosion in a residential area of Lagos that killed 33 people and displaced 250, and ethnic and communal clashes in the states of Adamawa, Gombe and Delta. The Delta state branch of the Nigerian Red Cross benefited from surgical dressing materials pre-positioned by the ICRC to help the Effurun state hospital respond to emergencies.

By July, the ICRC's training plan for disaster management and its "Safer Access" approach (to ensure greater safety for National Society staff working in the midst of conflict) had been completed, with five regional workshops conducted in the south-east, south-west, north-east, north-central and north-west of the country. Branch secretaries and disaster-management coordinators in each zone attended their local workshops, as did 10 leaders of branch disaster-management teams. The "Safer Access" module was adapted to the Nigerian context and presented at each seminar, along with information on the Movement, its Fundamental Principles, the Geneva Conventions, and tracing.

With support from the ICRC and the International Federation, train-the-trainer workshops were also held during the year, followed by workshops for the volunteer members of first-aid teams. The ICRC participated by teaching the "Safer Access" approach of disaster management. Seven staff members of the Nigerian Red Cross also attended a Federation-organized regional training workshop for West African Red Cross Societies, which concentrated on health, water/sanitation, communication, logistics and disaster management and response.

### **Restoring family links**

The ICRC supported the attendance of one National Society representative at the ICRC regional tracing workshop in Dakar, Senegal and worked closely with the Society's

dissemination office to organize this year's workshop on Red Cross messages (brief, personal messages to relatives). The National Society received new tracing requests during the year from the ICRC, the armed forces emergency services, and the British, American, Irish, Italian, Kenyan, German and Ugandan Red Cross Societies. The ICRC agreed with the Nigerian Red Cross to deal with 25 of the tracing cases in 2004.

Several meetings were held with National Society officials to improve the efficiency of branch-level tracing work and raise awareness of the challenges involved. Tracing guidelines for branch secretaries and tracing coordinators were scheduled to be introduced in 2004.

### **Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles**

Throughout the year, information on the Fundamental Principles and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was provided in most educational activities organized by the Nigerian Red Cross through its branches, youth sections and mothers' clubs.

The Society announced the production of its own first-aid manual in November, and a local donor offered to finance the publication of the book as well as TV, newspaper and radio advertisements for the event. In November, the ICRC provided the Society with financial resources for the editing and printing of 30,000 pocket- and 5,000 wall-calendars, which carried a message on the need to respect the emblem.

The ICRC donated two radios to Society branches in Port Harcourt, River state, and Katsina, as communication problems had hindered the branches' activities, including disaster response. The ICRC assisted the Plateau branch in the town of Panshin by meeting with a local government official to obtain office space.



ICRC regional delegation + ICRC office

# dakar

The Dakar regional delegation focuses on promoting IHL among the armed forces and other bearers of weapons, and on encouraging the authorities throughout the region to implement this law. It also supports the work of the National Societies, assists victims of violence, such as displaced people in need, and visits detainees, providing them with material aid where necessary.

Opened in May 1991, the Dakar delegation initially covered ICRC activities in Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Gambia. Later, its responsibilities were extended to include Mali (1993) and Niger (1994).

## COVERING

Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**638,033**

Assistance

**317,360**

Preventive action

**982,576**

Cooperation with National Societies

**664,436**

General

**0**

► **2,602,404**

of which: Overheads **158,832**

## PERSONNEL

**4** expatriates

**37** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- ICRC visits to security detainees in Senegal continued, and visits were initiated to security detainees in Guinea-Bissau held since December 2002 and to detainees of ICRC concern in Niger.
- The ICRC distributed food to over 26,000 IDPs in Senegal's conflict-affected Casamance region; after a peace agreement was signed in May, the ICRC adjusted its activities accordingly, switching from an emergency response approach to strengthening the National Society's capacity to help rebuild Casamance.
- Senegal adopted a law on respect for and use of the red cross emblem, and Mali recognized the competency of the International Fact-finding Commission.
- The ICRC organized the 1st Pan-African course on IHL for academics from French-speaking countries.

## CONTEXT

After 21 years of fighting, the Senegalese government and the Democratic Forces of Casamance Movement (MFDC) signed a peace agreement on 16 May. A week later a second agreement was reached on the surrender and destruction of weapons, the quartering of MFDC forces and the return of the military to barracks. Homes and roads were to be rebuilt and refugees and displaced people were encouraged to return to their places of origin. Although confrontations between the Senegalese army and rebel groups ceased, there were still cases of looting by uncontrolled groups. At the end of the year, President Wade announced that a general amnesty for MFDC leaders and followers would be voted into law.

On 14 September, the army of Guinea-Bissau under General Verissimo Correia Seabra overturned the regime of President Kumba Yalla, dissolved national institutions and set up a military committee. The coup d'état took place without bloodshed and the mutineers stated that they had no intention of retaining power. They undertook to create a transitional government and organize elections. On 28 September, the new civilian administration headed by an interim president and an interim prime minister was sworn in after military leaders and political parties reached an agreement on holding parliamentary elections in March 2004 and presidential elections the following year.

The crisis in Côte d'Ivoire had repercussions on the region. Mali received an influx of Ivorian refugees into its border areas with Côte d'Ivoire and saw a massive repatriation

of Malians. In addition, traffic along the route between Abidjan and Bamako was interrupted for eight months. This resulted in an economic setback for Mali, which depended on Côte d'Ivoire for 70% of its commercial exchange. Niger's economy was also affected by the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

## ICRC ACTION

The peace agreement and changing needs of the population prompted the ICRC to review its approach in Senegal, where, in past years, it had been providing IDPs in Casamance with food in cooperation with the National Society. It prepared to switch the focus to helping the Senegalese Red Cross fulfil its role in the government's project to rebuild Casamance. The National Society conducted health education sessions, concentrating on hygiene, HIV and malaria.

The ICRC visited detainees in Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Senegal. It monitored the treatment of security detainees in particular, providing them with aid as needed, while it furnished basic material aid (including personal hygiene items and medicines) to all detainees.

The ICRC pursued its core activities, which included promoting IHL and the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among the armed and security forces, raising awareness among the national authorities of their responsibility to implement IHL, and familiarizing them with the ICRC's mandate and working methods. The organization also worked to raise awareness among the media, NGOs and universities of the basic principles of IHL and the activities

of the Movement and the ICRC, and worked to introduce the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) secondary-school programme in Gambia and Senegal.

The ICRC continued to help the National Societies of the region to build up their capacity in the fields of tracing, dissemination and emergency preparedness, particularly through the training of first-aiders.

## CIVILIANS

The ICRC and the Senegalese Red Cross continued helping people forced to flee the fighting in Casamance (Senegal), carrying out joint food distributions in Ziguinchor, Kolda and Sedhiou. On three occasions, each beneficiary received oil (1 l), rice (5 kg) and millet (3 kg).

- ▶ 26,470 IDPs received 706.75 tonnes of food aid

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC conducted its activities for detainees in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Niger. The Senegalese authorities acted on several recommendations contained in a summary report on observations made by ICRC delegates during prison visits in 2002. Additionally, the president ordered the release of 31 security detainees held in connection with the conflict in Casamance. ICRC-supported prison gardens in Dakar, Kolda and Bignona/Ziguinchor continued under the responsibility of an agronomist hired by the ICRC.

In Guinea-Bissau the ICRC visited detainees held at an air base, to monitor their conditions. It provided them with personal hygiene items and cleaning products on a regular basis. In another detention centre, the ICRC cleaned prison cells and installed sanitation facilities. During visits to the Cuméré military camp, delegates conducted private talks with the detainees in accordance with customary ICRC practice. The authorities were informed about the findings. In addition, the ICRC provided the camp's detainees with substantial assistance comprising clothes, mosquito netting, blankets, personal hygiene items and medicines. In May, the ICRC gained access to people detained since December 2002 in connection with a coup attempt. After the September 2003 coup d'état, the ICRC met with the new authorities and submitted a proposal regarding visits to detainees the following January.

In Niger, the ICRC negotiated an agreement with the justice ministry granting it access to all detainees, including those held in connection with mutinies. Visits in accordance with the ICRC's customary practice were carried out between July and September.

In Gambia, the ICRC held discussions with the vice-president and the newly appointed interior minister with a view to resuming visits to detainees after problems encountered the previous year. It then submitted a draft visits agreement to the authorities.

### Guinea-Bissau

- ▶ 7 visits were carried out to 15 detainees (including 9 newly registered) held for security reasons in 4 places of detention

### Niger

- ▶ 17 visits were carried out to 139 detainees in 17 places of detention
- ▶ 3 workshops on health in prisons were organized

### Senegal

- ▶ 6 visits were carried out to 4 places of detention; 1 detainee was monitored individually

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC sustained its efforts to encourage IHL implementation in the region, providing the authorities with advice and reference materials.

In Senegal, it submitted its recommendations to the committee whose task it was to reform the country's penal code. In May, the State Council approved the proposed draft law on protection and use of the red cross emblem. The draft was then submitted to the council of ministers for examination prior to its submission to the national assembly. Additionally, on World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), representatives of the government, the National Society, several NGOs, and the armed forces and justice ministries met to reflect on ways of implementing the forthcoming law. In addition, Senegal adopted a law authorizing its president to ratify the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts. Ratification was expected early the following year.

In Mali, the ICRC followed the progress of a draft law on use of and respect for the red cross emblem which it had earlier submitted to the authorities concerned, with the aim

of having it implemented as soon as possible. It also held first discussions with the justice ministry on passing a law on war crimes and cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC). Mali recognized the competence of the International Fact-finding Commission as provided for under Article 90 of the Protocol I (1977) additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

Niger adopted a new penal code providing measures to suppress serious IHL violations and incorporating the provisions of the ICC Statute; however, it was returned to the national assembly for further amendment and was expected to be promulgated early the following year.

Throughout the region, awareness-raising sessions on IHL implementation and the work of the ICRC and the National Societies were held for senior civil servants, local authorities and representatives of civil society. In addition, information materials were distributed.

- ▶ government representatives from Senegal attended the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in Geneva

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC worked to increase the armed and security forces' knowledge of IHL, international human rights law and humanitarian principles, and the respective roles and activities of the ICRC and the National Societies by organizing presentations and workshops. The ICRC also pursued its efforts to help the military incorporate IHL into armed forces training, by training instructors and providing printed and audio-visual materials.

- ▶ 3 members of the armed forces of Gambia, Niger and Senegal attended the 99th and 103rd IHL courses at the IHL institute in San Remo, Italy
- ▶ IHL presentations were held for 300 cadets and 5,000 members of the armed forces of Mali, Niger, Senegal and Guinea-Bissau, as well as for 3,000 Malian, Senegalese and Guinea-Bissau officers and NCOs about to be deployed to Liberia, and members of the UN peace-keeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia and Sierra Leone

- ▶ 1,500 members of the police and security forces of Mali, Niger and Senegal attended presentations on human rights law
- ▶ 17,000 copies of the rules of conduct for combatants were produced and distributed to the armed forces of Niger and Mali

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC worked throughout the region to raise awareness of Red Cross work among human rights NGOs and journalists. It encouraged the education authorities in Senegal to incorporate EHL into the secondary-school curriculum. In Gambia, it sought the support of the Gambian Red Cross in doing so. It assisted the law faculty of Niger's university in working towards the introduction of IHL studies, helped develop IHL studies and research in Senegal – which included the inclusion of IHL in the university syllabus – and consolidated the progress made in Mali, where IHL was already being taught.

### IHL awareness among the general public

- ▶ in Senegal, 35 journalists attended an ICRC presentation on IHL and war reporting, and an information day on IHL and the Movement – the latter was organized jointly with the Senegalese Red Cross and communication professionals in Ziguinchor
- ▶ an ICRC-sponsored art project, "Humanit'Art", enabled Senegalese artists to express themselves on humanitarian issues linked to conflict
- ▶ the ICRC took part in public information events held by Senegal's national human rights organization, and supported it in promoting implementation of the ICC
- ▶ in Mali and Niger, information events were held in French and Hausa for journalists, youth and women's associations
- ▶ some 30 lecturers and researchers from universities in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo took part in the 1st French-speaking Pan-African course on IHL, jointly organized by the ICRC delegations in Abidjan and Dakar

### Promoting IHL in academic circles

- ▶ a 3-week IHL training course was introduced for 4th-year students of Senegal's St Louis University

- ▶ in Guinea-Bissau, an awareness-raising session on international human rights law was held for law students of the University of Bissau
- ▶ the ICRC supported the Senegalese Red Cross in organizing Red Cross awareness sessions for pupils in the Kolda, Matam and Louga regions, and paid for 2,000 educational cartoon books to be printed
- ▶ jointly with the Red Cross of Mali, the ICRC held a series of discussions on humanitarian topics for high-school pupils in Bamako, Dabo and Fily
- ▶ 10,000 copies of a comic strip explaining IHL to children were printed and distributed to pupils in Mali, Niger and Senegal

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC continued to support the National Societies of the countries covered by the Dakar regional delegation in strengthening their emergency-preparedness and response capacities and developing their tracing and dissemination services. This included contributing to salaries and operating costs, organizing or helping to organize training, and providing technical advice, materials and equipment.

With ICRC support the National Societies of Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger and Senegal took part in the Council of Delegates and the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in Geneva.

### Conflict preparedness and response

- ▶ the Cape Verde Red Cross organized sanitation days in 7 prisons, during which volunteers distributed hygiene items and cleaning materials to some 900 detainees
- ▶ the Senegalese Red Cross Society mobilized volunteers to assist Casamance refugees (cleaning sanitation facilities and purifying well water), trained 90 first-aiders in 3 regions, and carried out the annual distribution of 5,000 school notebooks for pupils from IDP families
- ▶ Guinea-Bissau's National Society gave refresher courses for 138 first-aiders from various regions and received emergency-response equipment from the ICRC in view of legislative elections, it also held a train-the-trainer workshop for 30 volunteers from 4 branches, and on several occasions mobilized volunteers to perform community services or stand ready to give first aid during public events

- ▶ the Mali Red Cross held refresher training for 30 first-aiders, enabling them to assist Ivorian refugees and newly repatriated Malians, trained 27 first-aiders, prepared 200 other volunteers for activities linked to World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, and rebuilt its regional headquarters in Sikasso
- ▶ the Red Cross Society of Niger mobilized 100 volunteers for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

### Restoring family links

- ▶ prompted by the unfolding crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, the National Societies of Mali and Niger took part in a regional tracing meeting held by the ICRC in Abidjan
- ▶ the 6 National Societies of the countries covered by the Dakar delegation took part in a tracing seminar organized by the ICRC in Dakar

## IHL and the Fundamental Principles

- ▶ the Cape Verde Red Cross organized 2 days of reflection on respect for international human rights law and humanitarian principles for 95 women from the police force, and produced dissemination materials such as T-shirts, pens and keyholders
- ▶ the Red Cross Society of Guinea-Bissau held its general assembly which resulted in the election of a new president, and organized a 2-day training seminar for 43 Red Cross volunteers
- ▶ the Mali Red Cross produced 2,000 copies of a cartoon strip for children in French and the local language; trained 18 disseminators from 7 regions; conducted an AIDS information campaign, mainly for youngsters of school age and women, in the Bamako, Kayes and Sikasso regions; and organized information sessions on the Red Cross and basic IHL for several women-for-peace associations
- ▶ the Senegalese Red Cross evaluated 42 dissemination officers from 10 regional committees and trained them further so as to perfect their skills; and sent 25 first-aiders to take part in awareness-raising sessions held by the ICRC
- ▶ the Red Cross of Gambia held an IHL-awareness workshop for some 40 schoolteachers, and put on a play with a humanitarian message
- ▶ the National Societies of Gambia, Mali and Niger published newsletters



# harare

The Harare regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1995, although the ICRC has been present in some of the countries covered for much longer. Nowadays, the Harare delegation monitors the region from a humanitarian viewpoint, particularly in Zimbabwe itself, and keeps a close eye on the consequences of the spillover into the region of past conflicts and the current situation in neighbouring countries. It focuses on assisting and protecting civilians displaced by violence, visiting people deprived of their freedom in connection with these situations, and helping civilians separated by armed conflict to restore contact with their families. The delegation carries out preventive work, informing the authorities, the armed and security forces and the general public about IHL. It also helps to develop the operational capacity of the region's National Societies.

## COVERING

Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,820,324**

Assistance

**915,208**

Preventive action

**669,793**

Cooperation with National Societies

**624,353**

General

**14,320**

► **4,043,997**

of which: Overheads **246,817**

## PERSONNEL

**11** expatriates

**42** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Visits to places of detention were conducted, as previously, in Botswana and Namibia, and initiated in Zambia.
- The tracing network in the region handled over 128,000 RCMs and reunited 23 unaccompanied minors with their families.
- Mine-awareness activities were strengthened for Angolan refugees in Namibia and Zambia prior to their repatriation.
- Food relief as well as blankets and tarpaulins were provided to over 8,600 vulnerable people, (IDPs and former farm workers and their families) in Zimbabwe.
- Support began for the prosthetic/orthotic centre of Zambia's University Teaching Hospital, and was phased out in the Rundu centre in Namibia.
- Programmes to promote IHL were pursued for the authorities, armed and security forces and NGOs in all 6 countries; in Zimbabwe, efforts continued to promote the introduction of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) school programme into secondary education, and of IHL into university law studies.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, Zimbabwe continued to grapple with its economic and political crises. The ongoing land reform and the consequences of the regional drought had an adverse effect on agricultural production, while economic indicators, such as inflation and exchange rates, deteriorated further. On a political level, the opposition still did not recognize the results of the presidential election. Violence occurred during organized stay-aways, as well as during several by-elections.

Zambia continued to feel the effects of the situation in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as armed groups based there sporadically attacked Zambian villages along the border in search of food and other essentials. With the end of the conflict in Angola, many refugees who had fled to Zambia began returning home.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC's operational priorities in the region were linked to the political violence in Zimbabwe and to the needs of Angolan refugees in Zambia and Namibia.

The organization continued to gather first-hand information on cases of people affected by politically motivated violence in Zimbabwe and provided assistance to cover the basic needs that they had difficulty meeting themselves.

The ICRC further strengthened its mine-awareness activities for Angolan refugees in Namibia and Zambia to prepare them for their return home. In Namibia it conducted mine-awareness sessions, and in Zambia it helped the Mine Action Centre tailor its dissemination to the needs of Angolan refugees.

ICRC support continued, on a reduced scale, for physical rehabilitation services in the Kavango region of northern Namibia, and started in Zambia with a view to building the capacity of the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka to cater for the needs of both disabled Angolan refugees and Zambians.

The ICRC continued efforts to negotiate access to detainees falling within its mandate in Zimbabwe, and visited such detainees in Zambia, Namibia and Botswana to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention.

Other protection activities included restoring and maintaining family links, through the Red Cross message network, for the

thousands of people separated from their relatives as a result of conflict and, where possible, reuniting families.

The ICRC pursued its preventive action in all countries covered by the regional delegation, raising awareness of IHL among members of the armed forces, the police, political parties and the general public. The organization's Advisory Service on IHL offered governments in the region its services to help with the drafting of laws to incorporate into their domestic legislation all obligations arising from IHL.

The ICRC continued to support the work of the National Societies in the region and particularly to strengthen their ability to respond to emergency situations, provide effective and efficient tracing services and carry out dissemination activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

Years of instability in Angola, the DRC and elsewhere had resulted in a large number of refugees, including unaccompanied children, in the region, especially in Namibia and Zambia. The ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) and tracing network continued to provide a vital service enabling family members to restore contact with one another. The ICRC was active in communities and refugee camps hosting Angolan refugees, in cooperation with the National Societies. By launching the *Red Cross Gazette* listing the names of Angolans sought by their loved ones, it added a valuable tool to traditional tracing methods (see *Angola*).

In Zambia, the ICRC further strengthened its presence in six refugee camps by setting up a tracing office in each one. In addition, it opened two new tracing posts, bringing to seven the number of such posts along the border with the DRC where refugees had spontaneously settled. More tracing staff were trained accordingly.

In Namibia, the posting of a new ICRC field officer to the Rundu office ensured a steady flow of RCMs from Osire to the Kavango region; as demand for this service declined, the office was closed at year's end and remaining needs were met by the ICRC office in Windhoek. The exchange of RCMs between Namibian refugees in Dukwe refugee camp in Botswana and their families in Caprivi accelerated after the arrival of an ICRC field officer in December 2002 and a delegate in January 2003.

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC ensured the continuation of tracing activities in the Tongogara refugee camp and the Waterfalls transit centre. A refugee volunteer was designated to collect and deliver RCMs, while another one conducted dissemination sessions on tracing activities for new asylum seekers in the centre. The camp populations increased following the government's decision to clamp down on refugees living in urban areas.

The ICRC encouraged the authorities to inform the families of Zimbabwean soldiers killed in action during hostilities in the eastern DRC in 2000 and 2001 of the fate of their loved ones, and to arrange for the transfer of human remains back home, as required by IHL. It maintained contact with the liaison officer in charge of the file in the Zimbabwean armed forces.

### Assisting vulnerable people in Zimbabwe

Increasing turmoil in Zimbabwe had a severe impact on the lives of civilians. Politically motivated violence, as well as the "fast track" land reform resulted in the displacement of people. ICRC assessments focused on the fate of farm workers who had been expelled from their workplaces and the needs of those subjected to politically motivated violence, especially in areas where NGOs and other humanitarian organizations had restricted access. It carried out frequent missions to Mashonaland East and West, where it sought to establish dialogue with the district and provincial authorities. Delegates visited communities of former farm workers, assessed their needs, and delivered basic aid accordingly, in the form of food (maize, beans, cooking oil, salt, sugar and tea), essential household items and transport fares.

### Enhancing mine awareness among Angolan refugees

The Zambia Mine Action Committee continued its mine-awareness programme in four camps housing Angolan refugees. In May, with ICRC support, two committee members participated in an eight-day ICRC training course on mine awareness in Kuito, Angola. In Namibia, the ICRC launched mine-awareness activities in the Osire refugee camp, shortly before the repatriation process began in March 2003. A specific programme was developed, and an external advisor trained a field officer and wrote a handbook on mine/UXO awareness. An assessment was carried out in May to ascertain the refugees' level of awareness of the problem, and 35 of them were chosen for intensive training enabling them to carry out mine-awareness work in the camp.

### Restoring family links

- 37,355 RCMs were delivered to civilians in the region (22,649 in Zambia)
- 90,891 RCMs were collected from refugee camps in the region (60,157 in Zambia)
- 93 unaccompanied children were newly registered, and 23 reunited with their families
- 7 people whose families had filed a tracing request were located

### Economic security

- 8,654 former farm workers and IDPs received 90 tonnes of food (20,290 food parcels), 8,512 blankets and 231 tarpaulins for temporary shelter

### Mine action

- over 2,500 people visited a mine-awareness exhibition shown at the women's centre in the Osire refugee camp, put together by 3 specialists from the Namibian police and defence forces, and the ICRC team

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In order to ascertain whether people arrested and detained were being held in adequate conditions and being treated humanely, the ICRC visited places of detention in Botswana, Namibia and, having received authorization from the government in 2002 to visit all prisons and police stations, in Zambia. Visits in Zambia started in February and focused on detention places that had been visited in the past (after the October 1997 coup) and those currently likely to be holding ex-fighters from Angola, Rwanda and Burundi, or security detainees. By May, the ICRC had visited nine prisons, revisited three and reported its findings to the Commissioner for Prisons. In addition, it held a training course on IHL and human rights law for 25 prison officers and superintendents of the correctional service. Inmates without any way of contacting their relatives were given the opportunity to write RCMs.

In Namibia, delegates visited police stations and prisons and submitted a summary report to the prison authorities regarding visits carried out in 2002. The ICRC focused on people held in connection with the Caprivi uprising and organized family visits for them.

In Botswana, visits were carried out to security detainees held in connection with the Caprivi uprising.

In addition, the ICRC provided assistance as needed to improve general health and hygiene conditions in places of detention. This included fumigating the premises and distributing basic supplies such as blankets, jerrycans and buckets in six Zambian prisons, handing out toiletries, cleaning and recreational materials in police stations visited in Namibia, and supplying bedding, washbasins, paraffin lamps and stoves to the Roman Catholic Church in Grootfontein which provided accommodation for detainees' visiting relatives.

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC pursued efforts to resume discussions with the justice ministry regarding visits to people detained in relation to the country's situation.

- ▶ in Botswana, 9 visits were carried out to 27 security detainees (including 1 newly registered) in 6 places of detention
- ▶ in Namibia, 15 visits were carried out to 8 places of detention (including 5 police stations) and 137 security detainees (including 11 newly registered) were visited individually; 218 RCMs were delivered to detainees
- ▶ in Zambia, 15 visits were carried out to 9 places of detention and 62 security detainees (including 7 newly registered) were visited individually; 9 RCMs were delivered to detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Amputees and other disabled people

The ICRC kept up its support, including the presence of a prosthetic/orthotic technician to provide on-the-job training in ICRC polypropylene technology, for the prosthetic/orthotic workshop in Rundu (Kavango) during the first few months of 2003, so as to ease the handover to the health ministry. After that, it limited itself to providing small numbers of polypropylene components for the manufacture of artificial limbs and conducting occasional visits to monitor production quality. It also arranged for Namibian technicians to attend a one-month ICRC training course in polypropylene technology in Addis Ababa.

In addition, the ICRC provided components, materials, training and advice to the University Teaching Hospital's (UTH) limb-fitting department in Lusaka, Zambia, strengthening its technical capacity and enabling it to make its services available to refugees as well as Zambians. An ICRC technician was posted there to assist with prosthesis production and monitor the quality

of production and fitting. The ICRC also ran an outreach service enabling patients in four refugee camps to be treated at the UTH, and paid for their transport.

### Namibia

- ▶ 3 Namibian technicians were trained
- ▶ 17 new patients were fitted with prostheses, and 3 with orthoses
- ▶ 20 prostheses and 3 orthoses were delivered; 2 pairs of crutches and 1 wheelchair were produced

### Zambia

- ▶ 239 new patients were fitted with prostheses, and 67 with orthoses
- ▶ 239 prostheses and 82 orthoses were delivered; 69 pairs of crutches were produced

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to encourage the governments of the region to become party to IHL treaties, and provided them with advice and technical support regarding implementation.

Botswana was in the process of amending its implementing legislation for the Geneva Conventions to give effect to obligations arising from Additional Protocols I and II. Malawi had begun drafting implementing legislation for the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which it had ratified the previous year, and amendments to the Geneva Conventions Act 1967. Mozambique was considering making a declaration recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission, and had drafted legislation on respect for and use of the red cross emblem.

Namibia's Geneva Conventions Act received presidential assent on 28 November 2003.

Zambia, where the interministerial IHL committee was in the process of restructuring, had prepared, with the assistance of the ICRC, implementing legislation for the 1997 Ottawa Convention. The final act received presidential assent on 11 December 2003. Zambia had yet to draft such legislation for the Geneva Conventions and the ICC Statute.

In order to raise issues of ICRC concern in Zimbabwe, delegates met with government ministers, the vice-president, opposition leaders and senior police and defence force officials.

The ICRC worked on developing cooperation with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in fields of mutual interest, for example mine action.

- ▶ representatives of SADC member States covered by the Harare delegation participated in the ICRC's annual regional IHL seminar in Pretoria (June), where recommendations were drawn up defining the common position to be presented by Southern African States at the 2004 Review Conference for the Ottawa Convention

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Efforts were pursued to encourage the integration of IHL in training for the armed and security forces. The ICRC continued to train police forces in the region in international human rights law and humanitarian principles, and worked to make them aware of the Movement's role and activities.

### Armed forces

- ▶ 34 officers attended an IHL instructors' course given by the ICRC at the Malawi armed forces college in Salima
- ▶ 80 army officers from Zambia took part in a 2-day IHL training course at Lusaka Staff College, an IHL presentation as part of a training course for UN military observers in Kabwe, and a course for navy and air force officers in Geneva
- ▶ 350 army officers, including representatives of the armies of Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia, Tanzania and other SADC countries, attended IHL presentations and training courses, including the annual Joint Command and Staff Course for SADC countries, at Harare Staff College, the All Arms Battle School in Nyanga and the Zimbabwe Schools of Infantry and Artillery in Mbalabala and Kwekwe

### Police

- ▶ 38 commanders of the police and special field forces attended 2 5-day training courses, and 14 regional trainers took part in a 2-week instructors' course (Namibia)
- ▶ 115 police and prison officers and directors attended 55-day training courses (Zambia)
- ▶ a police force liaison officer was appointed to facilitate and strengthen contact with the ICRC (Zimbabwe)

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC maintained contact with national and international media, universities and NGOs in the region so as to raise awareness of humanitarian issues, the ICRC and its mandate and action in the region, and the relevance of IHL. In particular, it stepped up contact with the media in Namibia and Zambia.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- presented its activities for vulnerable people in time of armed conflict at an annual course on defence management, organized by the University of Zimbabwe and attended by 50 government and army officials, diplomats, academics and NGO representatives
- gave a presentation on IHL at a workshop on humanitarian values organized by the UNDP Recovery and Relief Unit in Bulawayo and Harare

### Promoting IHL education in schools and universities

To promote the introduction of its "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) school programme into Zimbabwe's secondary-school curriculum, the ICRC fostered contact with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture. Similar contact was made with the Ministry of Youth, Gender and Employment Creation with a view to introducing EHL into the compulsory National Youth Service. Regarding the promotion of IHL study and research, the ICRC worked with the University of Zimbabwe, the country's only university, to offer law courses, which incorporated IHL into its international law course in 2003. However, administrative problems delayed further implementation of these projects.

- 96 youth service instructors attended a training course on EHL content and teaching methods
- 31 media managers from television, radio and major newspapers in Namibia and Zambia were given ad hoc information and briefings

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC supported the National Societies of the region with a view to enabling them to respond in the event of emergencies, restore contact between separated family members and raise general awareness of IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles. It sponsored the participation of National Society representatives, including legal advisers, from each of the countries covered in the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent in Geneva. Together with the International Federation, it facilitated the drafting of a regional pledge by 10 southern African National Societies at a regional meeting in Johannesburg concerning their role as humanitarian auxiliaries to their governments in helping the most vulnerable people, particularly those infected with HIV/AIDS.

The Zambia Red Cross Society elected a new president and a new national board and revised its statutes with support from the ICRC and the International Federation. It also began implementing a financial recovery plan.

### Conflict preparedness and response

In preparation for by-elections in March and August, the ICRC worked with the Zimbabwe Red Cross to strengthen the knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers to work in accordance with the Fundamental Principles in times of internal and political violence. For example, in March an ICRC technician conducted a five-day mission to repair and maintain the National Society's radiocommunication equipment, and 100 volunteers attended a one-day course prior to being deployed with basic first-aid equipment in polling stations. During the August by-elections, the Society mobilized its action teams in two provinces. In Mozambique, the ICRC provided technical support at a training workshop for volunteers in the provinces, emphasizing the importance of neutral and impartial conduct.

## Spreading knowledge of IHL and the Red Cross

The ICRC's cooperation with the National Societies in the region focused mainly on enhancing awareness of the role and responsibilities of the Red Cross in the event of escalating political violence or disturbances. It contributed to the salary and operational costs of the Societies' information departments and donated equipment; the Namibia Red Cross for instance received a computer. This enabled the National Societies to produce newsletters and other publications, hold dissemination and training sessions for staff and volunteers and organize field trips.

### Restoring family links

The National Societies in the region remained an integral part of the Red Cross tracing network. The ICRC contributed to the salaries and running costs of the tracing departments and provided training. In Botswana, Namibia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Mozambique, this enabled family links to be restored between refugees in camps and their families.



# nairobi

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi was set up in 1974 and has a dual purpose: first, to carry out operations and pursue humanitarian diplomacy in the three countries covered; and second, to provide logistic support services for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries of the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions, and further afield.

**COVERING**  
Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection	
<b>1,349,996</b>	
Assistance	
<b>2,813,137</b>	
Preventive action	
<b>1,444,327</b>	
Cooperation with National Societies	
<b>892,265</b>	
General	
<b>14,693</b>	
	<b>► 6,514,418</b>
	of which: Overheads <b>397,594</b>

## PERSONNEL

<b>33</b>	expatriates
<b>383</b>	national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- More than 40,000 RCMs were delivered to refugees in the region, and some 60 refugee children were reunited with family members in their home countries.
- The Kenyan army incorporated IHL into its standard training programme, and a record number of African universities entered the international moot-court competition on IHL.
- Some 200,000 people affected by ethnic clashes in rural Kenya benefited from projects to improve their water access and economic security.
- Some 9,000 displaced immigrants in the Aour Aoussa camp in Djibouti received emergency aid.
- Red Cross branches in Kenya and Zanzibar received help to strengthen their capacity to protect and assist victims of armed violence.
- Relief goods, training and specialist staff were provided to ICRC delegations in Africa and beyond to meet the needs of conflict victims.

## CONTEXT

Owing to instability in neighbouring countries, a total of some 750,000 refugees were living in Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania, and Djibouti hosted a large immigrant population. The flow of refugees into Tanzania slowed as peace processes involving Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) advanced. Tanzania was, however, still home to Africa's largest refugee population, with some 480,000 living in camps in the Western Corridor region. In August, the government of Djibouti announced plans to expel some 100,000 illegal immigrants from the country. Around 9,000 immigrants poured into a transit camp run by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), where the larger than anticipated numbers strained water and sanitation facilities.

As stable States in a volatile area, the three countries covered by the delegation continued to play an important diplomatic role in the region. Kenya was the third largest contributor to peace-keeping operations in Africa and hosted peace talks on Somalia and Sudan. Tanzania supported the peace processes concerning Burundi and the DRC and was home to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

Ethnic clashes, mainly over access to water and grazing land, continued in remote areas of rural Kenya, forcing people to flee their homes. Pockets of drought in North Eastern, Eastern, Rift Valley and Coast provinces heightened ethnic tensions, while flash floods in the west and south-east uprooted more than 60,000 people.

In Tanzania, riots broke out in Zanzibar and Pemba prior to by-elections, but no major incidents were reported during voting on 18 May in Pemba.

## ICRC ACTION

The Nairobi regional delegation continued to carry out humanitarian activities in Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania, while providing a wide range of goods and services to other ICRC operations throughout Africa and further afield.

Programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) in the region remained a priority. In particular, the ICRC encouraged governments to ratify IHL treaties and incorporate their provisions into national law, and helped the armed forces and police take steps to integrate IHL into their training. With ICRC support, the Kenyan army made IHL part of its standard curricula.

Efforts also focused on improving the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service, which tens of thousands of refugees in the region used to locate and communicate with relatives back home. Whenever feasible, child refugees were reunited with their parents or other family members in their home countries. The ICRC also supported three hospitals and several first-aid facilities in Tanzania to ensure that war-wounded refugees arriving from Burundi and the DRC received appropriate medical care.

In rural Kenya, the ICRC completed three projects to upgrade water and school facilities and restore economic security for people living in remote rural regions prone to community clashes over scarce water points. The ICRC also stood ready to distribute emergency aid. In Djibouti, when some 9,000 immigrants seeking asylum crowded into a makeshift camp, the ICRC, at the government's request, provided relief goods, water and sanitation equipment and medical supplies.

The three National Societies received substantial ICRC support. In Kenya and Tanzania, emphasis was placed on developing the capacity of Red Cross branches in violence-prone regions to protect and assist victims of conflict, and in Djibouti, on rebuilding the weakened Red Crescent.

In parallel, the regional delegation in Nairobi supplied a wide range of essential services to ICRC operations in Africa and beyond. Each month, the Nairobi Logistics Centre procured an average of one million US dollars worth of relief items and other supplies and delivered some 1,900 tonnes of goods to the field by truck, ship and plane. In some 9,000 square metres of storage space, the centre maintained sufficient emergency

stocks to meet the needs of 100,000 people for seven days and an extra 50,000 people over three months. In addition, specialist staff provided delegations with advice and training in the areas of nutrition, agriculture, medicine, water and sanitation, tracing, IHL promotion and information technology.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links for refugees

The ICRC ran the tracing and RCM service in refugee camps in Tanzania and Djibouti, and worked in cooperation with the Kenya Red Cross Society to provide the same service in camps in Kakuma and Dadaab, Kenya. To maximize the impact of programmes for refugees, the ICRC coordinated its activities with other organizations in the field, particularly UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, the UN Children's Fund and Save the Children/UK and Sweden.

A priority was to reunite child refugees with their parents in their home countries, where possible and requested. In Tanzania, the ICRC took over UNICEF's database of some 570 Burundian children living in refugee camps. It located and visited the children, offering them the RCM service as a first step towards reuniting them with their parents. In Kenya, more than 500 Sudanese child refugees who had been separated from their parents were interviewed and registered by the ICRC, and were also offered the tracing service to locate their relatives in Sudan.

### Emergency aid for displaced people

At the Djibouti government's request, the ICRC, together with the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti, made a one-off distribution in September of shelter material, water and sanitation equipment, medical supplies, and household goods to some 9,000 people at the Aour Aoussa camp in the south. The beneficiaries, mainly Somalis, Eritreans and Ethiopians, had converged on the makeshift camp after Djibouti announced a deadline for all illegal immigrants to leave the country. The ICRC also offered the RCM service in the camp and helped a non-governmental organization (NGO) set up a medical post in response to a cholera threat.

### Improving water and sanitation

In rural Kenya, competition between farmers and semi-nomadic communities over water and grazing land sometimes erupted into armed clashes, driving people from their homes and damaging village infrastructure. Three ICRC projects helped to reduce these tensions, mainly by involving

the communities in improving their water supply.

Two medium-term projects launched in 2002 were completed in the Tana River district, scene of conflict between the pastoral Orma and Wardey and the farming Pokomo. A 20-month project in the Garsen division, delegated to the Swedish Red Cross, built or repaired a variety of water points, renovated two schools and set up a local Kenyan Red Cross branch. The other project, which lasted 13 months and was delegated to the German Red Cross, with Kenyan Red Cross support, helped people devastated by conflict and floods to regain a certain level of self-sufficiency. Some 1,000 farming families received seed for planting and food-for-work rations to tend the fields. Local workers also received food to help construct five water pans and clear a road linking remote villages to public transport and a market town. Rival communities worked together on some sites, increasing prospects for more peaceful relations.

In the arid Kerio Valley, prolonged drought had strained relations between the semi-nomadic Pokot and the Marakwet farmers. Thanks to a three-year ICRC project delegated to the American Red Cross, which had ended in 2002, water, school and health facilities had already improved and tribal tension eased somewhat. As no National Society showed an interest in extending this project, the ICRC resumed the work in June, building or upgrading water systems and a school in the districts of East Baringo, Marakwet and West Pokot.

Thanks to an ongoing ICRC/Tanzania Red Cross Society project aimed at building or repairing wells, latrines and washing facilities, hygiene conditions and health standards continued to improve for people living in poor rural areas of Ugunja and Pemba islands prone to cholera outbreaks. By the end of 2003, the project, which started in 1999, counted some 12,000 beneficiaries.

### Restoring family links

- 26,477 RCMs were delivered to refugees in Tanzania, 14,789 in Kenya and 212 in Djibouti
- 40,034 RCMs were collected from refugees in Tanzania to forward to family members in their home countries, including 23,438 to Kenya and 511 to Djibouti
- 98 child refugees in the 3 countries were reunited with family in their home countries, including 64 directly under ICRC auspices

- ▶ 39 people whose families had filed tracing requests were located

### Economic security

- ▶ 1 project was completed in Kenya, benefiting 25,000 people, including 450 IDPs
- ▶ 9,000 people in Djibouti received shelter material and essential household items

### Water and habitat

- ▶ 3 projects were completed, benefiting more than 200,000 people
- ▶ 67 boreholes were drilled, 21 hand pumps installed and 9 blocks of latrines, 7 rainwater catchments and 4 cement water-storage tanks built
- ▶ 3 schools were renovated

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Gabode prison, in Djibouti, who had been arrested following the December 2000 attempted coup, and those at the UN detention facility in Arusha, Tanzania, held in connection with the ICTR. After the visits, the ICRC reported its findings to the authorities. The RCM service was offered to detainees in both detention facilities, enabling them to communicate with their families. In Gabode prison, the ICRC provided soap and other cleaning agents each month to improve hygiene conditions.

- ▶ 58 detainees, including 5 newly registered, were monitored individually in Tanzania in 1 place of detention
- ▶ 395 detainees, including 7 monitored individually, were visited in Djibouti in 1 place of detention
- ▶ 48 RCMs were distributed to detainees, and 38 RCMs collected from them
- ▶ 395 detainees were provided with hygiene items

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Treating war-wounded refugees

In Tanzania, the ICRC maintained its role as the lead agency responsible for ensuring that war-wounded refugees arriving from Burundi and the DRC received appropriate medical care, in accordance with a 2001 agreement with the Tanzanian government, UNHCR, Caritas and the International Rescue Committee. The ICRC paid for and monitored the treatment of wounded refugees at Heri and Kigoma missionary

hospitals and Kibondo District Hospital. It also distributed medical supplies, as needed, to border facilities administering first aid, and arranged for wounded refugees to be transported to hospital.

- ▶ 3 hospitals were supported; 33 war-wounded were treated, 3 of them mine victims, and 56 surgical operations performed
- ▶ 7 first-aid posts were supported, on average, each month

## AUTHORITIES

### IHL advocacy bears fruit

With ICRC support, Kenya and Tanzania took significant steps towards integrating IHL into their national legislation.

After an eight-month lull following the December 2002 elections, Kenya's national committee for the implementation of IHL, set up in 2001 with ICRC assistance, reconvened. With the ICRC's technical input, the committee adopted a project to implement nationally the 1997 Ottawa Convention prohibiting anti-personnel mines, which Kenya ratified in January 2001, and planned a two-year IHL-dissemination programme. The ICRC also regularly met representatives of the Attorney-General's office and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to advocate national implementation of the Ottawa Convention and the 1954 Hague Convention protecting cultural property. In August, Kenya announced that it had destroyed some 35,000 anti-personnel mines, in accordance with provisions of the Ottawa Convention.

In response to the Tanzanian government's request to help it form a national IHL committee, the ICRC held a seminar on IHL in October for prospective committee members.

In Djibouti, the ICRC had several meetings with representatives of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs to discuss incorporating provisions of the Ottawa Convention, which Djibouti had ratified in 1998, into national law.

- ▶ Kenya's national committee for the implementation of IHL was provided with technical support
- ▶ some 55 high-ranking civil servants at Kenya's Government Training Institute in Mombasa and the Kenya Institute of Administration attended IHL presentations
- ▶ 21 Kenyan civil service, police and security force instructors attended

a 2-day IHL workshop conducted in cooperation with the Swedish-based Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### IHL integrated into Kenyan army training

Following long-term ICRC support, the Kenyan army integrated IHL into its training programmes. The Tanzanian armed forces agreed to launch an IHL programme in 2004, organized by the ICRC, and Djibouti's Ministry of Defence gave the ICRC permission to approach Hol Hol military school directly to discuss conducting introductory sessions on IHL. The ICRC regularly gave presentations on IHL at the Kenyan armed forces' Embakasi garrison and at the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) in Nairobi, which trains peace-keepers from around the world.

- ▶ the ICRC welcomed the integration of IHL into Kenyan army standard training programmes
- ▶ some 850 Kenyan peace-keepers joining missions in Eritrea and Sierra Leone attended IHL presentations at the PSTC
- ▶ 30 military officers from 6 African countries attended an IHL presentation at Tanzania's Command and Staff College in Arusha

### IHL for police and security forces

The ICRC provided reference and training material and technical advice to reinforce the teaching of international human rights law and humanitarian principles at Djibouti's main police training centre, where the subjects were already incorporated into the majority of the curricula. In Kenya, the ICRC focused on broadening the base of general knowledge of human rights law and humanitarian principles among the police and General Security Unit (GSU), holding various introductory and advanced seminars for instructors and officers. In Tanzania, the ICRC worked with police personnel in various regions of the country to design an introductory programme on human rights law and humanitarian principles, to be given by the ICRC. The first seminar was planned for March 2004.

- ▶ the ICRC revised the Djibouti police manual on human rights law, at the police's request
- ▶ a Djibouti police instructor took an IHL course in San Remo, under ICRC sponsorship

- ▶ some 500 Kenyan police and GSU officers and instructors and 400 police officers on the Zanzibar archipelago attended presentations on human rights law
- ▶ the ICRC helped the Tanzanian police force design a training programme on human rights law

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC worked to raise awareness of IHL across a broad spectrum of civil society through the region's extensive national and international media network, its well-developed system of higher education and the many national and international organizations active in the area.

### IHL in universities and schools

The third international moot-court competition on IHL, organized by the ICRC and the ICTR, proved again to be a very successful vehicle for promoting IHL within African academic circles. A record 11 university teams from six African countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda) competed in the six-day event, held in November in Arusha, Tanzania. The ICRC also provided ongoing support, as needed, for IHL courses taught at five Kenyan institutes of higher learning and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

Djibouti officially agreed in December to introduce the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) education programme for young people into the country's secondary-school curriculum. Efforts to introduce the programme in Kenya were put on hold, as education officials were busy coping with the introduction of free primary education.

### IHL for aid workers and policy-makers

Last year's first-ever intensive course on IHL for humanitarian workers and policy-makers proved so popular that the ICRC organized two more courses, held in February and May in Arusha, Tanzania. The courses drew 53 participants from 19 countries, including government officials, journalists and programme heads from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; the UN Development Programme; UNHCR; Médecins Sans Frontières; Save the Children; Oxfam; Norwegian Church Aid; the UN Integrated Regional Information Networks; the International Rescue Committee; the American, Kenyan and Tanzanian Red Cross Societies; and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

- ▶ 11 African university teams competed in the international moot-court competition on IHL, organized with the ICTR
- ▶ Djibouti officially agreed to introduce EHL into its secondary-school curricula
- ▶ 2 Kenyan university lecturers attended a regional IHL course in Pretoria, South Africa
- ▶ 100 university students from the United States International University in Kenya and Tanzania's Dar es Salaam University and the Business College Institute attended IHL presentations

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### Assisting victims of conflict

Following a review of Kenyan Red Cross activities, the ICRC and the National Society agreed to focus their joint efforts on building the capacity of seven branches in violence-prone regions to protect and assist victims of conflict. Management, first-aid and emergency-preparedness training was organized for priority branches. They also received office material and computers to improve their internal planning and liaison with Kenyan Red Cross headquarters. Two new sub-branches were set up in the violence-prone Laikipia and Tana River regions. The ICRC also supplied transport, tarpaulins and blankets for the National Society's flood-relief operations.

Following pre-election disturbances in Zanzibar and Pemba, the ICRC and the Tanzanian Red Cross worked to strengthen the ability of branches on the islands to aid victims of violence and to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement's work and Fundamental Principles. The ICRC helped the Zanzibar branch form volunteer Red Cross action teams and, with the help of Kenyan Red Cross trainers, held a five-day, first-aid instructors' course for 20 participants.

### Restoring family links

The ICRC worked closely with the Kenyan Red Cross to help reinforce the RCM and tracing service for refugees in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps. Two joint field trips were made to each camp to assess the service and, through presentations, make it better known among refugees and organizations working in the camps. While the ICRC ran the tracing service for refugee camps in Tanzania's Western Corridor, it provided the Tanzania Red Cross with on-the-job training and materials to carry out tracing activities in the rest of the country. The ICRC also helped the Kenyan and Tanzanian

Red Cross Societies organize their annual three-day workshops on tracing techniques.

### Developing the Djibouti Red Crescent

Ongoing efforts by the ICRC, the International Federation and the Djibouti Red Crescent to rebuild the National Society began to show results. Progress was made on revising the National Society's statutes to conform to Movement standards. Eleven participants representing all six branches attended a workshop in December on promoting IHL and the Movement's work and Fundamental Principles, and plans were finalized for a first-aid training programme in 2004. The ICRC also involved the National Society in distributing emergency aid to some 9,000 people in the Aour Aoussa camp.



ICRC/AR.2003

# pretoria

The Pretoria regional delegation has existed in its present form since 1995. It keeps a close eye on the domestic situation in the countries covered; promotes ratification of IHL treaties and the incorporation of IHL into military and police training; and maintains contact with South Africa's many think-tanks and research organizations. It helps refugees and asylum seekers restore family links severed by conflict. The delegation also supports the region's National Societies in their efforts to disseminate IHL, develop their tracing activities, and prepare for emergencies in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The ICRC has maintained a permanent expatriate presence in Madagascar since the presidential elections in December 2001 and has been visiting people detained in connection with post-election tensions since August 2002.

## COVERING

Union of Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**658,245**

Assistance

**126,932**

Preventive action

**2,276,079**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,458,085**

General

**0**

► **4,519,341**

of which: Overheads **275,828**

## PERSONNEL

**8** expatriates

**37** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- 84 new security detainees were registered in the Union of Comoros and Madagascar.
- 120 people, eligible for resettlement, were provided with ICRC travel documents.
- 640 Red Cross Messages (RCM) were collected and some 1,200 were distributed.
- 5 countries were encouraged to integrate IHL into their defence training and operations; 2 countries that had issued directives on integrating IHL received support.
- 4 countries received support on integrating the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into their school curricula; others were encouraged to adopt EHL.
- Cooperation project agreements were signed with almost all the National Societies.
- An interministerial committee on IHL was created in the Union of Comoros.

## CONTEXT

In the countries covered by the Pretoria delegation, hunger and disease resulting from severe food shortages threatened hundreds of thousands of people. Lesotho and Swaziland – two of Africa's smallest States – struggled with a third consecutive year of drought, while in South Africa, which has the strongest economy in the region, farmers in several eastern provinces were affected by one of the worst droughts in 10 years. In Madagascar, thousands of people continued to suffer the after-effects of tropical cyclones that had hit the Indian Ocean Island in successive years, damaging homes and crops. The situation was compounded by the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, particularly in Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa, and the devastating effect of the disease on families and economic activity. With increasing numbers of income-earners dying, a growing population of orphans and households were unable to meet the challenges of providing for themselves. (UNICEF estimated that there were 180,000 orphans in South Africa, while it expected one in five children in Lesotho and Swaziland to be orphaned by 2010).

Along with poverty and illness was the problem of social unrest. Students, trade union workers, pro-democracy groups and other discontented civilians staged demonstrations in Lesotho, Swaziland, the Seychelles, and the Comoros, with many of the marches turning violent. In Madagascar, several opponents of the government were still in detention two years after presidential elections that had resulted in a bitter six-month struggle between the defeated

incumbent and the new President – the former mayor of Antananarivo. In South Africa, poverty, high unemployment and crime also remained key issues, despite the country's record of steady economic growth over the past decade. South Africa, the largest military power in the region, continued to play a pivotal role in diplomacy and politics.

## ICRC ACTION

The delegation conducted visits to places of detention to register new security detainees and monitor their living conditions. It encouraged and supported initiatives on the part of the authorities to improve the conditions for detainees. The delegation also provided ICRC travel documents to people eligible for resettlement in third countries. It continued to operate its RCM service for refugees and other displaced persons enabling them to contact their families.

The delegation made further progress in promoting an understanding of IHL and its own mandate among opinion-makers and the general public. It encouraged universities to include IHL modules in their courses and supported efforts by the education authorities to integrate or consider integrating EHL programmes into secondary schools.

It helped National Societies prepare for emergency situations, while it worked to help strengthen their public image and enhance their capacity to conduct tracing and IHL dissemination work. The delegation encouraged States in the region to ratify the full complement of IHL treaties and implement them in national legislation. It conducted sessions on IHL/human rights law for the armed forces and police and met with defence ministries to promote the integration of IHL/human rights into training and operations.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

The Pretoria delegation continued to put the RCM and tracing services at the disposal of refugees and asylum seekers to enable them to restore or maintain links with families in conflict areas. In coordination with the UNHCR and embassies, the delegation provided ICRC travel documents to 120 people who were eligible for resettlement in third countries. It sought to promote this activity by maintaining contact with home affairs representatives, local NGOs and international organizations.

The ICRC participated in the "Reach Out Workshop" in Durban in January focusing on the protection of refugees, which was attended by 29 participants representing more than 20 different organizations. Also, the ICRC in cooperation with the South African Red Cross, provided a group of 50 Swazi exiles in South Africa with food aid at the end of March.

- 120 ICRC travel documents were issued
- 1,239 RCMs were distributed and 640 were collected

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Ensuring humane treatment

The ICRC conducted regular visits to certain prisons to register security detainees, assess their living conditions, and ensure that their judicial guarantees were being upheld. Where necessary it made representations to the relevant authorities. It made its RCM service available to the detainees to enable them to stay contact with their families.

In the Union of Comoros, amid prevailing tensions between the semi-autonomous islands and the central government, the ICRC registered eight new detainees. It held talks with the authorities including the Minister of Justice, the Prosecutor of the Republic and the Director of the Penitentiary Administration, on its mandate and IHL, and provided recommendations for the prisons. The islands remained locked in a struggle for authority over security and financial matters after being granted their own presidents under a new constitution in 2002.

In Madagascar, where there had been tensions following the presidential election in December 2001, the delegation registered 76 new detainees. This brought the total number registered to 349 since a visiting agreement was signed in 2002. By the end of the year, it was still individually following up 197 detainees, though 73 detainees received some form of presidential pardon on the very last day of the year and were scheduled for release.

The delegation focused on helping the Madagascar prison administration improve the material conditions for detainees, by facilitating workshops for staff on the subject and by undertaking certain building projects to repair evacuation canals or build visitor centres, sleeping benches and food storage facilities for inmates. At the same time it provided prison infirmaries with medicines and medical advice to treat the sick, and distributed some 500 blankets and various recreational items (footballs and basketballs) to detainees.

However, after identifying serious malnutrition in three south-eastern-based detention centres in November, the ICRC entered into discussions with the authorities about a therapeutic feeding programme, which was due to be launched in 2004.

## AUTHORITIES

The delegation encouraged the countries of the region to contribute to the development of IHL and ratify the whole complement of IHL instruments.

In the Comoros in December, the ICRC carried out an IHL training seminar for future members of the interministerial committee on IHL, which was created by decree in November.

In Lesotho, in the forum of the interministerial committee, the ICRC continued to promote the enactment of a Geneva Conventions bill, which was yet to be considered in cabinet, and draft legislation to implement the 1998 Rome Statute of the ICC. It also provided the interministerial committee with model legislation for implementing the 1997 Ottawa Convention. Further consideration was given by the authorities to the ratification of the 1954 Hague Cultural Property Convention.

In Madagascar, a headquarters agreement establishing the legal status of the ICRC mission and its staff was signed with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has yet to be ratified by parliament and published in the government's official journal.

In Mauritius, the implementation of IHL continued apace. In May, a Geneva Conventions Amendment Act and a Chemical Weapons Convention Act were promulgated, both of which had been drafted with the assistance of the ICRC. Work also continued in the interministerial committee with ICRC involvement on implementing legislation for the ICC Statute, the Conventional Weapons Convention, and the Biological Weapons Convention, the latter of which was in the form of a bill being reviewed in Parliament.

In the Seychelles, the ICRC continued to give technical support in the drafting of legislation to amend the 1986 Geneva Conventions Act by incorporating the implementing obligations of the Additional Protocols. Similar assistance was given in the drafting of implementing legislation for the Ottawa Convention, and an Anti-Personnel Mines bill was passed in October. The Seychelles government further deposited its instrument to ratify the 1954 Hague Cultural Property Convention in September.

In South Africa, the ICRC continued to give technical assistance to the government with drafting national implementing legislation.

Work continued on the Geneva Conventions bill, the Conventional Weapons bill, which was being reviewed in final draft form by the Defence Joint Staff Committee, and the Anti-Personnel Mines (Ottawa Convention) bill, which was assented to in December. The ICRC encouraged the South African authorities to set up an interministerial IHL committee, however, without any tangible result in 2003.

For a week in June, the South African government hosted the ICRC's third Southern African Regional Seminar on IHL, which took place in Pretoria. The seminar brought together delegates from all countries of the region, including Lesotho, Madagascar, Swaziland, Comoros, Mauritius, Seychelles and South Africa. It focused on the level of implementation in each country (each delegation being required to submit a status report on implementation) and provided delegates with further explanations of key IHL conventions and assistance in their domestic implementation. As with previous seminars, the event was considered instrumental in maintaining the momentum of IHL implementation in the region.

In Swaziland, the ICRC met the new foreign minister in May and discussed among other things the creation of an inter-ministerial committee on IHL. A memorandum in this regard was finalized and submitted to cabinet for further consideration.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued its efforts to have IHL modules included in the training programmes of defence and security forces in the region. In 2003, these efforts included IHL seminars and courses or train-the-trainer courses for the various defence and security forces. It also provided support to countries that had already adopted directives integrating IHL into training such as intervention in military exercises or help to cover costs linked to IHL integration.

During the year, participants from the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles, as well as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo, attended a three-day seminar held by the delegation in the Seychelles, on the integration of IHL into the training and operations of defence forces and the police. In addition, senior military or police personnel from Mauritius, the Seychelles and Swaziland attended train-the-trainer courses held by the ICRC. In Mauritius this amounted

to some 50 senior police officers, in Lesotho and the Seychelles to 20 members each of the armed forces and the police, and in Swaziland to some 50 army commanders and senior officers. In Lesotho and Swaziland, the ICRC also held high-level talks with the authorities to plan more train-the-trainer courses.

In Madagascar and South Africa, two countries that had agreed to integrate IHL into the training of armed forces, the delegation worked to ensure that the armed forces pursued programmes they had already developed. In Madagascar this translated into providing travel arrangements for the national committee in charge of integrating IHL into the instruction of the armed forces. In South Africa, where the Ministry of Defence had just issued a directive on incorporating IHL into armed forces training, the delegation provided input into a month-long "African Shield Exercise" for some 800 officers of the South African National Defence Force, which was providing contingents for peace-keeping operations in the DRC and Burundi, and the British army. It held IHL courses and presentations at 46 brigade bases, the School of Armour in Bloemfontein, for senior officers at the medical service of the South African National War College, and at a joint initiative of the Ministries of Defence of the USA and South Africa – the International Conference on Military Integrated Environment Management.

The ICRC supported efforts by the South African Police Service to fully implement human rights/IHL in training and police conduct, by officially presenting the service with a DVD and providing a three-day introduction course in Pretoria for 21 instructors from the country's various police training institutions. Each participant received a copy of the DVD.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Integrating IHL into university curricula

The Pretoria delegation continued to advance the teaching of IHL in academic institutions in the region, by cultivating contacts and maintaining partnerships with key research institutions. Most of the contact was made via the Internet, fax or telephone, apart from a mission to the University of the Free State in South Africa.

In July, the delegation invited its contacts to nominate teams for the ICRC-organized Arusha Moot Court Competition aimed at

encouraging students to develop an understanding of the legal and humanitarian problems caused by armed conflict. Two teams from South Africa's University of Natal and Rand Afrikaans University were selected to participate in the competition held by the Nairobi delegation in November.

The delegation provided sponsorship to three individuals from the Seychelles, Mauritius, Swaziland, and to eight people from South Africa, to attend its English-speaking all-African IHL course in Pretoria in October and November. It also covered the travel expenses for two people from the Comoros and one from Madagascar to attend the French-speaking pan-African IHL course organized by ICRC Abidjan and ICRC Dakar in September.

At Mauritius University, the ICRC was invited to give an IHL course to 50 MA students. The National University of Lesotho continued for the second year to teach IHL to 110 bachelor degree students and approved a proposal to develop a course on IHL/human rights for all of its students. The ICRC concluded a memorandum of understanding with the University of Swaziland on IHL instruction for undergraduates.

In South Africa, the ICRC provided a detailed course outline and reading list on IHL to the law faculties of several universities that had either already integrated IHL into their curricula or had agreed to do so, including Rand Afrikaans University, Port Elizabeth, Rhodes, Pretoria and the University of the Free State (the latter was presented with an IHL library). The ICRC gave courses at the University of Pretoria on human rights and democratization in Africa and international law. Its all-African IHL course in Pretoria was attended by 36 participants from 22 countries.

The delegation, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, also held the sixth Health Emergencies in Large Populations (HELP) course from 20 October to 7 November, conducted in English and attended by 20 participants from various African countries and Europe. The participants from the all-African IHL course and the HELP course attended a panel session on the issue of missing persons, which was also attended by members of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission, set up by the Government of National Unity to help deal with what happened under apartheid, and representatives of think-tanks and universities. In addition,

ICRC sponsorship enabled a member of the Madagascar Red Cross to participate in the French-speaking HELP course in Benin in 2003.

### **Integrating EHL into school curricula**

The ICRC continued to support the education authorities of Mauritius, the Seychelles and South Africa in their efforts to integrate “Exploring Humanitarian law” (EHL) in secondary school curricula. The delegation provided technical advice for the drafting of strategies and action plans, distributed manuals and provided input into seminars and training workshops. In July, representatives from the South African and the Seychelles education authorities attended the first EHL International Education Leadership Seminar organized by the ICRC in Budapest, Hungary.

The delegation offered ad hoc support to the Comoros to enable it to start the process of implementing EHL after it had shown an interest in the programme. The ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the authorities and the Comoros Red Crescent Society (CRCS) and helped draft a strategy and detailed plan of action. It also took part in a four-day training seminar for 25 participants. The CRCS organized public relations activities to promote EHL.

In Lesotho, the National Society initiated preliminary contact with the Ministry of Education.

The Seychelles national EHL coordinator, with the authorization of the education minister, agreed to the ICRC’s request to lend support to and share expertise with the Mauritian education authorities. The latter consequently appointed a national EHL coordinator to prepare a plan of action. The Mauritian authorities reaffirmed their commitment to the programme in December 2003 at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

The South African minister for education introduced legislation on the integration of the EHL module into a new secondary-school programme. A steering committee consisting of a national coordinator and deputy was set up to oversee the programme. Financed by the Swiss Technical Cooperation, the module was to be part of a larger programme teaching human values. A plan of action and a framework for ICRC support were drawn up. The ICRC provided the education authorities of nine regions

with a briefing and 120 EHL packs to integrate into educational tool kits for secondary schools.

### **Stimulating awareness of IHL in the media**

The delegation worked to ensure that the National Societies in the region had communication strategies that would raise their profile and strengthen the support given to them by the government and public. It encouraged the Societies to reach out to future leaders and opinion-makers and cultivate contact with journalists to ensure that they were aware of the practical relevance of IHL and had a good understanding of its basic principles.

The ICRC’s regional documentation centre continued to manage information and publications. The centre produced documents for the third regional IHL seminar held in June, and began work on producing fact sheets for the general public on specific ICRC and regional delegation programmes. It dealt with a large number of requests for information regarding food security and HIV/AIDS, while it also answered queries on the work of the ICRC and National Societies in conflict-affected States such as Liberia, Iraq and Sudan, as well as States like Rwanda that had come out of an internal armed conflict.

In Lesotho, the delegation supported Red Cross efforts to design a newsletter and a weekly radio programme and to gather a store of IHL documentation. Planning also began on an emblem campaign to be launched after parliament passed an emblem bill. In Mauritius, a newsletter was already being produced and distributed around the country by Red Cross volunteers, who also offered community training in schools.

The South African Red Cross Society participated in World Refugee Day, handing out food parcels to 400 beneficiaries. The National Society also received coverage in the press regarding its family reunification and social-welfare activities for refugee children. A brochure and poster were developed to promote the programme.

## **NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

The Pretoria delegation worked to ensure that the National Societies had the necessary trained personnel, structures and systems in place at local, national and regional level to respond to man-made emergencies and natural disasters. Cooperation project

agreements were negotiated and signed with all the National Societies covered by the delegation.

### **Restoring family links**

The delegation helped the National Society in South Africa develop its tracing activities so that it could respond adequately to the needs of the country and form part of the ICRC’s international tracing network. It supported the production and implementation of tools such as plans of action, equipment, technical advice and training.

### **Conflict preparedness and response**

The ICRC provided material support to the Comoros Red Cross to enable it to respond to crises. When protests at the Union President’s speech in November turned violent, Red Cross volunteers were prompt in assisting doctors treating the wounded. Supported by the UNDP, which had been alerted to the situation by the ICRC, volunteers carried out sanitation projects or distributed relief materials in prison.

Given the three-year drought in Lesotho, the National Society continued to focus on its food security programme and the ICRC examined ways of building up the Society’s capacities at branch level to enable it to further the food operation.

To prepare the Madagascar Red Cross to respond to natural disasters, the ICRC worked with the National Society and the French Red Cross to place provincial coordinators in the Society’s branches. It assisted the Red Cross in providing the branch offices with furniture and stationery and paid the salary of two coordinators for dissemination and health and half the salary of an accountant.

In Mauritius, the ICRC continued to help the Red Cross prepare for emergency situations by paying the salary of the national disaster-preparedness and -response coordinator.

In South Africa, the delegation provided financial assistance to the Soweto branch of the National Society to enable it to develop a community-based health care project against HIV/AIDS involving 90 caregivers and 180 trained volunteers. The aim of the project was primarily to assist people affected by HIV/AIDS – particularly orphans and vulnerable children – through health education initiatives, home visits and the distribution of food and non-food items. Throughout the year, some 14,000 people received HIV/AIDS education and 73,000 condoms were distributed. The project reached 584 people of whom

174 were referred to the project by local health authorities. In addition, some 525 households received food parcels and 825 received other basic supplies.

In Swaziland, the delegation provided the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross with technical and financial support. During clashes in August at a Commonwealth summit between opponents of a draft constitution and the police, the National Society was able to assist victims. One demonstrator was killed and some 50 union leaders and supporters were detained following the violence. The ICRC also helped train 20 new members of Red Cross response teams. As part of a harmonization exercise between the National Societies of Swaziland and Lesotho, the ICRC and Federation held two workshops on dissemination training, strategic planning and organizational development.

#### **Fundamental Principles and the law**

The delegation sought to ensure that the National Societies had the capacity to further the implementation of IHL and promote the Movement and its values. It hosted its annual workshop in June for seven dissemination officers from the region. The workshop included a half-day session on restoring family links and enhancing the capacities of Societies. The disseminators reached over 5,600 people including young people, adults, health workers, first aid volunteers, peer educators, and committee members from Red Cross teams.

In the Comoros, the National Society trained 15 new local committee Red Cross teams on each of the three islands in dissemination, tracing and conflict preparedness. In Lesotho, the focus was on strengthening the capacity of the branches to conduct dissemination activities.

In Madagascar, the ICRC continued to ensure that the provincial coordinators received sufficient support and knowledge to conduct relevant sessions with community leaders and local government officials. It also helped finance the publication of the Madagascar Red Cross newsletter.

In Mauritius, the delegation provided training in project planning, implementation, reporting and financial issues as well as coordination to the newly appointed dissemination officer, who also participated in the delegation's IHL summer course. The officer represented the National Society on the interministerial committee.

In the Seychelles, the ICRC supported efforts by the Seychelles Red Cross to broaden its dissemination activities, by participating in workshops for the military and police forces and the mainstream media on IHL and human rights law. It supported efforts by the National Society to integrate dissemination into its activities, including workshops for youth members and pupils as part of the EHL plan of action for secondary schools.

In South Africa, with input from the delegation's armed and security forces programme, the National Society was invited to present itself to IHL trainers in the armed forces. With sponsorship from the delegation, two SARCS members participated in the all-African summer course in Pretoria. Both went on to be actively involved in dissemination activities.

In Swaziland, the ICRC discussed holding joint dissemination sessions with the National Society for trade union members on the Movement's principles to ensure that any future Red Cross activities, including first aid during times of internal violence, would be respected. The ICRC sponsored the participation of the National Society's legal advisor in its IHL summer course in Pretoria to strengthen dissemination activities that the Society was already conducting; it had a presence at the national trade fair, a regular radio programme and training courses for volunteers and staff.



# yaoundé

The Yaoundé regional delegation was set up in 1992. However, the ICRC has been working in the region since 1972 when it signed a headquarters agreement with the Cameroonian authorities. The ICRC protects and assists civilians affected by armed conflict or internal tensions in the Central African Republic and Chad, visits security detainees in the region, and restores family links for refugees and others separated from their relatives as a result of conflict. The ICRC also promotes IHL among the authorities, armed forces and academic institutions, and supports the development of the National Societies.

## COVERING

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,339,407**

Assistance

**1,220,331**

Preventive action

**1,314,942**

Cooperation with National Societies

**917,929**

General

**0**

► **4,792,609**

of which: Overheads **292,507**

## PERSONNEL

**11** expatriates

**32** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- With a 3.5 million Swiss franc budget extension intended to assist conflict victims in the Central African Republic, the ICRC rebuilt 8 urban water systems serving more than 1,000,000 people and extended its tracing and Red Cross message service to Central African refugees in Chad.
- Programmes to promote IHL progressed in the region, targeting the authorities, armed and police forces and academic institutions.
- The ICRC evacuated 25 missionaries from opposition-controlled northern Central African Republic to Chad.
- 10 Central African prisoners of war were repatriated from Chad under ICRC auspices.
- The ICRC regularly monitored the treatment and living conditions of security detainees in the region and distributed basic hygiene items in prisons.
- The ICRC covered the cost of fitting mine victims in Chad with artificial limbs.

## CONTEXT

On 15 March the forces of General François Bozizé, former army chief of the Central African Republic, captured the capital, Bangui. Meeting little resistance, they overthrew the elected government and General Bozizé suspended the constitution, dissolved parliament and set up a transitional government, announcing that elections would be held in 2005. Between the failed coup attempt in October 2002 and seizure of power in March, Bozizé's troops controlled the north of the country and launched sporadic attacks on key towns in the central region. Some 40,000 people fled to southern Chad, and thousands of others deserted their towns and villages and hid nearby. After the coup, 600 soldiers provided by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) and 300 French troops were deployed to restore law and order. Security gradually improved in the north, although banditry was common on the main routes. Chronic political instability had left public services, particularly health-care and water facilities, in disrepair.

In Chad, the Movement for Democracy and Justice, an armed opposition group in the north, was substantially weakened. Relative calm also returned to eastern Chad with the signing of a peace accord between the government and the opposition National Resistance Army. While Chad's internal situation improved, fresh waves of tens of thousands refugees arrived in the south and east of the country, fleeing fighting in the Central African Republic and Sudan's Darfur region. Chadian President Idriss Déby mediated peace talks between the

Sudanese government and Darfur opposition groups, but the negotiations collapsed.

In Cameroon, there were signs of political tension ahead of presidential elections in 2004. On the international front, Cameroon and Nigeria were still negotiating over the Bakassi peninsula, which the International Court of Justice in The Hague had attributed to Cameroon in 2002, and Gabon and Equatorial Guinea revived their 30-year dispute over the island of Mbagne.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC increased its staff and activities in the region to meet the needs of victims of the internal armed conflict in the Central African Republic. During the fighting, the ICRC provided medical supplies to treat the wounded and visited detainees. At the request of all the parties concerned, it also evacuated 25 missionaries from the opposition-controlled north of the country to Chad. After the coup, the ICRC made extensive field assessments in conflict-affected areas, and in July it launched a budget extension appeal for 3.5 million Swiss francs to meet the most urgent needs. The appeal enabled the ICRC to rehabilitate eight urban water systems serving more than one million people, provide some basic supplies needed to resume health services and extend the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service to Central African refugees in Chad.

Also in Chad, the ICRC distributed essential household items to people affected by armed clashes and provided the main hospitals with medical supplies to treat the wounded, including refugees arriving from Sudan's Darfur region. The ICRC paid for mine victims in Chad to be fitted at a prosthetic/orthotic centre in N'Djamena and ICRC-produced radio programmes to promote this free service contributed to a 22% increase in the number of amputees fitted with prostheses compared with 2002.

The ICRC visited security detainees in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea, and, where necessary, made representations to the authorities to bring about improvements in detention conditions. Access to detainees in Equatorial Guinea had improved since the government signed the standard ICRC agreement on 8 October 2002, authorizing detention visits in accordance with ICRC procedures.

ICRC programmes aimed at raising awareness of IHL among the authorities, armed forces and academic institutions in the region made steady progress. Police officers in Cameroon were trained to teach international human rights law and humanitarian principles; intensive workshops on implementing IHL were held for high-ranking ministry officials in Cameroon and Chad; and presentations on IHL were conducted for the new Central African armed forces.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

With a large refugee population in the region, internal conflict in Chad, the coup in the Central African Republic and occasional tensions elsewhere, there was still a clear need for the RCM and tracing network, which enabled family members separated by conflict to communicate with one another.

When some 40,000 refugees fleeing fighting in the Central African Republic streamed into southern Chad, the ICRC expanded its tracing service to enable the refugees to re-establish contact with relatives left behind. This programme was financed by an ICRC budget extension appeal, launched on 8 July. A priority was to reunite child refugees with their parents. Working with the Red Cross of Chad, the ICRC located and registered 92 such children. By the end of the year, seven of them had been reunited with their parents by the ICRC, while 55 had returned to the Central African Republic by their own means.

### Assisting conflict victims

The ICRC increased its staff in the region during the prolonged fighting leading up to the March coup in the Central African Republic, but widespread insecurity limited humanitarian activities outside of Bangui. The organization distributed medical supplies in the capital to treat the wounded and built wells and latrines for Central African refugees in the Sido camp in Chad. In the opposition-controlled north of the Central African Republic, where access was extremely difficult, an ICRC team, at the request of all the parties concerned, evacuated 25 missionaries to Chad on 16 February.

After the coup, on the basis of extensive field assessments in central and northern Central African Republic, the ICRC launched a budget extension appeal on 8 July for 3.5 million Swiss francs, mainly to finance the repair of vital urban water systems. Working together, the ICRC and SODECA, the national water board, got water treatment plants and distribution systems functioning again in the capital, Bangui, and seven major towns (Bambari, Berberati, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bozoum, Carnot and Ndele), restoring a clean water supply for more than one million people. The ICRC also submitted proposals to SODECA on how to create a more efficient and equitable water-distribution network. With the budget extension, the ICRC furthermore donated mattresses and basic medical equipment to help 15 health-care

facilities, including two hospitals, resume services, and provided 10 refrigerators and 20 boxes for carrying vaccines that were used in November during the annual countrywide vaccination campaign. In addition, the ICRC assessed rural needs, looking at medical, water, sanitation and education facilities, agricultural techniques and the economy in 2,000 villages. The data was being analyzed with a view to initiating projects in 2004, in cooperation with the Central African Red Cross Society, aimed at improving health and hygiene standards.

In Chad, the ICRC stood ready to distribute emergency aid, mainly essential household items, to victims of internal armed conflict. As armed opposition groups were far less active compared with 2002, the main beneficiaries of aid were civilians caught up in clashes between ethnic communities, often over water and pastureland.

### Protection

- ▶ 285 RCMs were distributed in Cameroon, 268 in the Central African Republic, 3 in Chad and 1 in Equatorial Guinea
- ▶ 7 child refugees in Chad were reunited with their parents in the Central African Republic
- ▶ 6 people in Cameroon and 4 people in the Central African Republic whose families had filed tracing requests were located
- ▶ 25 people were evacuated from the Central African Republic to Chad under ICRC auspices

### Economic security

- ▶ 225 victims of internal violence in Chad received essential household items

### Water and habitat

- ▶ urban water systems were repaired in 8 Central African cities and towns, serving 1.14 million people

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Repatriating prisoners of war

On 3 April the Chadian authorities released 11 Central African prisoners of war, 10 of whom were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The prisoners were members of the Central African armed forces who had been captured by the Chadian army in August 2002 and held in N'Djamena. The eleventh prisoner was discharged from hospital in September and returned to his village, with ICRC assistance. The ICRC had made six visits to the prisoners prior to their release

so as to monitor their treatment and living conditions, and had regularly reminded the Chadian authorities of their obligation to release and repatriate the prisoners, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

### Visiting security detainees

The ICRC regularly visited security detainees held in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad and Equatorial Guinea, and reported its findings to the authorities. RCMs were exchanged between detainees and their families, and the ICRC distributed basic supplies, including soap, buckets, cleaning agents, brooms and mosquito netting, to contribute to detainees' health and welfare. Access to detainees in Equatorial Guinea had improved since the government signed the standard ICRC agreement on 8 October 2002, authorizing detention visits in accordance with ICRC procedures. Following the March coup in the Central African Republic, the ICRC was able to revisit detention facilities in Bangui and provide medical care for some detainees.

- 10 prisoners of war were repatriated under ICRC auspices
- 7,325 detainees, including 185 monitored individually, were visited in total in the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad and Equatorial Guinea in 28 detention facilities during 54 visits

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Fitting mine victims

Mine clearance was under way in Chad, but people continued to lose limbs in mine accidents. The ICRC paid for victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war to be fitted at the prosthetic/orthotic centre in N'Djamena, Chad, run by the non-governmental organization *Secours catholique pour le développement*. The centre also received material and technical support from the ICRC. The number of mine victims fitted was up 21% compared with the previous year. A contributing factor was the broadcast on national radio of 10 half-hour programmes, produced by the ICRC and the Red Cross of Chad, that promoted the free service at the prosthetic/orthotic centre. Copies of the shows were also sent to local stations.

- 1 prosthetic/orthotic centre was supported
- 197 prostheses were delivered, including 106 for mine victims, and 172 orthoses, 3 of them for mine victims

- 84 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 92 with orthoses
- 2 wheelchairs and 235 pairs of crutches were delivered

### Treating the war-wounded

During the fighting in the Central African Republic, the ICRC doubled its emergency medical stocks in Bangui so as to be able to treat up to 100 war-wounded people, and distributed supplies in the capital, as needed. Despite widespread insecurity, it also managed to reach towns on the front lines, providing the hospital in Sibut with medical supplies, and holding first-aid courses for pro-government troops in Damara and Bossembélé. After the coup, the ICRC donated urgently needed dressing kits to the community hospital in Bangui, and gave chemicals, gloves and masks to help the Central African Red Cross recover scores of bodies in Bangui, Boali, Bossembélé and Damara.

In Chad, the ICRC provided the military teaching hospital in N'Djamena with dressing material to treat an influx of war-wounded related to the fighting in Sudan's Darfur region.

- 3 hospitals and other health-care facilities were supported

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC pursued its efforts to encourage governments in the region to ratify IHL treaties and incorporate these instruments into national law. In Cameroon and Gabon, it held intensive two-day workshops on implementing IHL, attended by high-ranking government officials from the ministries concerned. Discussions in Cameroon focused on incorporating the provisions of the Ottawa Convention, ratified by the country in 2002, into national legislation and on the need to ratify the 1980 UN Convention on Conventional Weapons. In Gabon, the ICRC advocated setting up an interministerial commission for implementing IHL and urged the adoption of national legislation giving effect to the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, to which Gabon became party in 2000. In Chad, with ICRC support, a legal expert began preparing a report on IHL implementation for submission to the government, and the National Red Cross Society presented the minister of health with a draft law protecting the red cross emblem. Following the coup in the Central African Republic, at the new regime's request, the ICRC commented on a draft penal code to assist the authorities in

including in the text provisions relating to war crimes and crimes against humanity. With Sao Tome and Principe's ratification of the Ottawa Convention on 31 March, all countries covered by the ICRC's Yaoundé regional delegation were now party to this treaty.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### IHL for the armed forces

The Ministry of Defence in Chad decreed the incorporation of IHL into the training of all armed and security forces. In response, in January the ICRC held a five-day seminar in N'Djamena on developing IHL teaching material, attended by 27 instructors and officers from Chad's 12 military and police training institutions. The public security minister, the director of the *gendarmerie* and the assistant army chief of staff took part in the opening and closing ceremonies. This was followed by eight presentations on IHL, reaching more than 600 military and police personnel at various training centres in N'Djamena.

In Cameroon, the ICRC remained in close contact with the armed forces training school (EMIA), which had incorporated IHL into its curricula 10 years earlier. It helped the school review the status of IHL teaching, held presentations for army, air force, navy and *gendarmerie* officers, and sponsored IHL courses in San Remo for two military officers. The ICRC also gave talks on IHL in the field, reaching some 150 armed forces and national security officers stationed in the northern provincial capitals of Garoua, Maroua and Ngaoundéré.

In the Central African Republic, the ICRC regularly conducted sessions on IHL for CEMAC peace-keepers. In coordination with French troops who were helping to train the new Central African armed forces, the ICRC also gave two presentations on IHL for 36 officers of those forces.

### IHL for the police

The ICRC continued its training programme, agreed on with the government of Cameroon in 2002, aimed at integrating international human rights law and humanitarian principles into the curricula of the national police force. During a nine-day seminar, 32 police instructors from the country's 10 provinces were trained to teach the subjects in their units. At the regional training centre in Awae, supported by *Coopération française*, the ICRC held two

introductory sessions on international human rights law and humanitarian principles for police officers from nine African countries.

- ▶ 32 police instructors in Cameroon were trained to teach international human rights law and humanitarian principles
- ▶ some 950 military and police personnel in the region attended IHL presentations
- ▶ 4 armed forces officers (1 from Cameroon, 2 from the Central African Republic and 1 from Chad) attended IHL courses in San Remo

## CIVIL SOCIETY

To raise awareness of IHL among leaders, opinion-makers and the general public, the ICRC informed the media about issues of humanitarian concern and pursued its efforts aimed at incorporating IHL into the curricula of academic institutions.

At the main institutions of higher learning in Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad, the ICRC held, or took part in, a variety of events to raise awareness of IHL, from introductory talks to day-long conferences, reaching more than 750 students. The ICRC was, for example, part of a day-long round table at the University of Yaoundé II on the theme "Protection of civilians in modern armed conflicts" and, at Bangui University's request, gave two four-hour talks to law students on incorporating IHL into national law. In the Central African Republic and Chad, at each country's National School of Administration and Magistracy, the ICRC conducted presentations on IHL for future members of the civil service and the judiciary. Various academic institutions also received IHL reference and training material.

Following the coup in the Central African Republic, the ICRC gave talks on IHL to various heads of projects run by Coopération française and other international and national NGOs and organizations based in Bangui, who encountered IHL-related issues in their work.

- ▶ more than 750 students at institutions of higher learning in the region attended presentations on IHL
- ▶ an IHL teacher from Chad's National School of Administration and Magistracy attended an IHL course organized by the ICRC in Dakar, Senegal
- ▶ 50 members of Cameroon's union of journalists attended an ICRC presentation on IHL

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC provided funds, material, training and other technical support to help the region's National Societies strengthen their programmes in the areas of tracing, IHL dissemination and conflict preparedness and response. Following internal difficulties experienced by the Red Cross Societies of Cameroon and Gabon, the ICRC and the International Federation were working with both National Societies to revise their statutes in line with the standards of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC also advised the Gabonese Red Cross on the drafting of a law protecting the red cross emblem, which was to be presented to the government.

### Conflict preparedness and response

During the coup in the Central African Republic, the ICRC provided the National Society with chemicals, masks and gloves to remove and bury bodies, and briefed it on the procedures to follow so that families could identify the bodies or locate the grave sites. In Cameroon's North-West province, the ICRC organized first-aid training for some 20 Red Cross volunteers and donated first-aid kits in the event of violence related to calls for the province's independence. In Equatorial Guinea, ICRC support enabled the National Society to complete sanitation projects in two prisons.

### Restoring family links

The ICRC organized advanced training courses for the heads of the RCM network run by the Red Cross Societies of Chad and Gabon. Chadian Red Cross tracing workers also got on-the-job training while helping the ICRC register Central African child refugees who were separated from their parents and living in camps in southern Chad.

### Raising awareness of IHL and the Movement

The ICRC held a variety of courses and dissemination material aimed at developing the capacity of the National Societies to promote IHL and the Movement's role and Fundamental Principles. The main event was an intensive six-day seminar on communication techniques, held in October in Yaoundé and attended by the heads of dissemination programmes from the Red Cross Societies of Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. The ICRC also helped the National Societies of Cameroon and Chad produce and distribute newsletters about their work and provided funding and materials enabling Chad, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome

and Principe to continue broadcasting Red Cross radio programmes promoting IHL and the Movement.



The ICRC's presence provides protection for families returning to their homes across a previously closed front line.

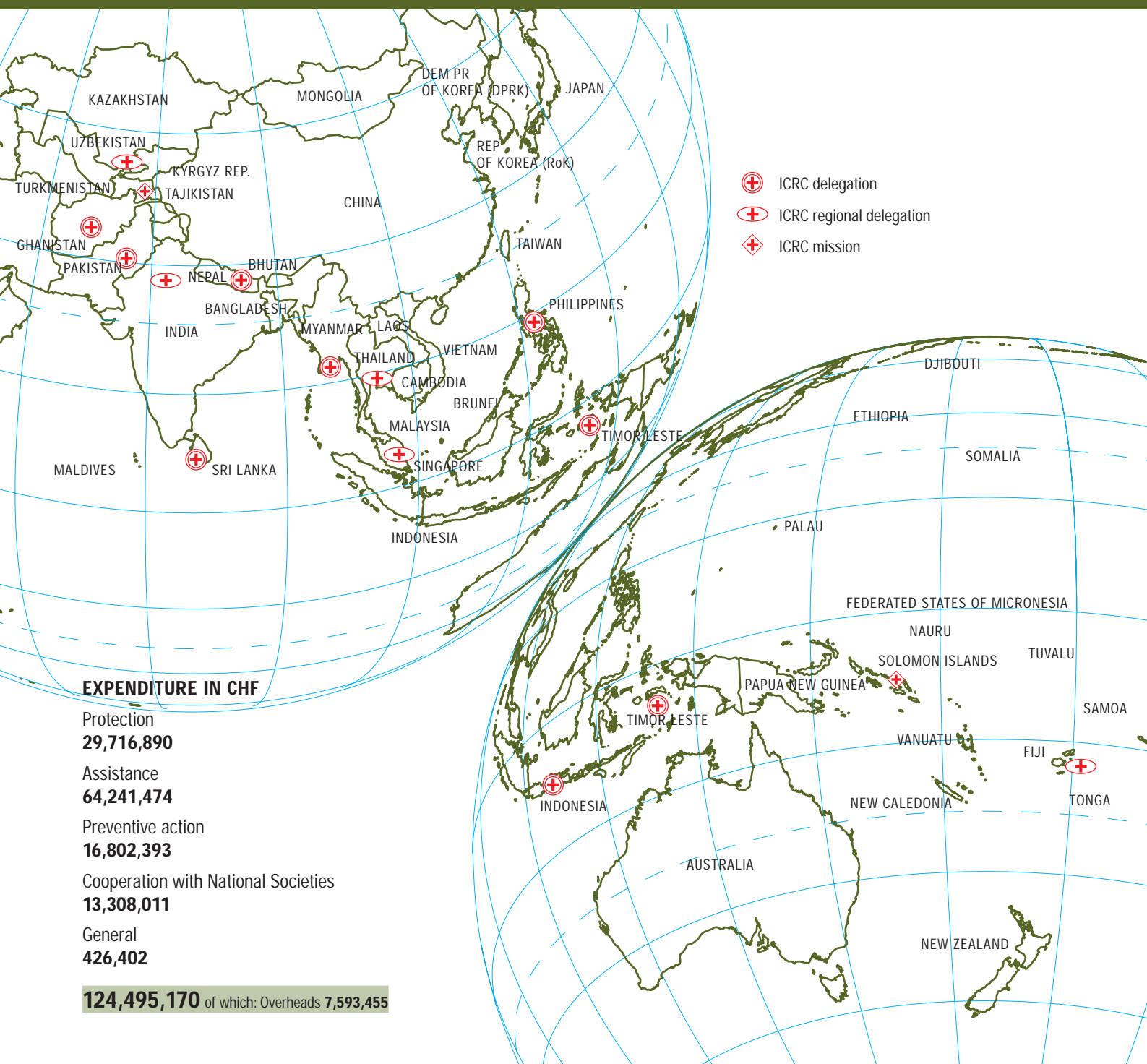
## DELEGATIONS

Afghanistan  
Pakistan  
Indonesia  
Myanmar  
Nepal  
Philippines  
Sri Lanka  
Timor-Leste

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Bangkok  
Kuala Lumpur  
New Dehli  
Suva  
Tashkent

# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection  
**29,716,890**

Assistance  
**64,241,474**

Preventive action  
**16,802,393**

Cooperation with National Societies  
**13,308,011**

General  
**426,402**

**124,495,170** of which: Overheads **7,593,455**

Asia's leading economies remained healthy in 2003, with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Far East having fully recovered from the economic crisis of the late 1990s. A rapid, multilateral response limited the impact of an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS). China and India developed their regional and international profiles, and both countries made efforts to build mutual understanding and confidence. China became the world's third country to launch a man into space and played a crucial role in organizing and hosting the six-party<sup>1</sup> talks aimed at reducing tensions between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States, and other countries in the Far East. Japan continued to be a leader in international development aid and took an active role in conflict resolution or reconstruction in trouble spots such as Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Aceh and Iraq.

While economic growth reinforced regional stability, the "global war on terrorism" continued to alter foreign relations and strategic alignments in key areas of the continent. In the shifting political and strategic landscape, regional security remained vulnerable at a few conflict-prone points, particularly in South Asia and on the Korean peninsula. There, conventional arms build-up and nuclear capability raised the stakes in long-standing disputes.

Conscious of the growing political, economic and cultural influence of Asian powers, the ICRC recognized the need to take Asian values and perceptions more into account. With some notable exceptions, the integration of the treaties of international humanitarian law (IHL) instruments into Asian countries' legal framework has proceeded slowly, reflecting a hesitation to accept the values articulated by IHL as universally applicable. Striving to better anchor IHL as a guide in addressing conflict-related issues of humanitarian concern, the ICRC took a regional approach to closing the "perception gap" that limits the scope and impact of its activities in Asia. To this end it strengthened its relations with the African-Asian Legal Consultative Organization, bringing IHL onto the agenda of this regional forum. In international projects such as the meeting on the missing and the study on customary law, it reached out to Asian experts, leaders and scholars to learn their views. Setting up a regional communication centre in Kuala Lumpur as a means of coordinating within a broader regional strategy the delegations' IHL-promotion work and thus making it more effective, the ICRC brought together specialists in different disciplines. Acting as resource persons for ICRC

delegations in Southeast Asia, as well as for others seeking IHL expertise, these experts reached out to governments, universities, regional forums, the media, military forces and other influential organizations and networks in order to enrich dialogue on issues of humanitarian concern. In addition, the ICRC strengthened its links with China and Japan and engaged Chinese authorities in discussions on the technicalities of opening a delegation in Beijing.

Both Afghanistan and Sri Lanka struggled through difficult periods of transition. After dramatic progress the previous year, Sri Lanka's peace process slowed seriously in 2003, and halted when the positions of the president and prime minister diverged. Even so, the ceasefire held and Sri Lankans benefited from the resulting trade and other types of exchange. In Afghanistan, it became clear over the year that armed groups opposed to the Bonn Agreement were organizing and becoming more active. In late March an ICRC engineer was assassinated in the first in a series of grave incidents targeting international, government and humanitarian organizations. In August, two Afghan Red Crescent workers were also murdered. These tragedies underlined a serious problem for ICRC operations in areas that are the focus of the "war on terrorism": a growing divergence between the real mission and aims of the ICRC and the perceptions of groups who questioned its neutrality, impartiality, and independence. This gap widened when ICRC's work failed to be clearly distinguished from initiatives that linked political agendas or military actions with humanitarian activities.

The deteriorating security conditions cut off government and international access to large parts of Afghanistan and hampered reconstruction, at the same time slowing the progress of the political process laid down in the Bonn Agreement. Fortunately, there was a good harvest. This and the emergence of development schemes permitted the ICRC to continue the gradual phase-out of its programmes in areas that were better covered by projects with longer-term perspectives. There remained gaps in medical and rehabilitation services, so the ICRC continued its extensive support for key hospitals and kept running the rehabilitation centres serving most of the country's enormous population of amputees and other disabled people. It helped the newly formed national army develop IHL training and kept up visits to thousands of detainees and internees held in Afghan or US custody. It also visited those held in Pakistan after being released from custody in Afghanistan or at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station.

Though most apparent in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the effects of the "global war on terrorism" were also felt elsewhere on the continent. With stagnating economies and little progress in economic and political reform, the States of Central Asia stepped up regional cooperation and elicited international support for their efforts to counter Islamic opposition as well as for measures to control the drug trafficking that flourished as a result of Afghanistan's sharp increase in poppy production. The UN rapporteur on torture visited Uzbekistan, drawing international attention to problems there. After several years of negotiating with the authorities about visiting procedures, the ICRC in 2003 visited Uzbek "colonies" and investigation facilities in many parts of the country, and reached a significantly larger number of detainees. This provided a more thorough view of the prison system and made more substantial the ICRC's dialogue with the authorities about measures that could improve conditions and treatment. Visits to detainees in Kyrgyzstan continued, and at the end of the year Tajikistan authorized the ICRC to begin visiting detainees there. Efforts to gain access to security detainees in Turkmenistan yielded no progress.

Operations against "terrorism" were also carried out in Southeast Asia as many countries in the region deepened commitments to the global campaign by strengthening domestic measures and strengthening bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation between military forces and law-enforcement agencies. In Indonesia, Cambodia and the Philippines, the ICRC was able to respond to these developments, gaining access to people detained as a result of "anti-terrorist" action.

Asia's active conflicts continued; some heated up, others quieted down, but none showed marked changes in scope or character. The Philippines was still mired in two long-standing conflicts, one with Muslims seeking autonomy in Mindanao, and another with the communist New People's Army. In Myanmar, the political stalemate continued between the government and opposition National League for Democracy. Drawing up a "road map to peace", the government made new efforts to end political and ethnic struggles in the multi-ethnic State. The ICRC delegation there began monitoring the security and living conditions of civilians affected by hostilities in border areas. It enhanced the dialogue with authorities about protection measures as it continued to visit people detained in prisons and camps.

Returning their diplomatic links to normal and opening the transport lines that permitted a resurgence in trade, India and Pakistan managed toward the end of 2003 to defuse many of the tensions associated with their military stand-off in 2002. Preparations began for political talks between the long-time enemies, and at the end of the year a ceasefire suspended the exchange of artillery fire across the Line of Control. Neither this thaw in relations between India and Pakistan nor the “healing touch” policy of the new state government appeared to have immediate effects on the situation prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir. The ICRC continued its visits to people held in connection with the situation, seeking to enhance the effect of these visits on the detainees.

After six months of ceasefire in Nepal, fighting between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal–Maoist broke out again in August, and spread to new areas. ICRC field staff had benefited from the suspension of hostilities to broaden their access to isolated areas. After the ceasefire collapsed, they continued to visit detainees and provide medical assistance and training aimed at improving care for the wounded.

The situation on the Indonesian archipelago was volatile, with tensions still simmering in several trouble spots. Hopes that negotiations would resolve the struggle between the government and the Free Aceh Movement were dashed in May when talks collapsed and the government launched a full-scale military offensive. The ICRC served as a neutral intermediary and worked with the Indonesian Red Cross Society to help victims of the fighting. After a four-month suspension of its presence in Aceh, the ICRC obtained permission to return in December.

In its efforts to deepen its engagement with Asia's governments, religious and academic circles and armed forces, and to draw from their intellectual and material resources to step up humanitarian action and analysis, the ICRC relied on its partnership with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and a number of National Societies helped improve the ICRC's access to influential circles in their countries. The ICRC, in turn, provided opportunities for leading National Societies to expand their international activities: over the year it helped involve the National Societies of Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and South Korea in the Movement's international humanitarian activities. In operational partnerships with National Societies, the ICRC supported their capacity to respond to conflict and adapt to changing circumstances. In Indonesia, it worked closely with

the country's National Society to respond to needs of victims of conflict through joint relief operations. In Timor Leste it helped the emerging National Society develop its identity and financial autonomy. It encouraged the Nepal Red Cross Society's efforts to adapt its activities to the conflict situation. And in Sri Lanka it supported the shift of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society from emergency to development activity. In many of the countries of Asia the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to help the National Societies develop.

1 Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and United States.



## afghan operation (afghanistan)

In 1987, after having assisted victims of the Afghan conflict in Pakistan for six years, the ICRC opened a delegation in Kabul. Current operations focus on protecting detainees held in connection with the hostilities or internal security problems, promoting compliance with IHL by the armed forces and raising public awareness of this body of law, preventing injuries by mines and other explosive remnants of war, assisting the disabled, supporting medical services, improving water-supply systems and strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

### EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**4,813,741**

Assistance

**46,472,227**

Preventive action

**3,449,017**

Cooperation with National Societies

**4,572,443**

General

**111,455**

► **59,418,882**

of which: Overheads **3,621,791**

### PERSONNEL

**110** expatriates

**1,338** national staff

### KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Security conditions deteriorated over the year, forcing the ICRC to stop working in large areas of the south and east.
- Protecting detainees remained a central priority for the ICRC, and its visits to them continued throughout the year.
- With crop yields better than they had been in years and roads open, the ICRC ended its food distributions and began to phase out its agricultural assistance.
- The ICRC remained the major provider of artificial limbs in Afghanistan; together with the Afghan Red Crescent, it collected most of the information available on accidents caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war, and provided extensive mine-risk education.
- Improvements to water-supply and sanitation facilities reduced the risk of contracting communicable diseases for over a million people in Afghanistan's cities, and extensive support for key health services helped keep 11 hospitals running around the country; some of this work was implemented by Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies from abroad, in coordination with the ICRC.
- Together, the ICRC and the Afghan National Army planned and began IHL training activities.
- The ICRC worked with the International Federation to help strengthen the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

### CONTEXT

In most areas of Afghanistan harvests were good in 2003 and trade continued to recover from the stagnation brought on by years of fighting and drought. Still more refugees returned home, though at a slower pace than in 2002. The transitional Islamic government built up its structures and programmes, while the international community stepped up its cooperation. As a result, mechanisms for coordination were gradually set up and development schemes began to take shape. In keeping with the process laid out in the Bonn Accord, a *loya jirga* was convened in December to approve a new constitution. Afghanistan's administrative systems and technical resources, however, still fell short of what was needed to implement programmes countrywide.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) continued to recruit and train, deploying its first troops. However, the demobilization of militias was delayed for some months, officially starting late in October, and by year's end local commanders remained in charge of most of their forces. In the south and east, armed opposition groups were targeted in operations carried out by the US-led coalition, at times aided by the ANA. The International Security Assistance Force, for which NATO assumed responsibility in August, remained in Kabul.

There were no large-scale confrontations during the year, but frequent attacks on State agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations claimed civilian lives and clouded Afghanistan's prospects for stability. The International

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement was among the targets: in March an ICRC engineer was murdered and in August two Afghan Red Crescent workers were also killed. Those opposed to the overthrow of the Taliban became more active, hampering the work of the government and international organizations over large parts of the country, mostly in the south and east.

Border issues and disagreement over the fate of Pakistanis detained in Afghanistan led to intermittent tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan. These resulted in several minor border clashes and the mobbing and looting of the Pakistani embassy in Kabul.

## ICRC ACTION

In 2003 the ICRC provided most of the agricultural assistance, medical aid, services for the disabled and support for city water-supply and sanitation facilities that it had anticipated. However, changing needs and security constraints accelerated planned cut-backs in food distributions and altered other types of assistance in high-risk areas. Visits to detainees, which remained a central priority for the ICRC, continued throughout the year.

As part of security measures adopted in late March, the ICRC stopped all road travel through rural areas in the south and east. Regular flights permitted expatriate staff to keep working in Kandahar and Jalalabad but activities in the countryside around those cities were discontinued. In Ghazni, which could only be reached by road, local staff took over project implementation. With respect to activities in the south and east already being carried out in partnership with the Afghan Red Crescent (particularly tracing and mine-risk education), the National Society took over work in areas off limits to ICRC staff. Meanwhile, the ICRC provided the National Society with financial and technical assistance to help expand its role. Security conditions did not affect the conduct of ICRC activities in Kabul or the areas just north of it, Kunduz, Herat, Bamyan or areas south of Mazar-i-Sharif.

The ICRC continued to implement a number of its programmes in partnership with the National Societies of Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, with the Kuwaiti Red Crescent supporting projects run by Japan and Norway. Most of these partnerships involved medical assistance, water supply and sanitation.

## CIVILIANS

### Bolstering economic security

In the aftermath of the fighting in 2001, the ICRC had provided large-scale food and agricultural assistance in northern (south of Mazar-i-Sharif) and central provinces (Bamyan and Ghor) particularly hard hit by conflict and drought. As the situation settled, the ICRC gradually shifted its emphasis to agricultural assistance alone. In Bamyan, where the economy was already improving steadily by early 2003, the ICRC only supplied wheat and vegetable seed during the year. In Ghor, the organization provided seed and planned to carry out food distributions but was not able to do so for security reasons.

Good rains and an improving economy, however, had reduced the need for food aid there. In isolated provinces of the north, harvests in 2002 had not been as plentiful as in many other areas, so the delegation continued to supplement its seed distributions with food rations; by the end of July, the ICRC had stopped providing food aid in Afghanistan.

Widespread animal disease slowed recovery from the extensive livestock loss sustained during the drought, and many areas still lacked adequate veterinary services. The ICRC improved livestock health and reproductive capacity by treating domestic animals for worms, lice and liver flukes. This activity went as planned in Bamyan and the northern areas but had to be cancelled in Ghor. In some villages, the ICRC increased water supply for agriculture by rehabilitating canals and reservoirs.

- ▶ over 458,730 beneficiaries (including over 55,640 IDPs) were provided with more than 9,000 tonnes of food aid
- ▶ over 1,670 tonnes of seed were distributed to more than 70,000 farming families (472,300 beneficiaries)
- ▶ some 650,000 head of livestock were treated for parasites

### Reducing the spread of disease in cities

During the year, large-scale schemes funded by major donors gradually took over the provision of water in major cities. This nonetheless left gaps, and local water authorities often did not have the technical skills, materials or resources to repair systems that had suffered much damage and neglect. Unsafe water and overflowing latrines increased health risks in cities, especially in neighbourhoods overcrowded by returning refugees and internally displaced persons.

Pursuing projects begun in 2002, the ICRC worked closely with the central water board to help provide water for Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, Kandahar and Herat, and for selected provincial towns such as Charikar, Qala-i-Naw, Tirin Kot and Ghazni. The organization restored the electricity supply to the Logar well field, Kabul's main water source. Under the ICRC programme to improve rural water supply, wells and hand pumps were repaired in some areas but this work was limited by security constraints.

Using the model developed as part of its programme (under which 49,000 latrines were built in seven years, mostly in the capital),

the ICRC helped neighbourhoods in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad and Herat set up latrines and restore or improve systems for night-soil collection (emptying latrines). The organization also improved sanitation practices in a hygiene-promotion programme conducted house-to-house and in schools, mosques and workplaces.

- ▶ water supply and sanitation were improved for 1,645,000 people
- ▶ 42 urban water-supply systems were repaired in 5 major cities
- ▶ 280 boreholes, wells, hand pumps and tap stands were drilled, repaired, sunk or set up
- ▶ 7,100 household latrines were built or repaired

### Preventing mine injuries

In 2003 there was a monthly average of 60 accidents caused by mines and other unexploded remnants of war, down 50% from the previous year. The actual number of accidents may have been higher, however, since security constraints hampered the collection of data in large areas of the country. About 45% of the injuries reported were mine-related. Compared with 2002, there were fewer injuries from cluster munitions but more from anti-tank mines. Over 90% of the victims were civilians and 44% were minors. Nearly a quarter of the victims lost a limb and 18% were killed. Fewer than 5% of those involved in mine/ERW accidents had attended mine-awareness sessions. Reported accidents remained concentrated in the central and eastern regions, particularly Kabul, Nangahar and Parwan provinces.

Under its mine-action programme, the ICRC, together with the Afghan National Society, continued to collect data on accidents and provide mine-risk education in highly contaminated areas of the country. The data, which was provided by a network of 450 health-care facilities and over 160 community-based volunteers, accounted for over 95% of the information on new injuries and helped direct mine action to the areas where people were being hurt. Agreements with agencies involved in clearance and marking activities improved the efficiency and impact of information-sharing, enabling mine-action teams to respond to over 65% of the 140 clearance requests placed by the ICRC – a rate three times higher than the previous year.

The ICRC and the Afghan Red Crescent continued mine-risk education in central and eastern regions and expanded their work to include isolated areas in the north; women

employed in the ICRC's hygiene-promotion programme in Kabul also added mine-risk education and data collection to their activities.

- 728 new mine victims were interviewed
- 5,766 villages were reached by mine-awareness workers
- 294,999 people attended mine-awareness sessions

### Protecting civilians and restoring family links

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Afghan National Society, continued to expand and otherwise improve the Red Cross message network, which mostly served detainees and their families. In the areas where it worked, the ICRC had extensive contact with the population; it remained open to documenting violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) but received few allegations. From the end of the first quarter, security problems kept ICRC staff from collecting information in large areas of the south and east.

- 10,380 RCMs were delivered (over 5,600 to detainees)
- 30 people were traced at the request of their families
- 3 people were reunited with their families
- 4 people were issued travel documents

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC monitored the situation of some 1,500 people detained or interned in Afghanistan. Most had been captured in the fighting that led to the fall of the Taliban and were being held in prisons in the north; others had been arrested or captured in connection with sporadic clashes, security problems or ongoing US-led military operations. Although forced to stop visiting detainees in areas declared off-limits, the ICRC continued to see most of those it had registered, since they were being held in places where security considerations did not prevent the organization from carrying out its operations. Their families, however, came largely from the south and east, and security risks therefore interfered with the exchange of messages.

In June the transitional government shifted responsibility for jails from the Ministry of the Interior to the Ministry of Justice. For the most part, ICRC visits to monitor the treatment, conditions of detention and legal status of the detainees were conducted on a

regular basis. Early in the year, the ICRC had to suspend its visits to several places of detention under Afghan authority. These resumed in April once guarantees had been obtained that the organization's standard visiting procedures would be respected. ICRC engineering staff improved living conditions in some prisons by upgrading water-supply and sanitation systems and repairing buildings.

Many people captured during the fighting in 2001, including over 500 Pakistanis, remained detained in Shiberghan prison, west of Mazar-i-Sharif. Following up on the temporary feeding programme it had run in 2002, ICRC staff continued to monitor detainee's health and alerted the authorities when the food supply went down again at the end of 2003. In November, it assisted 60 detainees released from Shiberghan prison, 20 of whom were Pakistani.

Two or three times a month, the ICRC visited about 100 people held in US custody at the coalition facility in Bagram. Meanwhile, the delegation continued to ask US authorities to provide proper notification of all internees and to grant delegates full access to them so that the ICRC could monitor their conditions of detention.

- 2,696 detainees/internees were visited (including 178 women and 251 minors); of these, 1,068 were newly registered
- 88 places of detention were visited
- 577 release checks were made
- transport fares home were covered for 442 released detainees
- prison sanitation was improved for over 3,000 inmates

### WOUNDED AND SICK

#### Supporting medical services

With extensive support from international donors, the government developed plans (Basic Package for Health Services) for rebuilding the health-care system, which had been devastated by the conflict. The first step taken was to fund non-governmental organizations so that they could assist the provincial authorities in coordinating medical services. This action focused on basic care and left gaps in the coverage of hospital services, for which demand was high.

Maintaining regular support for 11 hospitals, some in major cities (Kabul, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif) and others in provincial towns, the ICRC provided training, fuel, medicines and other supplies,

assisted blood banks and radiography units, and carried out repairs and maintenance work. This support covered facilities accounting for over 15% of the hospital beds and 40% of the transfusion services in the country. The ICRC also strove to finish upgrading facilities so that it could hand them over to organizations with longer-term perspectives: the Aga Khan Development Network took over Bamyan Hospital in October and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan took over Kunduz Hospital in December. The ICRC's withdrawal from Karteh-Seh Hospital in Kabul, planned for 2003, was delayed at the request of the Ministry of Health.

The ICRC maintained its support for ambulance services in Kabul and made ad hoc distributions to hospitals treating victims of natural disasters. Problems of security and cooperation obliged the ICRC to discontinue its rehabilitation work in several clinics in the northern and central regions.

- 11 hospitals received regular support
- 75,313 patients were admitted (including 7,101 war-wounded and 411 mine-injured)
- 39,716 surgical operations were performed
- 406,039 outpatient consultations were given
- 14 hospitals had water-supply and sanitation infrastructure repaired

#### Rehabilitation for the disabled

The ICRC's six limb-fitting centres (see map) remained the principal providers of physical rehabilitation services in Afghanistan. Run entirely by the ICRC, they served some 50,000 disabled people, over 50% of them amputees. The centres produced and fitted artificial limbs and orthopaedic appliances, gave physiotherapy and helped patients with education, job training and job placement. They also offered small loans for starting up businesses and gave home care to persons with spinal-cord injuries. The ICRC encouraged the health authorities to officially recognize the qualifications of the prosthetic/orthotic technicians employed in the centres, and continued its formal two-year training course for such technicians.

- 3,887 prostheses were provided (2,838 for mine victims; 873 for new patients)
- 8,036 orthoses were provided (31 for mine victims; 4,229 for new patients)
- 782 wheelchairs and 9,674 pairs crutches were produced
- 1,701 disabled people received training, schooling or micro credits
- more than 940 victims of spinal-cord injuries were visited regularly at home

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC strove to raise awareness of humanitarian issues among officials and to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL. In February 2003 Afghanistan acceded to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

By mid-year the ANA had trained several thousand troops. The ICRC helped the army plan an IHL training programme and develop training materials. An IHL seminar was held in July for senior officers and a course for trainers started in September. The ICRC also taught troops around the country the basic rules of IHL.

- 42 IHL instructors were trained
- 230 senior ANA officers attended IHL presentations

## CIVIL SOCIETY

As the media and educational institutions continued to develop and diversify, the ICRC strove to spread awareness of humanitarian issues and promote the basic principles of IHL. In particular, it broadcast radio spots throughout the country and gave presentations to several thousand teachers and students in schools and universities.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society

With its long history of assisting war victims, the Afghan Red Crescent had been considerably weakened by disunity and disruptions over many years of armed conflict. In 2003, as during the previous year, it was nonetheless able to expand its operational reach and boost its effectiveness. This enabled it to play a major role in disaster relief, run 49 clinics around the country and give community-based first aid with the help of 14,000 volunteers in 23 provinces. It also managed shelters for the destitute (*marastoons*) in five major cities, set up vocational-training and income-generating projects, ran mine-awareness sessions, helped the ICRC maintain a Red Cross message network and developed youth activities.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies strove to support these efforts. In consultation with the Afghan Red Crescent, they provided training and carried out assessments in order to help strengthen the National Society's legal and statutory basis and improve its overall management. They also supplied technical, financial and material assistance for specific programmes. The ICRC supported the National Society's programmes in mine-risk education, tracing, dissemination, vocational training, food-for-work and *marastoons*; the Federation supported its health-care, community-based first-aid and disaster-preparedness activities. In addition, the ICRC gave material and logistical aid to the Afghan Red Crescent/International Federation disaster-response programme.

### Coordinating Movement action

Nine foreign National Societies implemented projects delegated to them by the ICRC (see *ICRC action*) and others gave bilateral support to the Afghan Red Crescent. The ICRC coordinated these activities in order to ensure that the Movement's response was effective and coherent.



# afghan operation (pakistan)

The ICRC has been working in Pakistan since 1981, when it began assisting victims of the Afghan conflict. Today, the delegation assists civilians displaced by shelling along the Line of Control, helps families keep in touch with relatives detained or interned abroad, and visits people held in Pakistan after having been transferred from Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay. It supports the integration of IHL into military training and educational programmes and helps the Pakistan Red Crescent Society enhance its response capacity, particularly in areas near the Line of Control. In addition, it provides support for ICRC operations in Afghanistan.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**836,789**

Assistance

**449,822**

Preventive action

**614,293**

Cooperation with National Societies

**530,528**

General

**0**

► **2,431,432**

of which: Overheads **148,397**

## PERSONNEL

**13** expatriates

**188** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued to visit detainees/internees who had been transferred to Pakistan from Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay, and helped families in Pakistan to exchange messages with relatives held either in Pakistan or abroad.
- The Pakistani military and security forces made progress in integrating IHL into their training programmes.
- The ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society worked together to gain a more comprehensive picture of needs in areas affected by shelling along the Line of Control.

## CONTEXT

Although still tense at the beginning of 2003 after the military stand-off the previous year, relations between Pakistan and India steadily improved. Both countries made confidence-building gestures, and as communication and transport lines gradually re-opened and diplomatic ties were restored, trade and visits over the border resumed. However, it was not until November, when a ceasefire agreement suspended the exchange of fire along the Line of Control (LOC), that the political and economic thaw improved the security of residents in that region.

Afghan refugees living in Pakistan continued to return home in large numbers. UNHCR supported the return process but its operations in some areas were suspended in November following the murder of a staff member in Afghanistan. It reported that over a million Afghans had been repatriated; at the end of the year, it was estimated that over a million refugees were still living in Pakistan.

The Pakistani government kept up its participation in the worldwide "fight against terrorism" and continued related security operations. The situation in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) along the border with Afghanistan remained volatile, and government forces increased their presence there. After a long lull in sectarian violence, tension between Shia and Sunni groups increased again, and several assassinations and attacks brought the problem to the fore. In December, there were two attempts on the president's life. Despite these disruptions,

Pakistan maintained its overall political and economic stability throughout the year.

Heavy monsoon rains in July resulted in serious flooding in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces. According to the government, hundreds of thousands of people were affected, with widespread destruction of homes and livestock. Over 200 deaths were reported in the press.

## ICRC ACTION

Developments in the worldwide "fight against terrorism" led the ICRC to broaden the scope of its activities in Pakistan, particularly in the fields of tracing, visits to detainees and IHL training for the armed forces. In 2003 the ICRC re-opened its office in Quetta in order to strengthen its work to restore family links in the area, as well as to ensure a presence in this region. It increased its visits to the Muzaffarabad area, to better monitor the needs of displaced populations affected by shelling along the LOC.

For many years, the ICRC's operations in Pakistan had focused on the Afghan conflict. From 2002 onwards, when the new situation in Afghanistan permitted the ICRC to rely on networks within the country, the Pakistan delegation reduced its support role. The logistics centre in Peshawar remained open in 2003 and still backed operations in Afghanistan, but its volume of work diminished.

## CIVILIANS

### Assisting internally displaced people near the LOC

For over a decade, shelling across the LOC had affected the 150,000 people estimated to be living in those areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir and the Northern Areas that were within artillery range. This sporadically forced residents to leave their homes, disrupted agriculture and trade and sometimes cut off whole areas (particularly Neelum valley) for months at a time. Where security risks did not prevent access, the ICRC monitored the conditions of newly displaced people. Most of these received staple food from the local authorities, and, where necessary, the delegation coordinated with the authorities and NGOs to provide complementary relief, especially the blankets, stoves, tents and clothes needed to survive the harsh winter.

In 2003 the ICRC provided assistance to some 5,500 IDPs: a new group that arrived in Skardu (the Northern Areas) in October; people who fled shelling between April and June and settled in the camps of Murkun and Abadan (the Northern Areas); and IDPs around the Muzaffarabad area. It also monitored the living conditions of another group of 1,700 IDPs in Skardu area whom it had assisted at the end of 2002.

## Maintaining family links

The ICRC and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS) maintained a Red Cross message (RCM) network, which some 700 families in Pakistan used to keep in touch with relatives detained/interned in Afghanistan, Pakistan or Guantanamo Bay. In 2003, the volume of messages exchanged more than doubled as detainees/internees and their families became better acquainted with the system and used it more often. Some of the Afghan refugees who had fled to Pakistan in 2001 and 2002 used the network to establish or maintain contacts with relatives in Afghanistan or abroad. The ICRC also issued travel documents to enable refugees without passports (mostly Afghans) to travel to countries where they had received permission to settle.

- ▶ 7,120 RCMs were delivered
- ▶ 57 travel documents were issued

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

By 2003, several hundred Pakistanis had been transferred from Afghanistan or Guantanamo Bay to places of detention in Pakistan. The ICRC, which had begun to visit this category of detainees in 2002, continued these visits in 2003, and checked that those released had arrived home safely. In March 2003, it handed over a written report to the authorities on the findings from its visits in the previous year. The delegation also worked with the International Organization for Migration to facilitate the repatriation of a group of over 30 Iraqis who were stranded in Pakistani jails until December, when they were able to return to Iraq.

- ▶ 269 detainees were visited (including 136 followed up individually) in 2 places of detention
- ▶ 45 released detainees were followed up

## WOUNDED AND SICK

At the end of 2003 the ICRC carried out a survey of amputees and other disabled people in refugee camps in Pakistan to determine the feasibility of sending them to its physical rehabilitation centre in Afghanistan for treatment.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC encouraged national authorities to ratify major IHL treaties such as the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions, the Ottawa Convention prohibiting anti-personnel landmines, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and to enact legislation to implement the Geneva Conventions. It commissioned the Pakistan Research Society for International Law (RSIL) to conduct a study comparing Pakistan's national legislation with the requirements of IHL treaties, to serve as a basis for identifying and prioritizing implementation measures.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces were active along the LOC, and in 2003 began to participate in operations against elements of the Taliban and al-Qaeda in areas near the border with Afghanistan. In addition, the Ministry of the Interior controlled a paramilitary force in each province: the Frontier Corps in North West Frontier Province (also active in the Northern Areas) and in Baluchistan, and the Rangers in Punjab and Sindh.

Following the decision by the Pakistani armed forces to incorporate IHL into training programmes for all its branches, the ICRC helped develop a systematic plan of action in 2003. It started giving IHL training to trainers from the army, navy and air force, briefed senior staff on the programme, sent officers to the IHL course in San Remo, developed IHL teaching materials for training establishments and provided reference materials. It also worked with the Ministry of the Interior to discuss training in human rights and humanitarian principles for paramilitary civil defence forces, and conducted a two-day workshop for senior police officers to explore possibilities for strengthening such training within the Pakistani police.

- ▶ 50 IHL instructors were trained (from the army, navy and air force)
- ▶ 40 senior officers attended IHL presentations (from the army, navy and air force)
- ▶ 3 officers were sent to the IHL course in San Remo (from the army, navy and air force)

## CIVIL SOCIETY

To promote IHL and the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and its principles, and to foster understanding of the ICRC's neutrality, impartiality and independence, the delegation spoke regularly with representatives of Pakistan's influential print and electronic media, passing on information to help ensure that coverage of humanitarian issues and activities was complete and accurate. For example, during the war in Iraq it gave two press briefings, with the RSIL, on legal issues related to the war.

To develop academic expertise in IHL and ensure that future decision-makers were aware of State obligations under IHL and supported the ratification and implementation of relevant treaties, the ICRC also worked to develop university-level study in the subject. Although previous efforts had contributed to the inclusion of IHL in the new, officially approved law curriculum, in 2003 it had not yet been adopted in most universities.

In 2003 the Pakistani team, trained and sponsored by the ICRC, again performed well in the Jean Pictet international IHL moot court competition, generating much interest among students. The ICRC conducted its annual IHL course, which was attended by 36 students from 12 different university law schools, and from whom participants for the 2004 competition were selected. Former competition winners helped teach the course. The ICRC also taught an IHL module in a human rights course at the University of Peshawar's faculty of law.

The ICRC further developed its dialogue with religious scholars and schools, whose influence in Pakistan continued to be of importance. A central subject of discussion was the relation between the values underlying IHL and the tenets of Islam.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The PRCS, an active National Society with a large membership, was a valuable partner in implementing a number of field activities, in particular in handling most of the RCM deliveries and tracing activity. In 2003, the ICRC supported a number of PRCS programmes, including mobile eye-clinics in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, first-aid training and tracing and dissemination activities. Since Red Cross ambulance services in Lahore were running well and able to function on their own, the ICRC ended its support for them in October. The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies jointly supported PRCS efforts to revise its statutes, and the PRCS worked to implement the recommendations of an ICRC/International Federation evaluation conducted in 2002. When the PRCS, supported by the International Federation, mounted a relief operation for flood victims in Sindh and Baluchistan provinces, the ICRC provided rice and lent logistical support.



# indonesia

The ICRC established a presence in Indonesia in 1979. Throughout the archipelago, the ICRC works closely with the Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia – PMI) to protect and assist victims of violence, especially displaced and resident populations, whose livelihood or family contacts have been disrupted. The ICRC continues to visit detainees held in connection with non-international armed conflict and other internal disturbances, as well as working to broaden the understanding and acceptance of IHL. The ICRC promotes IHL implementation, supports its inclusion in training programmes for armed forces and police personnel, and develops activities with universities to promote the study of IHL in academic circles.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,500,284**

Assistance

**2,597,993**

Preventive action

**1,457,662**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,371,984**

General

**0**

► **6,927,923**

of which: Overheads **422,831**

## PERSONNEL

**17** expatriates

**81** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC registered 395 people and individually visited 401 people deprived of their freedom.
- Together, the ICRC and the PMI helped 10,350 displaced people and 919 flood-affected residents in Aceh to improve their shelter and general hygiene.
- In South Sulawesi, a joint PMI/ICRC operation assisted 10,000 persons, both displaced and host families, affected by the communal tensions in the Polewali area, with household items, shelter materials and assistance parcels for families with children.
- The ICRC supported the Ministry of Health with hygiene products, medications, logistical support and technical assistance, to strengthen the health assistance programme.
- Material and financial support of the PMI was maintained and further progress gained in the operational cooperation of the Movement.
- The ICRC conducted over 40 pre-deployment and field dissemination sessions to TNI (Indonesian Armed Forces) soldiers in Aceh and North Sumatra provinces.

## CONTEXT

The introduction of martial law in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (Aceh province) was decreed in May, following the collapse of the Cessation of Hostilities Framework Agreement between the government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). In November martial law was extended until mid-May 2004. During large-scale military operations, tens of thousands of residents fled their homes and took temporary shelter in IDP camps. Numerous casualties among civilians, armed forces and GAM members were reported. During the year, 32 security forces members were prosecuted in relation to violence allegedly committed in Aceh Province.

The implementation of the Special Autonomy Law in Papua failed to materialize. In addition, a presidential decree mandating the division of the province in three brought about clashes in Timika, prompting the newly formed Constitutional Court to review the implementation of the law dividing Papua province.

Subsequent to the Bali and Hotel Marriott bombings, the Indonesian government addressed “terrorist threats” by establishing laws that grant authorities strengthened security measures, and in particular, concentrate efforts to curb activities of armed opposition groups and suspected members of “terrorist” cells. The trial of those accused of the Bali bombing began less than a year after the incident, resulting in the condemnation of 31 of the 37 detained, three of whom were sentenced to death and two to life imprisonment.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC further expanded its network of contacts within political circles, security services and military authorities, gaining better support from governmental representatives and an improved awareness of the ICRC's humanitarian concerns and activities. In August 2003, the ICRC sub-delegation in Banda Aceh was temporarily closed owing to a lack of authorization from the authorities. In October, ICRC President Kellenberger met with Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri to discuss ICRC concerns, in particular the ICRC's access to Aceh, which was re-established in December.

During the period of closure of its Aceh office, the ICRC continued its support of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia – PMI) in the region, even though it was not possible to evaluate and monitor the field operation. The ICRC continued its work to increase the operational capacity of the PMI in terms of conflict preparedness and response.

In 2003 the ICRC increased its detention-related activities and visited security detainees, including persons detained in relation to the Bali bombing, those held by the TNI in Aceh and separatist detainees in Papua and Ambon.

The ICRC continued its programmes promoting national IHL implementation. It followed and supported the efforts of the Interministerial Committee on IHL to draw up domestic legislation regulating the use of the red cross/red crescent emblems and initiated efforts to determine how to best

implement domestic war crimes legislation. With the armed forces, the ICRC concentrated on the inclusion of IHL into navy training, as well as building on past achievements with the army, in particular, providing support for the creation of the army's own IHL training exercise manual.

Cooperation was strengthened between the ICRC and the PMI, including the signing of a cooperation agreement on activities regarding the re-establishment of family links. Existing cooperation agreements with the PMI on "Communication/Dissemination", "Activities in Maluku Province" and "Operational Cooperation in Aceh Province" were either extended or revised.

## CIVILIANS

In certain areas of Indonesia, civilians continued to experience a wide range of economic, social, physical and psychological hardships resulting from intercommunal hostilities and separatist conflicts.

Renewed fighting in Aceh complicated the security and living conditions for both displaced people and residents of the province. The delegation temporarily closed its office in the province in early August, re-opening it again on 5 December; in the interim the ICRC continued to support the PMI's work in the area.

According to the governor in Aceh, nearly 68,000 people (almost 17,000 families) left the province because of the fighting and have yet to return. The number of IDPs decreased from 38,000 people in October to 6,000 by mid-December; they were hosted in five different districts of the province. Over 50% of the reported displaced persons were located in Aceh Selatan (South Aceh) province.

A significant number of individuals were detained by the GAM in various locations of the Aceh Province.

In conjunction with the PMI, the ICRC carried out an assessment of IDP camps half way through the year, especially in Aceh Timur and Aceh Tamiang. They supplied camp authorities with water-testing kits, chemical reagents, insecticides, sprayers and hygiene education material. The water and sanitation emergency stock positioned in Banda Aceh was increased in case of sudden needs in the IDP camps.

Jointly, the ICRC and the PMI helped 10,350 displaced people and 919 flood affected

residents in Aceh by improving shelter and general hygiene.

In other areas, displaced persons continued returning to their places of origin, although verifiable numbers were difficult to obtain. The Christians originating from North Maluku who had found refuge in North Sulawesi began returning to Ternate, the capital of North Maluku, while significant numbers chose to relocate in other parts of North Maluku, mainly in Halmahera. In the North Malukus and Malukus, more IDPs returned to their areas of origin. The ICRC and PMI distributed material aid to 10,000 people displaced as a result of violent communal tensions, especially those that ended in September in South Sulawesi.

## Tracing

With the support of the ICRC, the PMI consolidated its Tracing and Mail Services (TMS) and clarified its strategic priorities. A new TMS training manual was developed early in the year, and the PMI elaborated a plan of action for decentralized capacity assessments and trainings. The PMI and ICRC also signed a Cooperation Agreement on activities covering the re-establishment of family links.

A process started that aimed to include PMI chapters in the evaluation of pending cases of Red Cross messages (RCMs) from various countries in the world in order to improve their processing. With ICRC financial support, the PMI recruited a third tracing staff member.

The ICRC attended and sponsored PMI TMS trainings at the chapter and branch levels in Maluku, Greater Jakarta, Bogor, Bekasi, and East Nusa Tenggara provinces, benefiting a total of 80 participants. In October the ICRC and PMI jointly organized a dissemination session for refugees in Jakarta, concerning the worldwide Red Cross family news network. That same month, in order to better prepare PMI staff and volunteers working for the re-establishment of family links in the conflict zone of Aceh, a three-day seminar for some 40 participants from Aceh was held in Medan, the capital of neighbouring North Sumatra province.

Exchanges of RCMs between refugees in West Timor and their relatives in Timor-Leste, improved during the year.

The ICRC concentrated its efforts to trace five missing East Timorese children who had been taken to Indonesia more than 20 years ago.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC significantly increased its detention-related activities in 2003 and received confirmation to continue its visits to places of detention from the Director General of Corrections in charge of all detainees held under the Ministry of Justice. The ICRC also proposed a new series of visits to detention facilities where a significant number of persons of interest to the ICRC were detained. Access and visits to detainees in police stations, prisons, and military detention facilities continued in Papua and parts of Aceh (Bireun and Lhokseumawe), where the ICRC visited detainees and reported their findings to the authorities, including those held by the TNI in relation to the conflict in Aceh.

In late December the new TNI Chief of Staff in charge of military operations in Aceh confirmed that the ICRC's authorization to visit persons detained under the authority of the Indonesian Armed Forces was maintained.

In 2003 the ICRC was allowed to visit, for the first time, persons detained in relation to the October 2002 Bali bombings. Additionally, in November, delegates were able to visit 139 persons sentenced for separatist acts held in Ambon Prison.

In 2003 the ICRC:

- conducted 44 visits, and provided assistance where needed, in 29 detention facilities (under the authority of the police, army or the Ministry of Justice)
- visited 401 persons individually, out of the 1,436 currently visited by the ICRC in places of detention, and newly registered 395
- exchanged 21 Red Cross messages between detainees and their families

## WOUNDED AND SICK

While present in Aceh province, the ICRC continued to assist hospitals (including the referral hospital in Banda Aceh), and other health structures throughout the province with equipment and consumables on a regular and ongoing basis. The primary focus of this assistance was within regions particularly affected by the conflict, for the benefit of displaced populations and the war-wounded. The ICRC has remained positioned to respond promptly once access is possible and the security situation allows.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, the PMI, the WHO, and other international organizations, the ICRC developed treatment protocols against scabies and agreed to assist the authorities with all the necessary medication, logistical support, training, and hygiene materials to treat some 500,000 persons infected (10% of the population) in Aceh province. In addition a public health education programme was included.

A two-week campaign was concluded in April whereby some 13,478 persons were successfully treated in two sub-districts of Aceh Besar. The beginning of the mass campaign to the entire province was postponed following the declaration of martial law. In the meantime the ICRC remained positioned throughout the year to reactivate the scabies programme as soon as circumstances allowed.

The ICRC health team regularly visited IDP camps throughout Aceh province, and monitored health and hygiene conditions. Timely assistance was also provided to health structures, and information, which was collected regarding the health situation, was shared with the health authorities.

Two training sessions covering the care and treatment of war-wounded were held in Aceh in March. A total of 150 doctors from across the province attended the sessions, which were facilitated by an experienced ICRC surgeon and local surgeons from the university hospital in Banda Aceh and Medan.

Upon invitation, the ICRC chief surgeon from its Geneva headquarters addressed the Indonesian General Surgeon Society's annual meeting held in Jakarta. Some 600 senior surgeons from across the country attended this meeting, and the presentation dealt with the role of the surgeon in situations of conflict, the protection of medical personnel and related IHL issues.

In Ambon, the continued improvement of the security situation, and the return to normal operations of the hospital and health centre (serving a community of 21,000 persons), required a review of the continued ICRC support for a health post attached to the PMI's local chapter. It was jointly decided that this health post was no longer necessary.

## AUTHORITIES

The year saw an intensification of efforts by the ICRC and the PMI, to help ensure that the draft emblem legislation conforms to international practice. The legal advisors of

both institutions worked on a new proposal of the previous draft, to be handed over to the Interministerial Committee on IHL in early 2004.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the Committee, two of its staff from the Ministry of Justice attended a five-day advanced course on IHL organized by the ICRC with the University of Pekanbaru.

Together with the PMI, the ICRC carried out a series of meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Interministerial Committee on IHL, to support preparations for the 28th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference in Geneva.

The ICRC also supported, financially and with technical expertise, a seminar on war crimes aimed at producing a proposal for national implementation on IHL. A total of 160 participants from various government offices and universities attended this workshop.

The ICRC attended a workshop organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs entitled "The Possibility of IHL Application in Situations of Internal Disturbances and Internal Tension". The participants stressed the need to have guidelines for government officials dealing with such situations, based on the principles contained in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, its Additional Protocol II, and the Turku Declaration.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military

The ICRC continued its efforts to promote integration of IHL into the training and operations of the Indonesian Armed Forces (TNI) and cooperated closely with the IHL Permanent Working Group and the Training and Education Command.

One important development included the adoption by the army of its own IHL exercise book. The ICRC provided regular input to the drafting process of this new material, and also participated in the meeting of senior officers on its approval and implementation.

A ten-day IHL course, to prepare IHL trainers for the Special Forces of the Army, completed the goal of providing all elements of the army with their own IHL teaching capacity. The ICRC also organized IHL workshops for commanders and operational officers of the Strategic Reserve at their two divisional headquarters.

Many sessions disseminating IHL to troops under the Territorial Command Structure were held throughout the country, including Papua, Sulawesi, Sumatra and Java. Pre-deployment dissemination sessions to troops arriving in Aceh province were also held. The training recalled basic IHL principles and made troops more aware of humanitarian action. Twenty presentations on the same topics were also carried out to troops at camps throughout southern Aceh, during the period immediately prior to the collapse of the Cessation of Hostilities agreement.

The ICRC was contacted during the year by TNI authorities seeking practical advice on IHL issues. Owing to operational developments in the country, a Senior Officers Legal Orientation seminar, scheduled for 50 high-ranking TNI officers, had to be postponed until 2004.

Following a review of the navy's IHL teaching programme, the ICRC intensified its support for the development of a new IHL training curricula and methodology. The year saw the official adoption of the navy's IHL teaching materials, based on the ICRC's *Fight it right* manual. In addition to the written manual, the material contains an interactive CD presentation of references and a training film, all of which was created by the navy with support from the ICRC.

The ICRC sponsored one army and two navy officers for IHL training at San Remo in Italy. The army officer attended the *General Military Course on IHL*, while the navy officers attended the specialized *Course for Planners and Executors of Naval Warfare*.

### Police

The ICRC began analyzing the POLRI's (National Police) curricula to determine the most effective ways to include further aspects of human rights and humanitarian principles into its training.

A condensed version of the *To Serve and To Protect* teaching manual was published by the ICRC in Bahasa Indonesian. This concise booklet proved to be particularly effective in seminars for police personnel deployed in potential conflict areas.

Dissemination sessions to regional POLRI personnel in actual or potential conflict areas were held in Aceh, Papua, Maluku, West Timor and South Sumatra. In particular, the ICRC addressed approximately 1,000 police officers in the conflict prone areas of Ambon and Central Sulawesi, where it promoted humanitarian principles and understanding of Red Cross work.

During the year the ICRC:

- conducted 8 seminars and workshops on IHL to the security forces
- held a total of 112 presentations for security forces personnel
- took part in 42 bilateral meetings to further incorporate IHL into the teaching and training of different groups of weapons bearers
- held dissemination sessions for a total of 13,260 military and police personnel on the importance of IHL principles

### Other bearers of weapons

The ICRC did not have any access to non-State armed groups in Indonesia to disseminate IHL.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued its efforts to encourage incorporation of IHL into the curricula of educational institutions, by presenting lectures to law faculties, holding moot-court competitions among law students and promoting the standardization of IHL educational materials for universities. The ICRC advanced awareness of its IHL activities and concerns through various media, and endeavoured to strengthen its impact on policies that could contribute to increasing the protection of the most vulnerable populations.

Throughout the year, in order to draw attention to issues of humanitarian concern, the ICRC published and distributed a quarterly newsletter. On the occasion of the re-opening of the ICRC office in Aceh in December, a press release was issued to 20 local media institutions and 14 embassies. The news generated interest at the national level, and among various foreign media (including the Associated Foreign Press, BBC and Kyodo News).

The ICRC supported a three-day workshop on the drafting of criteria, for an IHL course outline for undergraduate study, to be used by law faculties. The event, which took place at Brawijaya University, Malang, East Java, was attended by 32 participants from Indonesian universities and resulted in an agreed draft of an IHL teaching syllabus.

A two-day evaluation workshop was organized in September, following a previous IHL course for university lecturers, and was attended by 23 law lecturers from universities in Java Island and Kalimantan Island. The participants discussed current IHL teaching methods and attended lectures on applying IHL in various types of conflicts, command

responsibility and IHL principles covered by Islamic norms. A five-day IHL advanced course was also conducted at Lancang Kuning University, Pekanbaru, Sumatra, and attended by 25 lecturers from all over Indonesia.

Early in 2003 the ICRC participated in the international human rights campaign and international law public dialogue held at Airlangga University, Surabaya, which addressed the "Function, Role and the Future of International Law Post Iraq War 2003". The ICRC gave a presentation at Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, on implementation and development of IHL, as well as multiple presentations to students in Manado universities at the bachelor and master degree levels. On the 54th anniversary of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, a seminar on the protection of the victims of the conflict in Aceh was sponsored by the ICRC, and organized by Trisakti University.

During the year the ICRC:

- supported 2 moot-court competitions based on IHL and HR cases for law students throughout Indonesia, involving a total of 180 students representing 9 universities
- jointly organized a two-day follow-up and five-day advanced IHL course for a total of 45 law lecturers from Indonesian universities
- conducted 5 workshops on the teaching of IHL at the university level, attended by some 800 law faculty members
- enabled 5 law lecturers from various universities located in Surabaya, Malang, Aceh and Makassar, to attend a seminar concerning war crimes, held in Semarang

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC supported ongoing training of PMI senior management during the year, and continued to support the basic structures of the National Society. The relationship between the ICRC and PMI was strengthened as the dialogue, relations and working procedures constantly improved. Important regional events, at the Movement level, were held in Jakarta, such as a workshop on "Safer Access" and the "PMI Partnership Meeting for Indonesia". Such events contributed significantly to closer Movement coordination.

Communication between the PMI headquarters and chapters and branches was also enhanced, and with ICRC support, a plan was developed for capacity assessments

and training in several PMI chapters. Representatives from nearly every province attended the annual meeting of the PMI and its 30 chapters, held in Jakarta.

On the national level, bilateral programmes were coordinated through cooperative efforts of the ICRC, International Federation, PMI and National Societies working internationally from Australia, Denmark, and the Netherlands. The progression toward a consolidated "Cooperation Agreement Strategy" final draft advanced substantially, as a result of regular meetings between the various members of the Movement.

The PMI responded efficiently, and in cooperation with the ICRC, when violence caused displacements in South Sulawesi. A joint distribution of basic household and hygiene items was organized in October in South Sulawesi, benefiting nearly 10,000 persons. With regard to the PMI's response capacity to situations of violence, a workshop on "Safer Access" was organized by the ICRC, which included all Movement partners working in the country.

During 2003 the ICRC covered the costs of the following PMI publications: 1,500 copies of the PMI Annual Report 2003 and 1,300 calendars (both jointly with the Federation and PMI) and 10,000 IHL booklets.

The reopening of the ICRC sub-delegation in Banda Aceh in December helped reinforce the operational capacity of the PMI chapter and its 19 branches within the province (up from 13 branches in 2002). The ICRC and PMI also drafted a programme to handle unidentified mortal remains in Aceh.

Substantial advances were made by the PMI, with ICRC support, for the re-establishment of family links (see *Civilians*). The PMI pledged its commitment to address the issue of missing persons, during the 28th International Conference of the Movement in Geneva in December.



# myanmar

The ICRC established a presence in Myanmar in 1986 carrying out physical rehabilitation programmes. In addition to developing this work for mine casualties and other disabled people, delegates today make regular visits to people deprived of their freedom. In Shan, Kayin and Mon states as well as the Thanintharyi division, where weakened infrastructure, isolation and the security situation make the population particularly vulnerable, the ICRC meets basic water and sanitation needs in selected villages, helps hospitals provide surgical care to the wounded and continues a dialogue with governmental authorities on the protection of the civilian population in those sensitive areas. The ICRC also works in coordination with the International Federation to enhance the effectiveness of the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**6,024,247**

Assistance

**5,630,536**

Preventive action

**761,595**

Cooperation with National Societies

**652,167**

General

**0**

► **13,068,544**

of which: Overheads **797,611**

## PERSONNEL

**48** expatriates

**204** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued to assess conditions in the various detention facilities under the Ministry of Home Affairs and enabled detainees to write RCMs to their relatives.
- Where needed, the ICRC supported the efforts of the prison authorities to meet the immediate need for medical and hygiene supplies and helped to improve the material conditions of detention facilities.
- The ICRC increased its field presence in the southern and eastern Shan state, Mon and Kayin states, and the Thanintharyi division.
- Health, water and sanitation programmes were further developed to address the most basic needs of the civilian population in conflict-affected areas.
- The Hpa-an Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation Centre, inaugurated in late 2002, fitted more than 500 new patients with prostheses and delivered over 500 pairs of crutches. Support continued to all prosthetic/orthotic facilities in Myanmar, through technician training, the provision of necessary raw materials and prosthetic components, as well as specialized equipment.
- In close coordination with the Federation, the ICRC worked to strengthen the capacity of the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

## CONTEXT

After rising pressure on the National League for Democracy (NLD), Aung San Suu Kyi was rearrested on 30 May, followed by a crackdown on the opposition party and its supporters.

Throughout the year skirmishes between the Myanmar Army and different armed groups continued, mostly along the Thai border of Kaying state and, to a lesser extent, in the southern Tanintharyi Division.

In August, General Khin Nyunt, former Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council, was appointed Prime Minister. His inauguration speech laid out the framework for a seven point Road Map towards democracy, which included the convening of a National Convention supposedly representing all political, ethnic and social segments of the country. The National Convention was expected to draft a constitution, to be submitted for approval through a referendum that would lay the foundation for future elections.

Subsequently, General Khin Nyunt met with representatives of ceasefire groups as well as some of the armed opposition in view of negotiating the implementation of the Road Map. A significant step was taken with General Bo Mya of the Karen National Union (KNU), which led to the conclusion of a verbally agreed temporary ceasefire on 10 December 2003.

In June, Thailand and Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding regarding various labour issues: the repatriation of illegal Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand, the recruitment of Myanmar workers for Thai industries and the official status of Myanmar citizens working legally in Thailand.

## ICRC ACTION

During 2003, the ICRC gradually increased its access to and presence in the sensitive areas along the Myanmar–Thai border. Parallel to monitoring the security and living conditions of the civilian population in areas most affected by conflict, assistance was provided to vulnerable civilians based on previously identified needs. ICRC facilitated the development of water and sanitation programmes, supported rural health facilities, rehabilitated basic health structures in the certain villages and townships, and constructed latrines in schools and health centres.

The ICRC also continued its protection-related programmes by visiting detainees in prisons and labour camps and assessing conditions of detention and treatment. The re-establishment of family links was made possible through the exchange of Red Cross messages (RCMs), and the ICRC provided financial and logistical support that enabled family members to visit relatives.

## CIVILIANS

Through its ongoing dialogue with the relevant authorities, the ICRC continued to raise its concerns regarding the safety and protection of the civilian population living in conflict-affected areas.

The expulsion from Thailand, of illegal Myanmar migrants, continued with about 400 migrants per month passing through the Myawaddy transit camp. The ICRC conducted regular visits to this transit camp where it interviewed individuals privately to assess their situation and report its findings and recommendations to the Myanmar government.

The issue of the recruitment of minors was also discussed with the relevant authorities.

Hundreds of Myanmar nationals remained detained in Bangladesh, some establishing contacts with their next of kin in Myanmar through the exchange of RCMs.

The ICRC's presence and acceptance became gradually acknowledged within the Mon and Kayin states as well as in the Thanintharyi Division. Activities in Eastern Shan state developed this year, mainly in Mong Hsat district townships. A sub-delegation was opened in Taunggyi in order to consolidate the ICRC's presence and activities in the eastern part of Southern Shan state.

A water and habitat programme was implemented in areas affected by the conflict in Kayin, Mon and Shan states, where access to basic facilities was inadequate. The ICRC intervened to help ensure safe water supplies and improve sanitary facilities. In 2003, a total of 15,000 people directly benefited from this programme in more than 30 villages. The main achievements included:

- provision of new water supply (five stream catchments, three wells)
- improvements to 20 existing wells (protection of water sources)
- construction of block latrines in 17 schools
- distribution of basic latrine kits to 520 families

The ICRC supported the establishment of water committees in each village where a water system had been constructed or rehabilitated. The committees are responsible for maintenance and the replacement of broken materials (rope, buckets, pipes, etc) with costs born by the community.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC assessed conditions in detention facilities (prisons and labour camps) under the responsibility of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Extensive dialogue with the detaining authorities was maintained throughout the year. Following the events of 30 May (see *Context*), the ICRC concentrated on identifying, visiting and registering all those arrested and detained in relation to the incident and on restoring family links through Red Cross messages.

The ICRC supplied the detaining authorities with large quantities of medicines and ten tons of soap for detainees per month, while providing immediate ad hoc assistance to the most vulnerable, such as pregnant women, women detained with children, the elderly and sick. Detained minors were provided with educational materials.

The Joint Working Group, which brings together medical officers of the Prison Department, the Ministry of Health and the ICRC on the issue of health in prisons, convened on a monthly basis.

During the year, the ICRC in Myanmar:

- carried out 113 detention visits to people deprived of freedom in 57 detention facilities
- registered 1,603 detainees for further follow-up and revisited 2,880 detainees

- notified the respective embassies of 289 foreigners detained in Myanmar
- collected 8,333 RCMs from detainees and distributed 4,323 (replies from families)
- reimbursed the travel expenses of 1,081 family members visiting 741 detained relatives

The rehabilitation of the water-supply system was completed in two prisons during the year. The prison authorities provided raw materials, while the ICRC provided the technical expertise, workers and equipment (pumps, motors, pipes and fittings).

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC hospital rehabilitation programme in Kayin, Mon and Shan states continued, and regular visits to regional hospitals allowed the ICRC to collect relevant information and to provide necessary assistance to the war-wounded.

The ICRC supported the rehabilitation of seven hospitals in conflict-affected areas. The aim was to ensure access to safe water, sanitation and sound habitat facilities to the sick and wounded civilians as well as to the staff working in the health structures. Accordingly, water supply in the operating theatres and delivery rooms was restored, and where necessary, repairs were made to sanitation facilities, washing places and electric installations.

## Prosthetic/orthotic services

The assistance provided by the ICRC to mine victims and amputees addressed needs resulting from the limited capacity of the country to provide suitable prosthetic treatment. It also increased access to services for patients from remote border areas through: enhancing quality and increasing the production capacity of all governmental prosthetic services, developing the services provided by the Hpa-an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre (therefore addressing the needs of amputees living in the southeast of the country), and supporting an Outreach Prosthetic Programme intended to identify and refer for treatment the most vulnerable amputees living in remote and/or border areas.

As a result of the ICRC's efforts during 2003:

- the overall production capacity of the 5 assisted governmental prosthetic services maintained a consistent production level (1,661 lower-limb prostheses and 1,384 elbow crutches)

- ▶ the professional skills of the governmental services staff were strengthened through refresher courses in prosthetics and physiotherapy as well as professional coaching. This was further reinforced by the reintegration of two prosthetists, who received recognized ISPO training at the Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics with ICRC support
- ▶ the development of activities at the Hpa-an Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre enabled prosthetic services to be provided for 508 amputees (73% of mine victims), to whom 516 prostheses and 537 crutches were delivered
- ▶ the Outreach Prosthetic Programme referred 724 vulnerable amputees from remote and/or border areas for prosthetic services. The referral system for the area covered by the Hpa-An Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre successfully provided services for amputees coming from affected areas such as, Papun, Myawaddy & Kawkaireik (Kayin state)

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to build its relationship with the local authorities by keeping them constantly informed and updated about its activities. As a consequence, the contacts of the regional authorities on state, district and township civilian level were consolidated, and the ICRC's mandate, principles and working procedures are gradually becoming better understood and accepted.

For the first time, the ICRC was given the opportunity to hold a three-hour dissemination session for 21 superintendents in charge of detention facilities throughout the country. This event was organized in conjunction with a training course run by the Prison Department.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military

Thirty-five high-ranking military officers attended a presentation on the history and principles of the Red Cross Movement, the ICRC's mandate and activities in Myanmar, as well as the basic principles of IHL. The session took place in Pyin-Oo-Lwin Military Hospital in September and constitutes an encouraging development with regard to

ICRC's objective to further develop awareness of IHL among military personnel.

### Police

In another development, a series of seminars for police officers were held in Mandalay division in July and December. It included eight sessions at divisional police headquarters for a total of 320 participants and six seminars for police officers in Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Meikhtila and Mandalay town.

Likewise, the ICRC made its first presentation to the Yangon police force, with a seminar attended by 35 police officers.

### Other bearers of weapons

A presentation on the basic tenets of IHL and the necessity to respect civilians in times of war was conducted for 35 Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) officers and a group of villagers in the Mon state.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The events of 30 May generated interest from international and national media about the activities of the ICRC, which prompted the delegation to explain its humanitarian work, notably in the context of its visits to people deprived of freedom.

To support dissemination activities in the field, several ICRC publications and videos were produced in the Burmese, Kayin and Shan languages. The relationship with local media was substantially strengthened through increased contacts and information sessions.

In 2003, upon invitation from the ICRC, students from the International Law Faculty of Yangon University began regular visits to the ICRC office to discuss issues related to IHL.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Through regular working sessions, the ICRC strengthened coordination mechanisms between the MRCS, the ICRC and the International Federation. Disaster management as well as health and communication activities of the MRCS continued to be technically and financially supported by its two partners.

Community Based First Aid (CBFA) training, Disaster Assessment Response Team (DART) training, first-aid courses and joint MRCS/ICRC tracing field missions were the main vehicles for improving knowledge of the Movement, its components and

respective mandates, the Fundamental Principles and the emblem.

In July, the ICRC and the MRCS jointly organized two two-day workshops in Yangon on the restoration of family links, focusing on the handling of RCMs and general dissemination methods. In the north, joint ICRC/MCRS tracing teams visited many townships and carried out training sessions in dissemination and on the RCM programme to over 650 MRCS volunteers and state officials. During the year, over 2,000 RCMs were forwarded to the MRCS for distribution.

The ICRC and the International Federation provided joint technical and financial support to several MRCS courses on DART and CBFA for volunteers, representatives of township authorities as well as community members for a total of 700 participants. Late in the year, a village in Mon state suffered a huge fire disaster. The MRCS, with the support of the Movement, assisted victims with emergency relief stocks of non-food materials. Furthermore, two courses were co-facilitated by the MRCS, ICRC and the Federation, and covered subjects including basic IHL and the Movement's principles and the "Safer Access Framework" for National Society work in situations of internal disturbances.



# nepal

The ICRC established a presence in Nepal in 1999, opening a delegation there in 2001. In connection with the armed conflict between government forces and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist, it visits detainees, helps provide medical care for the wounded and works with both sides to ensure protection and assistance for civilians. It also encourages the promotion of respect for IHL by military institutions, armed groups and civil society, and cooperates with the Nepal Red Cross Society.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**3,793,201**

Assistance

**1,659,947**

Preventive action

**674,497**

Cooperation with National Societies

**748,987**

General

**6,887**

► **6,883,519**

of which: Overheads **420,121**

## PERSONNEL

**28** expatriates

**58** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Hostilities resumed after the collapse of the ceasefire agreement, thereby renewing security and economic problems for large numbers of civilians across the country.
- The ICRC expanded its field presence in areas affected by the conflict, monitoring the security and living conditions of civilians and developing a dialogue on the problems it found with both the government civil and military authorities and CPN-M leaders.
- ICRC teams visited detainees in jails, police stations and army camps around the country; the delegation continued its efforts to gain full access to those held by the army.
- The National Society made great strides in adapting its activities so that it could work more effectively in conflict-affected areas.
- Nepal and the ICRC signed a headquarters agreement, providing a stronger legal basis for the ICRC's presence in the country.

## CONTEXT

A ceasefire declared on 29 January 2003 suspended fighting between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M). Particularly in the West and Mid-West regions, where the conflict was centred, greater security and freedom of movement allowed residents to resume normal patterns of travel and trade. The government and the CPN-M held three rounds of talks, but tension between the two sides remained high and clashes broke out sporadically. The ceasefire collapsed in August, and fighting quickly reached the same intensity as before; it also spread to parts of the Eastern region and the Terai (the plain along the border with India). Over 1,300 people were reported killed in connection with hostilities in the last four months of the year – as was the pattern in earlier fighting, fewer were reported wounded than killed. In November, the army announced that it would arm villagers to resist the Maoists.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) stepped up its activities and called for a visit from the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Alienated by the dissolution of parliament and rejecting the legitimacy of the government appointed by the king, Nepal's major political parties refused to take part in negotiations. Protests escalated at the end of the year.

Under mounting international pressure, Bhutan and Nepal continued to discuss the future of some 100,000 Lhotsampa refugees

who had remained in camps in Nepal since leaving Bhutan during disturbances in the early 1990s.

Widespread flooding and landslides during the monsoon season damaged roads and destroyed houses.

## ICRC ACTION

In 2003, ICRC activities in Nepal focused on protection. Once the ceasefire took effect, ICRC teams stepped up field work conducted from Nepalganj and Biratnagar; during missions that sometimes required days or weeks of rough travel, often on foot, they assessed the security and economic conditions of civilians, visited detainees and talked with local leaders from both sides. In the countryside and the capital, the ICRC met frequently with military leaders to discuss security conditions for the civilian population and access to detainees held by the army. The delegation discussed similar issues with the CPN-M, making its first direct contact with the group's high-ranking officers. When the ceasefire collapsed, access to CPNM leaders became more complicated, but the ICRC kept up a dialogue at field level. To enhance its field coverage when fighting broke out again, the ICRC assigned new teams to work in the areas most affected.

## CIVILIANS

### Strengthening measures to protect civilians

Until August, there was a respite from clashes and attacks. Civilians, although sometimes still caught between government and CPN-M demands, were subjected to far fewer searches and arrests. The ICRC collected many allegations of violations of international humanitarian law (IHL); most concerned the period prior to the ceasefire. The allegations were brought to the attention of the government and the CPN-M through confidential reports and discussed in numerous meetings with military and civil leaders at local and central levels. This activity was further stepped up after hostilities broke out again.

### Monitoring economic security

During the ceasefire, curfews were lifted and checkpoints removed, and this improved the economy in areas affected by the conflict. In February an ICRC team assessed the situation in Bahjang, Bajura and Kalikot districts (Mid- and Far-West regions) and found that harvests had been relatively good. Residents in areas with chronically poor crop yields had been able to resume the trade and migrant labour they depended on to supplement incomes. The team found problems in one area, but a follow-up trip in March showed that these had been resolved once the freedom of movement restored under the ceasefire had begun to facilitate transport and trade. When fighting resumed, however, security deteriorated

and restrictions were imposed again, particularly in the Western region. The ICRC provided Nepal Red Cross branches with stocks of essential household items, which were used to assist individual families or communities in need. It continued to monitor conditions in areas affected by the fighting and kept in close contact with other organizations present in the field so as to supplement its own findings; by the end of the year, the ICRC had not found needs that required its direct assistance.

### Tracing the missing

When both parties acknowledged the need to address the problem of missing persons, the NHRC indicated its willingness to take on the task, with support from the ICRC. Two Nepalese representatives attended the conference on missing persons held by the ICRC in February 2003 in Geneva. In December, the NHRC published a list of over 800 people alleged to have disappeared in connection with the conflict.

### Restoring family links

In areas where the fighting had been most intense in 2002, transport and communication infrastructure was targeted. In a survey conducted in 2003 on the damage inflicted, the ICRC and the Nepal Red Cross found that over 200 villages had been cut off from normal lines of communication. The two organizations worked together to extend the Red Cross Message (RCM) network, which at the time served only detainees and their families, so that it could also help villagers in these areas. They taught RCM procedures to National Society branch staff in a series of workshops, and by the end of the year the number of messages handled had doubled and the network's efficiency had been significantly boosted (97% of the messages collected over the year were delivered, up from 50% in 2002). The RCM network also served the Lhotsampa refugees from Bhutan, six of whom received travel documents from the ICRC so that they could take up offers of asylum elsewhere. Nepal Red Cross tracing services registered several unaccompanied children and monitored their situation until they found their families.

- ▶ 84 RCMs were delivered
- ▶ 228 people whose families had filed tracing requests were located
- ▶ 6 travel documents were issued

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In early 2003 the ICRC was visiting some 1,500 people detained in connection with

the conflict. During the ceasefire there were few arrests and many releases, so this number dwindled to 200. When fighting broke out again, many people were detained, particularly by government forces. Having gained access to people held in military custody at the end of 2002, the ICRC visited over 120 people detained in places controlled by the army, and approached military authorities at all levels in an effort to further improve access to detainees. The organization continued its regular visits to jails and police stations under civil authority, offering recommendations to help improve conditions and set budget priorities. The ICRC also collected allegations of arrest and submitted them to the authorities, and checked the safe arrival home of released detainees. ICRC sanitation engineers improved water supply for some 1,300 detainees in Kathmandu Central Jail.

- ▶ 1,439 detainees were visited (including 691 newly registered) in 202 places of detention
- ▶ 419 release checks were made
- ▶ water and sanitation projects were completed in 1 detention centre

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Medical care for the wounded

The number of wounded dropped significantly during the ceasefire period and access to health care improved as travel restrictions were lifted. When fighting resumed, claiming new casualties, no comprehensive information was available on civilian deaths or injuries.

The ICRC provided medical assistance and training to improve the quality and availability of care for the wounded. It distributed medicines and other medical supplies to treat the wounded in seven health-care facilities in Kathmandu, Nepalganj and Kavre, and to CPN-M medical staff. The delegation organized a workshop on emergency techniques for first-aid trainers in government forces, and another one for CPN-M medical personnel. It also translated publications on first aid and pre-hospital care into Nepalese. To improve access to medical services, it helped fund the National Society ambulance service and covered the costs of treatment and/or transport not reimbursed by the government.

### Amputees and other disabled people

While mine use appeared to be limited, other types of explosive devices caused numerous injuries. The government provided military and police amputees with

artificial limbs, but most prosthetic/orthotic services for civilians were private and were located far from the areas most affected by the conflict. The ICRC conducted a survey of limb-fitting facilities in the country and evaluated the possibility of supporting free services in places near the fighting.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC worked closely with the NHRC to encourage the government to adopt national legislation implementing IHL provisions and accede to such major IHL instruments as the 1980 UN Convention on Conventional Weapons and the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural property. As the dissolution of parliament prevented any progress in efforts to encourage accession, the ICRC concentrated on implementation. It sent a member of the NHRC to a regional seminar of experts on IHL implementation in Kuala Lumpur and took part in a symposium on the same subject organized by the NHRC for members of the ministries and other authorities concerned. The symposium identified as a priority the setting up of a national IHL committee to promote adherence to IHL instruments and foster the process of their implementation in national legislation. The ICRC prepared a draft of such an act to submit to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

After the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) had become involved in counter-insurgency operations in 2002, it decided to develop IHL training for its personnel. The army sent officers to attend a course on IHL in San Remo, Italy, and the ICRC organized IHL seminars for officers. In 2003, the ICRC organized an IHL presentation for cadets at the Royal Military Academy and gave IHL talks to Nepalese troops leaving on peace-keeping missions.

Both the armed police force, which was specially formed for counter-insurgency operations, and the Nepal police were involved in clashes with the CPN-M. The ICRC worked with both forces to help enhance their training in IHL and human rights law. It organized two IHL seminars for the armed police force, held a short course for police instructors and helped translate into Nepalese a training booklet for the police on human rights law.

- 168 military personnel attended formal IHL presentations
- 62 armed police force personnel attended IHL/human rights presentations
- 18 Nepal police staff were trained as IHL/human rights instructors
- 2 officers were sent to the IHL course in San Remo (1 army, 1 armed police force)

In addition to formal presentations, the ICRC addressed basic IHL issues in most of the 370 meetings it had with army, police and CPN-M representatives.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Working with the media, the many national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the country and other influential groups and institutions, the ICRC raised public awareness of IHL and other humanitarian issues. To further develop university-level IHL instruction, it advised the law faculty at Tribhuvan University in preparing an IHL syllabus, and helped four Nepalese attend the South Asia Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law in Bangalore, India. It also translated IHL publications into Nepalese, gave presentations at meetings and conferences organized by the Nepal Red Cross and NGOs working in the country, and briefed NHRC monitors.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Nepal Red Cross is a large and well-organized National Society with extensive activities. In 2003 it was again faced with the many challenges of working in a conflict situation. With ICRC assistance, it built up its first-aid services, expanded its RCM network and provided assistance for victims of the fighting. The scope and effectiveness of its activities, however, was still limited owing to security problems; these included attacks on its ambulances, personnel and infrastructure. Widespread misuse of the emblem also undermined the safety of personnel working in violent situations. In view of these problems, the Nepal Red Cross gave serious consideration to modifying its role and methods – appropriate and effective though they might be in dealing with peacetime emergencies – in such a way as to strengthen the independence and impartiality required for acceptance by all parties to the conflict. This involved reviewing how and with whom field operations were implemented, and many other issues such as the legal status of the National

Society, its funding methods, how its leaders were chosen, and respect and legal protection for the emblem. The Nepal Red Cross was one of the first National Societies to work with the ICRC in applying the new “Safer Access Framework”, which provides a coherent strategy incorporating the different steps that must be taken to develop independence and impartiality and which can be applied with respect to all conflict-related activities. The National Society sponsored two regional workshops on this issue and shared its experiences at an ICRC conference on the new approach held in Jakarta, while gaining insight into how this approach could be applied in its own country. A follow-up workshop was held in Nepal. The National Society campaign to protect the emblem continued, with 22 branches declaring by year's end that they were free of emblem misuse.

- 6 district branches set up or improved first-aid services
- over 160 people received training/refresher training in first aid
- first-aid training was standardized, in cooperation with the Belgian Red Cross
- 500 families were assisted and emergency stocks set up



# philippines

In the Philippines, where the ICRC has been working since 1982, the delegation assists and protects civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It acts as a neutral intermediary between opposing forces in matters of humanitarian concern, visits security detainees and works with the Philippine National Red Cross through the Society's network of regional chapters and local branches to help displaced people and to promote compliance with IHL in all sectors of society.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection	<b>877,848</b>
Assistance	<b>568,544</b>
Preventive action	<b>590,315</b>
Cooperation with National Societies	<b>171,845</b>
General	<b>3,808</b>
	<b>2,212,361</b>
	of which: Overheads <b>135,027</b>

## PERSONNEL

<b>6</b>	expatriates
<b>54</b>	national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Cooperation with the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) remained a priority for the ICRC and focused mainly on dissemination activities, carried out either jointly by the two organizations or by the PNRC with ICRC support in areas inaccessible to the organization.
- The delegation paid for the medical treatment of over 300 people wounded in armed clashes that were unable to meet the cost of their treatment.
- Delegates visited more than 100 facilities where 51,000 detainees were incarcerated, and privately interviewed over 500 detainees.
- The ICRC and the National Society made numerous presentations throughout the country to broaden knowledge of IHL and Red Cross activities among members of the military, police, and armed groups.

## CONTEXT

Ending months of speculation, and reversing an earlier decision, President Arroyo announced in October that she would seek re-election to the presidency in May 2004. Other candidates for the presidency included a former education secretary and a popular actor.

A number of insurgency-related incidents occurred during the year, including encounters in several provinces where communist rebels maintained their presence. Periodic clashes were reported between the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and government forces, and the Abu Sayyaf (ASG) was still viewed as a potent threat to regional stability.

The New People's Army (NPA) declared a unilateral Christmas ceasefire to coincide with the government's declaration of a month-long suspension of military operations.

During the first three months of the year renewed clashes between government troops and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mindanao led to the capture of MILF strongholds by the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), while seriously affecting the civilian population.

By year's end a June ceasefire agreement was still holding and had paved the way for the return of displaced families to their communities, as well as the resumption of a dialogue (facilitated by Malaysia) between the government and the MILF. Meanwhile, the MILF chairman's death in July brought about a change in the organization's leadership.

Two major bombings in Mindanao confirmed that the country remained vulnerable to "terrorist" acts.

Amid fears of an increased threat resulting from cooperation of Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) with such groups as the MILF and the ASG, President Arroyo made the search for JI operatives the country's top priority.

In an apparent coup attempt, a group of young AFP officers took over a major commercial centre in Manila's financial district. The 20-hour siege ended peacefully and the officers and troops involved were arrested and held for court martial.

Through all these developments the economy registered a growth rate of 4%; however, this failed to match the population growth rate.

The Philippines contributed to the efforts of the coalition in Iraq by dispatching a contingent of AFP and police officers. The US president's visit to Manila illustrated the importance of the Philippines as an ally in the "war against terrorism".

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to conduct its activities and made representations to the relevant authorities on behalf of victims. As a result of clashes, civilians continued to be killed, wounded or displaced.

Regular visits to detention facilities and individual follow-up of detainees remained one of the ICRC's operational priorities. The organization continued to engage the authorities in dialogue with a view to improving overall conditions of detention in these facilities and monitored with particular attention vulnerable groups such as minors, women, the elderly and sick.

Relations were intensified with governmental authorities to foster more effective implementation of IHL in domestic legislation and address the Philippines' need for laws to repress grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. The delegation sponsored the attendance of key government representatives at various regional IHL-related events organized by the ICRC.

In March the ICRC in its function as a neutral intermediary facilitated the release of six members of the Civilian Action Forces Geographical Unit (CAFGU) pro-government militia, held by the MILF near Piagapo, Lanao del Sur.

PNRC chapters in violence-prone areas benefited from ICRC support in reinforcing their capacity to address conflict-related humanitarian needs. Additionally, the ICRC's cooperation with the National Society facilitated family visits to detained relatives registered by the ICRC.

## CIVILIANS

In Mindanao, civilian casualties resulting from hostilities since the beginning of 2003 included an estimated 20% of infants and children who died of disease inside refugee camps (source: the Department of Social Welfare and Development). Others were injured when caught between Moro rebels, the ASG or the NPA and government troops, and nearly 41,000 families displaced by fighting remained in 135 evacuation centres throughout 11 provinces.

The ICRC and the National Society actively assisted vulnerable civilians in emergency situations, while the government and other relief organizations funded aid to displaced families. In May, following a major

evacuation, the ICRC and PNRC jointly provided non-food assistance to 2,230 families sheltered in evacuation centres in Lanao del Norte province.

The plight of children being recruited and trained by armed opposition groups was regularly cited in both the press and international reports. Through meetings and dissemination sessions, the ICRC continually raised the issue with relevant parties, stressing that minors must not take part in hostilities.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout the year the delegation conducted visits to detainees (including foreigners) held in connection with the communist uprising, the Moro Islamic insurgency and the fight against international "terrorism". Moreover, the ICRC visited military personnel detained in connection with the 27 July mutiny.

As detainees held for insurgency-related reasons were kept with common-law detainees, the ICRC adopted a comprehensive approach, which meant that a large number of detainees benefited from ICRC visits.

The ICRC's recognition as a credible humanitarian actor enabled it to lobby relevant authorities (including the Human Rights Commission, members of the Philippine Congress and Senators), in an effort to raise awareness and mobilize support to meet the detainees' most urgent needs.

Regular contact was continued with senior officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP). The ICRC conveyed its observations and maintained dialogue with this agency responsible for over 1,200 jails and some 40,000 detainees. The BJMP granted the ICRC permission to conduct its first dissemination session for Assistant Regional Directors. The delegation also maintained contact with the management of the Bureau of Corrections, responsible for seven penal colonies where some 25,000 prisoners are held. In 2003 the ICRC visited four of these penal colonies with a total population of almost 20,000.

The ICRC supplied water-storage drums to the General Santos City Jail, supported by funds provided by the Swiss NGO Pro Victimis. The rehabilitation of water pumps at North Cotabato Provincial Jail, also financed by Pro Victimis, was carried out under ICRC supervision.

During 2003 the ICRC:

- carried out 134 visits to 51,609 detainees held in 104 places of detention
- privately interviewed 515 detainees (some more than once) and registered 147 new inmates
- distributed recreation materials, soap, and other hygiene supplies to detainees
- through the joint ICRC/PNRC family visits programme, funded family visits to 170 detainees
- served as the intermediary for the handover of 6 members of the Civilian Action Forces Geographical Unit held by the MILF

## WOUNDED AND SICK

According to health officials, conflict made trauma due to gunshot wounds and accidents the leading cause of death in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. Civilians were injured in ambushes, indiscriminate firing and strafing incidents in Central and Western Mindanao, and by detonations of improvised explosive devices.

Philippine health-care facilities offered treatment to civilians injured in Mindanao, however it was too expensive for many people. The ICRC therefore provided aid in the form of financial support and medical supplies, and continued to petition the authorities to increase health funding.

During the year the ICRC facilitated the following:

- immediate surgical treatment for 241 individuals injured by explosions and arms fire in Central Mindanao (173 men; 33 women; 35 youngsters)
- surgical treatment for 3 paramilitaries and 10 rebels injured in armed encounters
- surgical follow-up treatment of 52 patients with multiorgan/multiple injuries
- blood transfusions for 32 victims requiring surgery and 2 IDP children requiring other treatment
- the fitting of 32 prostheses, delivery of another 25 prostheses, distribution of 37 pairs of crutches and 4 wheelchairs

## AUTHORITIES

Although the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict were ratified in May 2002 and officially

implemented, most armed groups allegedly still used children illegally. The ICRC provided legal advice and technical support to the national IHL committee for the preparation of a draft law to repress grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and 1977 Additional Protocol I, and other war crimes. The committee encouraged the Department of Foreign Affairs to consider IHL treaties in the Senate's agenda. Additionally, an IHL bill was submitted to the House of Representatives during the year, and the ICRC lobbied the Senate for approval of a bill authored by the committee's Chairperson.

The ICRC met with representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the University of the Philippines law faculty, the Philippine Campaign to Ban Landmines and the PNRC, to discuss commitments to IHL.

As a result of a memorandum from the Department of Interior and Local Government, instructing all local governments to conduct IHL dissemination among their constituents, support for these activities (conducted by PNRC disseminators) increased substantially.

During the year PNRC chapters conducted sessions on Red Cross and IHL basics in *barangays* (villages) in Luzon and the Visayas, and in Mindanao with *barangay* leaders, health workers, youths, municipal and provincial employees in various municipalities.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Independently and/or cooperatively, the ICRC and National Society made presentations and distributed teaching materials to a wide range of ranks and members of groups of weapon bearers. The need to protect children from recruitment by parties to conflicts and to protect women in situations of armed conflict was systematically emphasized in dissemination sessions.

### Military

The ICRC carried out a series of meetings at the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Manila and with the Command and General Staff College Commandant of the Philippine Army, resulting in an assessment of IHL teaching needs for the military. The delegation sought to help the AFP teach IHL more effectively in the field, and reconstitute the AFP/IHL Permanent Working Group.

In Luzon and Visayas, the ICRC offered advice on the selection of AFP participants for the 103rd San Remo IHL course; representatives of the Philippine Military Academy instructors' staff and a military legal adviser from the Judge Advocate General's Office attended.

An IHL workshop for 34 AFP officers was conducted at the Joint Command and Staff College at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo. This training was the fourth since 2000, and prepared officers to train their units in IHL, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols and the rules of conduct for combatants. At the Command and General Staff College at Fort Bonifacio, an IHL workshop was held for 80 senior army officers and three foreign military officers.

In Mindanao, IHL sessions were conducted at different AFP camps. Included in these sessions, for the first time in more than a decade, were the AFP and Marines deployed in the Buliok Complex, Maguindanao-Cotabato provinces (a setting of continued armed clashes with the MILF). In Luzon and the Visayas, eight PNRC chapters conducted sessions on Red Cross activities and IHL for regional AFP personnel, with ICRC support.

### Police

In Mindanao during the year:

- ▶ 372 mobile action force members, policemen, firemen, prison guards and civilian volunteers attended 6 separate dissemination sessions in different locations, organized by the PNRC
- ▶ a total of 432 Philippine National Police officers were reached through IHL sessions
- ▶ an IHL session was held in Manila, which addressed all 30 national Regional Commanders and staff of the BJMP

### Other bearers of weapons

Concerning armed opposition groups in the south, the ICRC was able to conduct dissemination sessions for commanders and followers of the Moro National Liberation Front in the Cotabato and Davao del Sur provinces.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

For the first time, an in-depth article on IHL and human rights was presented on the front page of a leading national newspaper. The article included interviews with lawyers concerning the Geneva Conventions

and its Additional Protocols, as well as a discussion with the ICRC on anti-landmines campaigns and IHL legislation.

At the request of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the ICRC for the first time held a dissemination session for 30 representatives of the UNDP and governmental agencies involved in relief and rehabilitation programmes, in the 95% Muslim Maranao area of Marawi-Lanao del Sur (Mindanao).

The Institute of International Legal Studies-University of the Philippines Law Centre (IILS-UPLC) and the ICRC jointly conducted seminars to promote IHL, held two strategy meetings with a view to planning continuing IHL joint-training course activities, and promoted an IHL diploma course to university professors, the military and the PNRC.

Following a joint University of the Philippines/ICRC course on IHL conducted for professors during May, the participants (with the ICRC and IILS-UPLC) organized and held a series of seven symposia at four universities in northern Mindanao. A total of 1,991 participants, including students of law, international relations and political science, as well as PNRC youths at Mindanao State University, attended the sessions.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to support the National Society through cooperative assistance, training and financial means. It remained dedicated to advancing the PNRC's recognition as the main IHL actor in the country, and an appreciated partner of the authorities in promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles, the implementation of international treaties and respect for the emblem.

During 2003, 81 out of 89 PNRC chapters were active in conducting IHL dissemination sessions nationwide. The delegation supported the PNRC through the distribution of dissemination materials (for example brochures on Additional Protocol II and principles of IHL, the Code of Conduct for Combatants and first-aid booklets), to enable PNRC chapters to enhance their IHL sessions for village leaders, health workers and government soldiers.

The delegation and PNRC conducted a seminar on ICRC activities and IHL presentation techniques for 22 PNRC volunteers and staff during the Regional Training of Disseminators (covering PNRC chapters in

Northern and Central Luzon). Two presentations on the ICRC's worldwide activities, attended by a total of 47 PNRC staff members, were given in Southern Luzon in July and August. The ICRC participated regularly in orientation courses for PNRC administrators, staff and volunteers.

The PNRC headquarters and the ICRC jointly conducted a three-day IHL course in Mindanao, for the board members of 23 PNRC chapters (the first such presentation since 1999). Additionally, the ICRC participated in dissemination sessions during two PNRC General Assembly meetings, as well as the Annual Technical Training session.

Further, the PNRC (with ICRC cooperation and support) initiated and conducted the first IHL symposium for 35 government agencies in Northern Luzon. The delegation and PNRC worked together to resolve cases of emblem misuse; out of 79 cases, 31 were resolved and work on the 48 remaining cases continued.

The ICRC sponsored the PNRC's celebrations of International Humanitarian Law Day throughout the country on 12 August, financed the repair of vehicles at the Zamboanga and Davao chapters, and assisted the Sibuga chapter in purchasing office equipment.



# sri lanka

The ICRC has worked in Sri Lanka since 1989, focusing in recent years on areas in the north-east that were most affected by the conflict between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Now that the ceasefire agreement is in effect, the ICRC's main goals are to: protect civilians from violations of IHL, including the recruitment of minors; serve as a reference in efforts to resolve the problem of persons missing in relation to the conflict; ensure the safe flow of people and goods through crossing points into and out of the Vanni; promote IHL training in military forces of both parties; increase the response capacity of the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society; and ensure the coherence of Red Cross/Red Crescent action in the areas affected by conflict by coordinating activities of Movement components working there.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**5,677,260**

Assistance

**2,008,446**

Preventive action

**1,424,579**

Cooperation with National Societies

**560,627**

General

**2,503**

► **9,673,416**

of which: Overheads **590,396**

## PERSONNEL

**37** expatriates

**272** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- With the ceasefire holding, thousands of civilians and hundreds of trucks crossed between LTTE- and government-controlled areas each day to engage in trade, provide services and carry out reconstruction and repair work, leading to significant improvements in living conditions in LTTE areas; the ICRC's full-time presence at crossing points helped maintain the flow of traffic and avert problems.
- Reconstruction funding tied to progress in the peace process was held up when negotiations stalled, leaving gaps in services where humanitarian activities had scaled back. ICRC support for basic health services and maintenance of wells continued in the Vanni; other assistance activities were discontinued or handed over to government, local, or international organizations.
- The fate of missing persons remained of central concern to the ICRC, which was designated by both parties as a reference organization in the efforts to develop a mechanism for dealing with the problem.

## CONTEXT

After making dramatic progress in 2002, the peace process in Sri Lanka lost momentum in 2003. Three rounds of talks (brokered by the Norwegian government) were held during the year before the LTTE suspended its participation in April. After this, the parties exchanged proposals for establishing an interim administration for the north-east. A divergence between the positions of the president and prime minister set off a political crisis in November, which stalled all dialogue.

Serious incidents at sea, strikes, riots, and assassinations fuelled distrust between the government and the LTTE, while friction between Muslim and Tamil populations continued to threaten stability in the east. In spite of these problems, the ceasefire signed in February 2002 held throughout the year, giving Sri Lanka its longest period of calm for well over a decade. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission verified compliance with the agreement.

Political and diplomatic setbacks did not prevent people from benefiting from the ceasefire. Its implementation enabled many displaced people to return home and allowed a revival of trade. Roads, communication lines, wells and buildings were rebuilt or repaired and civilian air links between Colombo, Trincomalee and Jaffna were re-established. In Jaffna and areas of the Vanni reached easily from the main highway (especially Kilinochchi) there was a marked upsurge in business activity and reconstruction work. These changes did not, however, spread to areas of the Vanni

still isolated as a result of the poor road network. In spite of large-scale return of displaced people to former battle zones, relatively few mine injuries were reported. Both sides undertook mine clearance (expected to last four years) and there was considerable international support for mine action.

At an international donor conference in Tokyo in June, 4.5 billion US dollars were pledged for the reconstruction of Sri Lanka, broadly conditioned upon progress in the peace talks.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC's offices remained open in all the key locations in the north-east. As needs diminished and the government, the local authorities and other organizations were able to improve public services, the ICRC further scaled back its assistance there. In isolated areas of the Vanni not yet covered by government or other services, it continued to maintain water sources and support basic health services, working to ensure their sustainability in preparation for handover.

This reduction in assistance enabled the ICRC to concentrate more on protection activities. While it continued to visit detainees, restore family links and document violations of international humanitarian law (IHL), the volume of work diminished and more effort was put into two activities contributing to the transition towards peace: resolving the problem of missing persons and serving as a neutral intermediary to ease the flow of traffic at crossing points. The ICRC also explored ways of adapting its preventive activities to the new situation. The progress made by the army in developing and running its own IHL training demonstrated the positive impact of the ICRC's efforts to anchor this body of law in national institutions and practices.

## CIVILIANS

### Facilitating travel and trade

The growth in trade and strengthening of public services improved living conditions in the north-eastern areas that had long been cut off as a result of the conflict. Over the year, more than three million trips by civilians and 430,000 by trucks were registered at three different crossing points into the Vanni: this movement enabled people to do business, visit family members, go to school, receive medical care and take part in a wide variety of social, cultural, and religious activities. At the request of both parties, the ICRC was present without interruption at the crossing points, helping the two sides work together to solve the problems that cropped up daily. This averted incidents that could have held up traffic or had repercussions on the peace process.

### Helping the families of the missing

Thousands of people, many of them women struggling to support dependents, remained without news of missing family members. This often left them unable to resolve serious psychological, economic, administrative and social problems stemming from their loss. Since the early 1990s, the ICRC had

documented some 20,000 cases of persons (both civilians and combatants) reported missing; in 2002 it began to review the approximately 11,000 cases that remained unresolved, and in 2003 it continued this work, visiting the families of missing persons in their homes in order to update information and determine whether the cases ought to be pursued. During the peace talks, both parties requested that the ICRC help them clarify the whereabouts of persons still unaccounted for. Experts from Sri Lanka were involved in the ICRC's worldwide project on the issue of missing persons and took active part in the international conference in February. The ICRC worked with both parties, and in particular with deminers, to find ways of handling human remains that would improve the chances of identification. It also maintained contacts with family associations and other related groups to determine how best to meet the needs of the families of the missing.

### Reacting to IHL violations

Except for those involving the recruitment of minors, allegations of violations of IHL remained fewer and less serious than before the ceasefire. They were most common in the east of the country. The ICRC continued to document allegations and take them up with the relevant authorities. Follow-up of allegations of the recruitment of minors was coordinated with UNICEF, which in October set up the first transit camp for minors released by the LTTE.

### Ensuring sustainability of the water supply

Starting in 1996, the ICRC sank wells and boreholes and installed or repaired hand-pumps, thus guaranteeing water supply for over a hundred thousand residents in isolated areas of the north-east. After the ceasefire, it began to hand over responsibility for maintenance of these water sources to the national water board. In the east, this process was nearly complete by 2003; responsibility for the last wells (37 wells in Batticaloa) was transferred in June. In the Vanni, slow progress in setting up a system for maintaining wells delayed plans for handover, and the ICRC continued to do the work while at the same time helping the national water board, the Tamil Relief Organization and the local authorities to set up a maintenance system and train technicians.

- 97 boreholes were repaired/improved and 38 hand pumps were installed/improved for 48,000 beneficiaries

## Restoring family links

As postal and telephone services reached almost all areas and people were free to travel, residents of the north-east were able to restore and maintain contacts with their families on their own, and there was little demand for ICRC services. The organization helped families find relatives who were reported to have disappeared in connection with the conflict. When necessary, it also helped trace the families of released minors.

- 46 RCMs were delivered
- 409 people were located via tracing requests
- 3,101 cases of missing persons were updated as a result of family visits

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

As implementation of the ceasefire agreement reduced arrests and accelerated releases, the number of people detained by the government in connection with the conflict had dropped sharply by the beginning of the year and continued to do so over subsequent months. The ICRC visited the remaining detainees regularly, in accordance with its standard procedures. It covered transport costs for families who had to travel in order to visit detained relatives. It also provided educational, leisure and hygiene materials for use by all those detained in the places visited.

The ICRC also visited a small number of Sri Lankan military personnel held by the LTTE. It made visits to two LTTE detention facilities and maintained its request for access to other detainees allegedly held by the LTTE.

- 3,356 detainees were visited (including 186 newly registered, 373 followed up individually, 56 women and 33 minors) in 44 places of detention
- 141 family visits to detained relatives were funded

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Exchanging expertise on war surgery

With fighting suspended, fewer people were injured in 2003. The ICRC organized its third annual war surgery seminar in Anuradhapura for 80 surgeons, more than half of whom were civilians, as a way of fostering exchange on the subject.

## Making basic health services more sustainable

A project delegated to the Canadian Red Cross continued to support the mobile health teams and health centres run by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society (SLRCS) in areas of the Vanni whose residents had no access to other facilities. Although other organizations were working in the region and health services there had been expanded, these were concentrated near the main highway, leaving less accessible areas underserved. Some Red Cross health centres and mobile health teams closed down as population shifts and the improvement of local facilities altered demand, and the last teams ceased work in December after an ICRC/Canadian Red Cross evaluation showed that the level of curative care needs no longer justified their existence. Meanwhile, the Red Cross health centres were found still to be necessary, so this programme was pursued. As the shortage of trained personnel in the Vanni continued to hamper improvements in health services there, the ICRC promoted integration of Red Cross community health workers in the national health system.

- ▶ 30 Red Cross health centres were supported
- ▶ 83,867 consultations were given

## Amputees and other disabled people

The Friends in Need Society (FINS) workshop was the only facility providing artificial limbs on the peninsula; with travel restrictions lifted, it also served some patients coming from the Vanni. The ICRC provided it with the materials, equipment and training needed to produce lighter and more comfortable polypropylene appliances. Having continued to supply materials through most of 2003, the ICRC ended its involvement after an evaluation in September confirmed that its objective of improving the capacity and quality of patient service had been met. After the ICRC's withdrawal, the NGO Motivation took over the provision of materials.

- ▶ 273 prostheses (145 for mine victims) and 32 orthoses were delivered
- ▶ 91 prostheses and 4 orthoses were fitted on new patients
- ▶ 7 wheelchairs and 24 pairs of crutches were produced

## AUTHORITIES

A national IHL committee was set up in 2000 under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It stepped up its activities in 2003, drafting an act for submission to Parliament on implementation of the Geneva Conventions. In addition to supporting the committee's efforts and extending its network of contacts for promoting the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, the ICRC conducted introductory sessions on the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, for instance for civil servants working in the north-east.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Supporting integration of IHL into military training

The Sri Lanka Army further developed its own IHL training programme, holding sessions at all levels both at training institutions and in the field. The ICRC had helped the army set up the programme by training trainers, helping develop materials and providing other technical assistance. By 2003 the army was delivering most of the IHL training itself; the ICRC evaluated the curriculum of army training establishments and gave some technical assistance in developing materials. The army reported that its ICRC-trained instructors were teaching IHL to hundreds of soldiers and officers. Advanced army instructors began to take over instructor training, conducting a full course for non-commissioned officers and working with the ICRC to present part of the officers' train-the-trainer course. The ICRC encouraged the navy and air force to develop similar programmes: it conducted IHL trainer-training for the navy and organized an IHL workshop for air force officers.

The ICRC also continued to give presentations for military, police and security force personnel deployed in the north-east, to explain the ICRC's role and the basic rules of IHL. In an effort to develop IHL training within the LTTE, sessions were organized for members of its military, police, political and administrative wings.

- ▶ 64 IHL instructors were trained (army, navy)
- ▶ 320 military personnel attended ICRC seminars/workshops
- ▶ introductory presentations were held for over 3,050 military, 1,500 police/security, 250 LTTE members

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC worked through the press, NGOs and other groups to transmit information about humanitarian issues and activities, raise awareness of IHL and encourage respect for its rules. In the north-east, it held group sessions on the principles of IHL for representatives of the Muslim community, Red Cross branches, NGOs, students and teachers, journalists and others.

- ▶ 350 leaders and opinion-makers attended a seminar on IHL organized in conjunction with the Judge Weeramantry International Centre for Peace Education and Research
- ▶ over 2,500 people in the north-east attended introductory sessions on ICRC and IHL

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

With the support of the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the SLRCS continued to restructure its management base. In September, it held its first General Assembly based on its new constitution, adopted in October 2001, and initiated a review of its implementation. To help strengthen the National Society's legal basis for independent action, the ICRC helped it draft the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society Act for submission to the authorities.

The ICRC and the SLRCS continued to cooperate closely in the areas of tracing, dissemination and conflict preparedness (including first aid and assistance to victims). To clarify respective roles and responsibilities in the country's fast-changing environment, the ICRC, the International Federation and the SLRCS signed a trilateral agreement that formed the basis for close coordination of their activities, as regards both organizational development and operational cooperation. The ICRC maintained its role as lead agency, coordinating Movement activities in the north-east, including bilateral support for the SLRCS provided by internationally active National Societies.



ICRC delegation

# timor-leste

In Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor), where the ICRC has been working since 1979, society is being rebuilt after the upheaval of 1999. In independent Timor-Leste, the ICRC mission focuses on the issue of people unaccounted for, visiting detainees, restoring family links, encouraging and supporting ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, monitoring the situation of civilians who may be at risk, and maintaining dialogue with the authorities. With the International Federation, the ICRC works to support the formation of a National Red Cross Society in Timor-Leste (CVTL) and help it build its tracing and dissemination capacity.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**262,550**

Assistance

**78,202**

Preventive action

**118,206**

Cooperation with National Societies

**357,887**

General

**0**

► **816,846**

of which: Overheads **49,855**

## PERSONNEL

**2** expatriates

**5** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued to process information concerning persons reported missing. It initiated the creation of a national commission to deal with this issue.
- The government of Timor-Leste ratified the Geneva Conventions on 8 May 2003.
- Delegates visited 79 detainees in 3 prisons.
- The ICRC repaired the water-supply system in Baucau prison, which benefits the detainees as well as the neighbouring villagers.
- The ICRC supported the development of the fledgling National Society, especially its tracing and dissemination departments.

## CONTEXT

In a message delivered on the first anniversary of the restoration of Timor-Leste's independence on 20 May 2003, President Xanana Gusmao pointed out the challenges lying ahead for the country. By appointing an ambassador to Indonesia, Timor-Leste demonstrated the significance a good relationship with its neighbour has for the new State and the whole region.

As planned, in view of the withdrawal of the UN Mission of Support in Timor-Leste as of May 2004, the UN substantially reduced its presence, both military and civilian, in the country. Nevertheless the government emphasized to the UN Secretary-General the importance it attached to a continued UN military presence, to ensure Timor-Leste's security after May 2004.

Early in the year in the border area, infiltrators from West Timor were arrested for alleged acts of violence.

Despite the president's continuous efforts to encourage displaced people to return, according to various sources as many as 28,000 East Timorese remained in West Timor, where they were no longer granted refugee status.

The Timor-Leste police (PNTL) was responsible for law enforcement in all of the country's districts. A UN patrol supported the PNTL border unit in monitoring the border with Indonesia.

Early in the year UN prosecutors brought formal charges against high-ranking officers of the Indonesian government and

armed forces, as well as a politician in the former province of East Timor.

In view of problems due to lack of rain and the resulting poor harvests, international aid agencies reckoned that food distributions to people in the Oekusi, Atauro and Baguia regions, among others, would remain necessary.

After settling the remaining impediments to an economic agreement regarding the joint development of gas and oil fields in the Timor Sea, Australia and Timor-Leste signed the Timor Sea Treaty. The accord set out the revenue allocations governing the development and extraction of the area's economic resources.

## ICRC ACTION

The issue of missing persons remained a priority for the ICRC, as did the processing of allegations of disappearances reported between 1975 and 1999. The ICRC consulted various influential individuals about their readiness to participate in the creation of a national body to deal with this important issue in the long term. By year's end five individuals had made commitments.

In accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between the ICRC and the Ministry of Justice in 2002, the ICRC continued its visits and assessments of detention conditions throughout the country's jails.

The Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste (CVTL) was formally established in 2002, as an emerging National Society. The ICRC and the International Federation continued to support the CVTL in developing a legal base and framework. The range of activities of the nascent National Society was extended and training provided to programme officers, staff and volunteers, to guarantee familiarity with IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

The delegation was actively involved in providing IHL training to the Timor-Leste Defence Force Training Unit, and worked diligently to promote IHL among government authorities. The country formally acceded to the 1949 Geneva Conventions in May 2003.

Towards the end of the year, the Timor-Leste authorities were informed of the ICRC's decision to include the country in the number of those covered by the Suva regional delegation for the Pacific in early 2004.

## CIVILIANS

Advancement was made towards the creation of a Timor-Leste commission on missing persons. Five potential commissioners consented to serve on the body, including representatives of the military, government and civil society. Regular planning and orientation meetings were held to enhance understanding of the issue and prepare working procedures of the commission.

More progress concerning missing persons was made by cooperating with senior officers of the East Timor Defence Force (F-FDTL) regarding the exhumation of human remains performed by the armed forces.

The ICRC cooperated with the Indonesian Red Cross (Palang Merah Indonesia – PMI) on tracing several children separated from their families between 1975 and 1998 and unaccounted for since then. The process was still under way at the end of the year.

The exchange of Red Cross messages (RCMs) between Timor-Leste and West Timor improved towards the end of the year, to the relief of the beneficiaries of this service in the two countries who still had difficulties communicating by other means.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to monitor the detention conditions of people held in connection with events of 1999, as well as alleged infiltrators, and engaged in a dialogue with the authorities to address any problems that could arise.

After visiting detainees, the ICRC submitted comprehensive reports on its findings to the Minister of Justice.

It also followed up released detainees, who were potentially at risk as they attempted to reintegrate into their original communities.

In 2003 the ICRC:

- visited 3 facilities (Becora, Baucau, and Gleno prisons) and registered 45 detainees
- conducted 11 visits and individually interviewed 34 detainees
- collected 231 Red Cross messages from detainees and distributed 79

As a result of an evaluation of prison needs, the ICRC offered to financially support certain water and habitat projects. Two such projects were initiated in 2003. In Baucau, the water-supply system was improved for the benefit of the prisoners and the local population. At Becora prison, a project to renovate a raised tank and distribution system was still under way.

## AUTHORITIES

As a direct result of the humanitarian work it had conducted in the country for more than 20 years, the ICRC was fully respected and recognized by the authorities. The government showed its willingness to abide by IHL treaties as quickly as possible. Hence, on 8 May, Timor-Leste's accession to the Geneva Conventions became official. Later in the year, the country also acceded to the Ottawa

Convention, the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of Bacteriological Weapons, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The process of accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols, which parliament had approved in 2002, was still being held up by technical difficulties.

In December, legal instruments regarding recognition of the CVTL and regulating use and protection of the emblem, drafted with legal support from the ICRC, were readied for submission to the Council of Ministers.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following the departure of the UN legal advisor, who formerly taught IHL to recruits and officers, the F-FDTL Commander requested that the ICRC conduct IHL training for military trainers in Timor-Leste. The ICRC's Kuala Lumpur-based delegate to the armed forces held a week-long training course for senior officers from the training unit. To follow up, the production of a handbook on essential rules for commanders was launched.

The ICRC gave dissemination sessions on the basic tenets of IHL, its own role and the Movement's Fundamental Principles for Timor-Leste police cadets and some UN contingents.

The ICRC took part in several workshops on the professional development of the Timor-Leste police force.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

To elucidate the ICRC's activities and concerns in Timor-Leste and promote awareness of the issue of missing persons, several meetings were held during the year with the diplomatic community, NGOs and the Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation. During these discussions the role and mandate of the different components of the Movement, including efforts and challenges facing the emerging National Society were explained.

The Timor-Leste media demonstrated interest in receiving ICRC news or press releases, particularly related to the missing persons issue. The war in Iraq and local water projects were also of specific interest to the public.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to give priority to supporting the CVTL in all aspects of its development and future formal recognition, including its legal base and establishment as a viable, functioning National Society. Laws regarding its official recognition by the government and a law to protect the use of the emblem were drafted for submission to the government. Further, a joint mission conducted by the ICRC and the International Federation in December helped the CVTL develop a road map delineating the work required to advance the Society's full recognition by its Movement partners.

The government demonstrated ongoing support for the CVTL, and articulated its interest in having the National Society become a capable and effective organization. On World Red Cross Day (8 May), the Timor-Leste President and Prime Minister were symbolically enrolled as volunteers of the CVTL.

The CVTL was designated as the implementing partner for the UNHCR Child Tracing Programme for children who disappeared in 1999 and remain to be traced in West Timor.

The ICRC promoted and supported the CVTL's coordination and cooperation with the Indonesian Red Cross Society regarding tracing and other activities. It enhanced the capacity of the CVTL tracing service by providing technical advice and financial contributions to human resources, structural and operational costs, at both the national and branch levels.

In March, a one-week tracing and dissemination workshop was conducted for 29 CVTL staff members to address the specific training needs of the National Society and its dissemination responsibilities. The Indonesian Red Cross Society facilitated the tracing workshop. In the field of dissemination, the ICRC supported the production of thousands of CVTL promotional pamphlets, dissemination materials, the first CVTL newsletter and calendars.



# bangkok

Since the ICRC first established its presence in Bangkok in 1979 to support the Cambodian operation, the regional delegation has worked to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian law treaties and facilitate the integration of IHL instruction into national military training. It has also supported National Society development in terms of dissemination and tracing. In Cambodia, the ICRC continues to help restore family links and visit people deprived of their freedom. ICRC prosthetic-orthotic projects in China, the DPRK and Cambodia contribute to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses.

## COVERING

Cambodia, China, Republic of Korea (ROK), Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Laos, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection	
<b>1,084,430</b>	
Assistance	
<b>3,896,661</b>	
Preventive action	
<b>1,473,312</b>	
Cooperation with National Societies	
<b>1,308,296</b>	
General	
<b>98,703</b>	
	<b>7,861,403</b>
	of which: Overheads <b>479,804</b>

## PERSONNEL

<b>21</b>	expatriates
<b>53</b>	national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- ▶ A physical rehabilitation centre was set up in Kunming, in the Yunnan province of China, in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of China.
- ▶ Formal consultations on the technical aspects of opening a regional delegation for East Asia in Beijing started in November between the ICRC and the Chinese government.
- ▶ The ICRC discussed the situation of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand with the Thai authorities and submitted a report on safeguarding the dignity and safety of this vulnerable group.
- ▶ In Cambodia, the ICRC carried out 18 visits to detention facilities, during which it interviewed 131 detainees.
- ▶ The production of the prosthetic-orthotic centre in Songrim, DPRK increased to 841 prostheses and 22 orthoses. The centre further provided 98 wheelchairs and 790 pairs of crutches.

## CONTEXT

Within the larger context of the “global war on terrorism”, the Thai and Cambodian authorities arrested several people suspected of having links to international terrorism, including a prominent Indonesian citizen suspected of being responsible for a series of bombings across the region, including the Bali bombing.

The 2003 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok gathered leaders of 21 countries, including Presidents Bush, Putin and Hu Jintao. The leaders discussed measures to stop the proliferation of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and ways of using APEC to enhance regional security and prosperity.

In December 2003, Thailand launched the “Bangkok process”, an initiative involving a number of countries to advance the process of national reconciliation in Myanmar.

After three-party talks failed in early 2003, China negotiated and hosted six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programme in late August, uniting efforts of China, USA, DPRK, ROK, Japan and the Russian Federation, to help defuse a looming crisis between the US and DPRK. The process was still under way at the end of the year.

Two new rounds of first-time meetings between relatives separated since the Korean War took place in June and September at Mt. Kungang in the DPRK. The ICRC continued to remind the respective governments of their humanitarian obligations and offer its assistance in the process.

## ICRC ACTION

As part of the objective to strengthen and develop ICRC cooperation with the governments and National Societies of the region, notably in the field of IHL implementation, dissemination of IHL to the armed forces and cooperation with the National Societies, the ICRC initiated formal consultations with the Chinese authorities on a future regional delegation in Beijing. In cooperation with the Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) the ICRC opened a prosthetic-orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming to assist mine victims from the border region with Vietnam.

In Cambodia, the ICRC maintained its support to both the country's only prosthetic/orthotic component factory, run by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in Phnom Penh, and the Physical Rehabilitation Centre in Battambang.

The ICRC pursued its activities regarding people deprived of their freedom in relation to internal security as well as international terrorism, with renewed visits to prisons in both the Phnom Penh area and the provinces of Cambodia.

War-wounded arriving in Thailand from the conflict-affected border areas in Myanmar continued to be medically assisted, through an ICRC-financed programme carried out in cooperation with specialized local NGOs.

The regional delegation maintained its programmes to promote IHL and to strengthen the capacities of National Societies through financial, administrative, technical and

training support. It assisted them in developing their networks to advance IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Support to the Cambodian Red Cross tracing service continued, with decreased ICRC involvement as the programme was being handed over to the National Society.

In order to foster the development of national legislation to implement IHL treaties, as well as to promote the integration of IHL in military training, the ICRC continued to strengthen its dialogue and cooperation with the authorities of the region.

## CIVILIANS

### Korean Peninsula

On the 50th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities of 27 July 1953, the vice-president of the ICRC delivered a reminder to the permanent missions of the DPRK and the ROK in Geneva that both governments have a humanitarian obligation to solve the problem of separated families on the Korean Peninsula. Both parties were called upon to de-politicize the issue. Similarly, at the June conference of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization conference in Seoul, the vice-president of the ICRC reiterated to high-ranking government officials of the ROK (see *Authorities*) the institution's continued commitment to finding a humanitarian solution to the situation dating from the Korean War (1950-53). Although progress remained slow, the two countries' National Societies and ministries concerned organized two three-day meetings at Mt. Kumgang, for 400 separated family members.

### Cambodia

New tracing cases were opened concerning 317 people sought by their relatives in Cambodia or abroad; the cases of 364 persons unaccounted for were still under investigation. The ICRC supported the Cambodian National Society in its third year of managing the tracing service to secure a regular exchange of Red Cross messages (RCMs), mainly from and to places of detention. A total of 9,401 RCMs were collected and 9,674 distributed.

### Thailand

The ICRC visited eight of the nine reception camps for Myanmar nationals in Thailand and briefed the camp committee leaders and representatives of other refugee committees about its tracing service, offered to refugees who believe they have relatives imprisoned in Myanmar.

The ICRC addressed the issue of Myanmar migrant workers living in Thailand, with the aim of improving both their conditions in Thailand and the conditions of their repatriation. A report on its findings was handed over to the Thai government.

Regionally, 105 RCMs concerning other National Societies in the region were distributed. The delegation issued 37 travel documents to individuals of various nationalities, enabling them to legally leave their host country.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Cambodia

Following a temporary interruption of ICRC visits to detention facilities due to the SARS epidemic the delegation was eventually able to resume visits to people deprived of their freedom for security reasons.

The delegation continued to have access to all places of detention, and visits were conducted according to customary ICRC practice. During the year the ICRC made 18 visits to 11 separate facilities, where more than 4,450 detainees were held; 131 of them were followed up individually.

Sanitation and hygiene supplies such as soaps, detergent and brushes were distributed to common-law and security detainees. The ICRC also held discussions with the (AusAID-funded) Cambodia Criminal Justice Assistance Project and conducted a technical study to finalize an ICRC proposal to assist the Ministry of the Interior Prison Department with water and sanitation projects in 2004.

### Laos

During five missions to Vientiane, the ICRC continued its dialogue with the Lao authorities in an effort to resolve the issue of the offer of service made in 2002, which would allow the ICRC access to detention places. While no agreement was reached, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed willingness to maintain dialogue on the issue.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Cambodia

Following the cessation of support by Handicap International Belgium to the Sisophon fitting centres, the ICRC extended its prosthetic/orthotic services to the Kompong Thom and Beanteay Meanchey

provinces, using additional outreach visits to treat disabled people in Battambang.

During 21 field trips in 2003, the prosthetic/orthotic team:

- arranged appointments for 514 amputees to replace their artificial limbs at the Battambang Physical Rehabilitation Centre
- distributed 396 crutches and delivered 36 wheelchairs
- repaired 1,055 prostheses, 15 orthoses and 64 wheelchairs on location
- assessed the condition and needs of 1,790 patients
- fitted 3 amputees at the Sisophon prison (Beanteay Meanchey province)

The Battambang Centre production statistics for the year:

- 382 new patients were fitted with prostheses
- 1,283 prostheses were manufactured (1,189 for mine victims)
- 503 new patients were fitted with orthoses
- 809 orthoses were manufactured (4 for mine victims)
- 2,368 individual crutches and 196 wheelchairs were delivered

In 2003 the Ministry of Social Affairs upgraded the Phnom Penh Component Factory to a national level and renewed a one-year memorandum of understanding with the ICRC regarding support for the factory, as well as the Battambang Physical Rehabilitation Centre. The ministry credited the ICRC's contribution to physical rehabilitation in Cambodia and acknowledged the government's duty to assume these services. The ICRC submitted budget allocation requests to the ministry to cover 20% of the costs of prosthetic/orthotic production materials and utility costs for both the component factory and the Battambang centre, however the Ministry of Finance failed to allocate the funds. The Minister of Social Affairs assured the ICRC that funds would be allocated to partially cover purchases of materials.

In addition to its current output of prosthetic/orthotic components and walking aids, trans-tibial and trans-femoral kits for children and elderly amputees were added to the factory's production range; deliveries to all Cambodian fitting centres commenced in October. During the year the component production for the non-ICRC project produced 793 knee joints, 3,677 alignment systems and 1,280 pairs of orthotic joints.

The third National Orthopaedic Congress took place in Phnom Penh, attended by 60 prosthetic and orthotic professionals (including eight from the ICRC). At the annual meeting of the Cambodian Red Cross on mines and unexploded ordnance, at the invitation of the National Society the ICRC explained its physical rehabilitation activities and treatment policies to volunteers from all provinces engaged in the gathering of these explosives.

#### **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Following the reconstruction and increase in production capacity of the Songrim Orthopaedic Centre, the facility experienced a heavier flow of patients than expected. To face this challenge, the ICRC improved the system of work coordination between physiotherapists and technicians. During the year the Songrim centre produced 841 prostheses (85 for mine victims) and 22 orthotic devices and provided 98 wheelchairs and 790 crutches.

The delegation submitted its *Technical Manual for Lower-Limb Prosthetics* for translation into Korean to the National Society, which had already translated other training materials on prosthesis alignment and production.

In early September, the Ministry of Defence approached the ICRC for advice on technical plans for a new prosthetic/orthotic centre to be built in Pyongyang.

#### **China**

In December the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Red Cross Society of China and its Yunnan provincial branch, on the establishment of the physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming. The centre became operational at the end of 2003, assisting mainly mine victims from the border areas. Jointly with Yunnan Red Cross orthopaedic surgeons, ICRC prosthetic technicians organized a seminar on amputee patient selection criteria for the Red Cross in the Wenshan and Honghe border prefectures.

#### **War-wounded in Thailand**

As an extension of its existing programme to support the medical treatment of war-wounded patients from Myanmar (approximately 100 during 2003), the ICRC established additional contact with local medical organizations operational in the Thai-Myanmar border regions.

## **AUTHORITIES**

Throughout the year the delegation pursued its dialogue with the relevant authorities of the respective countries, with a view to supporting the process of accession to relevant IHL treaties and their implementation at the domestic level.

#### **Thailand**

The interministerial working group, mandated to study the compatibility of the Rome Statute of the ICC with the Thai legal system, completed its work and forwarded a proposal for a draft law on repression of the crimes defined in the Statute to the Cabinet of Ministers. The process of accession to the Additional Protocol I of 1977 progressed further with the Cabinet's approval of ratification.

The Thai Red Cross, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, organized a lecture on the contemporary challenges facing IHL. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and gathered around 250 representatives of the Thai civil and military authorities, academic circles and the diplomatic community. A member of the ICRC gave a lecture on behalf of the institution. The ICRC also participated in and contributed to the fifth Meeting of States party to the 1997 Ottawa Convention, organized by Thailand in September.

#### **Republic of Korea**

In June 2003, the ICRC's permanent vice-president met with high-ranking government officials to exchange views on various topics of mutual interest. The vice-president was also invited to be the keynote speaker during the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization's conference in Seoul. The Korean national committee for the implementation of IHL contributed to the conference by organizing a special discussion on issues related to IHL, attended by representatives of the ICRC's legal department based at the organization's Geneva headquarters.

#### **Mongolia**

The ICRC held a series of discussions with governmental authorities, and was informed of their decision to submit a recommendation regarding acceptance of the Ottawa Convention to the Mongolian Parliament.

#### **Vietnam**

The ICRC pursued discussions with the Vietnamese Centre for Human Rights of the Ho Chi Minh National Political Academy concerning the publishing of a textbook on

IHL and a compendium of IHL instruments in Vietnamese. The ICRC acted as an advisor to this joint project of the Centre and the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi.

## **ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

In Bangkok, the delegation organized briefings before and after the 103rd International Military Course on the Law of Armed Conflict at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, San Remo, Italy, for ICRC-sponsored participants. These included representatives from Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The aim of these sessions was to promote IHL training among the regional armed forces and to foster conditions for a comprehensive regional training plan.

#### **China**

The first IHL course at the Shijiazhuang military academy was held in early 2003, for the benefit of 300 officer cadets of the People's Liberation Army. The regional seminar, planned to be held in Xi'an in June 2003, had to be cancelled because of the SARS epidemic and was rescheduled for June 2004. The president of the Xi'an Academy of Politics paid a visit to the ICRC headquarters in November.

#### **Mongolia**

A three-day IHL course was organized for the Mongolian armed forces. The event was conducted by armed forces trainers and attended by 25 senior officers and military instructors. The ICRC also engaged in a series of discussions concerning IHL training, including training for the border guards, with various Mongolian authorities.

#### **Laos**

After several meetings and negotiations, the first IHL seminar for the Lao People's Army was finally conducted in 2003. The three-day event saw the participation of 24 senior officials, representing the various departments of the Ministry of National Defence. The event was also an opportunity to negotiate further activities for 2004.

#### **Cambodia**

Several meetings with the training director of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces in Phnom Penh were held to discuss IHL activities and joint coordination for 2004. The meetings centered upon planning two IHL sessions for senior officers and generals, decentralizing IHL training activities, reproducing armed and security forces training

documents, producing materials on the law of armed conflict, and a proposal for armed forces IHL exercises.

### Thailand

The ICRC participated in the Cobra Gold 2003 Command Post Exercise, the US Pacific Command's oldest joint military activity in the Asia-Pacific region. The event was attended by military observers from eight Asia-Pacific countries, and involved troops from the US, Singapore and Thailand. During the training scenarios the ICRC demonstrated certain humanitarian crisis situations involving IDPs and refugees, examples of IHL rules, implementation and POW protection.

The revision of the Thai version of *Summary for Commanders*, by the Ministry of Defence, was completed and submitted to the Directorate of Operations of the Royal Thai Army for approval. The process for the production of a series of IHL posters was also initiated.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC programme to promote teaching of IHL at universities continued to concentrate on prominent law faculties in both Thailand and China. The ICRC cooperated with the law faculty of the People's University in Beijing to produce Chinese translations of ICRC documents and legal documents, including those for the future posting on the ICRC's Chinese website.

The delegation conducted an IHL seminar at Hanseo University in the Republic of Korea, where it addressed more than 50 students and provided an IHL library to the university, as well as various dissemination materials for use by the law faculty.

In September 2003 the regional delegate held an IHL course at the law faculty of the University of Ulan-Bator.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC supported the efforts of the National Societies to advance IHL programmes within their organizations, as well as among the authorities, civil society and the armed forces. The delegation also supported the Societies in strengthening their capacity to spread knowledge of IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

At a management workshop hosted by the International Federation for about 15 senior

staff of the various National Societies, the ICRC presented the new ICRC cooperation policy and its "Safer Access Framework".

As part of an ICRC internship programme for the Chinese, Korean and Mongolian National Societies, one staff member from each Society spent a week with the Bangkok regional delegation to gain more insight into ICRC activities in general and in Southeast Asia in particular.

### China

Although the SARS epidemic caused some cooperation activities with the Federation and the Red Cross Society of China to be postponed, close coordination during this period was nonetheless maintained with the Movement. Activities had resumed by mid-2003.

The ICRC took part in a training seminar financed by the Norwegian Red Cross and co-organized by the Federation and the Chinese Red Cross in Xi'an, which trained 30 participants from various branches in Shanxi province in the history of the Movement and ICRC activities.

A meeting was held for 80 representatives of the Chinese Red Cross in Hailar (Inner Mongolia), during which the worldwide activities of the ICRC were presented and the proposed launch of an "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) school project was discussed. In August the ICRC visited the branch of the Autonomous Region of Tibet.

### Mongolia

The ICRC maintained its support for the operations of the National Society, in particular its network of trained Red Cross disseminators. The development of further dissemination materials (teaching files for children) and the production of a video in Mongolian continued. Visits to more remote branches allowed the delegates to form closer contact with volunteers and Red Cross staff members. These trips also enabled delegates to better witness the effectiveness of assistance programmes for vulnerable groups and dissemination activities of the National Society.

### Cambodia

The ICRC continued to support the Cambodian Red Cross tracing service and the regular exchange of Red Cross messages, mostly involving detainees, with 4,977 messages collected and 4,403 distributed during the year.

In November the ICRC participated in a regional tracing workshop in Phnom Penh

for 27 tracing staff from the Cambodian Red Cross and three from the Lao, Thai and Vietnam National Societies. This was the first opportunity for National Societies of the region to share their professional skills and experiences. The ICRC also supported a five-day dissemination training session for 25 Cambodian Red Cross participants from all provinces, and another week-long dissemination course for 37 National Society staff.

The Cambodian Red Cross reprinted a Khmer version of *The Emblem* leaflet, finalized the translation of the *Discover the ICRC* brochure, as well as a renewed edition of the *Story of an Idea*.

### Laos

The ICRC supported the publication of the Lao Red Cross leaflet describing the Movement and its Fundamental Principles, as well as two issues of the Lao Red Cross Newsletter. The Lao Red Cross and the ICRC cooperated in the translation of the Geneva Conventions and the preparation of a red cross emblem law.

### Republic of Korea

The ICRC participated in the annual train-the-trainer course on Red Cross activities and basic IHL, organized by the National Society. Some 24 staff members from various branch offices attended the event to become instructors.

### Vietnam

The ICRC took part in a basic IHL course for 45 National Society staff. Support was given to another dissemination workshop for 12 provincial Red Cross Youth branches, and a Vietnamese version of *Discover the ICRC* was published with ICRC financial support. The ICRC and the National Society met with representatives of the Ministry of Education to discuss the integration of the EHL project into the national secondary-education curriculum. The National Society offered to oversee the translation of EHL materials into Vietnamese, and to submit the vernacular version to the education authorities when completed.



ICRC regional delegation

# kuala lumpur

Having operated in Kuala Lumpur from 1972 until 1983, the ICRC opened an office there in June 2001. In the countries it covers, the regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur strives to gain a better understanding of the perspectives and concerns of their leaders, experts and National Societies in order to obtain their support for ICRC humanitarian activities worldwide, and involve them in reflecting on humanitarian issues in the region. The ICRC further encourages the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and the incorporation of IHL into military training, and helps National Societies develop activities to promote IHL.

Based at the Kuala Lumpur delegation is the ICRC's regional communication/IHL support centre, which supports other delegations in their IHL-related programmes and contributes to a coherent regional approach regarding the positioning of the ICRC and the development and implementation of IHL.

## COVERING

Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**25,185**

Assistance

**0**

Preventive action

**1,223,999**

Cooperation with National Societies

**126,893**

General

**161,581**

► **1,537,658**

of which: Overheads **93,848**

## PERSONNEL

**4** expatriates

**7** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- An IHL communication support centre was inaugurated mid-year to coordinate regional communication activities and provide support for delegations in Southeast and Eastern Asia and the Pacific.
- The ICRC continued to encourage Malaysia's adoption of measures to implement IHL in national legislation and accession to the remaining IHL treaties.
- Experts from 20 Asian countries, including those countries covered by the delegation, participated in an ICRC-organized regional seminar on ways of improving compliance with IHL.
- The ICRC's president and vice-president, respectively, attended the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summits held in Kuala Lumpur.
- Integration of IHL into the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces' training was consolidated with the production of teaching material and growing involvement from military instructors in IHL training.
- The ICRC continued to support the education ministry in piloting the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme in 20 selected secondary schools in Kuala Lumpur.
- The ICRC maintained contact with the region's National Societies, significantly strengthening its cooperation with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the Japanese Red Cross.

## CONTEXT

At the end of October 2003, Dr Mahatir Mohammad retired as prime minister of Malaysia, a position he had held for 23 years, and was succeeded by Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, his former deputy prime minister.

A centre for counter-terrorism was established in Kuala Lumpur, committed to enhancing regional security. Malaysia and Brunei agreed to the establishment of a non-military forum of the ASEAN Security Community, joining Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia. The pact calls for coordination, dialogue and information exchange to combat terrorism, money-laundering, smuggling and piracy, and to ensure regional security and economic progress. Malaysia and Indonesia also pledged to cooperate in fighting illegal logging, smuggling and piracy on their common Borneo border, through continued joint training, patrols and intelligence-sharing.

Malaysia agreed to the Philippine government's request to deploy an advance monitoring team to Mindanao to determine if the situation merited continued deployment of multinational monitors.

Since the declaration of martial law in Aceh, Indonesia in May 2003, refugees from the troubled province continued to arrive in Malaysia in search of relief from continuous insecurity.

Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was re-elected for a second term and received the support of the Diet regarding the adoption of emergency laws in the event of a military attack. The decision to dispatch a self-defence force contingent to Iraq for reconstruction activities, in the absence of a UN resolution, met substantial opposition within Japanese society because of fears that Japan's pacifist constitution could be compromised.

As a full member of six-party talks on the North Korean nuclear weapons issue, Japan continued to contribute to international efforts to defuse a looming crisis in the region, as well as to address the unresolved issue of the fate of Japanese citizens abducted in the 1970s.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to encourage the inclusion of IHL in training of all national and multinational military forces, as well as in UN peace-keeping exercises in the region. As a result of ICRC training programmes for IHL instructors, development of training tools and provision of reference materials, the armed forces of Malaysia and Singapore were nearly autonomous in their IHL training.

Ratification and implementation of IHL treaties was encouraged in 2003, as the ICRC and its Advisory Service on IHL pursued dialogue with national authorities and developed contact with key ministries and members of parliament. In this context, the delegation hosted a regional expert seminar, bringing together representatives of governments, National Societies and academic circles from over 20 countries in Asia and the Pacific. Participants shared experiences and ideas on ensuring better respect for and implementation of IHL.

ICRC representatives also participated during the year as speakers and facilitators in a series of conferences and workshops organized within the region on the International Criminal Court (ICC) and international justice.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with the Ministry of Education of Malaysia towards an expansion of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme in the school system. At university level, the delegation continued to advocate the inclusion of IHL as a required element of the law curricula of leading institutions. Increased academic interest in IHL was nurtured by inviting professors to regional and international IHL events.

Contact with the media in Malaysia was strengthened and interest in humanitarian issues increased, particularly relating to the war in Iraq. The regional experts' seminar on IHL and the ICRC's participation in the NAM and OIC summits also received good coverage.

The ICRC maintained its material and training support to strengthen the region's National Societies, specifically regarding their capacity to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The ICRC established contact, through Red Cross messages (RCM), between a Malaysian student detained in Iraq and his family in Malaysia. The delegation also continued to provide its RCM service for people deprived

of their freedom, in particular in Myanmar, Iraq, Afghanistan, and their relatives residing in Malaysia. A growing number of travel documents were issued for asylum seekers awaiting resettlement in a third country by the UNHCR.

### IHL communication support centre

During the year an IHL communication support centre was established in Kuala Lumpur for the purpose of setting up an effective framework for regional communication activities and to provide support for the ICRC delegations in Southeast and Eastern Asia and the Pacific. Through this initiative the ICRC intends to improve awareness of national and international humanitarian concerns and enhance cooperation between the different countries and regional organizations.

## AUTHORITIES

### Malaysia

The Kuala Lumpur delegation conducted a series of meetings throughout the year with various agencies on the issues of IHL implementation in national legislation, acceding to remaining IHL treaties, and support for ICRC and Movement activities and mandate. These agencies included the Attorney General's Chambers, the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations, the Malaysian Red Crescent Society and the Human Rights Commission.

In June, the ICRC organized a regional expert meeting on the means and methods, at the international and national levels, of ensuring respect for IHL; attendees included representatives and specialists from all over Asia and the Pacific region.

In August, the ICRC submitted recommendations for action to the National Society regarding misuse of the emblem by a Malaysian NGO operating in Malaysia and abroad. The Society addressed this issue with the NGO.

At the end of the year delegates participated in the first national Malaysian workshop on the ICC, where they made a presentation and served as resource persons. The ICRC was involved in a number of meetings with the Malaysian Red Crescent regarding key IHL activities, including the translation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols into Bahasa Malaysia and the preparation of posters for the OIC exhibition.

### Japan

A number of missions to Japan took place, concerning cooperation between the Japanese authorities and the ICRC. Meetings dealt particularly with IHL issues, including Japan's accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols and the preparation of Geneva Conventions implementing legislation in the framework of emergency legislation. Additional discussions were held with the foreign ministry on the process of Japan's accession to the 1998 Rome Statute of the ICC and on various weapon-related issues. The delegates also participated in a meeting of the Japanese Red Cross IHL committee.

An ICRC legal adviser participated in the International Symposium of the Japanese Society of International Law organized at the University of Nagoya. The programme entitled *Asian Perspectives on International Law in the 21st Century*, provided summary documentation to the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and universities.

### Brunei Darussalam

The State of Brunei is party to several important IHL treaties. The ICRC provided legal support and advice on the drafting of a Brunei Geneva Conventions' Order, for submission to the Attorney General.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Malaysia

In August, an IHL dissemination session on the law of war for naval operations and planning personnel was conducted for 30 officers of the Royal Malaysian Navy. Later in the year a detailed presentation on IHL, civilian-military cooperation and ICRC activities was conducted at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Training Centre in Port Dickson.

The Joint Warfare Centre of the Malaysian armed forces, in cooperation with the ICRC, organized two IHL seminars in Ampang (in March and October). The seminars gathered 60 Malaysian armed forces officers and three foreign military officers from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia and Fiji. Six guest lecturers from the Malaysian armed forces made presentations, as did speakers from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society, UNHCR and Malaysian Civil Defence.

In October, at the invitation of the Malaysian Staff College, the ICRC gave lectures on its mandate for 149 high-ranking officers representing 26 countries, as well as one officer from the Royal Malaysian Police.

Visits were made to the Kuala Lumpur chief of police and the senior superintendent for the Brickfields District, to introduce the ICRC and its personnel to the police.

### Singapore

The ICRC conducted a three-day IHL seminar in February for 20 senior instructors at the newly created Singapore Training and Doctrine Command Centre. In August, a dissemination session was conducted during staff training for 95 officers of the Command and Staff College, focusing on civilian-military cooperation. The resulting positive feedback served to strengthen contact with the Command and Staff College and the Training Centre.

### Japan

During a mission to Tokyo, contact was made with several representatives of the Japanese Self-Defence Agency, including the director of the Education Division. The ICRC later held a meeting with the Japanese defence attaché to Kuala Lumpur to discuss the delegation's future programmes and plans of action for 2004.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

On the occasion of the OIC Summit in October, which was attended by the ICRC president, and the presentation of the ICRC's report on its operations in OIC member States, the delegation had a joint stand with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society at the OIC exhibition. Hundreds of OIC visitors collected information regarding the ICRC and its dissemination activities, and at least two television stations reported on the ICRC's presence. Five articles were also published in the main print media and on-line press.

New contacts were established with the Malaysian media in order to raise their interest in humanitarian issues worldwide. The ICRC's operations in Iraq were widely covered, in particular when there was a link with Malaysia, such as Malaysian drivers working for the ICRC or the ICRC following up a Malaysian citizen detained by the coalition forces. Other topics that attracted media interest included the situation of women in armed conflict and the promotion of IHL in the region.

In August the ICRC had a meeting with the head of the international law department at the International Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur. Discussions centred on the outlook for ICRC cooperation with the Islamic University and Malaysian academic circles,

support for the ICRC in Malaysia and IHL dissemination.

The ICRC made a preliminary assessment visit to the Institute of Diplomacy and International Relations in Kuala Lumpur. The Institute expressed strong interest in establishing cooperation with the ICRC and proposed to include IHL and ICRC-related topics in its curriculum, as an initial step. Contact was also established with a political science lecturer in the department of international and strategic studies of the University of Malaya.

### "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL)

In Malaysia the EHL pilot programme was expanded for the second time, adding another 10 secondary schools to the 10 existing ones, and training 37 teachers and two National Society staff members. The Curriculum Development Centre (CDC) of the Ministry of Education closely monitored implementation. Visits were carried out to these schools, and relevant feedback and information was collected for assessment. Recommendations included a follow-up meeting to be held between the ICRC, CDC and the teachers involved, as well as the translation of the EHL module into Bahasa Malaysia. It was also suggested that a committee be formed to direct the development of EHL in Malaysia, in which the ICRC and the National Society would play advisory roles.

The National Societies of both Japan and Singapore expressed continued interest in the EHL programme, and discussions on translating the teaching modules were under way in Japan.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### Malaysia

Cooperation was strengthened with the Malaysian Red Crescent during 2003, through supportive planning and meetings held with the Society's new Secretary-General. The delegation also participated in the Malaysian Red Crescent's second IHL training course in the northern state of Kelantan in mid-September, and provided support for the event. The delegation still strove to improve coordination of IHL dissemination activities with the National Society.

During the OIC conference in October (see *Civilians*) the Malaysian Red Crescent actively participated in a public exhibition set up by the Kuala Lumpur delegation, by

being present throughout, giving cardiopulmonary resuscitation demonstrations and arranging blood pressure testing for visitors. This served to highlight the effective cooperation existing between the National Society and the ICRC, and to increase awareness of the ICRC's commitment to Malaysia and OIC countries.

### Japan

The Japanese Red Cross Society continued to work diligently to spread understanding of the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, as it had done for more than 125 years. In 2003, two IHL training seminars for volunteers took place and the National Society expressed its commitment to further strengthening its dissemination programme through close follow-up of trained volunteers.

As a result of recent changes in Japanese security and defence policies, the Japanese Red Cross increasingly played an advisory role vis-à-vis the authorities regarding implementation of IHL, in close cooperation with the ICRC.

### Brunei Darussalam

The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, which had continued to enhance its role within the Movement since being recognized by the ICRC in 1996, called on young people and the general public to join their newly formed non-uniformed group, known as the Volunteer Aid Detachment. This voluntary service, under the auspices of the National Society, is designed to help mobilize all citizens to take part in community-welfare activities.



ICRC regional delegation

# new delhi

The New Delhi regional delegation, set up in 1982, works through the armed forces, universities and the media to promote broader understanding and more effective implementation of IHL, and to encourage respect for humanitarian rules and principles in general. It also supports the development of the Indian Red Cross Society and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society. In addition, it visits people detained in relation to the situation prevailing in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, and in Bhutan.

## COVERING

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**2,620,771**

Assistance

**36,644**

Preventive action

**1,508,496**

Cooperation with National Societies

**751,899**

General

**0**

► **4,917,810**

of which: Overheads **300,148**

## PERSONNEL

**17** expatriates

**72** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued to visit detainees held in connection with the prevailing situation in Jammu and Kashmir while keeping up efforts to broaden and enhance the impact of its visits.
- The ICRC assisted the Bhutanese army in its efforts to introduce IHL into military training courses. When an offensive was launched to drive armed opposition groups from north-eastern India off Bhutanese territory, the ICRC offered its services to assess the humanitarian consequences.
- Joint ICRC/Indian Red Cross mine-awareness activities were set up in Rajasthan and Punjab, while the ICRC assessed rehabilitation services for the disabled in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The introduction of IHL into military training progressed well in Bangladesh and a much wider range of presentations was made to Indian armed and security forces than in 2002, when mobilization of the army had led to the cancellation of a number of such events.

## CONTEXT

In 2003 India strengthened its status as an emerging major power, broadening its economic, military and political ties both in South Asia and worldwide. Although its economy enjoyed steady growth, the country was still grappling with serious social and environmental problems.

India and Pakistan gradually restored transport and diplomatic ties over the year. Relations between them significantly improved after November 2003, when India accepted Pakistan's ceasefire proposal.

The political, diplomatic and military thaw did not, however, have immediate effect on the armed struggle between government forces and armed opposition groups active in Jammu and Kashmir. Although the new state government in Jammu and Kashmir made some goodwill gestures, attacks, clashes and bombings continued.

Violence such as clashes with security forces and assassinations continued in the north-eastern states (Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, and Manipur). The union government continued its talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (Isak-Muivah group) and the Bodo Liberation Tigers. In Assam, government forces pursued military operations against the United Liberation Front of Assam and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland. Some of the militant groups in the north-east conducted cross-border activities from bases in neighbouring countries.

In December, 2003 the Royal Bhutan Army launched an offensive against insurgents from north-eastern India.

The Lhotsampa refugees (some 100,000 people who had left Bhutan following disturbances there in the early nineties) remained in camps in Nepal. Under mounting international pressure to resolve the issue, Nepal and Bhutan pursued talks about their repatriation.

Boycotts, street protests, strikes and political violence continued to dominate the political scene in Bangladesh. Sporadic acts of violence erupted once again in the Chittagong Hill Tracts despite the peace accord signed in 1997.

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC operations conducted from New Delhi focused on Jammu and Kashmir, where visits to detainees continued as they had since 1995. Other activities in areas affected by violence were carried out in close cooperation with the Indian Red Cross Society; these included setting up and strengthening first-aid services, assisting internally displaced people and initiating activities to help residents of border areas cope with the problem of mines and other unexploded ordnance. When Bhutanese forces launched their offensive at the end of the year, the ICRC formally offered the country's authorities its services to assess the humanitarian consequences of the operation.

The ICRC maintained its extensive activities to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) in India and throughout South Asia. These gained momentum in Bhutan, where ICRC specialists worked with the army and government officials to highlight the relevance of IHL.

## CIVILIANS

### Assisting internally displaced people

Together with the Indian Red Cross, the ICRC provided material assistance and supervised ad hoc distributions of blankets and clothing to people displaced by shelling and other violence in Kashmir.

- ▶ over 5,000 internally displaced people were assisted

### Enabling refugees to travel

In close cooperation with embassies and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the ICRC continued to issue travel documents to refugees in India who did not have the papers required to go to countries that had offered them asylum. Most were from Afghanistan and Myanmar.

- ▶ 746 travel documents were issued

### Preventing mine injuries

While the army worked to clear areas that had been mined during its mobilization along the border with Pakistan, accidents continued to occur. The ICRC provided financial and technical support for Red Cross branches in Punjab and Rajasthan to help them start up mine-awareness activities in contaminated areas.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir

The ICRC maintained regular visits to detainees held in connection with the violence in Jammu and Kashmir, some of whom had been transferred to places of detention in other states. In 2003 these visits reached more out-of-state facilities than in the past. The ICRC also contacted families of released detainees, making sure they arrived home safely. The regional delegation continued to raise issues relating to detainees' treatment and living conditions with the authorities at state and central levels, and urged them to provide the ICRC with notification of all arrests and transfers. In November, it reiterated its request for access to additional places of detention in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ▶ 60 visits were carried out to 1,424 detainees (including 626 newly registered) in 24 places of detention; 300 release checks were done; and more than 130 RCMs were delivered to detainees

### Detainees in Bhutan

The ICRC continued to go twice a year to places of detention in Chamgang and Lodrai, where it visited people held under the National Security Act of 1992. In September 2003 the government extended the duration of its memorandum of understanding with the ICRC defining the terms of the organization's visits.

- ▶ 4 visits were carried out to 75 detainees (including 1 newly registered) in 2 places of detention; 74 RCMs were delivered to detainees

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Assessing rehabilitation services

In Jammu, a government medical centre provided surgical services for patients requiring amputations. Some 20% of these patients had been injured in connection with the violence. All amputees in the region had to travel to Srinagar to receive artificial limbs and rehabilitation until April 2003, when the Jammu and Kashmir Ministry of Health and the state Red Cross branch opened a prosthetic/orthotic department in the medical centre in Jammu. In December, the ICRC and the Indian Red Cross made an assessment of these services to see whether they needed further assistance.

In Bangladesh, the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) supported the BRAC artificial limb centre in Dhaka (see *SFD Annual Report*).

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC encouraged the Indian government to adhere to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. To enhance the protection afforded the emblem under India's Geneva Conventions Act, the regional delegation submitted a draft amendment for official approval; it also gave technical support to the Indian army for the production of IHL manuals. With a view to raising awareness of IHL and its relevance to national policy among government officials, the ICRC continued its presentations to civil service trainees at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration.

In Bangladesh, which had ratified most major IHL treaties, the ICRC stressed the need for legislation to enforce their provisions. It submitted a draft Geneva Conventions Act to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for approval and gave technical support to the government in drafting implementing legislation for the Ottawa Convention.

Bhutanese authorities showed a new interest in IHL as its relevance was brought into focus by preparations for the offensive against armed groups that had bases in Bhutan. Together with the ICRC, the government organized a seminar on IHL for representatives of the army, the police, judicial authorities and the ministries concerned.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military forces and IHL

In Bangladesh, the ICRC worked with the military to develop IHL curricula and guidelines, continued training IHL instructors, and organized seminars on the basic rules of IHL for army and navy officers.

In India, the ICRC resumed IHL training activities that had been postponed in 2002 when the army was mobilized along the border. The delegation concluded an agreement on the development of training in IHL for senior non-commissioned officers, and gave presentations at various army training establishments.

South Asian armed forces contribute a large number of troops to peace-keeping forces around the world. The ICRC took part in

an Indo-USA peace-keeping operations command-post exercise, which involved officers from countries in South Asia and beyond, and in workshops and exercises at the Bangladesh Institute for Peace Support Operations Training.

### **IHL and human rights education for police and security forces**

Police, security and paramilitary forces work alongside the regular Indian armed forces to combat armed opposition groups. In Jammu and Kashmir, these forces include the Border Security Force, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, the Central Reserve Police Force and the Jammu and Kashmir state police. The Assam Rifles operate in the north-east. The ICRC taught IHL and human rights law as part of the regular courses given at the central academies of these forces and gave less formal presentations to some of their operational personnel deployed in the field. It also completed Hindi translations of teaching materials for police personnel.

- 58 military IHL instructors were trained in Bangladesh
- 2,404 officers attended IHL presentations in India and 778 in Bangladesh
- 941 police and security force personnel were taught IHL in India

## **CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **University-level IHL studies**

Building on a decade of work to promote the incorporation of IHL into India's system of higher learning, the ICRC strove to maintain interest in and foster the growth of study and research in the field, and to broaden the network of experts on the subject. It continued to cooperate with universities and international organizations in holding seminars, competitions and other events, and worked with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) to promote IHL instruction within the country's vast and well-developed network of universities. More institutions of higher learning adopted the model IHL syllabi developed jointly by the ICRC and the AIU for courses in law and related disciplines, and the ICRC maintained the intensive teacher-training seminars that had, over the previous six years, helped provide universities with instructors qualified to teach the subject. The regional delegation also supported the development of IHL reference and teaching materials and sponsored activities or supplied materials to enhance

the study of IHL in Jammu and Kashmir and in north-eastern India. In Bangladesh, where this field was not as well developed, the regional delegation focused on getting IHL teaching firmly established as a discipline in the law department of Dhaka University.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- sponsored the Fifth South Asian Teaching Session on IHL, together with UNHCR and India University's National Law School; 26 participants from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka attended the event in Bangalore (Karnataka)
- organized, in cooperation with UNHCR and Utkal University's Centre for Women's Studies, a teacher-training programme on IHL and refugee law for 35 university instructors in Bhubaneswar (Orissa)
- held, in conjunction with the Indian Society of International Law, the third Henry Dunant moot court competition, involving students from 40 law schools around India
- gave lectures and provided teaching materials for the fifth year-long diploma course on IHL run by the Indian Society of International Law, which was attended by 80 postgraduate students
- supplied materials for the web-based distance-learning IHL programme offered by NALSAR University in Hyderabad
- helped set up a centre for IHL studies and research within the law department of Guwahati University (Assam) and sponsored seminars on IHL topics at several universities in Jammu and Kashmir
- organized a seminar on the use and misuse of the emblems for law and medical students at Jammu University
- gave IHL materials to university law departments in Bangladesh and provided technical and financial support for the publication of an IHL book in Bangla language

## **NATIONAL SOCIETIES**

### **Supporting National Society development**

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to support National Society development in South Asia, jointly funding and organizing meetings or workshops and providing technical advice. In a regional strategy to strengthen their legal basis

for independent action, the ICRC and the International Federation supported National Societies' efforts to review their statutes. In 2003 the Bangladesh Red Crescent pursued a review of its statutes begun in 2001, and the Indian Red Cross initiated a similar process.

### **Protecting the emblems**

The ICRC and the International Federation jointly supported National Society activities to promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including campaigns to protect the emblems. In India, a nationwide campaign that was already in its third year had succeeded in reducing emblem misuse in the areas covered; in 2003, these included Guwahati (Assam), Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) and Ahmedabad (Gujarat). The Bangladesh Red Crescent mobilized youth to support an emblem campaign around Dhaka and in three other cities. National Societies in the region worked with the ICRC to promote the adoption of national legislation protecting the emblems (see *Authorities*).

### **Responding to violence**

The ICRC and the Indian Red Cross worked jointly to provide assistance for victims of shelling and other violence, developing first-aid services in Jammu and Kashmir and in the north-east. When there was an upsurge of violence in Andhra Pradesh, the first-aid training programme was extended to cover four districts there. They also jointly set mine-awareness activities (see *Civilians*).

### **Family contacts**

The ICRC continued to help build the capacity of National Society tracing services in India and Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, these services enabled illegal immigrants awaiting repatriation to re-establish contact with their families.



# suva

Since the beginning of 2001, ICRC operations in the Pacific have been carried out by the Suva regional delegation. In all countries of the region, the ICRC works to encourage ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and supports National Society development, with particular focus on Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. It also visits people detained in connection with past violence in Fiji, as well as detainees in the Solomon Islands.

## COVERING

Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa, and autonomous States, territories and colonies of the Pacific

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**299,391**

Assistance

**50,454**

Preventive action

**1,182,116**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,057,488**

General

**32,719**

► **2,622,168**

of which: Overheads **160,039**

## PERSONNEL

**4** expatriates

**10** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC opened a mission in the Solomon Islands in August 2003.
- Delegates visited 201 detainees in Fiji and the Solomon Islands.
- Jointly with the Solomon Islands Red Cross, the ICRC assisted 3,000 IDPs.
- Contact was maintained with decision-making bodies of governments in the region regarding ratification of/ accession to IHL treaties.
- 9 courses on IHL and core norms of international human rights law were held for members of the armed forces, police and prison services throughout the region.
- The ICRC continued to promote the integration of conflict preparedness and response into the emergency-management concept of the region's National Societies, and signed cooperation agreements with the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea Red Cross Societies.

## CONTEXT

Maintaining law and order remained one of the major challenges faced by a number of Pacific Island States in 2003.

In July, the progressive collapse of law and order in the Solomon Islands prompted the government to request assistance from Australia, backed by the Pacific Islands Forum. The Australian government launched a joint operation carried out by its Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) comprising military and police personnel from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Tonga and Vanuatu. By year's end, the situation in the Solomon Islands had significantly improved. This intervention, planned to extend over 10 years, reflected Australia's increasingly active interest in regional stability, as did its increased support to the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG).

In PNG, a crisis erupted in the northern city of Madang after the forced eviction of some 12,000 squatters of Highland origin. In view of the transfer of government responsibilities to the Bougainville interim authorities, the UN requested that peace monitors remain until after the 2004 elections.

While the issue of constitutionality of the Fiji government's cabinet remained unresolved pending a decision by the Supreme Court, the country's economy, particularly the tourist sector, continued to recover in 2003.

Australia joined PNG, Indonesia and 20 other countries in endorsing the Anti-Corruption Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific. Set forth by the Asian Development

Bank Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the plan delineates principles and standards for anti-corruption policy reform for regional governments.

In Australia, public controversy over refugee and asylum seeker issues continued.

## ICRC ACTION

In order to cover potential humanitarian needs in conjunction with the RAMSI intervention, the ICRC opened a mission in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

In Fiji and the Solomon Islands, the ICRC's mandate, action and working criteria were fully respected and understood. In PNG, the organization's priority was to enhance acceptance of its own and the Movement's mandate, and facilitate an improved Red Cross response to potential needs of the population in the event of internal violence. In Australia and New Zealand, the ICRC continued its regular interaction with authorities, armed forces, universities, National Societies and the media on IHL-related matters.

The ICRC visited people detained in relation to current and past situations of violence, such as in the Solomon Islands and Fiji, and provided assistance to displaced individuals in the Solomon Islands. The delegation expanded knowledge of IHL and core norms of international human rights law among the armed and police forces, and provided them with training according to their needs. Relations with regional political organizations were also maintained.

In cooperation with the International Federation and other partners in the Movement, the ICRC worked to establish a consistent Movement approach in the Pacific and promoted knowledge of and respect for the Fundamental Principles among the National Societies of the most conflict-prone countries. The ICRC further helped to boost response capacities of National Societies in situations of violence.

## CIVILIANS

In the Solomon Islands, the ICRC had meetings regarding its mandate with the Honiara authorities, and starting in August, also with RAMSI representatives. The ICRC emphasized the responsibilities of the authorities in dealing with civilians in areas of conflict. The response of the authorities was both cooperative and positive.

The Solomon Islands Red Cross Society and the ICRC provided assistance to IDP camps in Titinge and Aruligho near Honiara, reaching 311 families in all.

On the Weather Coast, restoration of law and order enabled many internally displaced

people, towards the end of the year, to return to their homes which they had fled in late 2002/early 2003 when violence erupted among the local population. Some 190 families in Marasa and Veuru received assistance in the form of resettlement kits containing gardening tools, seeds, fishing equipment and tarpaulins to facilitate their return home.

In PNG, the ICRC worked to establish conditions for Red Cross access to civilians caught up in disturbances. Dialogue was also ongoing with the permanent UNHCR country representative in Port Moresby to address the state of affairs on the PNG/West Papua border and the issue of asylum seekers encamped near Vanimo.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In the course of repeated visits to detainees in the Solomon Islands the ICRC registered those held for security reasons. Detainees were given the opportunity to exchange Red Cross messages (RCMs) with their families, and assistance in the form of shoes, books, and writing materials was provided to Honiara Central and Gizo prisons.

In Fiji, visits were carried out to military detention facilities and civilian prisons where security detainees were held.

During the year the ICRC:

- conducted 15 visits to 9 detention facilities in Fiji and the Solomon Islands
- individually visited 201 detainees and newly registered 74 inmates in Fiji and the Solomon Islands
- financed the renovation of the Korovou (Suva) prison kitchen in early 2003
- supplied tools, seeds, clothing and leisure materials to detainees in the Solomon Islands
- handled 83 RCMs exchanged between inmates and their family members in the Solomon Islands

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained an open and constructive relationship with and access to regional government, justice and military departments. The delegation established a good working relationship with the RAMSI intervention force. Contact was also established with the provincial government of Bougainville, PNG.

During the year a number of meetings were held with governments in the Pacific regarding their accession to IHL treaties. The ICRC met with high-ranking officials of Nauru and the Marshall Islands, the only two remaining States in the world not yet bound by the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, to discuss their governments' accession to these instruments. As a result of this contact, the Marshall Islands announced their intention to accede to both in the near future.

Meetings were also held with the Solicitor General and military authorities of Fiji and PNG concerning the Additional Protocols, as well as the implementation of National Society legislation in Fiji.

At the Pacific Islands Law Officers' Meeting held in Melbourne, the ICRC gave a presentation on its activities and IHL issues in the region. The event provided an opportunity to discuss important issues, including ratification of IHL treaties, with officials of the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Australia, Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

## Australia

The ICRC met in June with Australian government officials in Canberra to discuss its regional activities, the situation in the Solomon Islands, and other issues of mutual concern. Later in August the head of the Suva delegation and the Secretary-General of the National Society visited the Australian departments of AusAID and Foreign Affairs and Trade to update officials on developments in the Solomon Islands.

The ICRC discussed with government officials Australia's possible signing of the Article 98 impunity agreement with the United States in relation to the International Criminal Court.

Throughout the year the ICRC presented its legal mandate, working procedures and activities to participants in the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law operations law course, attended by a number of military officers from the region (see *Armed forces*).

## New Zealand

ICRC representatives conducted a mission to Wellington to brief various government departments about ICRC activities in the region, especially the Solomon Islands, and other issues such as unexploded remnants of war.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The delegation trained police and prison officers in core norms of international human rights and humanitarian law in Fiji, PNG, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, in cooperation with the respective National Societies.

For the first time in the Pacific Region, the ICRC conducted a Joint Internal Security Operations Course for both police and military in Suva. Members of the Fiji Constabulary, Mobile Force and the army attended the four-day course directed by ICRC delegates to the armed and security forces based in Kuala Lumpur. The aim of the course was to bring together the main actors responsible for restoring law and order in time of internal disturbances and to emphasize their respective obligations in these situations.

The delegation participated in the second South West Pacific peace-keeping seminar held in Fiji. Regional senior police and military officers attended, representing Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Zealand, PNG, Samoa, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, as well as the United Nations.

### Military

The ICRC conducted two IHL courses for senior directorate and operations personnel of the PNG Defence Force, in association with an officer from the New Zealand Defence Forces. In addition, the ICRC sponsored the participation of a PNG defence force legal officer in the course in San Remo.

In Australia, the ICRC legal adviser presented the organization's role and mandate at a civil-military cooperation course for planners and field personnel, sponsored by the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law. The course was attended by representatives of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), police, AusAID, the Australian Red Cross (ARC), the UNHCR and NGOs, as well as a legal officer of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces whose participation was sponsored by the ICRC.

A meeting was also held with the Centre's executive and associate directors to discuss its activities and ways in which future interaction with the ICRC could benefit the region.

The ICRC gave a presentation on its role, mandate and activities and the National Society's dissemination activities during an ADF programming group meeting held at Victoria Barracks in Sydney. The event

focused on major ADF training activities and included training commanders from all services concerned.

In September, an ICRC presentation on IHL was made at the ARC Victorian division's train-the-trainer course, attended by some 20 ADF personnel and ARC staff.

### Police

The ICRC routinely briefed Fiji police force personnel prior to their departure for UN peace-keeping operations.

International human rights and humanitarian law dissemination sessions were conducted for the police and security forces in the Solomon Islands, and two sessions were held for the prison service with the support of ICRC-trained local instructors. One session was also conducted in Vanuatu, and two in PNG (Vanimo and Port Moresby).

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Academia

The ICRC initiated a project with the University of the South Pacific in Suva regarding a study entitled "Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Traditional Values" to be carried out over a two-year period.

Two seminars on the role of the ICRC and the support it provides to journalists on assignment were conducted for journalism students at the Divine Word University in Madang, PNG. The delegation also gave an IHL presentation at a seminar held on the occasion of the 54th anniversary of the Geneva Conventions at the law school of the University of Melbourne.

Law students from 13 Australian universities competed at the third ARC/ICRC IHL moot-court competition in Brisbane. The ICRC provided support with the IHL topic and judging, and gave a presentation on IHL, respect for the emblem and ICRC working procedures.

### Media

ICRC press releases concerning relevant activities and events were issued to local and regional media, which took particular interest in the development of ICRC/National Society activities in the Solomon Islands.

The ICRC distributed press releases and information to the media within Australia and New Zealand and participated in interviews concerning its mandate and regional and worldwide activities. The ICRC office in Sydney fielded requests for information

regarding the organization's activities in Iraq during the height of the war, as well as the issue of Australian citizens held in Guantanamo Bay.

### Others

In November, a joint ICRC/ARC seminar on the issue of people missing as a result of armed conflict was held in Sydney to raise awareness among the public and relevant government officials. Some 80 people attended, including ADF legal officers, representatives of diplomatic and foreign affairs departments, the federal police, the attorney general's office, community groups and NGOs.

A similar event took place in Auckland, organized in cooperation with the New Zealand Red Cross. Some 70 people, including representatives of the defence department, NGOs and community groups attended the event. Both seminars received widespread national media coverage.

Several presentations were given on the ICRC's mandate and the "Women facing war" study, for example at a workshop during the YWCA's International Summit held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Cooperation Agreements regarding ICRC support for dissemination activities were signed in the course of the year with the Solomon Islands and PNG Red Cross Societies.

The ICRC participated in the Red Cross Pacific Partnership Meeting hosted by the ARC in Brisbane and co-organized by the International Federation. In addition to Pacific Island National Societies, the American, Chinese, Japanese and South Korean Red Cross were represented. The meeting declared health care, emergency management and capacity building in the region priorities for the following three years.

To familiarize other Movement partners in the region with the "Safer Access Framework" (preparation of National Societies for action in situations of conflict), participants from the Solomon Islands, Fiji and Papua New Guinea National Societies were invited to attend a workshop held in Jakarta in October, which also included representatives from partner National Societies and the Federation.

### Solomon Islands

A *Red cross emblem and Fundamental Principles* pamphlet was produced for the Solomon Islands National Society. Scheduled for production in English and Pidgin, the pamphlet was intended to become the standard format for pamphlets for other Red Cross Societies in the region.

An ICRC economic security specialist was based in Honiara from August to December in order to assess IDPs' needs, assist them, and train National Society staff to perform these relief activities independently in the future.

A three-day course on basic knowledge of IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles was held for National Society staff and volunteers from both headquarters and branches.

A three-day workshop on the ICRC's "Safer Access Framework" was conducted in Honiara, attended by National Society staff, field officers and volunteers.

### PNG

The PNG Red Cross became more familiar with the integration of conflict preparedness and response procedures into the overall concept of emergency management. In April, the ICRC and the Federation co-hosted a national emergency management workshop for PNG Red Cross staff, branch officers and council members. Additionally, branch disseminators' workshops were conducted in conjunction with the National Society, in Morobe province.

### Fiji

At the invitation of the Fiji Red Cross Society, the ICRC presented the Movement's components, roles and responsibilities and the Fundamental Principles to individuals interested in Red Cross leadership positions.

### Australia

The ICRC participated in the ARC national IHL meeting held in Melbourne, attended by representatives of the Red Cross, various military and government departments and academics. In addition, the Suva delegation presented information about its peacetime activities and IHL at the ARC forum on international humanitarian law, attended by over 200 participants from the legal and academic community, National Societies and NGOs.

ICRC representatives took part in the ARC basic training course, attended by some 30 participants including the secretaries-general of the National Societies of the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

The ICRC and ARC planned to make training in Movement-related subjects for the ADF part of their activities. An ICRC delegate also attended the ARC national IHL committee meeting. The issues discussed included a model law for implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

### New Zealand

During a visit to the New Zealand Red Cross Society the delegation made a presentation to the Society's IHL committee and hosted a seminar on issues relating to the implementation of IHL. Delegates participated in the National Society's basic training course held in August for some 16 participants.



ICRC regional delegation  
 ICRC mission  
 ICRC office  
 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

# tashkent

The ICRC has had a regional delegation in Central Asia since 1992. Currently, its main aims are to visit detainees falling within its mandate; foster the teaching of IHL and humanitarian principles in armed forces' training programmes and civilian educational institutions; and support the National Societies of the region in their efforts to build capacity, boost their ability to help victims of violence and promote international humanitarian law.

## COVERING

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,901,191**

Assistance

**791,997**

Preventive action

**2,324,307**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,096,967**

General

**8,745**

► **6,123,208**

of which: Overheads **373,589**

## PERSONNEL

**14** expatriates

**37** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Visits to detainees in Uzbekistan reached more detainees and followed standard procedures that enabled the ICRC to get a comprehensive picture of conditions and treatment in prisons.
- The ICRC received authorization to start visiting detainees in Tajikistan, and continued visits in the Kyrgyz Republic.
- Secondary schools in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan used ICRC course books to teach the basic principles of IHL to hundreds of thousands of students; the regional delegation worked with local partners to ensure that these principles would continue to be taught independently of ICRC input.
- The Dushanbe prosthetic/orthotic centre remained the only facility providing rehabilitation services for amputees in Tajikistan; the ICRC continued its support for the centre, reducing its input as local partners increased theirs.
- The Kazakh Red Crescent Society was officially recognized by the ICRC Assembly in November, after national legislation had ended the use of the double emblem; it subsequently became a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- The government of Tajikistan signed a headquarters agreement with the ICRC in June 2003.

## CONTEXT

Overall, the Central Asian States remained politically stable in 2003. They worked through supra-regional fora such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to address common concerns including trade, the distribution of water and energy resources, and the sharp increase in narcotics trafficking. There were few signs of armed activity by Islamic opposition groups either in the Fergana valley or in other parts of Central Asia.

The governments of the region continued to monitor the activities of Islamic groups (particularly banned groups) and other opposition movements. In Turkmenistan, new measures further restricted travel abroad, and nationals who held Russian passports had either to relinquish them or leave the country. In Turkmenistan, dozens of suspects were reportedly arrested and accused of involvement in an attempt to assassinate the president at the end of 2002. Constitutional changes in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan helped consolidate presidential powers. The UN Special Rapporteur on Torture visited Uzbekistan in 2003 and made a number of recommendations.

## ICRC ACTION

After nearly a decade of preventive activities promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) through legislative measures, armed forces training, university and secondary school curricula and National Societies, the Tashkent regional delegation has gradually shifted its focus to activities that directly help those affected by past conflict or current security measures. Starting visits to detainees, taking over responsibility for ICRC programmes in Tajikistan (including the physical rehabilitation centre in Dushanbe) and stepping up support for internally displaced people (IDPs) and for mine action were the major developments accounting for this trend, which was accentuated in 2003 as visits to detainees in Uzbekistan were expanded.

As transport routes within Afghanistan reopened, the Tashkent regional delegation ended its support for ICRC operations there and dismantled its logistics set-up for northern Afghanistan. It also closed its office in Garm, Tajikistan.

## CIVILIANS

### Helping improve living conditions for IDPs

Attempts to secure the country's borders in 2000 and 2001 left some 3,400 people living in six specially built villages in the Surkhandarya region of Uzbekistan, where they had been relocated by the authorities. The ICRC worked with the Uzbek Red Crescent to monitor their living conditions. While urging the authorities to meet the

IDPs' needs, the ICRC and Uzbek Red Crescent provided relief to meet outstanding needs. Most of the villages had become self-sufficient by 2003, although one of them, Istiklol, still had serious housing and water shortages. During the year, the government repaired some houses and took other measures to resolve villagers' problems, but water supply remained a problem.

### Preventing mine injury

People continued to be injured by mines laid in 2000 around Uzbekistan's borders with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. With ICRC help, the National Societies of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan set up community-based mine-awareness programmes in affected areas, working with local residents to identify and address the particular needs of each area. As appropriate, meetings, billboards, puppet shows, exhibitions, contests, presentations and print and electronic media were used to raise awareness of the risks.

In 2003, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan continued the mine-risk education that it had begun the year before with financial and technical support from the ICRC. Conducted in close coordination with the government, the programme focused on the recently-mined border areas in Soughd province and Tursun Zade district, where contaminated areas included land commonly used for grazing, hunting and collecting wood as well as travel and trade routes over borders. They also covered the Rasht Valley, a sparsely populated area with mines left from the civil war. In an ICRC assessment of knowledge, attitudes and practice, inhabitants of the area attributed the fall in the rate of injuries to better awareness of mine risks.

In Kyrgyzstan, mines affected six villages surrounding the Sokh enclave in Batken, killing five people by the end of 2003. Starting early in 2003, the ICRC and the Kyrgyz Red Crescent trained volunteers in community-based mine action, and they, in turn, trained local teachers and village leaders. This was done in close coordination with the Ministry of Ecology and Emergency Situations, which collected mine data. Working with the communities concerned, the Red Crescent set up four safe play areas and three youth centres and assisted mine victims.

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Since beginning visits to detainees in Kyrgyzstan in 1999, and receiving permission to visit detainees in Uzbekistan in

2001, the regional delegation has gradually enlarged the scope of these activities, working with the authorities to agree on how visits should be carried out and which categories of detainees they should cover. In 2003 good progress was made, especially in Uzbekistan, where visits complied with the ICRC's standard procedures and were carried out around the country. Through the visits the ICRC gained a solid knowledge of the prison system and the conditions of detention, and submitted its findings and recommendations in a report to the central authorities. In Kyrgyzstan the ICRC continued regular visits and, for the first time in the region, obtained permission to visit detainees who had been sentenced to death. An ICRC medical specialist evaluated the health of detainees and the medical treatment available to them, focusing on the problem of tuberculosis. During its visits to places of detention, the ICRC assessed the treatment and conditions of detention not only of those visited individually, but of all inmates in the places visited, providing assistance as needed by a total detainee population of some 27,000 in Uzbekistan and over 9,000 in Kyrgyzstan.

In a visit to ICRC headquarters in Geneva in June, President Rakhmonov agreed to ICRC visits to detainees in Tajikistan. The regional delegation negotiated the conditions for the visits, and in December official go-ahead was received to start visiting colonies and interrogation centres. The ICRC also requested access to detainees in Turkmenistan.

#### Uzbekistan

- 515 detainees were visited individually in 28 places of detention; 64 RCMs were delivered to detainees

#### Kyrgyzstan

- 24 detainees were visited individually in 12 places of detention; 61 RCMs were delivered to detainees

### WOUNDED AND SICK

#### Tajikistan: prostheses/orthoses for the disabled

The Dushanbe Physical Rehabilitation Centre was the only facility providing artificial limbs and other devices needed by the approximately 3,000 physically disabled people living in Tajikistan. Run by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the centre had been closed for lack of resources until it was reopened in 1999 after the ICRC had renovated it. Support for the centre was delegated to the Canadian Red Cross, which provided

materials and staff training and covered some of the centre's costs. In mid-2003 the term of the project delegation was completed, and the ICRC took over this support. As most amputees were living in isolated rural areas and had difficulty in reaching the centre, the Tajikistan Red Crescent ran an outreach programme which identified those needing prostheses/orthoses, transported them to the centre, provided accommodation for them while they were treated, and followed them up after they returned home. In 2003 the centre increased its production of both prostheses and orthoses. As agreed, the government gradually took over more of the running costs, enabling the ICRC to scale back its input as part of its exit strategy.

- 306 prostheses(including 28 for mine victims)/191 orthoses were delivered
- 97 new patients were fitted with prostheses and 123 with orthoses
- 10 wheelchairs and 395 pairs of crutches were delivered

### AUTHORITIES

#### Sustaining the process of IHL implementation

The ICRC maintained contact with the region's authorities, encouraging accession to IHL treaties and their implementation in national legislation and providing technical assistance and training needed to carry out the process. By 2003 Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Kazakhstan had established national IHL committees. In October the ICRC organized a regional workshop on IHL implementation for 70 participants from ministries, universities and National Societies from all five countries covered. It continued to facilitate participation by representatives of the authorities in international and regional IHL-related events.

#### Developing laws to punish war crimes

To help develop legislation to punish war crimes, the ICRC completed analyses comparing the national legislation of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan with the requirements of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It supported the official translation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols into Kazakh and Uzbek.

#### Legal protection of the use of the emblem

With technical backing from the ICRC, the countries of Central Asia strengthened the legal protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems. In 2003, Uzbekistan passed a

new law on the emblem and Kazakhstan continued the process of adopting one. Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan took measures to encourage compliance with existing emblem laws.

### Accession to IHL treaties

Kyrgyzstan ratified the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, and Kazakhstan ratified the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, also depositing a declaration on the minimum age for voluntary recruitment, as stipulated in Article 3(2) of the Protocol.

### Mine action

Under the legal authority of the IHL committee, Tajikistan established a Mine Action Cell to coordinate mine action activities. This new body developed a national mine action plan putting the Red Crescent in charge of mine awareness.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC has helped train Central Asian military and security forces in IHL for nearly a decade. Its efforts to institutionalize this training have been complicated by the existence in each country of several armed forces, often under the responsibility of different ministries, and by the difficulties these forces had building up their own national training programmes after independence. With such programmes taking shape in recent years, the ICRC focused on the three main ministries in charge of armed forces in each country (Ministries of Defence, Interior, and Border Services), encouraging them to issue official orders to ensure that IHL is taught by the forces under their authority. By the end of 2003 four of the 15 key armed forces had such orders, and four more had less formal administrative directives.

While continuing to train IHL trainers, develop teaching materials and offer IHL courses in the individual countries covered, the ICRC took a regional approach to fostering IHL training. Its third annual regional IHL seminar for armed forces, held in Issyk Kul (Kyrgyzstan), brought together key ministries from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and participants outlined plans to integrate IHL training. Kazakhstan approached autonomy in delivering such training, and the other three countries made substantial progress in that direction. The ICRC helped set up six new IHL centres in key ministries, providing

them with reference and training materials. It also held a regional IHL/human rights law (HR) seminar for law enforcement officers in Tashkent in October and organized the first Al-Farabi Law of Armed Conflict competition for higher military schools Central Asia, held in Almaty in November 2003. The ICRC also held the first Central Asian Seminar for Law Enforcement Officers in Tashkent in October, attended by some 30 officers from the region.

- ▶ 271 officers attended ICRC IHL seminars
- ▶ 50 military IHL instructors were trained
- ▶ 8 officers attended the San Remo IHL Course
- ▶ 48 police/security force officers attended ICRC IHL/HR seminars
- ▶ 5 officers attended the Snegri police course (Moscow)

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Enhancing IHL teaching at university level

The study of public international law, including IHL, was centralized during the Soviet era and hence was taught only in Moscow. When independence left the Central Asian republics with a sudden need for expertise in the subject, their universities had no experience in teaching it. Having eagerly accepted the ICRC's technical and material support in developing IHL study and teaching, by the mid-nineties the Central Asian universities were offering courses in the subject. By 2003 IHL teaching had been integrated into national education standards in four of the countries covered, while the fifth, Kyrgyzstan, was considering including IHL programmes proposed by the ICRC as part of a broader revision of curricula. To enhance the quality of IHL study in Central Asia, the regional delegation continued to support events, produce materials in national languages and sponsor research and publications. Specifically, it:

- ▶ hosted the fourth annual Central Asian IHL moot court competition for some 60 students from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
- ▶ sent students from Central Asia to the Jean Pictet Competition on IHL in Greece, and to IHL seminars/courses in Bucharest, Warsaw, and Sion, Switzerland
- ▶ sent professors and education officials from Central Asia to a regional seminar on IHL implementation (see *Authorities*)

### Teaching humanitarian principles in secondary schools

In charge of strengthening national identities to unite multi-ethnic populations, post-independence secondary schools in Central Asia had few resources to develop new courses, design teaching materials, or revise curricula. In line with the concept applied in the Russian Federation and the southern Caucasus, the ICRC promoted teaching and discussion of the basic norms of IHL in the secondary schools of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. From the mid-nineties, the regional delegation worked with local scholars to develop course books tailored to each country's history and traditions and translated them into its major languages. It set up national networks for teacher training, and initiated countrywide contests for students (*Olympiads*). By 2003, course books had been published and were being used by over half a million secondary students each year. Over the year, the ICRC expanded the programme to pre-military training and military schools, and worked out an exit strategy to ensure that teaching of basic IHL concepts was institutionalized and would continue without outside support. To this end, it encouraged the authorities to anchor the study of IHL in official curricula and education standards. By the end of 2003 all three countries had taken important steps in this direction.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC worked closely with the National Society in Uzbekistan to improve the living conditions of IDPs, and with those of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to set up mine action programmes (see *Civilians*). It also gave financial and technical assistance to the National Societies of the region to help them restore family links, promote IHL, and strengthen their capacity to act in situations of tension or conflict. In addition, it helped fund National Society activities for young people, including youth centres in the Fergana valley and camps throughout the region.

The ICRC also worked with the International Federation to support the Central Asian National Societies' efforts to strengthen their management capacities and develop firmer bases for independent action.



Direct dialogue with all parties to the conflict remains at the heart of the ICRC's approach.

## DELEGATIONS

Colombia

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Buenos Aires

Caracas

Lima

Mexico City

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**7,811,712**

Assistance

**18,043,967**

Preventive action

**10,791,383**

Cooperation with National Societies

**3,569,038**

General

**312,272**

**40,528,371** of which: Overheads 2,472,247

⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC mission

In Latin America, vast economic and social problems such as poverty, increasing disparities in wealth, crime and migration translated into growing social discontent and violence, which threatened the political stability of a number of countries. Economic deprivation also continued to politicize ethnic divisions, as indigenous groups tended to be disproportionately disadvantaged. A prominent case in point in 2003 was Bolivia where a widespread revolt led predominantly by indigenous organizations toppled the country's president and his government in October.

In 2003 the full spectrum of ICRC activities – from promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) to protecting and assisting victims of armed conflict, internal strife and tension – therefore remained highly relevant in this region of the world.

Colombia's protracted armed conflict, rooted in the struggle for control of land and other economic resources, remained the only large-scale armed conflict on the continent. The ICRC operation in Colombia represented a major challenge for the organization in terms of both the resources required and the difficulty of carrying out neutral and impartial humanitarian activities in a context marked by a continuous high prevalence of IHL violations. The conflict deteriorated after the collapse of the peace process in February 2002, resulting in substantially increased need for humanitarian aid. The ICRC was prompted to expand its budget to provide emergency aid for recently displaced people, in cooperation with the National Society. In 2003, as a result of both the retreat of the guerrilla under military pressure and the ceasefire announced by the paramilitaries at the end of 2002, the number of newly displaced persons in Colombia declined sharply compared with the previous year.

The problem of persons remaining uprooted beyond the initial emergency phase and requiring help to integrate into society remained, however. The ICRC therefore continued to pool efforts with other organizations, particularly the relevant State agencies, to ensure a development-oriented approach to meeting the needs of internally displaced people.

The ICRC pursued its representations to all parties to the Colombian conflict to ensure that humanitarian work could be carried out unhindered, and promoted respect for the lives, dignity and property of civilians. It continued to provide access to basic health care for certain categories of victims,

including internally displaced people and residents of often remote conflict areas. Preventive health-care programmes for detainees were also implemented.

In Peru, the ICRC encouraged the authorities concerned to ensure adequate treatment of detainees in terms of health care, restoration of family links and general living conditions, and assisted them in this process. To address the issue of persons unaccounted for – one of the lingering consequences of past conflict – together with the Peruvian authorities, the ICRC organized a regional meeting in May that brought together representatives of 19 Latin American countries as well as organizations dealing with this issue. In line with agreements signed in 2002 with the defence and interior ministries, it formed core groups of IHL and human rights instructors for the armed forces and police, respectively, while promoting the permanent integration of the relevant international norms into procedures, manuals and training programmes. In June 2003, the Lima delegation became a regional delegation henceforth also covering Bolivia (and, since November, Ecuador).

The regional delegation in Mexico City continued to monitor potential situations of tension or internal strife and areas at risk of armed confrontation in the region. It pursued contact with the authorities concerned and representatives of civil society and worked closely with the armed forces and academic institutions to foster the permanent integration of IHL into teaching programmes and, especially, human rights standards into the procedures, manuals and training programmes of police forces. In the Mexican state of Chiapas, the ICRC continued, whenever possible, to substitute food relief programmes with more self-sustainable agricultural programmes and small-animal farming. Considering that the prevailing problems henceforth required a more specialized development-oriented approach, the organization announced that it would complete the process of phasing out its programmes by June 2004. In Panama's Darien region, the ICRC assisted some 800 Colombian refugees who were in a precarious situation, both in terms of their immediate needs and exposure to armed coercion. Some 100 of them were repatriated in 2003 with the assistance of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In Haiti, after handing over to the authorities full responsibility for meeting the basic needs of detainees in 2002, the ICRC continued to monitor prison conditions, paying special

attention to the detainees within its purview. In addition, it concentrated, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, on strengthening the capacities of the National Society so as to be prepared for any eventuality. In Cuba, the ICRC renewed its contact with the authorities regarding the issue of access to security detainees, while continuing to focus on specialized IHL training for the armed forces, academic audiences and the Union of Jurists.

The majority of Latin American countries offered a favourable environment for the ICRC's communication programmes and initiatives to promote IHL and its integration into national legislation, training of the armed forces and academic curricula.

The delegations in Buenos Aires and Caracas monitored the situation in the countries they covered and, while continuing to make representations with a view to promoting IHL, maintained contact with the authorities in areas where the potential for internal disturbances was greatest. In countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia and Argentina, as a priority the ICRC aimed to implement its programme to train police forces in international human rights standards and humanitarian principles pertinent to policing. By basing a delegate specialized in programmes for police and security forces in the region in 2003, the ICRC hoped to keep up the momentum. The Brasilia delegation closed at the end of 2002 after implementing the last phase of its programme for police forces in Brazil. Starting in 2003, Brazil came under the umbrella of the regional delegation in Buenos Aires. The ICRC nonetheless kept an office in Brasilia for various tasks related mainly to promoting IHL in Brazil and, especially, integrating human rights standards into the procedures and training of police forces.

A plan to base a delegate specialized in programmes for academic audiences in the region did not materialize until the second half of 2003. The task of devising the most effective strategies to assist delegations in Latin America in their endeavour to have IHL integrated into standard university curricula thus remained to be tackled the following year.

The education ministries of six countries formally committed themselves to integrating the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme into school curricula and took steps to initiate the process, with minimal financial involvement on the part of the ICRC.

Across the region, implementation of IHL maintained a strong momentum as States acceded to international humanitarian treaties and enacted legislation to make them effective at national level. The ICRC further consolidated its cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS) by signing a memorandum of understanding giving the ICRC observer status. The OAS general assembly adopted a strong resolution calling for respect for and promotion of IHL.

The ICRC continued, whenever possible together with the International Federation, to strengthen the organizational capacity of the region's National Societies. This was particularly important in countries experiencing, or likely to experience, armed conflict and situations of internal strife, such as Colombia, Bolivia, Haiti and Guatemala, where emergency preparedness, especially first-aid and ambulance transport capacity, needed to be enhanced.



# colombia

The ICRC has been working in Colombia since 1969. From its delegation in Bogotá and its 16 sub-delegations and offices elsewhere in the country, it works to secure greater compliance with IHL by all armed groups – particularly regarding the protection of non-combatants – and promotes the integration of IHL standards into the training and operations of the Colombian armed forces. The ICRC also visits security detainees, provides emergency relief to IDPs and other victims of the conflict, and implements medical programmes in conflict-affected and remote areas.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**5,125,238**

Assistance

**15,301,666**

Preventive action

**3,951,380**

Cooperation with National Societies

**694,329**

General

**33,908**

► **25,106,522**

of which: Overheads **1,532,220**

## PERSONNEL

**64** expatriates

**233** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC distributed aid to more than 110,000 IDPs and residents.
- The ICRC helped to improve the population's access to medical care by running mobile health units, accompanying local medical teams, and directing beneficiaries to the services provided by the national health system.
- Progress was made in integrating IHL into the doctrine, education and training programmes, military manuals and standing operating procedures of the Colombian armed forces.

## CONTEXT

Colombia's armed forces continued to step up their military offensive against the country's insurgent groups. While, on the one hand, progress was announced by the government and official media, on the other, certain analysts maintained that the main insurgent group, the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), had opted for a "tactical withdrawal", conducting small-scale, sporadic attacks in rural and urban settings. In the opinion of these analysts, it was uncertain whether the military balance had tilted in the long term. There seemed little chance of negotiations resuming between the government and either the FARC or the ELN (National Liberation Army), Colombia's second-largest guerrilla organization. In July, the FARC and the ELN announced a political and military alliance. President Alvaro Uribe's tough approach and security policy continued to win him high approval ratings.

Persistent armed violence continued to wreak havoc in the country during 2003, and included several bomb attacks. The situation remained tense along the Venezuelan border, with the Colombian government accusing Venezuela of allowing Colombian guerrilla groups to take refuge on its soil and of violating Colombian airspace in March. The Venezuelan authorities rejected both accusations.

In December 2002, the country's largest paramilitary group, the AUC (United Self-Defence Groups of Colombia) announced that they were suspending offensive operations. On 15 July 2003, the government and

AUC signed an agreement calling for peace negotiations aimed at full AUC disarmament by the end of 2005. Some viewed this as a positive sign; others feared it might create a precedent of impunity and even immunity for those who had committed horrendous crimes. Meanwhile, two other main paramilitary groups, the Bloque Central Bolívar (an AUC splinter group) and the Alianza de Oriente, were reportedly engaged in independent negotiations with the Colombian government.

## ICRC ACTION

Scores of civilians continued to suffer intimidation, summary execution, forced disappearance and hostage taking, prompting internal displacement throughout the country. Nevertheless, fewer people were displaced in 2003 than in 2002. The main reason was probably the AUC's suspension of offensive operations, but the strategic withdrawal of guerrilla groups also had an impact. The ICRC pursued its efforts to document abuses and alleged IHL violations, seeking to foster a change of attitude on the part of weapon bearers and adapting its approach as a result of experience acquired in the long-term, incremental process of improving protection for civilians.

The ICRC continued to respond rapidly to the most urgent needs of people displaced en masse in rural areas all over Colombia. In the 16 cities where it has permanent offices, it also continued to assist individual IDPs and families. The ICRC assisted new IDPs, providing them with food parcels, hygiene kits, blankets and other basic household items. It also provided emergency relief to returnees and residents in conflict areas. While the ICRC maintained its essential role of providing emergency assistance for victims of the conflict, hundreds of thousands of displaced people in urban areas remained in dire straits beyond the emergency phase (defined as the first three months following displacement). Their needs demanded a development-oriented approach – involving housing and education – on which there was still no government policy.

In 2003, with support from the National Red Cross Societies of Canada, Norway and Sweden, ICRC mobile health units covered the medical needs of civilians affected by the conflict in remote areas. Through small-scale projects to improve infrastructure, the ICRC, with the Norwegian Red Cross, supported community development, facilitated the coexistence of resident and displaced/resettled people and involved these groups in building, repairing or improving schools, water and sanitation facilities and health posts.

The ICRC also continued to visit places of detention, in order to monitor the way detainees were being treated and the conditions in which they were living, in particular as regards health.

The ICRC continued to promote awareness and implementation of IHL among the

national and regional authorities, armed and security forces, and academic circles.

In spite of the changing military situation, the ICRC was able to reach most people living in the zones hardest hit by armed violence and to provide them with emergency assistance and improved access to health. Some of these tasks were carried out in conjunction with the Colombian Red Cross (CRC). The ICRC continued efforts to help the National Society build up its conflict-response capacity. It also cooperated with the CRC to raise awareness of humanitarian principles and IHL.

## CIVILIANS

The armed conflict in Colombia continued, as did the climate of fear. Civilians were subjected to acts of terror, violence, intimidation, harassment, selective and summary executions, forced disappearances and forced displacements. The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment of civilians to ascertain whether they were respected and protected in accordance with the provisions of IHL. It maintained its efforts to collect allegations of IHL violations and made oral and written representations to the armed parties believed to be responsible. The delegation opened new cases of missing persons and continued to follow up those already documented.

The practice of recruiting children into the ranks of armed groups persisted and, as a priority, the ICRC continued to collect data on the phenomenon (notably the hardships to which youngsters in the ranks were subjected) to convince the armed actors concerned to stop recruiting minors. Delegates visited places under the authority of the Colombian Institute for Family Welfare which received youngsters who had either surrendered or had been captured. The visits served to monitor living conditions and aimed to restore contact between the children and their families.

### Emergency relief to IDPs

IDPs continued to be the main recipients of ICRC aid. The ICRC, assisted by the CRC, distributed aid to new IDPs, both those displaced individually and en masse. Emergency food parcels were adapted to local norms and contained rice, beans/lentils, vegetable oil, sugar, coffee, powdered chocolate and salt/vegetable stock cubes. Hygiene parcels, bedding material, dishes and cooking utensils were also provided according to individual needs.

The ICRC provided emergency relief for three months to people displaced en masse throughout the country and to individually displaced people in cities where it had a structure. In areas where the ICRC had no structure, the Social Solidarity Network (RSS), the State body responsible for providing assistance to IDPs, distributed emergency aid to the individually displaced. Longer-term assistance, such as housing, access to health care and education, remained lacking in most areas of the country. With the technical support of the ICRC, the RSS opened four new reception centres (Unidades de Atención y Orientación) offering comprehensive guidance for displaced people with the aim of centralizing the various State assistance programmes.

### Economic security for residents and resettled people

For residents, the ICRC completed some small-scale projects to improve infrastructure and launched new ones. These projects involved repairing, upgrading or constructing schools, youth and community centres, water and sanitation facilities and health posts. In some areas that had been affected by the conflict, the ICRC provided residents with emergency aid. They received food and hygiene parcels, cooking sets, dishes and bedding material.

The ICRC also launched or completed similar projects for resettled people to facilitate the coexistence of residents and displaced/resettled people.

### Protecting the population

- ▶ 1,503 allegations of IHL violations were collected
- ▶ 950 oral and written representations were made to the armed parties allegedly responsible
- ▶ 615 new cases of missing persons were opened
- ▶ 26 demobilized child soldiers were newly registered (153 cases on record altogether)

### Improving living conditions

- ▶ 106,600 IDPs received emergency food parcels
- ▶ 2,600 residents received emergency aid
- ▶ 850 resettled people received food and essential household items
- ▶ 27 small-scale projects to repair infrastructure were launched for 25,000 residents and people who had resettled, and 28 others were completed for 23,000 residents and resettled people

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The delegation visited places of temporary and permanent detention in order to verify conditions of detention and the treatment of those being held. The ICRC was still unable to visit detainees held by the armed opposition organizations.

Owing to the lack of government funds, there was still a need for medical assistance in places of detention. The ICRC supported the development of health projects for detainees, which provide health education and contribute to disease prevention. Projects included the early detection of breast cancer in women's prisons, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases in men's and women's prisons, and HIV testing.

Furthermore, the ICRC continued to support the institutional development of the prison authorities' health department by providing them with a model of prison health-service management and, in conjunction with the medical faculty of Pereira Technical University, running a 250-hour diploma course on primary health care for 500 detainees from 14 prisons.

The ICRC provided individual medical care for detainees, the majority of whom received care through health brigades, which performed basic surgery and ophthalmic treatment.

- 5,487 detainees were visited and monitored individually (including 3,876 newly registered, 379 women and 87 minors) in 133 places of detention
- 5,112 detainees received ICRC-funded family visits
- 630 RCMs were delivered
- 1,705 people received individual medical care
- 26,807 detainees in 21 prisons benefited from collective health programmes

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The medical response capacity, often weakened by the absence of public health services, remained limited in conflict areas. Owing to the security situation, health facilities continued to be abandoned by local health authorities, and civilians had difficulty gaining access to basic health-care services. Improving access to health services for populations living in conflict-affected rural areas, for IDPs and war-wounded individu-

als remained an ICRC priority. To achieve this, the ICRC ran mobile health units; accompanied local medical teams in order to ensure their protection and therefore allow them to run health brigades; and directed beneficiaries to the services provided by the national health system.

The ICRC's four mobile health units in Colombia were run as delegated projects financed by the Red Cross Societies of Norway (2), Canada and Sweden. They provided preventive and curative services, including dental care, carried out vaccination campaigns and gave technical advice to communities on hygiene, the construction of latrines, rainwater collection or water treatment. During the year, the units gave medical and dental consultations and performed health-promotion and disease-prevention activities in various fields such as family planning, maternal and child health, oral health, sexually transmitted diseases or the early detection of cervico-vaginal cancer. Additionally vaccinations were given to children under five and women of childbearing age. In parallel, civilians benefited from education sessions on health and water and sanitation.

In some conflict-affected areas where the medical mission was put under pressure or threatened by armed groups, the ICRC also accompanied Ministry of Health brigades whenever feasible. Through its presence, the ICRC aimed to ensure better protection for the medical staff and thereby contribute to the uninterrupted delivery of medical services to remote and conflict-affected areas, as well as to the re-establishment of national health system services there. During the year, the ICRC accompanied Colombian health teams on 11 occasions.

Although, theoretically, all populations such as residents of conflict-affected areas, the displaced or the war-wounded had access to secondary or higher-level medical services, in practice, this was not the case. Many people were unaware of their rights, encountered administrative difficulties when registering as beneficiaries, and were sometimes refused free services despite being entitled to them by law. Additionally, the health-insurance system did not cover all the medical costs incurred by specialized care. As well as directing individuals to the national health system, the ICRC itself provided direct economic support to fill the gaps in the health-insurance system, covering costs such as transport, housing, food, medicines, surgery and physical rehabilitation.

### Mobile health units gave:

- 16,895 medical and dental consultations
- 1,200 health-promotion and disease-prevention education sessions for 12,000 people
- 650 education sessions on water and sanitation themes for 4,000 people
- 8,590 doses of vaccine to 5,436 children under 5 and women of childbearing age

### Accompanied by the ICRC, Ministry of Health brigades gave:

- 3,023 medical and dental consultations
- health-promotion and disease-prevention sessions for 4,250 people
- 2,854 doses of vaccine to children under 5 and women of childbearing age

### Financial support for specialized medical care was given to:

- 398 IDPs
- 621 civilian war-wounded
- 368 residents of conflict-affected areas

## AUTHORITIES

The study group set up to work on Colombia's adoption of the Second Protocol additional to the 1954 Hague Convention (on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict) met several times during the year and submitted its recommendations to the senate. Another study group set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs met several times to consider Colombia's adoption of amended Article 1 of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. The ministry then began to consult with the other ministries concerned.

Other projects in the pipeline included national legislation on the 2000 Second Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and on the red cross and red crescent emblems. By the end of 2003, the latter was with the senate for consideration.

- basic IHL dissemination sessions, seminars and workshops were held for over 716 members of the Offices of the Ombudsman and the Offices of the Attorney General and officials from the public ministry
- the ICRC gave training sessions on IHL to consultants from the Office of the High Commissioner for Peace
- representatives of Colombia participated in the regional meeting of national IHL committees in Guatemala in August (see *Mexico City regional delegation*)

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### The armed forces and IHL

In April, the General Command of the Colombian armed forces issued an official directive on the integration of IHL into their training, standing operating procedures and relevant military matters. The armed forces decided to create groups of mobile trainers in order to ensure continuity in IHL instruction within the forces. They conducted a train-the-trainer course in May. The air force began integrating IHL into the curricula of its training schools starting with training courses for officers and NCOs.

The Advanced School of War gave 20 instructors the task of leading the integration of IHL teaching into the Command and General Staff course. To do this the ICRC helped them organize seminars. Their manuals were also being updated to include IHL.

### Good policing skills

Train-the-trainer activities got off the ground in the second half of the year, with a view to promoting the integration of human rights law and humanitarian principles into police training and operations. The ICRC, sometimes in conjunction with the National Society, organized training seminars for police instructors.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- ▶ held 118 operational dissemination sessions for over 7,400 officers and NCOs from the armed forces
- ▶ trained 137 police instructors
- ▶ held 47 operational dissemination sessions for over 2,200 police officers
- ▶ held 4 courses on basic humanitarian principles and 36 operational dissemination sessions for more than 750 members of guerilla and paramilitary groups. First-aid instruction was included in some of the sessions. (Maintaining this dialogue with all the conflicting parties not only spread understanding of IHL, but also facilitated access to victims and brought greater security for ICRC personnel in the field)

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Promoting IHL in the private sector

The private sector carried considerable weight in the country's social, economic and political spheres. During 2003, the

ICRC and the CRC provided training in IHL and human rights law for a group of staff members from the multinational petroleum company Occidental de Colombia Inc.

### IHL and future decision-makers

The ICRC continued to stress the importance of integrating IHL and humanitarian issues into university courses on a permanent basis with the aim of raising awareness among intellectuals and future generations of Colombian decision-makers of their responsibility to ensure that the principles of IHL were respected and implemented.

The Institute of Criminology of the University of Santiago de Cali began to integrate IHL into its curriculum and is expected to serve as a focal point for other universities doing the same.

In addition to those establishments already teaching IHL, the *Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga* incorporated IHL into the law-faculty curriculum and the *Universidad Autónoma de Occidente* in Cali was in the process of integrating IHL into the humanities faculty. Furthermore, the Pontificia Javeriana University offered an optional course on IHL.

In December the ICRC brought together representatives of nine universities in Bogotá. The participants presented their respective activities in the field of IHL and the ICRC explained its strategy for promoting the integration of IHL into university curricula.

### IHL awareness among the general public

In parallel with the regular work with the media, the ICRC produced four programmes on its activities for victims of armed conflict, in conjunction with one of Colombia's biggest TV channels.

The ICRC launched a course in mid-March for 38 journalists from the main media in the country. By the time the course had ended in July, the journalists had attended 55 hours of lectures. Other sessions and seminars on IHL and ICRC activities were held for over 200 journalists.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross signed tripartite security and coordination agreements with the American, French, Netherlands and Spanish Red Cross Societies. Regular security-committee

meetings were held between the ICRC, the CRC and the partner National Societies working in Colombia in order to ensure coordination in operations and the implementation of security measures.

In addition to the demands resulting from natural disasters, the deterioration of the armed conflict – resulting in yet a greater need for humanitarian assistance – posed a challenge to the response capacity of the CRC. The ICRC held eight security workshops at departmental level, where 179 CRC volunteers and staff were trained in security rules and procedures through role-play.

Regarding dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, with the support of the ICRC, the CRC continued its efforts to train staff as instructors.

At university level, the ICRC sponsored the participation of five CRC disseminators in postgraduate studies in IHL and human rights law.

### “Exploring Humanitarian Law”

In order to assess the acceptability of the ICRC's “Exploring Humanitarian Law” programme in a conflict situation, the school-based programme was tested among the Red Cross youth by the CRC, before being proposed to the national education authorities for implementation in the formal education sector. Eight local training workshops were organized for 40 youth leaders who then carried out education sessions for 300 young volunteers.

### Mine action

As part of a mine-awareness needs assessment, Red Cross youth groups from three branches visited municipalities most affected by mine accidents. They interviewed families and held lessons for children. The National Youth Director received training in management of the mine-awareness project through an international ICRC course held in Sri Lanka.



# buenos aires

The ICRC regional delegation in Buenos Aires was established in 1975 to cover Latin America's Southern Cone. Since January 2003, it has also been covering Brazil. This regional delegation focuses on promoting the integration of IHL into national legislation and into the operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of armed forces and the curricula of academic institutions. It also promotes the inclusion of human rights standards in police manuals and training programmes. In addition, it spreads knowledge of IHL among authorities, schools, media and the public. Finally, the regional delegation helps to develop the operational capacity of the region's National Societies and assists them in their humanitarian work.

## COVERING

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**156,207**

Assistance

**3,895**

Preventive action

**1,403,596**

Cooperation with National Societies

**512,727**

General

**125,977**

► **2,202,402**

of which: Overheads **134,419**

## PERSONNEL

**2** expatriates

**19** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Brazil's senate and Chile's parliament adopted the 2000 Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Chile approved the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
- Brazil created a national committee for the implementation of IHL.
- More army and police instructors were trained to teach IHL.
- More than 90 universities in the region were teaching IHL.
- 15,000 schoolchildren attended regular classes using the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme.

## CONTEXT

The year was marked by new governments in several of the region's countries. In Argentina, President Nestor Kirchner transformed a weak electoral mandate into widespread popular support and took bold measures to revamp the country's discredited institutions. He announced shake-ups of bodies such as the armed forces, the police and the Supreme Court, and supported the reopening of investigations into human rights abuses committed during the 1976-1983 military dictatorship. The new government also declared that meeting Argentina's social needs was a higher priority than meeting foreign debt obligations and hence draining its foreign-exchange reserves.

A new government took office in Brazil on 1 January. Public opinion was highly favourable towards President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva during his first months in office, mainly owing to the state of the economy. He took measures to control inflation and cut the budget deficit, and introduced welfare, tax and political reforms. Other significant events in Brazil included demonstrations by the landless poor demanding land reform, and the launch of a vast national plan to counter hunger.

On 27 April, Nicanor Duarte Frutos was elected president of Paraguay, thus extending his Colorado Party's 56-year grip on the presidency for five more years. Duarte faced the task of stabilizing a country deeply affected by political and economic upheaval; more than a third of the country's 5.6 million people live in poverty. The president

announced that his government would take control of the tax, port and customs authorities to crack down on tax evasion and smuggling.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to promote the implementation of IHL at national level. Uruguay took measures to implement the 1998 Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and by the end of the year four out of five countries in the region had taken steps to implement the 2000 Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. As ever, the ICRC was available to assist countries in adopting national measures to implement IHL.

The growing risk of violence related to social and economic crises prompted the ICRC to emphasize to the region's police forces the importance of integrating pertinent norms of human rights law into their training and operations.

As part of its efforts to spread knowledge of IHL among the public, the ICRC conducted journalism competitions and similar activities for communication students, and offered an interactive web-based course for journalists.

Other priorities included working towards integration of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme in school curricula. This programme, aimed at young people of secondary-school age, was formally launched in Chile in 2001 and in Uruguay in 2002. The implementation process continued throughout the region. By mid-year, some 15,000 students were attending "Exploring Humanitarian Law" courses in the classroom and 78,200 more were reached through associated activities. In addition, by the end of the year, over 90 universities in five of the region's countries had courses on IHL in their curricula.

The ICRC continued to work closely with the region's National Societies on dissemination, communication, emergency preparedness, general capacity-building and coordination. All components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worked together to improve their ability to respond to needs arising from internal disturbances.

In June, the Buenos Aires regional delegation handed over responsibility for ICRC activities in Bolivia to the Lima regional delegation.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Contacts were maintained with the prison authorities in Chile and Paraguay. The ICRC continued to visit detainees in these countries to monitor whether their living conditions and treatment were in accordance with internationally recognized humanitarian standards, and made representations where necessary. In Chile, the ICRC visited 38 detainees in four places of detention; in Paraguay, it visited eight detainees in a single detention facility.

- 46 detainees were visited and monitored individually (including 4 newly registered and 2 women) in 5 places of detention

## AUTHORITIES

In Argentina, a new bill on the protection of the red cross emblem was tabled in parliament with the support of the IHL committee and a number of parliamentarians. The ICRC provided substantial technical support in the drawing up of the bill as part of follow-up to the international IHL seminar organized by the ICRC for Argentina's congress in October 2002. The ICRC remained in contact with the Argentine authorities and supported them in their efforts to create a national committee for the implementation of IHL. At the end of the year, a decree was with the foreign affairs ministry for approval.

The ICRC continued to attend meetings of the region's national IHL committees and provide them with advice and technical support. In October, Chile gave final approval to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols, which was the fruit of several years' effort by the delegation and the committee. During a meeting with Chile's foreign minister on 30 May, the ICRC was informed that the parliament had endorsed the 2000 Optional Protocol to the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and that ratification would follow soon.

Further progress was seen on 29 May when Brazil's senate also adopted the Optional Protocol. Ratification was set to follow. In addition, the ICRC continued to meet with senior government officials concerning implementation of IHL treaties, and with representatives of indigenous groups.

In Uruguay, the ICRC held discussions with the head of the IHL committee on draft legislation to implement the ICC Statute.

Implementation of the Ottawa Convention continued to move forward in the region. Chile went on destroying its stockpile of anti-personnel mines, which were scattered throughout the country. The ICRC monitored the destruction of mines and gave several interviews on issues relating to mines and other weapons. Argentina also continued to destroy its stockpiles and had rid itself of all anti-personnel mines by December.

In Brazil, meetings were held with the foreign ministry to discuss the creation of an inter-ministerial IHL committee. The ICRC then provided technical assistance during the planning stages, and on 27 November a national IHL committee was formed by presidential decree. The ICRC was given observer status. At a meeting on the war in Iraq organized by Brazil's Secretary of State for Human Rights, the ICRC presented its activities and explained its efforts to teach and promote IHL.

In Paraguay, the ICRC met with the new authorities following the election of President Nicanor Duarte Frutos in April.

- the ICRC attended the 13th General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Chile in June
- experts from Argentina and Brazil took part in the regional IHL seminar in Mexico in July
- representatives from the region took part in the regional IHL seminar held in Guatemala in August (see *Mexico City regional delegation*)
- in Brazil, the ICRC attended the 8th national conference on human rights and formed part of the working group on education and human rights

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### The armed forces and IHL

The ICRC pursued contacts with the Brazilian armed forces, especially with regard to IHL training. The organization visited Timor-Leste to assess the training given to the Brazilian army's contingent in UN peace-keeping missions. It held a course for the contingent on topics such as IHL, human rights law and ethics, and the use of force.

The ICRC met with Uruguay's defence ministry and representatives of other government bodies to discuss integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and practice.

### Good policing

The ICRC met with Brazil's National Secretary for Public Security to discuss ICRC activities in connection with police programmes. In May, the Sao Paulo state military police invited the ICRC to participate in the Latin American forum for community police services and human rights. The ICRC presented its activities – especially those aiming to spread knowledge of humanitarian principles and pertinent norms of human rights among police personnel – to an audience of 400.

The ICRC held discussions with Argentina's federal police on launching a pilot project for training police forces. The officer in charge of training attended a police train-the-trainer course in Sao Paulo.

For the fifth year running the ICRC helped to teach IHL to those attending Brazil's Air Force Officer's School. Every year, two classes of around 100 captains each take the course. Several topics relating to IHL were presented by the ICRC as part of a module (40 hours spread over four months) coordinated by officers who had previously attended a course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- participated in a train-the-trainer course for 35 officers in Paraguay and donated documents on IHL to the defence ministry
- participated in a train-the-trainer workshop for 25 army instructors in Brazil
- taught IHL to 25 officers and sergeants from a rapid-deployment battalion in Brazil, who then passed on their knowledge to the whole of the battalion
- made a presentation to 430 captains at Brazil's Army Officer's School
- gave a series of IHL lectures to a group of 120 officers at the Command and Staff Army School in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- participated in an "IHL day" held for 150 officers, and donated 30 IHL volumes to the library at an army-officer training school in Argentina
- made a presentation on its mandate and activities for 30 officers at the launch of an IHL course at Uruguay's air-force academy

- conducted a train-the-trainer course for 25 Brazilian police instructors, and participated in two seminars on teaching human rights law for 63 instructors from the military police

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Media

The media of Argentina, Brazil and Chile widely covered the effects, in humanitarian terms, of the war in Iraq. The ICRC's regional communications office provided them with information, gave interviews, and relayed reports from ICRC field operations in Iraq, Kuwait and Jordan, and from headquarters.

In May, the seventh international course for journalists in conflict zones was organized under the auspices of the Argentine armed forces. The ICRC presented its mandate and activities, and also discussed its humanitarian operations in Iraq. The course was attended by 39 participants from 10 South American countries. A new online course for journalists was held between September and November with the participation of 150 people from seven countries covered by the Buenos Aires, Lima and Mexico regional delegations.

### General public

The ICRC launched its mobile exhibition of posters to promote humanitarian principles among the general public. Using 35 posters, the exhibition illustrated armed conflicts, humanitarian action and the basic rules of IHL. It was in Chile during the Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross (see *National Societies*). As part of the campaign, a supplement entitled "The ICRC: 140 years of protecting human dignity" was published free of charge by three Argentine weekly magazines.

Contact with the media enabled the ICRC to keep them abreast of IHL issues and the humanitarian activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In Paraguay, the ICRC met with representatives of the media and communication agencies and with National Society officials responsible for media-related activities. An IHL spot entitled "*Apariciones*" was shown free of charge 500 times on Argentine national and regional television stations during November and December. "*Apariciones*" was also shown in Brazil on television and in 22 cinemas in major cities.

Also in Brazil, a new electronic monthly newsletter, *CICV Notícias*, reached 10,000

subscribers including political, military and police authorities, members of the media, the National Society and academic institutions.

### Teaching IHL to future decision-makers

By the end of the year, over 90 universities in five of the region's countries had incorporated IHL into their curricula. The ICRC continued to organize and participate in seminars for the region's students. In addition, it donated CD-ROMs and other documents on IHL to lecturers offering courses on IHL in the region's universities.

In March, a regional IHL competition was organized for students reading law and international relations. Some 40 entries were submitted by students from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

### Teaching schoolchildren about humanitarian principles

In April, Chile's Ministry of Education held a national workshop to assess the impact of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme since it was first implemented in the country in 2002. Among those attending the workshop were representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Chilean Red Cross and the ICRC, and teachers and pupils from 13 high schools where the programme was used. As a result of the workshop, the education authorities decided to extend the programme to a further 75 schools. In addition, the education minister declared 29 October "IHL Day" in the Chilean schools implementing the programme so as to promote understanding, respect, tolerance and solidarity among young people. Events were held to mark the day and promote IHL. By the end of the year, the programme was being used in some 60 schools, where it reached some 14,000 children directly and some 75,000 indirectly through extracurricular activities.

In Uruguay, the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme was adopted by official decree in 2001. A steering committee was formed and by 2003 the programme was being used by 12 ICRC-trained teachers in nine schools, where it reached some 1,000 students in the classroom and an additional 2,500 through after-school activities.

- the seventh international course for journalists in conflict zones was organized in Argentina
- 150 journalists took part in a new online course
- 450 students and lecturers from universities in Argentina, Brazil, Chile,

Paraguay, and Uruguay attended ICRC-organized conference on IHL

- ▶ the ICRC taught part of an IHL-diploma programme at University of Brasilia
- ▶ 90,000 schoolchildren were reached by the “Exploring Humanitarian Law” programme

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In April the 17th Inter-American Conference of the Red Cross, organized by the Inter-American Regional Committee with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the ICRC, was held in Santiago, Chile. The conference – “Equity in health, road to development” – was opened by the president of Chile and attended by representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation and by the head of the Standing Commission. Also represented were specialized UN and other agencies, and NGOs. The ICRC prepared a special brochure for the conference. The ICRC and the International Federation made a joint presentation on implementing the Movement’s strategy and harmonizing capacity-building among Latin America’s National Societies. The ICRC sponsored the participation of all five of the region’s National Societies in the conference.

The ICRC continued to improve the ability of the region’s National Societies to perform their tasks by providing materials and training. It also financed many statutory meetings. Representatives of the ICRC and the International Federation attended the Brazilian Red Cross’s special general assembly held to approve new statutes.

In 2003, the ICRC:

- ▶ gave a presentation to 30 National Society youth volunteers from the countries in the region
- ▶ helped to train some 400 Argentine Red Cross volunteers in first aid, conflict response, and IHL
- ▶ helped the Chilean Red Cross organize a seminar on disaster preparedness and a seminar on promoting IHL
- ▶ provided materials enabling the Uruguay Red Cross to produce a periodical



# caracas

The ICRC's regional delegation in Caracas, which first operated from 1971 until 1978 and was re-opened in 2000, focuses on spreading awareness of IHL among the armed forces and civil society. It encourages the integration of human rights standards into the manuals and training programmes of police forces, and promotes the ratification of humanitarian treaties and the adoption of national implementation measures. It also helps to boost the capacity of National Societies throughout the region to respond to needs such as those arising from internal strife and tension.

## COVERING

Ecuador, Suriname, Venezuela, and the English-speaking Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**70,589**

Assistance

**75,502**

Preventive action

**891,360**

Cooperation with National Societies

**711,158**

General

**0**

► **1,748,609**

of which: Overheads **106,723**

## PERSONNEL

**2** expatriates

**7** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Guyana became party to the 1997 Ottawa Convention prohibiting landmines.
- Ecuador became party to Protocol IV (on blinding laser weapons) to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.
- Antigua and Barbuda acceded to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention.

## CONTEXT

In Venezuela, the opposition organized a 10-week general strike aimed at toppling the president, which ended without achieving its intended result. Nevertheless, it damaged the national economy, particularly the oil-producing sector. Some 50 people were killed in sporadic confrontations, mainly between groups of demonstrators. In May, following several months of negotiations, the Venezuelan government and the opposition reached an agreement on a national referendum concerning the presidency and other elected posts to be held in 2004. Signatures were collected in support of the referendum and handed over to the national electoral commission in December. However, several conditions necessary for the smooth administration of the referendum had still not been met.

Sporadic tension along the border between Colombia and Venezuela was reported throughout 2003. Illegal armed groups were allegedly pursued on both sides of the border.

In Ecuador, President Lucio Gutierrez, who in 2000 had spearheaded the removal of President Jamil Mahuad, took office on 15 January. While campaigning, Gutierrez had vowed to depart from free-market policies, extend the rights of indigenous people and adopt progressive social-welfare policies. This gained him the support of the Pachakutik party, the political wing of Ecuador's main indigenous movement. A few months after his investiture, however, he announced a series of economic austerity measures that pitted him against most of

the indigenous organizations, triggered a series of demonstrations in and around the Ecuadorean capital and eventually led to the resignation of all his indigenous ministers.

## ICRC ACTION

Throughout the year, the Caracas regional delegation pursued its preventive and humanitarian diplomacy activities, further consolidating its acceptance by political, military and police authorities. It continued to promote the ratification of IHL treaties and their enactment into domestic legislation. Particular progress was seen in this area with both Ecuador, Guyana, and Antigua and Barbuda acceding to IHL instruments.

The ICRC continued to help the armed forces in Venezuela, Ecuador, Belize and Guyana to integrate IHL into military doctrine, decision-making procedures and tactical manuals. It also encouraged police operations to be undertaken in compliance with human rights provisions in Venezuela, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The ICRC maintained its support for certain academic institutions in the region so as to promote the teaching of IHL.

The ICRC's Lima regional delegation began to oversee activities in Ecuador at the end of the year.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Ecuador, the ICRC revisited eight detainees held in connection with the internal armed conflict in Colombia. In Grenada, it revisited 16 people held since the 1983 coup d'état. In Venezuela, it visited eight detainees held in connection with the events in that country of April 2002.

- ▶ 32 detainees were visited (including 26 followed up individually) in 6 places of detention

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to meet with political authorities throughout the region in order to encourage ratifications of and accessions to international humanitarian treaties. In both Venezuela and Ecuador, the ICRC maintained regular contacts with various ministries in an effort to promote IHL and the organization's mandate and activities.

In May, the constitutional tribunal in Ecuador declared the 2000 Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of

children in armed conflict compatible with the constitution, thus paving the way for the protocol's ratification. Guyana ratified the Ottawa Convention in August. It was the last Caribbean Community (CARICOM) State to do so. Antigua and Barbuda became party to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, and at the end of the year, Ecuador acceded to Protocol IV (on blinding laser weapons) to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

In July, the ICRC paid visits to the authorities in Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago, and in October it visited those in Antigua and Barbuda and in Saint Kitts and Nevis, to discuss the implementation of IHL at national level. The National Societies in Dominica and Saint Lucia agreed to work with the political authorities on revised legislation on protection of the emblem and other related issues.

Trinidad and Tobago reviewed the 1954 Hague Convention, the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention and the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, and thus moved closer to acceding to those treaties. Furthermore, an inter-ministerial committee was set up to review proposed legislation on the 1998 Statute of the International Criminal Court and make recommendations.

- ▶ Guyana became party to the 1997 Ottawa Convention
- ▶ Ecuador became party to Protocol IV to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
- ▶ Antigua and Barbuda became party to the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention
- ▶ IHL experts from Venezuela, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago took part in a regional IHL meeting in Mexico
- ▶ representatives of Venezuela, Ecuador and Trinidad and Tobago attended a regional meeting of IHL committees in Guatemala (see *Mexico City regional delegation*)
- ▶ leaders of CONAIE, the biggest indigenous organization in Ecuador, attended a workshop on IHL, human rights law, humanitarian principles and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement organized jointly by the ICRC and the National Society

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### IHL training for the armed forces

The ICRC continued its discussions with the Venezuelan and Ecuadorean defence ministries about incorporating IHL in military doctrine, tactical manuals and command procedures. Similar discussions were held with the Guyanese defence forces, which responded positively. Using the ICRC's manual *Fight it right* as a base, Belize attempted to incorporate IHL in the doctrine and tactical manuals it was developing.

### Training in good policing

In Venezuela, the ICRC continued discussions with the interior ministry about a memorandum of understanding on the integration of international human rights law into police procedures, training and manuals. A course on human rights and humanitarian principles was offered for instructors of the Caracas metropolitan police.

Venezuela's National Guard invited the ICRC to present its proposal for instruction in human rights law and humanitarian principles applicable to the maintenance of law and order. The ICRC made the presentation at a seminar for officers involved in training.

In Ecuador, a memorandum of understanding for the integration of international human rights law in police training was signed between the ICRC and the police. A refresher course for police instructors in human rights law and humanitarian principles was offered in July. The course itself was taught by the Ecuadorean force and was then evaluated by the ICRC.

In view of the potential for internal violence in Jamaica and Guyana, a refresher course on human rights law and humanitarian principles for police instructors from these two countries, as well as Trinidad and Tobago, was organized in September. This was to be the last such course organized by the ICRC.

- ▶ 64 police instructors attended courses on human rights law and humanitarian principles
- ▶ Ecuadorean members of the Latin American pool of regional police instructors attended the third Latin American regional seminar for instructors in human rights law applicable to police functions, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil (see *Buenos Aires regional delegation*)

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Raising awareness of IHL through the media

The Ecuadorean Red Cross, supported by the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, conducted an IHL workshop for some 40 journalists at the beginning of the year. In May, together with the Venezuelan Red Cross and the International Federation, the ICRC organized a seminar in Caracas attended by some 50 journalists. In addition, the Venezuelan Red Cross completed the first in a series of productions on the Fundamental Principles of the Movement, respect for the emblem and the first-aid activities of National Societies in times of conflict intended for broadcast on local television and radio and for reproduction in the press.

### Promoting IHL among tomorrow's decision-makers

In Venezuela the ICRC maintained contact with the Andres Bello Catholic University, which offered instruction in IHL. The ICRC held discussions with the dean of the law faculty of Central University in Caracas – where graduate-level courses in international law were offered covering IHL and human rights law – on cooperation between the organization and the university on teaching IHL.

The Institute of International Relations of the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago and also the Institute of International Relations of the University of Suriname responded positively to suggestions that they incorporate IHL into their curricula with ICRC assistance. The former did so in a course on public international law, and the latter as part of a programme on international diplomacy and international law.

In May, a virtual system for the study of IHL was launched as part of an IHL programme entitled “Option to justice.” The system links five universities in Mexico City, Guatemala City, Bogota, Montevideo and Caracas. The ICRC supported the system by providing IHL reference materials.

- 90 journalists attended a seminar or workshop on IHL
- 4 universities taught IHL as part of their curricula

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### Emergency preparedness

Following an evaluation of the ability of the Venezuelan Red Cross to fulfil its role in the event of internal tension, the ICRC donated emergency medical supplies and helped to organize a seminar for 250 volunteers on security in times of unrest.

The Ecuadorean Red Cross proved itself to be efficient and able to deal with the situation when demonstrations broke out in Ecuador in August. The ICRC and the National Society maintained regular contact during this time so as to be able to exchange information. The two organizations jointly organized a seminar for 20 first-aid coordinators on the problem of obtaining safer access for National Societies to victims of violence.

### Promoting IHL

The ICRC continued to rely on all CARICOM National Societies to exchange information with the political authorities. The Societies were especially helpful in briefing the authorities on the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and its system of pledges. The Societies themselves were also urged to make pledges. The ICRC sponsored a workshop for 12 members of the Dominica Red Cross Society where participants learned about IHL, the emblem and key international humanitarian treaties.

The ICRC and the International Federation continued to support the development of the Ecuadorean Red Cross. New statutes were proposed in 2003.

- 282 Red Cross staff members and volunteers attended seminars or workshops
- 2 officials from the Dominica and Guyana Red Cross Societies attended ICRC meeting for legal advisers in Geneva in September



ICRC regional delegation ICRC office

# lima

The Lima regional delegation concentrates on alleviating the lingering consequences, in humanitarian terms, of the armed confrontation between government forces and insurgent groups in Peru in the eighties and nineties. It focuses on monitoring detainees' conditions of detention, ascertaining the fate of missing persons, and providing assistance to people in areas still affected by remnants of the insurgency. Furthermore, it promotes and supports the integration of IHL into military training programmes, as well as into the curricula of academic institutions. It contributes to the permanent integration of pertinent human rights standards into the manuals and training programmes of police forces. It also works to strengthen the capacity for humanitarian response of National Red Cross Societies of the region. The ICRC opened its Peru operational delegation in early 1984. In June 2003, it became the Lima regional delegation responsible for the ICRC's activities in Peru and Bolivia, and started covering Ecuador as well from December 2003.

**COVERING**  
Bolivia, Peru

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,760,898**

Assistance

**887,398**

Preventive action

**1,308,025**

Cooperation with National Societies

**207,281**

General

**0**

► **4,163,602**

of which: Overheads **252,903**

## PERSONNEL

**9** expatriates

**37** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued to visit almost 2,000 detainees, essentially in Peru, facilitate family visits and exchange Red Cross messages between detainees and their relatives.
- During the social unrest in Bolivia in October, the ICRC delivered 8 tonnes of medical and surgical supplies to the ambulance and first-aid services of the Bolivian Red Cross, as well as to hospitals treating people injured when the armed forces intervened in demonstrations.
- Technical support was given to the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its efforts to clarify the fate of thousands of missing persons.
- Implementation and promotion of IHL was pursued through support to Peruvian and Bolivian national IHL committees, the armed forces, schools, and universities.
- 18 courses on human rights and humanitarian principles for Peruvian police officers and 1 for Bolivian police officers were held as a first step towards fostering the permanent integration of the relevant international standards for good policing.

## CONTEXT

In May, social unrest plagued Peru as teachers, farmers, doctors and workers from other sectors took to the streets in protest against the Peruvian government's policies. In response, President Toledo declared a state of emergency across the country. In Puno, students demonstrated against the move, clashing with the military forces called in to rein in the rioters. One student died and 47 other civilians were wounded.

In June, 61 gas-pipeline workers, eight foreigners and three police officers, were kidnapped in Peru's Ayacucho province, allegedly by guerrillas. It was also reported that the Shining Path (PCP-SL – *Partido Comunista del Perú-Sendero Luminoso*) was putting pressure on the local youth to join their ranks.

Many peasant self-defence groups began operating again, and, in the Rio Ene region, sporadic confrontations broke out between armed forces and insurgent units. As a result, although the state of emergency was lifted in other regions of the country, it was maintained in the Rio Ene area and neighbouring provinces.

At the end of August, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission submitted a report to the President of the Republic on the results of its two-year investigation into the consequences of the Peruvian conflict over the past 20 years. According to the report, some 69,000 people died during this

period (the majority of whom were indigenous) and 500,000 others were displaced owing to the violence. The State declared 10 December a day of national reconciliation.

In Bolivia, the government's decision to raise income taxes by 12.5% sparked demonstrations in February, and protests against the US-driven policy for the eradication of coca plantations took place at the end of September, continuing until mid-October. Social protests against widespread poverty and discrimination followed, aggravated by huge public outcry against the planned exportation of natural gas to Mexico and the US through Chile. The unrest resulted in the deaths of over 70 people with another 500 injured, after the intervention of military forces sent in to quell the demonstrations. On 17 October, President Sanchez de Lozada resigned from office and Vice-President Carlos Mesa took over.

## ICRC ACTION

In May 2003, the ICRC's delegation in Lima took over responsibility for activities in Bolivia. From December 2003 it also started covering Ecuador (see *Caracas regional delegation*).

By the end of the year, there were 1,874 detainees registered by the ICRC in Peru, including 237 women. Some 60% of the detainee population were being held in four prisons in Lima; the rest were spread out in 29 different prisons in other regions across the country. The ICRC continued to visit these facilities to monitor the treatment and conditions of detention of those held there, making recommendations to the authorities where necessary. It also made its annual visit to the 15 security detainees whom it was monitoring in Bolivia.

The ICRC supported the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission in its efforts to clarify the fate of thousands of missing persons and took part in a nationwide campaign aimed at drawing up an exhaustive list of people still unaccounted for in Peru.

In view of the humanitarian consequences of the internal strife in Bolivia in September and October 2003, mainly in and around the capital La Paz, the ICRC mobilized eight tonnes of surgical and first-aid materials to assist the emergency services of the Bolivian Red Cross, as well as to hospitals treating people injured as a result of military forces' excessive use of firearms against demonstrators.

ICRC worked with the national committees for the implementation of IHL in Peru and Bolivia to encourage further progress in accession to and application of IHL treaties. Support was also provided to academic institutions in the region with a view to making IHL lectures a permanent component of their curricula.

Work to permanently integrate pertinent IHL standards into military doctrine, decision-making procedures, training and tactical manuals was pursued with the armed forces in Peru and Bolivia. A similar policy was implemented for the integration of human rights provisions pertinent to police operations.

## CIVILIANS

There was no large-scale movement of families or communities in 2003. Nonetheless, the ICRC continued to receive allegations of violence and violations of human rights law from areas where the Shining Path was operating, and provided ad hoc relief to people in need there. It also supplied clothes, basic equipment for a health post and a HF radio to a group of indigenous people, who had fled the Shining Path's zone of influence, in order to ease their resettlement.

In the aftermath of the internal strife in Bolivia in September and October during which 72 persons were killed and around 500 injured, high-level representations were undertaken to discuss these occurrences with the new authorities with a view to taking appropriate measures to avoid their repetition in the future.

### Missing persons

The nationwide campaign launched in November 2002 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Ombudsman, the National Coordinator for Human Rights and the ICRC continued into 2003. As part of this campaign, entitled "Let Us Never Forget", a preliminary list was published in March with the names of over 7,000 people presumed missing in connection with the past 20 years of violence in Peru, in the hope of encouraging the families and others to come forward with any relevant information that could help ascertain the fate of those who had disappeared. The families were able to check the list and report anyone who had not been included. The ICRC financed the publication of an updated list towards the end of the year.

From 28 to 30 May, representatives of 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries met in Lima at a regional conference on persons missing in connection with armed conflict or internal violence. The goals were to draw the attention of the participants and the general public to the importance of assisting the families of the missing and to devise effective measures to prevent disappearances. The recommendations of the international conference on missing persons, held by the ICRC in February 2003 in Geneva, were likewise adapted to the context of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### Mine-accident prevention

A project designed to raise awareness of the dangers of anti-personnel mines in the central Andes was launched by the ICRC

and Contraminas (the Peruvian Mine Action Centre set up in December 2002), in cooperation with the Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs, and Defence, community leaders, and mine-injury survivors. As part of the project, workshops were held for teachers and community leaders in the departments of Huancavelica, Junín and Lima, cartoon strips and other dissemination materials on mines were distributed, and mine-awareness campaigns were organized in various towns using ICRC puppet shows. The ICRC's involvement was drawing to a close at the end of the year when Contraminas requested technical support in the drafting of final reports and the production of a video.

- a regional conference was held to address the problem of missing persons
- 8 mine-action workshops took place at which 345 teachers and community leaders were trained
- 13 mine awareness campaigns reached 2,600 people

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Peru, the ICRC continued to visit detainees to monitor whether their living conditions and treatment were in accordance with internationally recognized humanitarian standards, and made representations to the authorities where necessary. Detainees continued to make use of the Red Cross message service, while ICRC coverage of transport costs enabled families to visit detainees imprisoned far from their homes. Ad hoc aid was distributed in the prisons and general repairs were carried out where absolutely necessary.

ICRC visits to Peruvian prisons were suspended at the end of September because of a clause in the new prison regulations stipulating that the ICRC should give advance warning in writing of its visits. A new agreement recognizing that the ICRC did not have to comply with this rule was signed at the end of November.

In Bolivia, the ICRC visited 15 security detainees who had been held for several years in three prisons in the capital.

### Health care for detainees

In 2003 a health directorate was set up within the Peruvian prison services in an effort to upgrade health-care services for detainees. The ICRC, which had recommended such a move, committed itself to supporting the development of this

structure by providing materials, technical support, and limited funding. At the same time, it continued running a mental-health programme in five detention facilities in the Lima region, in conjunction with the national Mental Health Institute.

The ICRC also took part in various training courses and programmes aimed at combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), run by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Ministry of Health, MSF-Belgium, Partners in Health, and the Pan-American Health Organization.

- ▶ 1,874 detainees were monitored individually (including 93 newly registered, 237 women and 2 minors) in 56 places of detention
- ▶ 400 RCMs were distributed
- ▶ 308 phone calls were made to families to inform them of the transfer of a detained relative
- ▶ 773 detainees were visited by relatives
- ▶ 17 certificates of detention were issued
- ▶ detainees received books, mattresses, blankets, clothes, saucepans, lights and paint, sand and cement
- ▶ training courses and workshops were organized for employees of detention facilities, in conjunction with the National Penitentiary Institute, on topics such as health and hygiene in prisons, HIV and AIDS, mental health, and human rights standards
- ▶ a Spanish translation was produced of the manual on HIV in detention facilities
- ▶ courses were held for detainees on topics as diverse as nutrition, AIDS, and metalwork and soldering

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The State took charge of providing medical and surgical care for people injured by mines or during clashes in Peru. In five exceptional cases, however, the ICRC covered people's medical expenses and supplied prostheses.

During the social unrest in Bolivia in October, the ICRC delivered eight tonnes of medical and surgical supplies to the ambulance and first-aid services of the Bolivian Red Cross, as well as to hospitals treating people injured when the armed forces intervened in demonstrations.

## AUTHORITIES

In December, the Peruvian Congress passed two resolutions adopting the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention on cultural property in armed conflict and the 2001 amendment to Article 1 of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons.

The ICRC continued to provide the national IHL committees with technical support and expertise. It organized an information session on IHL for members of the Peruvian committee in January.

In 2003, revisions were made to the Peruvian penal justice code introducing a classification of IHL violations and war crimes based on the Geneva Conventions, Additional Protocol I, and elements from Article 8 of the 1998 Statute of the International Criminal Court, as recommended by the ICRC. The Supreme Council of Military Justice recommended that the same classification system be introduced in the military justice code during its reform.

- ▶ IHL experts from Bolivia and Peru took part in a regional meeting in Mexico in July
- ▶ representatives of Bolivia and Peru attended a regional meeting of IHL committees in Guatemala in July to assess and compare the respective measures taken for the adoption of national measures to implement IHL (see *Mexico City regional delegation*)
- ▶ the ICRC and Legal Defence Institute conducted 2 seminars on Peru's obligations under IHL and human rights law for 92 participants including judges of the Lima Superior Court
- ▶ the ICRC took part in a course for 200 lawyers organized by the Lima Bar Association

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### IHL training for the armed forces

Further to an agreement signed between the defence ministry and the ICRC in July 2002, the Peruvian armed forces started incorporating IHL into training courses for instructors and adjusting their tactical manuals accordingly. As part of this process, a centre for the promotion of IHL was opened in February, under the authority of the Joint Command of the armed forces, which was put in charge of the planning, preparation and management of instruction

courses. After this train-the-trainer courses for officers could begin.

### Training in good policing

The Peruvian police force made progress in integrating human rights standards into its training programmes. During the year, in accordance with an agreement signed between the ICRC and the interior ministry, awareness-raising, train-the-trainer and refresher courses were held.

- ▶ the ICRC held or supported 6 train-the-trainer workshops and 5 IHL workshops for the military authorities
- ▶ with ICRC support, the new Peruvian IHL centre conducted 6 train-the-trainer courses for over 140 officers from the armed and police forces and lawyers
- ▶ 3 bursaries were provided for officers from the IHL centre to enable them to participate in IHL courses in San Remo, Italy, and Toronto, Canada
- ▶ 18 courses were held for Peruvian police officers and instructors
- ▶ 5 Peruvian police officers participated in the third Latin American regional seminar for instructors in human rights law as applicable to the work of the police, which took place in Sao Paulo, Brazil (see *Buenos Aires regional delegation*)
- ▶ the ICRC conducted a course on human rights and humanitarian principles for 28 Bolivian police officers

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to send information on IHL and ICRC activities to various media outlets. Several of the region's journalists enrolled on an online "Journalism and armed conflicts" course run by the ICRC's Buenos Aires regional delegation. The ICRC and the University of Lima then organized a seminar on the same subject for tutors and communications students at the main Peruvian universities.

Knowledge of IHL had increased within academic circles and the subject was being taught in an increasing number of institutions. In Peru, IHL teaching was part of seven courses at the Catholic University, two courses at Lima University, five courses at San Marcos University and four at San Martín de Porres University. The law faculty of the Catholic University created a specialized optional course on IHL.

### Teaching schoolchildren the basic rules of IHL

In December 2002 the Ministry of Education issued a decree incorporating the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into the Peruvian education system. The first training workshop was held in February for 26 teachers from the Amazonas, Ayacucho, Lima and Puno regions and 10 officials from the Ministry of Education and regional education authorities. A major achievement was the signing of a cooperation agreement on EHL between the ministry, which was in charge of formal education, and the government department responsible for extracurricular education and social work, including informal or "open" schools where adults and working children were able to continue their education. Over the year, teachers who were already using the programme received follow-up visits from the ICRC to see how they were faring. Further workshops were held in June and November to compare classroom experiences, assess training needs, and determine what teacher support and cooperation mechanisms were necessary before the EHL programme could be integrated into the curricula. A training workshop was also held for 35 inspectors, supervisors and education managers.

- the ICRC co-organized a seminar for 200 members of the main Peruvian universities and a workshop for 22 IHL lecturers
- universities were given IHL reference materials
- 3,148 pupils in 25 Peruvian schools were taught using the ICRC's EHL modules

### NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) underwent a process of internal reorganization in an effort to increase its ability to assist vulnerable sectors of society and people affected by crisis situations. The commission set up to revise the National Society's statutes submitted a first draft to the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and PRC branches throughout the country for comments, which were taken into account in the preparation of the second draft.

#### Emergency preparedness

The ICRC worked with the PRC to draw up a list of equipment urgently needed by the National Society, after which the ICRC provided stretchers, red cross jackets, helmets and masks to PRC branches in towns recently affected by internal troubles.

The ICRC also provided material and technical support to the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) to improve its ability to provide emergency aid to victims of internal strife, often in situations made difficult by misuse of the emblem. The ICRC took part in and supported numerous seminars, workshops and meetings on issues as diverse as the activities of the National Society in

times of internal tension, training on institutional doctrine, cooperation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the emblem. Over 150 participants, primarily from the leadership of the National Society, attended these events.

The ICRC held two seminars to train 40 BRC volunteers in dissemination, to enable them to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement.

- equipment and medicines were supplied to the National Societies to improve their capacity to help those in need
- training sessions were held for 190 BRC staff and volunteers



ICRC regional delegation 
 ICRC sub-delegation 
 ICRC mission 
 ICRC office 
 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

# mexico city

Officially opened in June 2002, the Mexico City regional delegation promotes the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, the operational procedures, manuals and training of armed forces, and the curricula of academic institutions. Likewise, the ICRC contributes to the integration of pertinent human rights standards into the manuals and training of police forces. The delegation also helps to boost the emergency-response capacity of the region's National Societies. It assists both Colombian refugees in Panama's Darien province and communities affected by their presence. Until June 2004 it will continue assisting IDPs and residents still affected by the aftermath of violence in the Mexican state of Chiapas. The delegation monitors the conditions of detention of detainees falling within the ICRC's mandate in Haiti (where a separate delegation was established in February 2004), Mexico and Panama.

The Mexico City delegation hosts the ICRC's IHL Advisory Service for Latin America. The Service provides legal support to other delegations throughout the continent and works with a variety of inter-American institutions, in particular the Organization of American States, to promote IHL and its integration into national legislation.

## COVERING

Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**698,779**

Assistance

**1,775,506**

Preventive action

**3,237,022**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,443,542**

General

**152,388**

► **7,307,236**

of which: Overheads **445,982**

## PERSONNEL

**12** expatriates

**47** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- IDPs and resident communities in Chiapas and Colombian refugees and temporarily displaced people in Panama's Darien province were provided with food, essential household items, and improved water-supply systems.
- Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala and Panama became party to IHL treaties.
- Thousands of officers from the region's armed and police forces were trained respectively in IHL or human rights law and humanitarian principles.
- Cooperation agreements were signed with 7 universities on incorporating IHL into their curricula.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, most of the 10 countries covered by the Mexico regional delegation were affected by economic downturn and growing social disparities, resulting occasionally in unrest, violent demonstrations and strikes. The countryside too was increasingly affected as poor farmers, particularly those hit by the plummeting price of coffee, were tempted to abandon traditional agriculture in favour of drug cultivation. These factors also triggered rural exodus and migration to North America. Delinquency, often linked to drug trafficking, had reached alarming levels in several countries, mostly in urban areas. The plethora of small arms from past civil wars in several Central American countries remained a major concern, underpinning the prevalence of armed gangs. With tens of thousands of young people engaged in turf wars – especially in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala – some governments began to address this phenomenon by authorizing their security forces, sometimes even their armed forces, to take the so-called zero-tolerance approach.

The conflict in the Mexican state of Chiapas between the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) and the government remained unchanged. There were no signs of a willingness to renew dialogue, and sporadic clashes between communities, mostly linked to land property rights continued, perpetuating the tension.

In Panama's Darien province, an incursion by Colombian fighters early in the year severely affected Colombian refugees and

indigenous communities, prompting some 600 people to flee their homes. Later, the Panamanian security forces sent 100 Colombian refugees who had settled in an indigenous community back to Colombia. Concerned about the possibility of a spillover of events in Colombia on to the country's soil, the Panamanian government concluded an agreement with the Colombian government regarding the possible return home of Colombian refugees.

Guatemala had one of the highest incidences of violence in Latin America. Despite having been officially disarmed, self-defence groups still existed and rallied in May to claim the outstanding financial aid they had been promised to help them reintegrate into society. Numerous violent incidents linked to presidential and parliamentary elections held in November and December added to the general climate of insecurity.

The political and economic situation in Haiti had been tense since the opposition contested and boycotted elections beginning in May 2000. Intervention by regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) seemed to begin to bear results when President Aristide agreed to hold elections in September 2003. These elections, however, never materialized. Demonstrations, started by students from the opposition in December 2003, were violently repressed by the police. As the year drew to a close the situation continued to deteriorate.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to visit security detainees held in connection with past conflicts in Mexico and Panama and internal strife in Haiti. It verified whether their treatment and conditions met international humanitarian standards.

In Panama's Darien province, still affected by the ongoing Colombian conflict, the ICRC and the Red Cross Society of Panama provided food aid to displaced Panamanians and cooking utensils and seeds to Colombian refugees.

There remained a need for aid in Chiapas for people who had been displaced nearly 10 years before, including those who had since been able to return home. It became obvious, however, that most of the problems – food supply, economic security and health – ought henceforth to be addressed by development programmes rather than emergency humanitarian aid. The ICRC therefore decided to end its assistance programmes by June 2004. In 2003, however, in conjunction with the Mexican, German and Spanish Red Cross Societies, the ICRC continued to carry out programmes to help affected indigenous communities achieve self-sufficiency. It also worked with the Mexican Red Cross to provide medical care for displaced people and isolated villages, and supported medical personnel from the National Society in vaccination campaigns in Los Altos and Las Cañadas. In addition, regular training courses on different aspects of medical aid were organized for health-care workers so as to improve preventive care.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to promote IHL among the authorities and in civil society and its integration within the armed forces and in schools and universities. In all the countries of the region, it continued to urge adherence to IHL treaties and the enactment of their provisions in domestic legislation. Work to incorporate pertinent rules of IHL into military doctrine, decision-making, procedures and tactical manuals was pursued with the armed forces across the region, as was work to advocate integration of relevant human rights provisions into police practice and procedures.

The region's National Societies continued to receive support for their IHL-promotion and tracing activities. More particularly, the National Societies of Guatemala, of Haiti as well as of the Dominican Republic received support to reinforce their humanitarian response capacity to looming situations of internal strife and tensions.

## CIVILIANS

### Colombian refugees and Panamanian residents

In Panama's Darien province, the presence of Colombians – who years before had sought refuge from the Colombian conflict – continued to have a direct impact on the border area, bringing about occasional incursions by Colombian armed opposition groups forcing residents to flee their homes and refugees to resettle elsewhere. In April, 109 Colombian refugees (mostly women and children) were sent back to their country. Indigenous people had to flee when their village, Punusa, was destroyed. Following these events the ICRC met with high-ranking government and police officials and made written recommendations. Seventy of the indigenous residents of Punusa found temporary shelter in other communities, receiving food from the ICRC. In addition, Colombian refugees sheltering in the area received material relief such as blankets, kitchen utensils and boots.

### Communities in remote areas of Chiapas

In Las Cañadas, Mexican Red Cross medical teams continued to treat patients at the ICRC-sponsored San Miguel clinic. This facility was given basic instruments and a rural hospital was provided with an incinerator for hospital waste. Cooperation continued between the medical teams and local health-care workers, who carried out a vaccination programme planned together with the ICRC and continued to be trained by the organization.

The ICRC continued to furnish materials, technical assistance and training, thereby ensuring that the water-supply systems it had helped construct since 1999 continued to function properly. ICRC-trained water specialists regularly monitored water-supply systems and performed bacteriological analyses. Latrines were built in two villages.

The ICRC provided the means and know-how to set up greenhouses to produce soybeans and amaranth. It trained residents in the use of insecticides and distributed fruit-tree saplings.

In Los Altos, the ICRC continued to provide residents and IDPs with food, and, together with the Mexican, German and Spanish Red Cross Societies, ran programmes geared to helping affected indigenous communities achieve self-sufficiency.

The ICRC continued to work with the medical teams of the Mexican Red Cross in

IDP settlements and villages. In addition to medical attention, patients received advice on disease prevention and health promotion. The ICRC provided technical and material assistance for the installation of water-distribution and drainage systems in IDP settlements.

In February, it was decided that the ICRC would furnish all 4,511 beneficiaries (874 families) with soap and food packages for one year beginning in April. As part of the effort to promote self-sufficiency, the ICRC also supplied maize and bean seed as well as potato and groundnut seed to 500 families for the rainy season starting in April. These were successfully harvested in September. Vaccination campaigns enabled families to protect their chickens against common diseases, and the ICRC continued to monitor the 90 collective farming projects set up in 2002.

In addition to such aid, the ICRC conducted awareness-raising sessions with the help of puppet shows in the Tzotzil and Tzeltal languages in order to explain to the local population about the ICRC's work and other topics such as health.

### Raising awareness of mine dangers

Nicaragua declared that it had cleared 63% of the 135,000 mines scattered throughout its territory during the 1982-1989 conflict. The country also announced that it had destroyed its last stockpile of mines. The ICRC and the National Society continued to conduct information sessions to raise awareness of the dangers posed by mines. (For physical rehabilitation programmes for mine victims, see *Wounded and sick*.)

### Missing persons

The ICRC participated in the annual meeting of the Federation of Latin American Associations of the Families of Missing Persons, held in Guatemala in November. It presented the progress made in the ICRC's "Missing" project, including the outcome of the international conference on the subject in Geneva and the regional conference in Lima (see *Lima regional delegation*).

### Economic security

- 500 tonnes of food and 100,000 soap bars were distributed to 4,500 people
- 800 refugees received essential household items
- over 3,400 fruit-tree saplings were distributed
- over 15,000 chickens were vaccinated

## Health

- ▶ Mexican Red Cross health-care teams carried out:
  - 429 ambulance transfers
  - 20,318 consultations
  - 3,786 vaccinations
- ▶ over 40 local health-care workers were trained and supplied with first-aid kits

## Awareness-raising

- ▶ 9,220 people attended sessions on ICRC or health promotion
- ▶ 19,000 people in 49 communities attended mine-awareness sessions

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Delegates continued to visit detainees covered by its mandate in Panama, Mexico and Haiti. It assessed their treatment and conditions of detention and made recommendations where these did not conform to international standards. In Cuba, the ICRC renewed its contacts with the authorities on the issue of access to security detainees.

In Mexico, financial assistance was given to the more needy families to enable them to visit their detained relatives once a month.

In April, the ICRC completed a round of visits to the main prisons in Haiti, and in May submitted to prison authorities a working paper with recommendations.

- ▶ 99 detainees were visited and interviewed individually (including 32 newly registered and 4 women) in 30 of the region's places of detention
- ▶ 7 detainees received ICRC-funded monthly visits from relatives
- ▶ hygiene items were distributed to detainees in 11 prisons in Haiti

## WOUNDED AND SICK

In Haiti the ICRC held enough emergency stocks ready in Port-au-Prince to be able to treat 550 people injured by increasing violence in Haiti.

The ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled continued to support the physical rehabilitation of mine victims at Nicaragua's government-run centre. Throughout 2003, an ICRC expatriate worked at the centre, providing training and production support for its staff. After meetings with the new health minister and his assistants in May, a letter was sent to him to confirm the end of the cooperation agreement in January 2004

and the Fund's intention to work with two national foundations, one existing and one new, in order to continue helping landmine victims and other disabled people.

In 2003 the centre produced:

- ▶ 532 prostheses
- ▶ 925 orthoses

In addition, the Fund compensated patients for the cost of:

- ▶ 258 prostheses
- ▶ 119 orthoses
- ▶ 128 wheelchairs
- ▶ 229 pairs of crutches
- ▶ transport, food and accommodation (for mine victims at the government-owned centre)

## AUTHORITIES

The States of the region maintained a good momentum in adhering to IHL treaties. Costa Rica became party to the 2000 Optional Protocol to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and became the 20th State to ratify the Second Protocol (1999) to the 1954 Hague Convention on the protection of cultural property in armed conflict. This triggered the treaty's entry into force. Honduras and Mexico had also ratified the protocol earlier in 2003. Meanwhile, Honduras became party to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Mexico ratified amended Article 1 of that Convention. In addition, Guatemala became party to the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention and Panama to the 1976 Convention on Environmental Modification Techniques.

The governments of the region continued to incorporate the provisions of IHL treaties into domestic law. In particular, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama were drafting legislation on the repression of war crimes. In Mexico a draft law on the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems was prepared. In Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, initiatives were undertaken to implement the 1954 Hague Convention at national level.

The region's national IHL committees supported their respective governments throughout the year. The committees in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua were particularly active in implementing the Hague Convention, including projects to mark historic sites with the emblem provided for under the Convention. The

committees of the Dominican Republic and Panama concentrated their efforts on adopting penal provisions with respect to war crimes and weapons treaties. All national committees were involved in raising awareness of IHL. The Nicaraguan committee organized a course for public officials. By the end of the year, Costa Rica was in the process of establishing a national IHL committee.

Guatemala hosted a regional meeting of national IHL committees which took place in Antigua at the end of August. The meeting was organized by the Organization of American States and the ICRC, with support from Canada.

Mexico hosted a regional meeting of IHL experts.

Regular contact continued with inter-American institutions based in the region, mainly the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights. Cooperation with the Court culminated in the organization of a third session of reflection and exchange on current IHL issues.

- ▶ countries in the region became party to a further 8 IHL instruments

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to promote the permanent integration of norms of IHL into the doctrine, standing operating procedures, manuals and training programmes of armed forces as well as of the relevant human rights provisions into those of police forces. Particular emphasis was placed on initial train-the-trainer workshops with a view to producing enough instructors eventually to make the respective forces self-sufficient in teaching the relevant international norms.

### IHL and the armed forces

In terms of incorporating IHL into the operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of armed forces, some of the countries required further support, while others made remarkable progress. Guatemala created a special committee to produce a handbook for troops. Nicaragua published an IHL manual for the commanders of its armed forces.

In Honduras, an international course on the law of armed conflict, or IHL, brought together 21 officers from Mexico, Central America, the Dominican Republic, Colombia

and Ecuador. The course dealt with the practicalities of incorporating IHL into the tactical and operating manuals of the military. In the Dominican Republic, another such course was held with the participation of four of the region's armed forces and two security forces.

### Good policing

Meetings were held in Mexico with the heads of the police, the country's Attorney General's Office and Mexico City's Department of Public Security to discuss training in human rights and humanitarian principles for the country's police forces, and the integration of the principles of human rights law into their training and operational procedures. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the ICRC and the Secretary of Public Security at the end of 2003. Its purpose was to help the police staff train members as human rights instructors, to deliver teaching material, and to create working groups to discuss and incorporate human rights principles into police doctrine and operational procedures. Contacts were established with Haiti's justice minister and new police chief in order to sign with them a similar agreement.

Meetings were held with the Panamanian police authorities on the training of a first group of police officials as human rights instructors. The Air Service and the Maritime Service – which along with the national police force make up the Fuerza Publica (public security forces) – were also approached by the ICRC about promoting knowledge of IHL.

Courses for police forces were held in Mexico and in Guatemala.

- over 3,500 armed forces officers attended train-the-trainer workshops, IHL courses and lectures in El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico
- police officers attended 74 train-the-trainer workshops, and 110 lectures in Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Contacts were maintained with representatives of the region's media, which were updated with information on ICRC activities in the region.

In Chiapas, a seminar entitled "Journalists in armed conflicts", held in May for various media representatives, was aired live on the Internet. Throughout the year, material on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its activities were broadcast on radio in the Tzotzil and Tzeltal languages. ICRC representatives also answered listeners' questions on air. This provided an opportunity for the organization to inform the population of Chiapas about its activities and the end of its assistance programmes in June 2004.

In Guatemala, the ICRC maintained contact with civil society, including various organizations, national and regional leaders and private companies. The ICRC held IHL-awareness sessions with organizations involved in human rights, and provided them with various materials on IHL, the Movement and human rights.

### Teaching tomorrow's decision-makers about IHL

Throughout the year, the ICRC maintained contact with 10 universities in Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica and Haiti. It organized several talks on IHL for students and lecturers, and conducted 12 sessions for fourth-year students, as part of their course, at the University of Chiapas. One talk was held at Mexico's University of Champagnat, which was preparing to incorporate this body of law into the curricula of its law school. These sessions reached not only law students but also those studying international relations, diplomacy, and journalism. During 2003, the ICRC signed cooperation agreements with two Mexican and two Guatemalan universities for the integration of IHL into their law-degree courses.

The Jean Pictet Competition was held in Mexico. It involved military cadets and students of law and political science, and aimed to improve their knowledge of IHL by means of moot courts. The winners were students from Guatemala, Cuba and Mexico.

### Teaching humanitarian rules and principles to secondary school pupils

As a result of an agreement with the Guatemalan authorities established in 2002, the content of the ICRC's "Exploring

Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme was included in the new draft curriculum guide for basic secondary education. The reforms were due to take effect in 2005. In 2003, a second training workshop on EHL was organized for a new group of 21 teachers and two representatives of the National Society.

In Honduras, the teachers trained in 2002 under an agreement with the authorities began implementing the EHL programme in 2003. In October, the ICRC organized an evaluation workshop with 15 of these teachers and a representative of the education ministry to assess the progress of the EHL programme. Twenty-five schools worked to implement the programme. Further training was given to 31 teachers.

- the ICRC and the National Societies of Mexico and Cuba organized 3 events for 70 journalists (press, TV and radio)
- 11 journalists took part in an online course organized by the ICRC delegation in Buenos Aires
- in Guatemala, 30 workshops on IHL and the Movement were attended by 1,158 representatives of educational establishments, promoters of IHL and human rights law, and various organizations
- over 600 students and lecturers attended IHL seminars and lectures
- in Guatemala, the EHL programme reached 1,900 students in 11 schools, and in Honduras, 1,200 students in 25 schools

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In May, the Pan-American Disaster-Response Unit of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Cross Societies held a meeting for the region's National Societies and reiterated the importance of incorporating activities to restore family links into their contingency plans for emergency response. The ICRC organized a regional tracing seminar for 10 of the region's National Societies as well as the American, Canadian and British Red Cross Societies and the International Federation. The Haitian National Red Cross Society launched a new tracing service and the Mexican Red Cross organized its first training for heads of tracing services at branch level.

The region's National Societies held a series of workshops and presentations designed to promote IHL among Red Cross staff and volunteers, young people, and the armed and security forces. The National Societies

carried out training to strengthen their capacity to promote IHL.

The National Societies of El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Cuba, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic produced newsletters with ICRC support. The National Societies of the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras carried out internal training in IHL-promotion and spread knowledge of the law outside their organizations. The National Societies of Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador all conducted campaigns on the correct use of the red cross and red crescent emblems.

Together with the International Federation, the ICRC continued to support the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua in the revision of their statutes. The Haitian Red Cross carried out a full revision of its statutes. The draft was approved at an extraordinary General Assembly held on 7 November.

Support was also given to the Guatemalan Red Cross to prepare for possible turmoil during national elections in December. The ICRC, the International Federation and several partner National Societies signed a cooperation agreement to help the Guatemalan Red Cross tackle this period of potential instability. The ICRC covered the cost of modernizing the Society's radio-communication system and a promotion campaign for the Movement.

In Haiti, a special project to increase the National Society's capacity to respond in times of violence and conflict started in October, which was timely since tensions were rising as the year drew to a close.

- the ICRC, the International Federation and 10 Latin American National Societies attended a regional tracing meeting
- 8 National Societies from the region held 2 national training workshops each for their IHL-promotion staff



Daily meals at a Red Cross community kitchen for civilians coping with the aftermath of conflict.

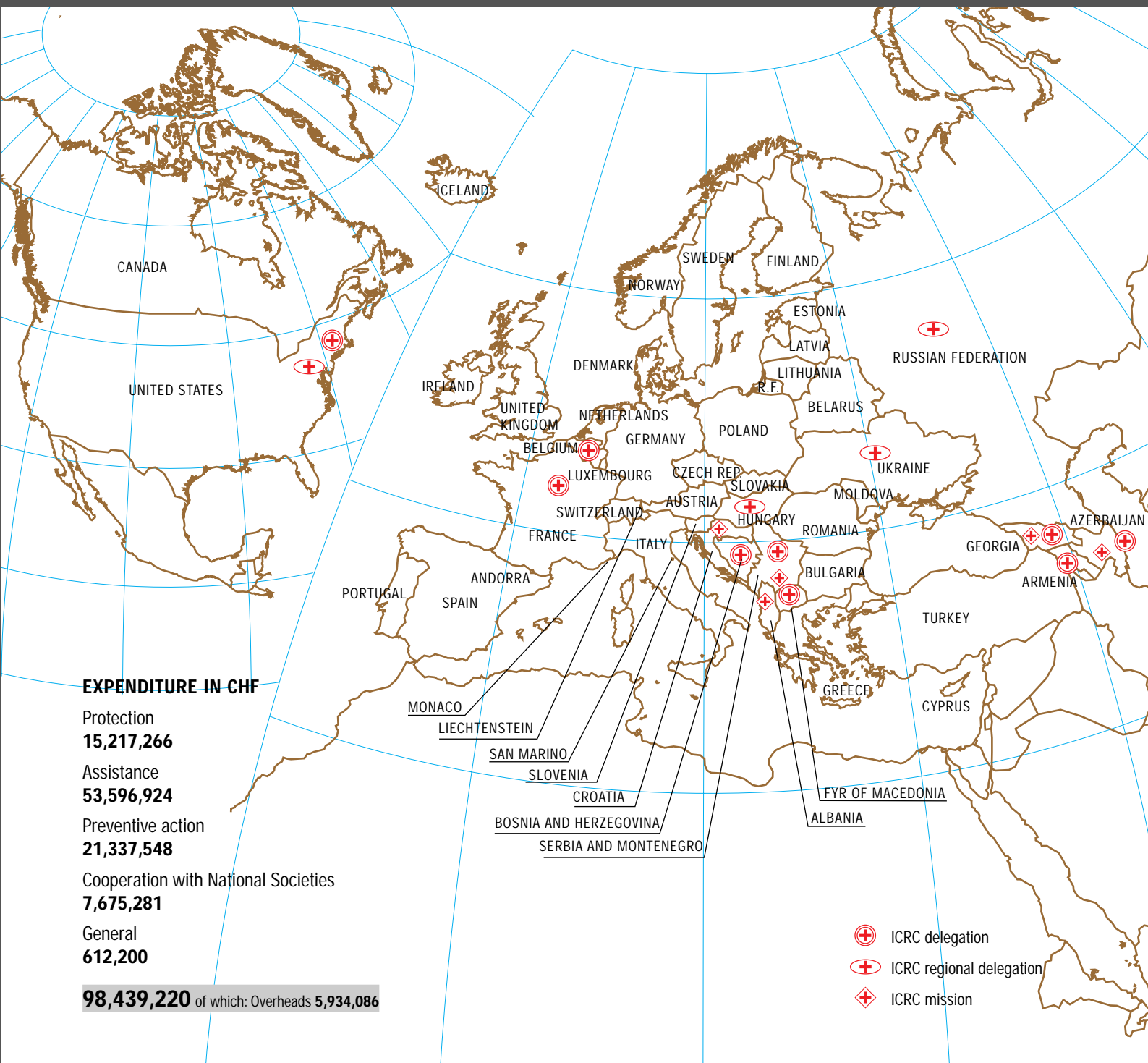
## DELEGATIONS

Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
Serbia and Montenegro  
Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan)  
Southern Caucasus (Georgia)

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Budapest  
Kyiv  
Moscow  
Washington  
  
Brussels  
New York  
Paris  
International Tracing Service

# EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA



The trend towards relative stability in Europe was reflected in the overall decrease, compared with previous years, in the ICRC's 2003 budget for operations on the continent.

In the Balkans and Central Europe, the number of expatriate staff was halved and that of national staff significantly reduced.

In the Balkans, the ICRC worked towards phasing out major aid programmes that it had been carrying out for over 10 years. Assistance activities continued on behalf of internally displaced people in Serbia and Montenegro (the new union that emerged from the break-up of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) and, to a lesser extent, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Food aid for those most in need ended in 2003, while income-generating and micro-credit projects and a primary health-care project were set to run for another year. In Serbia and Montenegro the ICRC prepared to hand over gradually to the social affairs ministry its programme of aid for destitute displaced people – mostly Roma and people living in collective centres – with the aim of ensuring that they received long-term assistance from the authorities. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a limited number of income-generating projects continued and were due to be evaluated in early 2005.

In Serbia and Montenegro and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the ICRC continued to visit a small number of detainees falling within its purview. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, it provided support for civil society while handing mine-awareness and primary health-care programmes over to the National Society.

The ICRC focused on three priorities in the region. First and foremost, it was actively involved in the missing persons issue. It continued to support the families of missing persons in their search for answers and to encourage dialogue among all parties concerned. In February, the ICRC organized an international conference in Geneva on the issue of missing persons, which brought together governmental and non-governmental experts for the purpose of promoting good practice guidelines. The ICRC then focused its efforts on having the guidelines implemented and national bodies established to deal responsibly with the issue in the long term.

Secondly, the ICRC emphasized cooperation with the National Societies, aiming to foster their capacity to act reliably, independently and impartially in the still

fragile contexts, such as in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or unresolved situations, such as in Kosovo, in which they had to operate. It kept up its support for the efforts of the Albanian and Croatian National Societies to raise awareness of the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war in their respective countries.

Thirdly, the ICRC kept a close eye on developments in the region and stood ready to respond rapidly in the event of a crisis, as it had done on many occasions in the past.

In the countries covered by the Budapest regional delegation, the ICRC continued to work on building an extensive network of contacts in civil society to raise awareness of its mandate and activities and of international humanitarian law (IHL). Working in partnership with the National Societies to promote IHL – for example through the “Exploring Humanitarian Law” programme for schools – remained supremely important.

The Washington regional delegation pursued its protection activities on behalf of internees held at the United States naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in connection with the US military operation in Afghanistan that followed the events of 11 September 2001 and with the US-led “fight against terrorism.” The ICRC delegations in Brussels, Paris and New York sought to strengthen further their increasingly important role in international humanitarian diplomacy, and to enhance respect for humanitarian principles and for the applicability of IHL in conflict situations. In late 2003 the ICRC opened a communication office in London on the premises of the British Red Cross, the chief aim of which was to facilitate contact with various media representatives and think-tanks.

In a significant development, and in direct relation to the crisis in neighbouring Iraq, the Turkish authorities reached an agreement with the ICRC in April regarding the setting-up of a temporary mission in Ankara. The organization's activities in Turkey focused on promoting IHL in the armed forces and universities and on cooperating with the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

### **Eastern Europe**

The ICRC concentrated once again on the northern Caucasus and continued to shift the emphasis of its operation to Chechnya, where the need for protection and assistance was greatest but few organizations were working. Unfortunately, the still-volatile security situation, particularly in

Chechnya but also in the neighbouring republics, had a negative impact on the civilian population as well as on the ICRC's ability to carry out its neutral and impartial humanitarian operations. Security risks and problems obtaining access seriously restricted the freedom of movement of expatriates and increasingly also of national staff. The whereabouts of a Chechen employee of the ICRC who was abducted in August were still unknown at the end of the year. The internal crisis affecting the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross Society, the ICRC's main implementing partner in the region, continued although it did subside somewhat.

In Ingushetia, sustained pressure on displaced people to return to Chechnya or to vacate tent camps gave rise to humanitarian concern.

By August it had become clear that the ICRC would not be able to fully implement the operations planned for the region, which led it to trim down its action plan and budget for the following year. Despite these constraints, it nonetheless managed to keep between 95,000 and 135,000 of the neediest people supplied with food and other basic necessities, in addition to providing support for the renovation of public infrastructure and for health-care facilities.

The ICRC sought to strengthen its dialogue with the Chechen diaspora and the authorities at all levels to promote understanding of and enlist support for its operations in the northern Caucasus. It kept up its confidential dialogue with the authorities on protection concerns relating to detainees and civilians.

In the three countries of the southern Caucasus, the ICRC continued to enjoy a high degree of acceptance. Security concerns were much less of a problem than they had been in recent years. Detention-related activities and, in Georgia, aid for the most destitute were the main operational challenges facing the organization.

The ICRC carried out substantial distributions of food and other aid in western Georgia and Abkhazia, as in previous years. At the same time, it prepared to shift towards programmes intended to restore a measure of self-sufficiency to the beneficiaries. It called upon the authorities and the donor community to find long-term solutions.

In Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ICRC continued to support the authorities

in their efforts to bring under control the life-threatening epidemic of tuberculosis in the penitentiary system.

Across the region, including in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, which were covered by the Kyiv regional delegation, the ICRC maintained its long-term programmes to promote IHL.

The ICRC's school programme, which aimed to familiarize secondary-school pupils across seven countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States with the basic principles of IHL, was nearly 10 years old. As part of its exit strategy, the ICRC focused its support for the programme on those countries and regions that had shown real commitment to incorporating IHL into their curricula. In the countries covered by the Kyiv regional delegation, "Exploring Humanitarian Law," a more recent version of the school programme, continued to be implemented. The ICRC kept up its efforts to contribute to the development of the region's National Societies, in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



# bosnia and herzegovina

The ICRC, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, supports the population in its efforts to recover from the emotional wounds of the conflict that ended with the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995. Acting independently, though in close coordination with the authorities and national and international organizations, the ICRC supports the families of missing persons in their quest to ascertain the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. The ICRC, which has been present in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1992, opened its delegation in the country in 1995. The ICRC also supports the efforts of the National Society to raise civilians' awareness of the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**2,397,133**

Assistance

**146,850**

Preventive action

**1,668,105**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,611,257**

General

**0**

► **5,823,344**

of which: Overheads **355,415**

## PERSONNEL

**6** expatriates

**71** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For was revived, and the country's two entities handed over information on missing persons.
- The fifth edition of the *Book of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina* was published, and a campaign based on a book containing photographs of possessions found with the mortal remains of people who went missing in the Serb area of Sarajevo was launched.
- Together with the National Society, the ICRC collected some 7,000 items of ante-mortem data on missing persons.
- The "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme was launched in Brcko district.
- A regional moot-court competition was organized in Sarajevo.
- A study on the compatibility of Bosnia-Herzegovina's domestic law with IHL was completed and translated.

## CONTEXT

Bosnia-Herzegovina remained a country in transition, attempting to recover emotionally, politically and economically from the ramifications of conflict. In 2003, the complex process of appointing government officials at all levels, following the general elections held in 2002, heightened tension and threatened to destabilize the entire government structure. Both the ruling nationalist parties and the opposition party were disgruntled about what they saw as restrictions imposed on their role in the country's future.

Efforts to apprehend and convict war-crime suspects stayed on course. In February, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia handed Biljana Plavsic, a former president of the Republika Srpska, an 11-year prison term for crimes against humanity committed during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As part of the continuing effort to shed light on the problem of missing persons, the mortal remains of 626 people were exhumed from a mass grave – the largest uncovered so far in the country – in Crni Vrh, near Zvornik. The remains were those of people killed in connection with the events surrounding the fall of Srebrenica.

There was little change on the social and economic scenes. Official statistics put the number of people who had returned to Bosnia-Herzegovina since the Dayton Agreement was signed at nearly 900,000, three quarters of them in the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the rest in the Republika Srpska. A number of factors had a bearing on the return process. The country's economy remained in a slump, while the unemployment rate reportedly hovered between 38% and 43%. The lack of housing for internally displaced people persisted, as did the lack of security.

## ICRC ACTION

The issue of missing persons remained high on the ICRC's agenda for 2003. The organization put considerable effort into reviving the Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For. It convened meetings and encouraged the Group's representatives from both entities to hand over information on missing persons. Collection of ante-mortem data throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of the identification process resumed, and awareness among the authorities and in civil society of the needs of the families of missing persons increased.

The ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to reinforce its structures and management. To this end, the ICRC ensured that the National Society and its two entity Red Cross components held meetings aimed at expediting amendments to their statutes that would provide for the post of a full-time secretary-general at headquarters level. The ICRC helped the National Society to raise public awareness of the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war, and completed a four-year primary health-care programme carried out in conjunction with the National Society.

Other ICRC priorities included promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) among the international, State and entity authorities, entity armed forces and civil society, and implementation of the ICRC's new educational programme, "Exploring Humanitarian Law".

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued to work in the country, but scaled back its activities there. The Swiss and Spanish National Societies were also active in Bosnia-Herzegovina, especially on behalf of children affected by conflict.

## CIVILIANS

### Resolving the issue of missing persons

Since the conflict ended in 1996 the ICRC has collected 21,496 tracing requests and resolved 4,266 of them, mostly through the identification process. In 2003, families opened 330 cases and the ICRC closed 704.

- ▶ 23 people were located alive
- ▶ 678 bodies were exhumed and identified

The Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For held two sessions in 2003. Achievements included the handover of information on 45 missing persons by the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and on 27 missing persons by the Republika Srpska. The ICRC noted greater cooperation between the tracing commissions and entity authorities.

In cooperation with the authorities, the National Society and associations of families of missing persons, the ICRC launched a campaign in April to identify mortal remains found in the Serb area of Sarajevo. The campaign was based on a book containing 1,111 photographs of personal items found with the remains of 178 people. In all, 339 people consulted the book and 22 of them recognized items belonging to 11 individuals. These leads were passed on to local forensic pathologists for the next stage in the identification process. Altogether, 315 ante-mortem questionnaires were collected.

The fifth edition of the *Book of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina* was published in March and distributed to the ICRC's main contacts and Red Cross offices all over the country. The updated version can be consulted on the ICRC website. A leaflet about the ICRC photo-book project was made available in English and Bosnian in electronic and paper forms.

The ICRC and the authorities signed an agreement on collecting ante-mortem data from families of missing people in Brcko district. Data-collection personnel were trained in March and April. At the same time, the ICRC stepped up its efforts to collect ante-mortem data in cooperation with the National Society. The data were handed over to the Podrinje Identification Project and facilitated the identification of the mortal remains of 192 people. A list of cases still pending that had been included in previous photo books concerning remains found in the Srebrenica area was also handed over to the International Commission on Missing Persons.

Seven projects providing psychological support for families of missing persons were carried out. The aim was to offer the families appropriate psychological help during the identification process, the collection of ante-mortem data and the photo-book campaigns. The involvement of psychological consultants heightened awareness among public institutions and non-governmental organizations of the problems facing the families of missing persons, and strengthened contact with

associations of such families, thereby broadening the referral network.

- ▶ Several meetings were held with the International Commission on Missing Persons, during which the complementary role of the two organizations was stressed
- ▶ The 7th Regional Conference on Missing Persons Issues, for associations of families of missing persons, was organized in Sarajevo in May, attended by the ICRC and 75 participants from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- ▶ ICRC participation in the annual meeting of the Expert Group on Exhumations and Missing Persons, was organized to discuss the proposed Missing Persons Institute, and the new status of the Republika Srpska Office for the Tracing of Missing Persons

### Minimizing civilian suffering caused by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW)

In response to the persistent threat of mines/ERW, the ICRC continued its partnership with and support to the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a nationwide programme of "Mine Risk Education" in over 140 local communities. Over 112,000 adults and children participated in activities sponsored by the ICRC and the National Society in coordination with the two entity Ministries of Education, sports and cultural organizations, and community stakeholders. The entity annual mine-awareness quiz competitions were upgraded to a State competition. Partnership between the National Society and the Ministries of Education made it possible for some 63,000 school-age children in both entities to participate in competitions involving mine-awareness knowledge screening and testing, in mine-awareness or educational activities.

As at December 2003, the number of mine/ERW victims recorded in Bosnia-Herzegovina by the National Mine Victim Data Base, which was maintained by the ICRC and National Society, stood at 4,825. While the incidence of mine/ERW accidents in the country decreased from a high of 634 in 1996 to 54 in 2003, the number of returnees falling victim to mines/ERW in spring pointed to a need for intervention. The Mine Awareness Commission, formalized in May 2003 as part of the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, produced revised action plans drawn up to focus on returnees, who formed the bulk of mine victims in March and April 2003. Further

surveys in late 2003 confirmed ICRC estimates that 25% of the country was mine-infected, or that 1.3 million people in the country were affected by mines. In 2003, a new plan for the distribution of mine-victim data to the relevant stakeholders was put in place and functioned smoothly.

The findings of an ICRC survey on knowledge, attitude, and practices, involving 1,546 people divided into six categories, were published in a bilingual English and local-language report for people from government and NGO sectors involved in mine action. The report was put to use nation-wide to better define Mine Risk Education and thereby help reduce accidents, particularly among those most at risk – adult males between the ages of 19 and 39.

The ICRC and National Society, being members of the Mine Risk Education Policy Board, and of the Mine Risk Implementation Board of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre, actively supported the development and implementation of the National Plan for Mine Action, especially Mine Risk Education. In their joint pledge to the 28th International Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies held in Geneva in December 2003, the government and the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina re-affirmed their commitment to reducing the risks posed by mines.

ICRC contributions to the annual Landmine Monitor Report continued. The Mine Awareness Commission continued to review its action across the board, and to analyse its structure and programmes with a view to developing them further.

## AUTHORITIES

Regular contacts were maintained with the office of the High Representative and the Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina (SFOR), at entity level, and with the national authorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The ICRC promoted the conclusions of its international conference on missing persons by translating and distributing related documents. A study on the compatibility of the country's domestic law with IHL was completed and translated. The ICRC worked towards re-establishing and consolidating relations with the authorities in both entities, and continued to provide them with information and documentation on IHL on a regular basis.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Cooperation with the entities' armed forces remained good. The ICRC was in regular contact with the armed forces of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina regarding IHL and missing persons, and established new contacts in the armed forces of the Republika Srpska concerning missing persons.

The ICRC sponsored the attendance of two senior officers of entity armed forces at a course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, and provided support for the sixth joint training workshop, which was held at Jahorina and involved officers from both entities. Against the background of ongoing streamlining of the armed forces, a joint seminar was organized for 20 high-ranking officers from entity armies in December in Tuzla, where further integration of IHL into military training was discussed. Throughout the year materials on IHL were distributed to the armed forces and NATO contingents deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Initial talks were held with representatives of SFOR Multinational Brigade South-East to explore the possibility of the ICRC making presentations on IHL.

- presentations were made for SFOR legal personnel, and as part of a course organized by the NATO Civil-Military Coordination Group

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Involving the media in humanitarian issues

The ICRC and the media found a shared interest in drawing public attention to the Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For, a campaign to collect ante-mortem data, the issue of missing persons and mine awareness. The ICRC gave a series of interviews, held press conferences and issued press releases on a number of topics. It also produced a documentary on the use of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme in Brcko district.

The organization published the "Voices" newsletter, which was aimed primarily at families of the missing, and sponsored local journalists who travelled to Geneva to cover an international conference on missing persons.

## "Exploring Humanitarian Law" in secondary schools

The ICRC and the education authorities of Brcko district continued to cooperate in integrating the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme in the secondary-school curriculum. The ICRC conducted three training sessions on the programme for 86 teachers, educational experts and psychologists in Brcko district who tested EHL on a pilot basis with over 700 students in four secondary schools. Some 1,000 questionnaires were collected to begin an in-depth evaluation of the programme.

The education authorities of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina cooperated with the ICRC on the programme and planned to test it on a pilot basis in 2004. The Republika Srpska's education authorities confirmed their support for the programme and formed a working group to adapt the materials to local needs. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), which was supervising educational reforms in the country, also confirmed its interest in EHL.

In preparation for the EHL International Education Leadership Seminar held in Budapest in July, the ICRC produced a 15-minute video on the programme's implementation in Brcko district, in which students, teachers, trainers and Ministry of Education officials gave their views. High-level educational representatives from Brcko district, the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska as well as the ICRC participated in the seminar.

## Fostering the teaching of IHL in universities

After the previous year's regional moot-court competition in Belgrade, the ICRC contacted the law faculty of the University of Sarajevo about playing host to the competition in 2003. Students from Banja Luka who had taken part in the previous year's event joined in a presentation on the ICRC and IHL in April to help generate interest in the 2003 competition, which was held in Sarajevo in November and attracted students from four countries in the region. Experience shows that such competitions are highly motivating for both students and professors and an effective tool for the promotion of IHL.

Under the supervision of the Office of the High Representative and the OSCE, reforms in higher education got under way in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There were indications that IHL might gain a foothold in the law faculty in the Republika Srpska. To boost

interest in the subject, the ICRC held a number of presentations on IHL at the law faculties in Mostar and Sarajevo universities, and provided students and their institutions with IHL materials.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

One of the main challenges of the National Society was to strengthen its ability to coordinate and direct the activities of its two components at the national level. The existing statutes, which did not provide for the position of a secretary-general, hampered development. There was no legislation to identify or facilitate support for the National Society's role at the national level, which made it difficult for the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfil its role as an auxiliary to the government. The ICRC therefore worked with the National Society to overcome these challenges. As a result of National Society lobbying, the government made a pledge at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to adopt a New Law on the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The ICRC completed a four-year primary health-care programme carried out in conjunction with the National Society. A report on the programme, including recommendations, was to be released in 2004.

In May the Inter-Entity Mine-Awareness Management Team was officially transformed into a commission of the National Society. This was an important development for what had originally been a structure created by the ICRC to carry out mine-awareness activities, and was a prerequisite for handing over complete responsibility for mine-risk education to the National Society by the end of 2004. With continued support from the ICRC, the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine-Action Centre carried out mine-risk education quiz competitions in primary schools throughout the country involving some 63,000 pupils. The results indicated that the pupils were generally knowledgeable about the danger of mines and about safe behaviour.

In November, the ICRC and the National Society teamed up to collect some 7,000 items of ante-mortem data from families of missing persons. The ICRC continued to provide the National Society with training and material and financial support for its tracing services, emergency and disaster preparedness and response, and dissemination and mine-awareness activities.



ICRC delegation ICRC office

# former yugoslav republic of macedonia

Since the beginning of the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in March 2001, the ICRC has been running an assistance and protection programme for IDPs and the resident population of the villages and towns worst hit by the fighting. It also visits detainees. The ICRC cooperates with the Macedonian Red Cross in carrying out tracing activities and promoting IHL. The ICRC has been present in the country since 1993.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**643,510**

Assistance

**374,444**

Preventive action

**910,209**

Cooperation with National Societies

**187,876**

General

**0**

► **2,116,039**

of which: Overheads **129,148**

## PERSONNEL

**7** expatriates

**37** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- ICRC food aid for people displaced as a result of the internal conflict in 2001 ended.
- A programme to raise awareness of the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war continued in cooperation with the National Society.
- Support was maintained for a programme known as "Promotion of Human Values," which sought to promote dialogue among young people from different ethnic backgrounds.
- The "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme was launched in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

## CONTEXT

Both the ruling coalition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM) and the international community continued to regard implementation of the Ohrid Agreement as imperative. The peace agreement ended seven months of fighting in the country when it was signed in August 2001. In accordance with the agreement, the governing coalition moved to give more rights to the ethnic Albanian minority. The redrawing of municipal borders and devolving of power to local government, which were a crucial aspect of the agreement, picked up steam following the release of census figures in November. According to the census, ethnic Macedonians represented 64% of the population of slightly over two million and ethnic Albanians accounted for 25%, while Turks, Romas, Vlachs and Serbs made up the remaining percentage.

Albanian became an official language and was used in parliament, and progress was made on increased access for ethnic Albanians to public-sector jobs. Achievements such as these were regularly overshadowed, however, by serious incidents such as ethnic clashes and a series of bomb explosions. Ethnic tensions in schools, notably in Semsovo and Kumanovo, caused concern and raised the spectre of ethnically segregated schools. Police access to municipalities in the former conflict zones remained restricted, and several incidents raised tensions. The threat to the general public posed by mines and explosive remnants of war declined sharply, but the threat to security forces remained considerable.

Economic reforms, including the liquidation of over 20 State-controlled bankrupt companies, were expected to pave the way for a healthier economy in the long run. However, short-term effects such as lay-offs in the public sector, compounded by high inflation, continued to take their toll on a population already affected by unemployment estimated at between 30 and 35%.

In late May, some 600 Roma refugees were stranded in a no-man's land between the fYROM and Greece after a collective camp that had sheltered them was closed by the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In August some of the refugees moved to Skopje where most found private housing.

Relations between the fYROM and its neighbours were generally good. The country's agenda was topped by its determination to meet requirements for NATO and European Union membership, as evidenced by the signing of a tripartite agreement with Albania and Croatia to speed up the NATO membership process. The country's other concerns were the traffic in people and drugs, organized crime, and a large number of unregistered weapons, estimated at between 100,000 and 170,000.

## ICRC ACTION

ICRC programmes primarily concerned the former conflict region, along the border with Albania, Kosovo and Serbia proper. In June the ICRC made its final distribution of food parcels, wheat flour and hygiene items in the government-run collective centres for internally displaced people (IDPs), ending a programme that had been running for nearly two years. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia provided some further assistance for IDPs in host families until September. The ICRC undertook an evaluation of the programmes it had carried out on behalf of IDPs and examined the possibility of further aid programmes.

The ICRC worked to strengthen Red Cross programmes promoting international humanitarian law (IHL), raising awareness of the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war, and providing tracing services.

The ICRC maintained the network of contacts it had established in the country and continued promoting IHL among the media, the general public, universities, the police and the army. Other important activities included the organization of workshops and lectures in schools in cooperation with the Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in support of the Promoting Humanitarian Values programme, and the testing of parts of the EHL programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. The ICRC continued to participate in coordination meetings organized by international and intergovernmental organizations such as the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Organization for Migration, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and NATO.

## CIVILIANS

### Assisting displaced people

At the end of November, 2,678 IDPs were still registered by the ICRC, 38.8% of them in 16 collective centres and 61.2% with host families. This represented a decline of some 2,400 in the number of IDPs, which was mainly the result of the repair and reconstruction of houses which continued throughout 2003. There were two main reasons for lingering displacement. Some 34% of the IDPs had severely damaged or

totally ruined houses, while the remainder faced security problems that made their return to their home villages conditional on improvements in real and perceived security, and economic and other concerns. Although the ICRC stopped updating its IDP database, it continued to monitor the situation of the remaining displaced people and their prospects for returning to their homes. For some of them, permanent displacement could not be ruled out. The ICRC also made preparations for an income-generating programme to support some of the most vulnerable among the displaced in 2004.

In Skopje and Kumanovo each displaced person in a collective centre received 12 kilograms of wheat flour and one food parcel every month, and a hygiene parcel every three months, until August. The food was given to the centres' communal kitchens because the IDPs did not have individual cooking facilities. August 2003 marked the end of all distributions.

- 126 tonnes wheat flour, 10,503 food parcels, and 5,705 hygiene parcels were distributed

### Seeking solutions to the issue of missing persons

There were 23 people registered as missing. No tracing requests were settled, nor new cases opened, for persons missing in connection with the conflict. The ICRC met with families of the missing on several occasions and with the Ministry of the Interior, but no further progress was made in clarifying the missing persons' fate. The organization reached an agreement with the ministry on the collection of ante-mortem data for all missing persons. The ICRC also continued to deal with a small number of tracing cases linked to the Kosovo crisis.

- 144 Red Cross messages were handled

### Minimizing civilian suffering caused by mines and explosive remnants of war

The Ministry of Defence continued to implement the Ottawa Convention. On 20 February, it destroyed 16,071 anti-personnel mines. This act, which the ICRC witnessed, followed the destruction of 22,800 mines in November 2002. A reserve of 4,000 mines remained for civil-protection teams and military training.

Contact was maintained with the UN mine-action office, specifically to maintain links with newly appointed national staff

and to train them in raising awareness of the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war. With ICRC support, the future head of the national mine-action office received training in Slovenia.

The Macedonian Red Cross continued its mine-awareness presentations in the Tetovo, Skopje and Kumanovo regions, reaching 3,900 people, including children and returnees. A three-member team appointed for mine-awareness activities was set to join the civil-protection team responsible for mine clearance in the Kumanovo region.

In March the ICRC presented its mine-awareness programme to 30 newly arrived European Union troops. Cooperation also continued with Handicap International in the drafting and field-testing of mine-awareness messages for teenagers from mine-affected areas. Field-testing in various primary schools showed that children were well aware of the mine danger and of ways to minimize it. Cooperation with National Society mine-awareness instructors ended in June, and plans were made for the hand-over of the mine-awareness programme to the national mine-action body.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC maintained contact with the prison authorities, who provided timely information on pre-trial and sentenced detainees. It continued to follow up on new arrests, visited 19 pre-trial detainees and held interviews with nine ex-detainees.

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The medical department of the ICRC delegation in Skopje closed in September 2002. In 2003, surgical kits were donated to three hospitals in Skopje and one in Tetovo. Previously purchased medical books and supplies were handed over to Idrizovo prison.

## AUTHORITIES

A meeting was organized with an IHL expert appointed in 2002 to conduct a study on the compatibility of Macedonian law with IHL. Contacts were established with the Macedonian Red Cross to prepare for the formation of a national IHL committee. The National Society officially requested the government to create the committee.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to support the Macedonian armed forces' IHL programme by conducting workshops and seminars attended by representatives of the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, military officers and military academy cadets. IHL publications in Macedonian were donated to the army, which set up 11 IHL libraries. Translations of new IHL teaching materials continued apace.

A meeting of representatives from the armed forces of 17 countries in central and south-eastern Europe was held in Skopje in July to review progress in implementing IHL in military doctrine.

The ICRC and the Macedonian special police forces continued to enjoy excellent cooperation. In 2003, two three-day IHL seminars were conducted for the force's officers. Two presentations on the ICRC's mandate and activities in the FYROM were made in connection with OSCE training for law-enforcement officers, police instructors and community-policing officers arriving in Skopje.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Working with the media to promote IHL and humanitarian action

The local and international media reported on a number of issues and activities of humanitarian interest, including the ICRC's Women and War campaign and World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day. A workshop for 30 journalists organized by the Macedonian Red Cross with the support of the ICRC also received broad coverage.

### Introducing IHL to future generations

Nine workshops and 60 lectures to promote human values were organized throughout the year for students, teachers and Red Cross representatives in several locations. The aim of the workshops was to assess progress made since previous workshops, test the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme and introduce the Promotion of Human Values programme to future teachers.

In March the ICRC carried out an assessment of the Promotion of Human Values programme. Together with education experts it also produced a new manual for use in integrating the programme into the secondary-school curriculum, and had the

manual printed in the Macedonian and Albanian languages. Materials for the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme were translated into Macedonian and Albanian to ensure that they could be fully tested while the Promotion of Human Values workshops were under way.

### Fostering the teaching of IHL in universities

Contact was maintained with professors teaching IHL in Skopje University's law faculty and in South-East European University in Tetovo.

A joint team of law students from Cyril and Methodius University and South-East European University participated in a moot-court competition in Sarajevo, and reached the final round. The ICRC donated a basic IHL library (comprising books in Macedonian, Albanian and English) to these institutions and made presentations reaching about 180 students.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Red Cross of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia carried out an assessment of the tracing needs of refugees who had remained in the FYROM since the Kosovo crisis. The assessment identified few needs but pointed out ways to improve services. Trained volunteers of the National Society actively promoted IHL and the Fundamental Principles. The ICRC continued to support the National Society's efforts to conduct IHL sessions for all Red Cross branches. Representatives of the Macedonian Red Cross regularly attended Promotion of Human Values workshops for secondary-school children, where they learned about the programme's contents and methodology. Negotiations were concluded on the handover of responsibility for the programme to the National Society over the next three years. Debate was initiated on new statutes, and changes to a first draft were approved by the International Federation and the ICRC. The new statutes, which conform to the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, were adopted in December. The American Red Cross ended its health project in the FYROM in March and the International Federation closed its offices in December.



# serbia and montenegro

The ICRC works throughout Serbia and Montenegro and supports the families of missing persons in their efforts to shed light on the fate of their relatives. It provides the families with psychological, legal and material assistance where necessary. Working closely with the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society, the ICRC also implements small-scale programmes to help the most vulnerable IDPs become self-sufficient. The ICRC has operated in Serbia and Montenegro since 1991. In Kosovo, where it has been present since 1992, the organization focuses on finding solutions to the issue of people reported missing as a result of the events of 1998-2000. Together with the International Federation, the ICRC has been encouraging the Red Cross organizations in Kosovo to pool their efforts through a joint working group.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**4,438,047**

Assistance

**14,813,463**

Preventive action

**1,676,658**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,422,259**

General

**1,596**

► **22,352,023**

of which: Overheads **1,342,563**

## PERSONNEL

**25** expatriates

**241** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Direct food distributions to IDPs ended in December, but income-generating programmes were consolidated and stepped up.
- A campaign was launched to raise awareness of the needs of IDPs and solicit assistance for them. A burden-sharing agreement was signed with the Serbian and Montenegrin governments with the aim of providing direct cash assistance to 7,500 households of IDPs living below the minimum social security level.
- Efforts were maintained to resolve the issue of missing persons.
- A booklet of guidelines and a legal study designed to help families of missing persons deal with practical issues relating to their status were produced.
- Detainees arrested in connection with the state of emergency declared following the assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic were visited.

## CONTEXT

The most notable event in 2003 was the assassination of the Serbian prime minister and architect of pro-European reform, Zoran Djindjic. The subsequent declaration of a state of emergency led to the arrest and detention of thousands of people. The government openly confronted elements of organized crime deemed responsible for this and other killings.

The year was largely characterized by a political impasse in Serbia, evidenced by three inconclusive presidential elections. Tensions persisted between Belgrade and Pristina, with the status of Kosovo remaining a thorny issue. An agreement on the new union of Serbia and Montenegro was signed and was due to be reviewed in three years.

The humanitarian situation stayed gloomy. Nevertheless, aid agencies continued to leave. Traditional major donors and large bilateral agencies steered their efforts away from emergency aid and towards development issues like education, local democratization and governance.

The economic situation and forecast remained grim: annual industrial output declined by 5%, while droughts severely reduced agricultural yields in northern Serbia in spring. The rate of unemployment was at least 30% and was expected to rise with continuing restructuring and sales of inefficient public-owned enterprises.

Relations between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Kosovo Provisional

Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) stayed strained. Nevertheless, UNMIK expedited the transfer of some of its portfolios to PISG while retaining others, such as foreign affairs, justice and security. In spite of the 37 million euros spent by the international community and the Kosovo authorities in 2003 on the return process, fewer than 4,000 people went back to Kosovo. This brought the total number of returnees to 9,000 since 2000, or less than 5% of the total number displaced.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained its support for families of missing persons seeking to find out what happened to their loved ones, and for the authorities in charge of the exhumation and identification of human remains.

Only the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the ICRC and a handful of other organizations remained in Serbia and Montenegro to assist people in need. With the termination of ICRC food aid looming, the organization embarked on a campaign to alert the national authorities, the international community, civil society and others to the need to strengthen the safety and social security net for internally displaced people (IDPs), and to help find lasting solutions. A budget extension enabled the organization to intensify the campaign and continue food distribution until December, when the most vulnerable IDPs had the opportunity to apply for a cash assistance programme that was due to be implemented in 2004.

The outcome of the campaign was an agreement signed between the ICRC and the Serbian authorities for a 12-month burden-sharing scheme involving cash for 6,000 households of the most vulnerable IDPs as a prelude to the handover of responsibility for their welfare to the authorities (and their ultimate inclusion in the social-welfare system). A similar agreement was reached with the Montenegrin authorities for 1,500 households.

The ICRC maintained its cooperation with the federal and republican Red Cross organizations in building the capacity of the National Society. ICRC support focused on the assistance and dissemination activities of the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society. The ICRC remained the lead agency for the activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Kosovo and was frequently consulted on the missing persons issue. The organization also carried on with its mine-awareness activities.

## CIVILIANS

### Continuing the search for answers to the missing persons issue

#### *Kosovo conflict*

By the end of 2003 the ICRC had 3,411 open tracing requests on record, including 32 cases opened in the course of the year. Of the 643 bodies exhumed in Kosovo since mid-2002, 486 had been identified and

451 handed over to families in Serbia – including Kosovo – and Montenegro for burial. In all, 442 bodies were exhumed in 2003. In Serbia and Montenegro, 830 bodies were exhumed and submitted to an autopsy.

- 157 bodies exhumed in Kosovo awaited identification
- remains of 197 people were identified and handed over from Serbia proper and Montenegro to families in Kosovo
- family members received water, food, first aid and other support from the ICRC and the local Red Cross during burial ceremonies

The ICRC helped organize viewings in three regions of personal items of people who disappeared. The organization offered transport and psychological support to those who took part, some of whom recognized items that belonged to their loved ones. The ICRC published two photo books of personal belongings found on remains exhumed in the Prizren and Djakovica areas. It also finalized a collection of ante-mortem data.

Working with the local Red Cross, the ICRC continued its psychological assistance projects for family members, which entailed biweekly support discussions and financial, material, and logistical assistance, as well as training for mental health professionals and cooperation with local counsellors. Family members had the opportunity to discuss their problems with representatives of a network of ICRC-partner institutions, to which they were to continue to have access even after the projects ended.

The ICRC produced a booklet of guidelines to help families overcome frequently encountered administrative and legal hurdles involving pension compensation and official documents.

#### *Croatia conflict 1991 – 1995*

To update data on missing persons and encourage the authorities to provide answers about what happened to them, the ICRC continued to collect tracing requests and to record reported deaths. It submitted 119 requests concerning people who went missing in the former UN sectors to the Government Office for Detained and Missing Persons. Information provided by the authorities, the National Society and families enabled the ICRC to confirm eight reported deaths and close 282 tracing requests (in all, 54 people were located and 236 were confirmed dead). During the reporting period 42 enquirers were informed that the tracing requests or cases of reported

deaths they had opened for their missing relatives had been processed.

By providing ante-mortem data and other support, the ICRC assisted the Government Office for Detained and Missing Persons in carrying out identifications of bodies exhumed in 2001 in Knin. Families were then given death certificates and assisted with arrangements to reclaim the remains for proper burial.

The ICRC also enabled 188 family members in Serbia and Montenegro, who because of their refugee status had no valid travel documents or means, to travel to Croatia to help identify human remains or attend funerals. The identification efforts supported by the ICRC involved 183 bodies and made it possible to confirm the identities of 94 people.

The organization continued to cooperate – financially and through the publication of a newsletter – with associations of the families of people missing as a result of past conflicts.

### Protecting civilians

The ICRC met several times with UNMIK's head of institutions to monitor the situation of returnees and minorities and gain an overall picture of the situation in Kosovo.

The ICRC arranged for 25 people to be transferred from health-care and mental institutions and orphanages in Kosovo to Serbia proper and vice versa. It organized six family reunifications and facilitated the repatriation of a patient's remains from Serbia to relatives in Kosovo.

### Offering economic security to IDPs

In order to add credibility and depth to its campaign on behalf of IDPs, the ICRC conducted two needs assessments. The first examined the needs that the ICRC had failed to address with its food programme. The second looked into the causes of IDPs' vulnerability and made a comparative analysis of the poverty of IDPs and of the resident population. An evaluation of a soup-kitchen programme was also carried out.

Some 59,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs, who had been assisted since July 1999, received their last ICRC food distributions in December. During this final year of distributions, 9,804 tonnes of basic foods were handed out. The last distribution of hygiene items took place for the same beneficiaries early in the year. As a follow-up to direct food distributions the ICRC was set to join the Serbian and Montenegrin authorities in implementing a cash assistance

programme and to maintain income-generating projects (grants, vocational training and micro-credit).

The number of beneficiaries of income-generating projects, which were part of an integrated approach to assisting IDPs, doubled compared to the previous year. A wider array of projects was implemented, including the granting of micro-credit, which was resumed during the last quarter of the year. In 2003 the ICRC was actively involved in community-based projects involving activities such as theatre, painting and sports, the aim of which was to strengthen contacts between the resident and displaced communities; the local Red Cross branches were set to take over most of the responsibility for looking after these projects in 2004.

- ▶ 1,226 grants were awarded for income-generating projects
- ▶ 351 people received vocational training

### **Minimizing the suffering caused to civilians by mines and explosive remnants of war**

Mines and explosive remnants of war have been detected in 130 areas in 80 villages of Kosovo. In 2003 they killed three civilians and injured 15 others. The ICRC community-based "safer village" approach was implemented in 65 villages, where Red Cross volunteers and inhabitants of affected areas help draw up and carry out strategies to reduce the risk of injury and death. The ICRC held a series of meetings with the international and national authorities to discuss mine action and mine awareness, especially with regard to children. The identification of needs achieved at the meetings was expected to be useful in developing a mine-awareness training programme to benefit children. The ICRC also trained 100 teachers in methods and techniques of alerting school children to the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war, and to serve as trainers.

The Kosovo Protection Corps continued clearing mines and informing communities of their results, and initiated an assessment of awareness needs among the general population relating to mines and explosive remnants of war.

In 2003, implementation of the ICRC strategy to strengthen the Red Cross of Kosovo's mine-action capacity was completed. The strategy involved establishing a communication structure within the Red Cross of Kosovo which would be used among other things for a mine-awareness programme covering 26 municipalities. This was to

ensure that people living in or visiting mine-affected areas received the mine-awareness message. By the end of 2003, the mine-awareness programme had been handed over fully to the Red Cross of Kosovo, making it the only institution in Kosovo to cover mine-awareness needs.

### **PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM**

The ICRC gained access to and visited 69 people held in connection with the state of emergency, and following the murder of a State security agent in southern Serbia.

In 2003 the ICRC family visit programme made it possible for some people from Serbia and Montenegro to visit 41 relatives detained in Croatia. Conversely, four detainees released from prison in Croatia were assisted in rejoining their families in Serbia and Montenegro.

In Kosovo 13 complete visits were carried out in Dubrava, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Pristina, Mitrovica/Kosovska Mitrovica and Lipjan/Lipljan detention facilities, while two visits were made to Bondsteel, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) detention facility.

### **WOUNDED AND SICK**

ICRC activities focused on improving access to basic health care for residents of remote areas through support to local health-care institutions in Vranje district. Five ICRC-supported primary health-care facilities (*ambulant*s) provided outpatient services to an average of 1,000 patients each month. The ICRC provided support for renovations needed to re-open five additional *ambulant*s in Bujanovac and Presevo, and made a final general distribution of drugs and medical equipment to 10 *ambulant*s. The ICRC also gave technical support to local health authorities in Vranje and Bujanovac. Staff shortages in *ambulant*s remained a problem.

Repair work on seven *ambulant*s in Kraljevo municipality was completed. In May all 23 general-practice *ambulant*s in Kraljevo municipality joined a basic health services pilot project. As a result, the number of registered beneficiaries increased from 7,000 in January to over 61,000 at the end of 2003. All Kraljevo general-practice department staff successfully completed their basic training in the use of the project's software and in communication skills.

### **AUTHORITIES**

An eight-month campaign to find solutions to the basic long-term needs of IDPs was officially launched in Belgrade in April. The campaign, which included meetings with government officials and representatives of all major donor agencies and embassies, generated considerable interest among international organizations. Some donors – the World Food Programme in particular – postponed termination of their programmes. Another outcome was the signing of memoranda of understanding between the ICRC and the republican authorities on a burden-sharing cash-assistance programme for IDPs.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with international and supranational organizations in Belgrade on various topics of a humanitarian nature, including access to detainees arrested in connection with the state of emergency. In southern Serbia, the organization worked with the authorities to monitor closely the security situation, particularly in the municipalities of Bujanovac, Presevo and Medvedja. In Kosovo the ICRC maintained regular contact with representatives of the Municipal Assembly and working groups dealing with minority issues.

### **ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS**

#### **Promoting humanitarian law in the armed forces**

The initiation of international humanitarian law (IHL) activities with the Serbian *gendarmerie* and Montenegrin border police helped enlist support among their middle- and high-ranking officers for future promotion of IHL. The activities included refresher IHL courses for platoon, company and battalion commanders, a senior officers' seminar, and introductory IHL courses for Serbian *gendarmerie* and Montenegrin border police. In light of the impending review of the armed forces of Serbia and Montenegro, and of the country's obligations to the NATO "Partnership for Peace," the ICRC continued to seek an opportunity to further promote IHL in the armed forces, in particular through the integration of that body of law into military doctrine and training.

The ICRC enjoyed good cooperation with KFOR with regard to missing persons and the problem of mines and unexploded ordnance, and had unfettered access to all regions of Kosovo. At regular information

sessions on IHL and in its contacts with officers from the Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) Group, the ICRC explained its aims and activities in Kosovo, especially those relating to missing persons.

- 3 presentations on the ICRC's mandate and activities were conducted for 40 CIMIC officers

### **Enhancing knowledge of human rights law and IHL in the police forces**

Two seminars on human rights law and IHL were held for senior officers of the Serbian *gendarmerie* in November, and documents on these topics were distributed to the Montenegrin Ministry of the Interior. Presentations were given on the ICRC's mandate and IHL in Kosovo for officials and Serbian and ethnic Albanian cadets of the Kosovo Police Service.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY**

Most ICRC activities involving the media in 2003 targeted the authorities rather than the general public. The IDP advocacy campaign, based on a photo book and a photo exhibition that toured major urban centres in Serbia and Montenegro, was the key effort. In addition, the local media in the Kraljevo area were very active in bringing the ICRC's primary health-care project to the attention of the public.

ICRC press releases and interviews of ICRC staff by local and foreign media in Kosovo covered the issue of missing persons, the ICRC handover of its water and habitat project in Gjilan/Gnjilane, the ICRC's programme of psychological support for families of missing persons, and the issue of protection for the red cross emblem.

An IHL trainers' workshop was organized for 22 officers of the Kosovo Protection Corps, and an abridged version of "To Serve and to Protect" was translated into Albanian.

### **Introducing young people to IHL**

The ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme was approved for use in secondary schools by the Serbian Ministry of Education and Sports. By the end of the year, a pilot project was well under way, reaching 1,000 students in 16 Belgrade secondary schools and the police cadet school in Novi Sad.

MOST, a leading Belgrade-based educational group, trained the 40 secondary-school

teachers who are now using EHL on an experimental basis in their classrooms. The master trainers also trained teachers in Brcko District in Bosnia. Regional cooperation remained important for the pilot testing of the adapted version of the programme developed previously by MOST.

To measure the impact of EHL, the Ministry of Education undertook an evaluation of the programme in cooperation with the Institute of Psychology of the University of Belgrade. Some 500 students from 10 schools participated in the evaluation.

### **Bolstering knowledge of IHL among university students**

The University of Belgrade's faculty of political science recognized the graduate IHL programme initiated with the ICRC's support in 2002. Students from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, the Interior and Justice enrolled in the programme's first two courses. The ICRC arranged for the first-ever Yugoslav team, from the University of Belgrade, to participate in the English session of the Jean Pictet moot-court competition that attracted 45 teams from 22 countries. The ICRC and the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society organized a national moot-court competition in which four teams participated.

An IHL programme is also on track in the Pristina University law faculty. The ICRC assisted the faculty's students in preparing for the French session of the Jean Pictet moot-court competition, which brought together 25 teams from 11 countries.

## **NATIONAL SOCIETY**

The Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society drafted its statutes to conform to Movement standards and submitted them to the joint International Federation/ICRC Commission for National Society Statutes. The National Society is now integrating the Commission's recommendations into its statutes before circulating them to its own members for comment and adoption.

### **Supporting of the Serbia and Montenegro Red Cross Society at republic levels**

National Society staff and volunteers carried on collecting data on emblem use and misuse as part of a plan to advocate the revision and enforcement of the country's emblem law. Through a series of workshops and meetings, the ICRC supported the National Society's efforts to strengthen its nationwide tracing network and reinforced the

contribution of regional dissemination centres to IHL promotion.

### **The ICRC as the lead agency in Kosovo**

The ICRC remained the lead agency of the Movement in Kosovo. The number of partner National Societies in Kosovo dropped from 10 at the beginning of the year to three at the end. They carried out health-related activities, income-generation programmes, health education and training, and training for Red Cross management positions. Together with the local Red Cross, the International Federation supported youth, community-welfare and organizational development programmes.

### **Seeking a unified Red Cross in Kosovo**

The two Red Cross organizations in Kosovo agreed to attend meetings of a joint working group in which the ICRC and the International Federation also participated. The aim of the bimonthly meetings was to improve relations between Red Cross organizations and search for a consensus on a unified Red Cross in Kosovo. By the latter part of 2003, members of the working group were settling the details of a project for a joint mobile clinic delivering health services to enclaves throughout Kosovo. They were also planning to share office space.

The ICRC continued to support the Red Cross in Kosovo in its efforts to promote IHL and raise awareness of the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war. Regular meetings continued with 80 Red Cross village volunteers and branch secretaries who were involved in the implementation and development of mine-awareness activities.

- 62 Red Cross messages were handled
- several thousand people including children were informed about dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war at awareness sessions, briefings and regular meetings



# southern caucasus: armenia and azerbaijan

The ICRC has been working in Armenia and Azerbaijan, in the context of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, since 1992. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees who are held in connection with the conflict or otherwise vulnerable. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis in prisons under control. The ICRC also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. In Azerbaijan, the ICRC assists the health authorities in making limb-fitting services available across the country. In Nagorno Karabakh it supports primary health-care services.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF (ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AND GEORGIA)

Protection	2,883,668
Assistance	15,620,885
Preventive action	3,062,448
Cooperation with National Societies	485,760
General	13,454
	► 22,066,216
	of which: Overheads 1,337,793

## PERSONNEL

13	expatriates
114	national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- To lend new momentum to the process of providing answers to the families of people unaccounted for, the ICRC prepared an updated list containing the names of those missing for submission to the parties to the conflict.
- The ICRC continued to support the authorities of Armenia and Azerbaijan in implementing a tuberculosis (TB) control programme in prisons.
- Azerbaijan's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection continued to receive ICRC support to decentralize physical rehabilitation services.
- In Nagorno Karabakh, the ICRC provided advice on establishing a sustainable primary health-care system – while keeping health facilities in war-affected districts supplied with medicines – and on setting up safe playgrounds in mine-affected communities.
- IHL capacity-building continued among the armed forces, academic circles, civil servants and local NGOs, and in the secondary-education system; Azerbaijan's interior ministry gave its agreement for training in IHL and international human rights law to be initiated for police and interior troops.

## CONTEXT

2003 was an election year in both countries. In Armenia, President Robert Kocharian was re-elected, while in Azerbaijan, Heydar Alyiev's son Ilham Alyiev was elected president. In December, the OSCE facilitated a meeting between the two heads of State in Geneva.

## ICRC ACTION

Engaging the parties in a constructive dialogue on the issue of people unaccounted for remained a priority for the ICRC in 2003. Both Armenia and Azerbaijan sent representatives to the conference on missing persons organized by the ICRC in Geneva. However, no real advances were made in this matter which is closely linked to the state of peace negotiations.

While the ICRC was called upon several times to carry out activities for small numbers of people detained in connection with the conflict, most of its work consisted in monitoring the living conditions of detainees, particularly vulnerable groups within the prison population.

The ICRC programme to support the authorities in containing the TB epidemic in prisons continued. Coordination with other organizations active in this field remained an important aspect.

In Azerbaijan, the ICRC continued to assist the labour ministry in decentralizing limb-fitting services to the country's west and Nakhichevan.

In Nagorno Karabakh, the ICRC supplied health facilities with medicines and provided advice to support the gradual development of a well-functioning and sustainable primary health-care system. A "Safe play areas" project suffered delays owing to an unusually long winter; completion of some of the play areas was postponed to the following year.

The ICRC sought to expand contacts with the media, NGOs and professional circles which have the potential to serve as relays for the IHL message and awareness of humanitarian issues and action. It pursued its programmes to promote IHL, and its implementation at national level, among the authorities, the armed forces, secondary schools and universities. As before, the ICRC coordinated its activities with other organizations working in the region, mainly the UNHCR, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, WHO, Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (German Technical Cooperation) and the Clasen group on missing persons. It cooperated closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## CIVILIANS

### Encouraging dialogue on the issue of missing persons

Over a decade after the outbreak of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, thousands of families were still without news regarding the fate or whereabouts of relatives gone missing. The ICRC has kept reminding the authorities of their duty to provide clear answers in all these cases. Hoping to lend new momentum to the process it prepared an updated list containing the names of people missing, with the intention of submitting it to the authorities in early 2004.

While maintaining contact with the official commissions set up by Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ICRC, as in the past, sought to convince the parties of the need to establish a multilateral mechanism to deal comprehensively with this issue.

### Family contact through Red Cross messages

Telephone and postal links between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh have still not been fully restored. For a small number of people, the ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) network was still the only way of maintaining contact with family members.

The Baku delegation issued an increasing number of travel documents requested by refugees who had been accepted by a host country.

### Safe play areas in Nagorny Karabakh

Many communities in Nagorny Karabakh were still unsafe because of explosive remnants of war and lacked playgrounds where children could play without risk of death or injury. The ICRC therefore initiated a project

to build or rebuild sports areas and playgrounds, including equipment suitable for disabled children, in 30 affected villages. The project was funded by the Norwegian Red Cross.

### Restoring family links

- 3,176 tracing requests had been received since 1992 (including 98 received in 2003)
- 526 RCMs were delivered
- 106 travel documents were issued

### Mine action

- 20 playgrounds were completed

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visiting people detained in connection with the conflict

On both sides, people were still detained in relation to the conflict, albeit in small numbers. The ICRC visited such detainees in Armenia and Azerbaijan and in some cases supervised their repatriation. On one occasion, it arranged for the mortal remains of an Azeri serviceman killed on the line of contact to be transferred to Azerbaijan.

### Monitoring the situation of detainees

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, including Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC had access to the prison population as a whole. Armenia introduced a new penal code in August 2003, which resulted in the release of nearly one-third of the prison population. In Azerbaijan, some 3,000 people were released after amnesties in May, June and December.

The ICRC focused on such vulnerable groups as women, minors, foreign nationals and those sentenced to death, whose conditions of detention it monitored on an individual basis. It maintained the RCM service for detainees who wished to exchange news with their families. Where needed, the ICRC provided small-scale assistance to improve detainees' living conditions.

In Armenia the ICRC funded an educational project in a penitentiary for minors, carried out by the Armenian puppeteers' association. In Azerbaijan, jointly with the justice ministry, it organized a seminar for prison doctors on TB/HIV/AIDS and other health problems of detainees.

### Containing the life-threatening TB epidemic

The ICRC continued to support the governments of Armenia and Azerbaijan in implementing TB control measures in prisons, based on strict adherence to the WHO-recommended DOTS approach, and in integrating these into national TB programmes. It exchanged information and coordinated its efforts with other organizations.

In Armenia, where the programme was launched in 2000 with the building of a TB ward in Yerevan's central penitentiary hospital, detainees with TB started to be treated in the newly opened ward. Active case-finding in prisons and penal colonies enabled TB sufferers to be diagnosed in the early stages of the disease and to be transferred to the TB department. As a result of Armenia's penal reform, many prisoners were released while still under treatment. As a result of a project to follow up detainees after their release, over half of the released patients joined civilian TB programmes. Before this activity was launched more than 80% of those released did not pursue their treatment.

In addition, the ICRC organized health education activities for detainees and their relatives and prison health staff. Jointly with the justice ministry, it held an international seminar on health in penitentiary systems for some 60 participants from nine countries.

In Azerbaijan, where the programme started in 1995, the ICRC continued to monitor its implementation and advise the authorities. It promoted health education and supported the production of suitable materials, provided medicines, laboratory supplies and equipment, and arranged staff training in the country and abroad. Mass miniature radiography (MMR) allowing for rapid screening of prisoners upon entry into the penitentiary system was extended to all pre-trial detention centres. To facilitate the screening of all prisoners in the system, the ICRC purchased an MMR mobile unit to be used by Ministry of Justice health staff.

In both countries, the ICRC supported projects to renovate prison and laboratory facilities so as to ensure safe water supply and make the premises suitable for TB diagnosis and treatment; in each case the authorities proposed and implemented technical solutions, while the ICRC provided building materials and technical expertise.

## Protection

- ▶ 9 detainees held in relation to the conflict were visited and 3 were repatriated
- ▶ 153 other detainees (of whom 31 were newly registered) were visited in 54 places of detention
- ▶ 145 RCMs were delivered to detainees
- ▶ 3 family visits were funded and 9 certificates of detention issued

## TB programme

### Armenia

- ▶ 57 patients completed TB treatment since 2002
- ▶ 102 new prisoners were integrated into the programme in 2003
- ▶ 5 renovation projects were completed in 2 detention facilities, benefiting some 4,000 prisoners

### Azerbaijan

- ▶ 2,594 patients completed TB treatment since 1995
- ▶ 977 new prisoners were integrated into the programme in 2003
- ▶ 1 water and habitat project was started and 1 completed benefiting some 1,500 prisoners

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Proper treatment for amputees and other disabled people

In Azerbaijan the ICRC continued to support the authorities in extending physical rehabilitation services, which had been centralized in Baku, to Nakhichevan and Ganja. It partly funded construction of a centre in Ganja, which opened in February 2003, and provided both centres with machines, tools and components to produce prostheses and orthoses. The ICRC continued to monitor the centres' work from its regional prosthetic/orthotic centre in Tbilisi, where it also arranged for an orthopaedic technician from Nakhichevan to receive further training.

- ▶ 2 centres were supplied with equipment, technical expertise and training
- ▶ 38 prostheses and 273 orthoses were manufactured
- ▶ 21 new patients (including 2 mine victims) were fitted with prostheses and 180 with orthoses

### Support for primary health-care and surgical facilities

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC continued to deliver primary health-care medicines to village health centres and polyclinics. This support was linked to training of health

staff in drug management. In addition, the ICRC provided a consultant to assist the health services in introducing a system to make the steady supply of primary health-care medicines financially sustainable, e.g. by setting up community-based drug funds.

- ▶ 66 health centres were supported benefiting a population of 45,000
- ▶ 8 surgeons from Armenia and Azerbaijan were trained at the ICRC's annual war surgery seminar (see *Moscow regional delegation*)

## AUTHORITIES

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ICRC maintained contact with the authorities and provided them with advice and technical assistance regarding accession to relevant treaties and implementation of IHL in national legislation. It supported the translation of IHL treaties into the national languages, launched research projects such as assessments of the internal legal order and facilitated the participation of scholars and civil servants in international and regional IHL-related events. Armenian experts completed an ICRC-commissioned study to examine the compatibility of Armenian national legislation with the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and to identify necessary amendments to implement its provisions. In Azerbaijan the ICRC maintained contact with the national commission on implementation of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

- ▶ Armenia and Azerbaijan sent representatives to the meeting of national IHL committees organized by the justice ministry of Belarus, with ICRC support, in Minsk (June), and to the ICRC's annual advanced IHL course for civil servants and academics in Moscow (September)
- ▶ Armenia adopted a new criminal code including a comprehensive section on the repression of war crimes, in line with its obligations under IHL
- ▶ Azerbaijan acceded to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons in 2003

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued its cooperation with the Armenian defence ministry regarding IHL training for the armed forces, emphasizing the integration of IHL into practical field training, and supported the development of teaching materials in Armenian (6,000 copies of a new IHL manual for instructors were produced). A 48-hour IHL course continued to be taught at the Military Institute, the armed forces' main higher educational institution, as did a 30-hour IHL course launched as part of the defence ministry's training programme for advanced officers. The armed forces further confirmed the inclusion of IHL training in combat training. On several occasions the ICRC gave presentations at the advanced officers' courses, and jointly with the defence ministry held a five-day IHL training course for instructors.

In an encouraging move, Azerbaijan's interior ministry accepted the ICRC's proposal to initiate training in international human rights law and humanitarian principles for police staff.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC maintained contact with the military to encourage them to integrate IHL into their training, and provided them with IHL reference materials.

### Armenia

- ▶ The ICRC took part in the NATO military exercise "Co-operative Best Effort-03" held in Yerevan for armed forces from 19 countries (June)
- ▶ 2 Armenian officers participated in a regional IHL course organized by the ICRC near Moscow, and a special envoy of the defence ministry attended the 103rd IHL course in San Remo, Italy
- ▶ 21 IHL instructors were trained and 173 military personnel attended IHL presentations

### Azerbaijan

- ▶ 45 police officers and internal troops participated in 3 week-long seminars on human rights

### Nagorny Karabakh

- ▶ 17 army officers took part in a 5-day course on IHL and 70 police officers and military personnel attended presentations

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The delegations in Baku and Yerevan maintained a network of contacts in the media, international organizations, diplomatic representations and government ministries. They fostered relations with NGOs concerned with human rights and related issues, and produced and used a wide range of printed and audiovisual materials to spread knowledge of the ICRC's mandate and activities in the region.

### Building a network of IHL experts

The ICRC kept up its efforts to develop the two countries' academic capacity in the field of IHL by nurturing relations with law experts, providing training and support materials and sponsoring the participation of law and journalism students and lecturers in IHL-related events. In Armenia, the ICRC worked mainly with Yerevan State University, the Humanitarian Institute in Hrazdan, the Armenian Centre for the Protection of Constitutional Rights and the Armenian Association of International Law.

In Azerbaijan, the ICRC maintained contact with six universities where IHL was taught (its main partners were Baku State, Khazar and Odar Yurdu universities), and initiated contact with a view to future cooperation with the Azerbaijan Young Lawyers' Union. An IHL course was included in the draft version of State education standards for international law studies.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC focused on Artsakh State University, which agreed to include an IHL course in its third-year law curriculum starting in 2004. In addition, it maintained contact with four private universities interested in expanding their IHL teaching.

An external expert from the Russian Federation began an evaluation of the ICRC's university programme in CIS countries.

- 3 law students from Armenia and Azerbaijan participated in the 21st international course on IHL organized by the ICRC in cooperation with the Polish Red Cross in Warsaw and in the 16th international course on IHL in Sion, Switzerland, organized by the ICRC and the Swiss Red Cross
- in Armenia and Azerbaijan, nationwide essay competitions on IHL themes were organized for law students, jointly with the international law associations of both countries

- an associate professor from Baku State University and 2 representatives of Armenia's constitutional court and parliament attended the 3rd Martens Readings Conference organized in St Petersburg by St Petersburg State University and the ICRC

### Promoting IHL concepts in schools

In both Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ICRC kept up its support for a school programme carried out in cooperation with the education authorities since 1995/96 to familiarize 11-15-year-olds with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action. This had included producing course books on IHL themes in cooperation with local education experts, distributing them to schools countrywide, and organizing ongoing training and refresher courses on programme content and methodology for teachers and teacher trainers/methodology specialists. At the same time, the ICRC kept in close contact with the education authorities to ensure that topics on IHL themes would be included in school curricula as part of the current reform process. In Armenia, the National Society was closely involved in the programme, for example monitoring its implementation.

#### Armenia

- 72,000 copies of the ICRC-sponsored 7th-grade course book *Man for man* and 3,500 teachers' guides were published and distributed
- 57 seminars were held for 1,854 teachers and teacher trainers

#### Azerbaijan

- 194 literature teachers attended training seminars on the *My world, your world* course book for the 5th and 6th grades
- The school programme received good ratings in an evaluation done by Azerbaijan's sociologists' association
- 2 plays were performed by the State Pantomime Theatre and a competition on humanitarian themes was organized for schoolchildren

#### Nagorny Karabakh

- 276 literature teachers attended seminars on the *Man for man* course book; its use and that of the *My little planet* 5th-grade course book were monitored in 72 schools, and a report on implementation of the programme was completed

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical support to the Armenian Red Cross for its tracing, dissemination and first-aid programmes, and involved it in the school programme (see *Civil society*). Supported by the Joint ICRC/International Federation Commission, the National Society reviewed its statutes so as to bring them into line with its status as a public service organization.

The Azerbaijan Red Crescent adopted new statutes, drafted in cooperation with the Joint Commission. The ICRC continued to support the National Society in developing its dissemination and tracing programmes through training and financial support for key staff members.

Both National Societies sent representatives to a round-table meeting of tracing services in Kyiv which was organized jointly by the ICRC and the Ukrainian Red Cross in June and attended by the 15 National Societies of the CIS.

In addition to training for their staff and volunteers, ICRC support enabled the National Societies to carry out a number of activities as detailed below.

### The Armenian Red Cross:

- started first-aid courses in 36 border communities, took part in a European first-aid competition in Prague and held events such as its 7th national first-aid competition
- published a quarterly newsletter and materials to promote emblem protection, and gave presentations on the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to over 21,000 people countrywide
- organized an essay competition for 7th-graders and an international youth camp as part of the "Clean Sevan" ecological campaign
- produced a film on its tracing activities, to be broadcast on national TV

### The Azerbaijan Red Crescent:

- organized a drawing competition for schoolchildren, provided school materials and ran summer camp activities for some 400 children from refugee and displaced families
- worked to produce a film for training tracing volunteers



# southern caucasus: georgia

The ICRC covers the basic protection and assistance needs of internally displaced people and destitute residents in western Georgia, the breakaway region of Abkhazia and other conflict-prone areas where few humanitarian organizations are working. It supports both government commissions and families in Georgia, including Abkhazia, seeking to elucidate the fate of missing persons. In and around the Gali area, the ICRC assists emergency surgical and blood-transfusion services. Across Georgia, including the separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the ICRC visits detainees and supports the authorities in their efforts to curb the spread of tuberculosis in prisons. To ensure the continued availability of physical rehabilitation services in Georgia, the ICRC works in cooperation with local partners in Tbilisi and the authorities in Gagra. It also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. The ICRC has been working in Georgia since 1992.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

See *Southern Caucasus: Armenia and Azerbaijan*

## PERSONNEL

24 expatriates  
394 national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- ▶ The ICRC stepped up its efforts to ensure that reliable data was collected and made available without delay to the relatives of more than 1,500 people still unaccounted for, and arranged for psychological support for them.
- ▶ The ICRC maintained or restored contact between relatives separated by conflict by delivering over 10,500 RCMs and reuniting families.
- ▶ While monitoring individual vulnerable detainees, the ICRC worked to improve detention conditions for the prison population as a whole; as part of efforts to contain tuberculosis (TB) in prisons, the ICRC promoted the integration its prison TB programme into the national TB programme.
- ▶ Over 40,000 vulnerable residents and IDPs received regular food aid, and repair work continued in centres housing IDPs; the ICRC gave monthly supplies to 12 health facilities and continued to support Georgia's only 2 major physical rehabilitation facilities.
- ▶ Georgia ratified the Statute of the International Criminal Court and the ICRC continued to promote IHL among the armed forces, universities, schoolchildren and NGOs.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, as in previous years, efforts to pursue reforms failed to improve Georgia's dismal economic and social conditions. This situation, coupled with the breakdown of basic services, did nothing to ease political instability and popular discontent. After November's parliamentary elections, mass protests against alleged voting irregularities led to the resignation of long-term President Shevardnadze and the annulment of election results. In the run-up to fresh presidential elections scheduled for January 2004, opposition candidate Mikhail Saakashvili emerged as the leader.

The regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia pursued their secessionist struggles. The consequences of these unresolved conflicts were felt both in Abkhazia and in adjacent western Georgia, where many of the internally displaced people who had fled Abkhazia following the hostilities were living, putting additional pressure on the moribund infrastructure. As a result, Georgia continued to require humanitarian assistance, development programmes and structural reform.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC kept a close watch on the situation in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and the Pankisi and Kodori valleys. It also noted the repercussions that events in Chechnya were still having on Georgia. The organization gave priority to the issue of persons unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict, the situation of minorities in Abkhazia and civilians in areas plagued by unrest, and the problems of people imprisoned for conflict-related or security reasons and other vulnerable detainees.

The programme to contain tuberculosis (TB) in prisons was pursued in cooperation with other humanitarian organizations and donors.

The year 2003 was a turning point in the ICRC's assistance strategy in western Georgia and Abkhazia, where the organization had been conducting substantial aid distributions for the most destitute (in western Georgia, these also include internally displaced people). The approach advocated by the ICRC, based on beneficiaries' needs rather than on their entitlement under the social-welfare system, was supported by other humanitarian organizations and donors. The Georgian government recommended a similar approach in its new economic-development and poverty-reduction programme. With a view to substantially reducing its assistance, the ICRC began to seek more sustainable answers, such as income-generating projects, to be implemented starting in 2004. During the year under review, it prepared the ground for such projects while continuing to distribute

food and other basic supplies to the neediest and improving housing conditions in collective centres for internally displaced people.

In and around the conflict-prone Gali area, the ICRC maintained support for emergency surgical and blood-transfusion services. It continued to give backing to two physical rehabilitation projects in Tbilisi and Gagra with a view to helping them function autonomously, while decreasing its involvement.

Programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) continued, with a focus on strengthening the capacity of State agencies and local civil society partners to carry on this work independently.

In view of the volatile security environment and to ensure acceptance of the ICRC, the Tbilisi delegation kept up its extensive communication programme to familiarize the media, the general public, NGOs and public- and private-sector decision-makers with the ICRC's mandate and work in Georgia.

The ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Society of Georgia in its dissemination and, to a limited extent, tracing activities, and assist it in revising and implementing its Statutes.

The ICRC also coordinated its activities with those of other organizations working in Georgia, such as the UN agencies, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe and local and international NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières/France, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Première Urgence and Action contre la Faim.

## CIVILIANS

### Encouraging dialogue on the issue of missing persons

Many families were still without news of relatives who had gone missing during the armed conflict in Abkhazia (more than 1,500 people, according to official sources).

The ICRC sought to promote dialogue between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides and continuously reminded the official commissions set up to deal with the issue of their duty to exchange information and give answers to the families of those missing. It provided the commissions with the services of an external forensic expert to assist with data collection, exhumations and the identification of human remains. It also supported associations of families of

the missing and facilitated contact between them and the commissions.

The vice-chairman of the Georgian commission, who attended the ICRC's conference on missing persons held in Geneva in February, signed a memorandum of understanding on the collection of data to help identify human remains. This paved the way for hundreds of interviews to be conducted with the families of missing persons. In Abkhazia the process got under way in the second half of the year, when the Abkhaz commission resumed its work under a new chairman. On two occasions, the ICRC hired a forensic expert from Physicians for Human Rights and two psychiatrists/psychotherapists from Belgrade to train mental-health professionals in providing the families of the missing with psychological support, and to teach family members working for the commissions how to conduct interviews. In December the Abkhaz commission and the NGO Mothers of Abkhazia, representing the families of missing persons, also signed a memorandum of understanding regarding data collection.

- 1,845 interviews were conducted with families of missing persons in Georgia and Abkhazia
- 3 seminars were held for Georgian and Abkhaz NGOs dealing with the families of missing persons

### Red Cross message network

For isolated and destitute members of Abkhazia's population, the ICRC's Red Cross message network remained the only means of keeping in touch with relatives outside Abkhazia, mostly in Georgia, but also in the Russian Federation and other countries. The programme also resumed for Chechen refugees in eastern Georgia's Pankisi valley.

- 10,532 RCMs were delivered, and 7 people were reunited with their families

### Food aid for vulnerable groups in Abkhazia

Abkhazia continued to face many problems related to its political and economic isolation. The ICRC kept up three types of programme to cover the food requirements and help reduce the burden on the household budgets of the most destitute resident population, either in full or partially, depending on need. On average, some 20,000 people were assisted each month.

Under a soup-kitchen programme, the ICRC provided two cooked meals a day via 20 canteens and eight mobile units for people in urban areas who were unable to prepare food for themselves. Thanks to a home-assistance project funded by the Swedish Red Cross, bedridden and elderly people had their meals delivered by some 480 Red Cross helpers, who also gave them personal care. The largest proportion of beneficiaries received food rations consisting of such staples as wheat flour, beans, oil and sugar, either monthly or quarterly, depending on need. Moreover, all the beneficiaries received soap and candles, and some were given blankets.

In Sukhumi and Ochamchira, the ICRC continued to provide limited support for the municipal water boards to ensure that repairs to the secondary water-distribution network proceeded smoothly.

### Food, water and shelter for the needy in western Georgia

In western Georgia's Samegrelo and Imereti regions, the ICRC continued to provide food rations quarterly, as well as candles and soap, for the worst-off 5% of the population. These included both residents and internally displaced people – mostly elderly, chronically ill or otherwise vulnerable people who were no longer able to cover even their most basic needs, altogether over 20,000 people. In addition, the ICRC strove to upgrade the extremely insalubrious conditions in run-down communal centres housing the displaced.

### Economic security

- 40,000 beneficiaries were assisted in Abkhazia and western Georgia on average each month
- 6,345 tonnes of food aid, 840,936 hygiene kits and 863,857 candles were handed out

### Water and habitat

- 15 centres housing 2,200 IDPs were renovated

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Working towards better living conditions in prisons

Living conditions in prisons continued to be affected by the country's dismal economic situation. The ICRC remained the only organization to have regular access to places of detention throughout Georgia (including Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Ajara). It pursued its visits to people held for conflict-related or security reasons and vulnerable groups (such as women, minors and foreign nationals), whose cases it monitored on an individual basis, and gave them the opportunity to exchange news with their relatives and receive family visits. It also assisted the authorities in their efforts to set up a steering committee bringing together the ministries concerned and interested national and international groups to work towards ensuring acceptable conditions of detention.

- ▶ 51 visits were carried out to 92 detainees (including 18 newly registered and 10 women) in 22 places of detention
- ▶ 104 RCMs were delivered to detainees and 3 family visits were funded
- ▶ 1 renovation project was completed in a Sukhumi prison, benefiting some 50 detainees

### Containing the life-threatening TB epidemic

Given the high risk of tuberculosis (TB) that threatens detainees – and the population at large when infected detainees are released – the ICRC continued to support the government in implementing measures to contain the disease in prisons and integrating them into the national TB programme. Since the start of the ICRC's involvement in combating TB in 1998, systematic screening of incoming detainees, coupled with strict adherence to the Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS) approach recommended by the World Health Organization, has helped to reduce the number of infectious cases, diagnose the disease much earlier and significantly lower the prevalence of multi-drug-resistant cases. ICRC renovation projects have also helped to make detention places and laboratories suitable for TB detection and treatment.

In 2003, prison services were encouraged to make systematic use of the national TB programme's civilian laboratories, which were assisted by the ICRC. Systematic screening of new detainees was extended to four more prisons, bringing to nine the

number of institutions where this had become standard practice. In Georgia's other prisons, screening was still being carried out by a joint ICRC / Ministry of Justice team. DOTS-based TB treatment was available in five penal institutions. A renovation project was completed at the central penitentiary hospital in Tbilisi, while two others were under way in western Georgia.

### TB programme

- ▶ 1,434 patients completed TB treatment since 1998
- ▶ 311 new prisoners were integrated into the programme in 2003
- ▶ 1 hospital renovation project was completed (capacity: 220 beds)

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Support for surgical facilities

To ensure that patients injured by weapons and those requiring emergency surgery had access to proper care and safe blood transfusion free of charge, the ICRC regularly provided surgical hospitals in western Georgia and Abkhazia with equipment, appropriate medicines and surgical materials. At the Zugdidi regional referral hospital and four facilities in Abkhazia, the ICRC continued to supply the hospital blood banks with reagents, tests and blood bags enabling them to screen blood for infectious diseases. In November it signed an agreement with the health authorities regarding the start of a centralized blood-transfusion programme at the Sukhumi hospital designed to serve the whole of Abkhazia. In addition, the ICRC continued to pay for treatment given at a hospital in Tbilisi to children from Abkhazia with congenital heart diseases.

- ▶ 7 hospitals were supported
- ▶ 7,260 (including 110 weapon-wounded and 7 mine-injured) patients were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals
- ▶ 1,919 surgical operations and 17,087 outpatient consultations were carried out
- ▶ 773 patients received transfusions
- ▶ 4 surgeons from western Georgia and Abkhazia trained at the annual ICRC war-surgery seminar (see *Moscow regional delegation*)

### Treatment for amputees and other disabled people

In 2003 the ICRC continued to support limb-fitting services in Tbilisi and Gagra. To ensure quality care for the country's 4,000 amputees in the long term, it was decided to hand over management of the Tbilisi centre to an independent foundation set up by the centre's staff. The Georgian Foundation for Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation will thus succeed the ICRC in running the country's only major physical rehabilitation facility. In Abkhazia, which is particularly contaminated by explosive remnants of war, the ICRC kept up its support for the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Gagra. The centre serves the region's 600 amputees, most of whom are war-disabled. It also covered the Gali area with an outreach programme, under which a specialist team regularly visited a small number of patients who were unable to get to the centre. In 2003 the Tbilisi centre continued to provide training for orthopaedic technicians from other countries, while staff from the Gagra centre had the opportunity to attend training at a centre in Sochi, in the Russian Federation.

- ▶ 2 centres were supplied with equipment, technical expertise and training
- ▶ 373 prostheses and 1,082 orthoses were manufactured
- ▶ 144 new patients (including 80 mine victims) were fitted with prostheses and 364 (including 2 mine victims) with orthoses
- ▶ 20 wheelchairs and 1,231 crutches were produced

## AUTHORITIES

Throughout the year, the ICRC maintained close contacts with the authorities regarding ratification and implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). In June, the Georgian parliament unanimously ratified the Statute and in July, it adopted a law on cooperation with the ICC and a series of amendments to national criminal legislation. The Statute entered into force on 1 October.

The ICRC sponsored:

- ▶ the participation of an official from the Georgian Ministry of Justice in a summer course on the ICC at the Irish Centre for Human Rights in Galway and of a member of the interministerial commission for IHL in the ICRC's third Martens Readings conference in St Petersburg

- a seminar on mechanisms to repress war crimes, held in Georgia for representatives of the country's judicial system

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to work closely with Georgia's Ministries of Defence and of the Interior, providing them with financial and technical support for the ongoing integration of IHL in military training. The organization also held information sessions on its mandate and activities for the Georgian armed forces, border guard service, interior troops and national guard, the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, peacekeepers from the Commonwealth of Independent States and Russian border troops. Financial support was provided to publish a new IHL manual for navy instructors, *Rules of Sea Battle*.

Presentations on IHL and the ICRC were also given to armed personnel in Abkhazia. The ICRC maintained contact with Abkhazia's officers school in Sukhumi, which reinstated a 12-hour IHL course for cadets conducted by ICRC-trained instructors, and with the Sukhumi police school. Both institutions received training materials.

- a representative of Georgia's national guard attended the 103rd course on IHL in San Remo, Italy
- 37 interior troop / armed forces instructors took part in a 5-day IHL course
- some 500 military personnel and 100 cadets attended IHL presentations

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Building a network of IHL experts

The ICRC continued to facilitate the inclusion of IHL in the law and journalism curricula of universities by sponsoring the participation of students and lecturers in IHL-related events and by providing or supporting the production of teaching materials. Seven universities taught IHL as a separate subject and faculties at six institutions taught it as part of other subjects, such as international law or medical law. The ICRC maintained its cooperation with local NGOs, particularly the European Law Students' Association (ELSA) and the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), and helped them set up or take part in workshops and other events related to IHL (see below).

The ICRC also pursued its contacts with the law and journalism faculties of Abkhaz State University, including the new chair for international relations, and provided them with reference materials on IHL and its own activities.

- GYLA organized an advanced IHL course for 17 students from Tbilisi and Kutaisi, and a national IHL competition attended by 6 student teams
- ELSA held an essay competition on women's rights in armed conflict at Kutaisi State University; sent a representative to attend the second annual meeting of the Assembly of States party to the ICC Statute in New York; and, along with students from Tbilisi and Zugdidi Universities, held a workshop on the protection of prisoners in armed conflict for over 30 participants from academic, military and journalistic circles
- Georgia sent 3 representatives to the ICRC's annual international IHL course for academics in Warsaw and for civil servants in Moscow
- along with 4 other teams out of 32, a team from Tbilisi State University qualified for the final round of the annual Jean Pictet competition on IHL, held in Greece
- the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols were published in Georgian and 500 copies were distributed to key law libraries and government agencies

### Promoting IHL in schools

The ICRC programme to familiarize 11- to 13-year-olds with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action continued in its eighth year. Refresher courses were held for teachers and teacher trainers to enhance the quality of teaching and secure their commitment to the programme. At the same time, the ICRC pursued its cooperation with the Ministry of Education to ensure that IHL topics would be included in school curricula under the current reform process.

- 154,840 pupils (including about 6,000 in Abkhazia) used the ICRC-sponsored textbook
- 1,121 teachers and 12 teacher trainers attended refresher courses
- programme implementation was monitored in 407 schools across Georgia

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

April 2003 saw the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies resume its activities in Georgia, in particular those aimed at helping the Georgian Red Cross strengthen its management and strategic planning and at fostering its organizational development. The ICRC continued to assist the National Society in developing its tracing and dissemination work. It thus decided, on the basis of an assessment, to undertake limited cooperation with the branches in Ajara and western Georgia, where displaced families needed help in maintaining contact with their relatives.

ICRC support enabled the National Society to give presentations about the Red Cross and the basic rules of IHL to school leavers and teachers in eastern, western and central Georgia. The ICRC also helped the Georgian Red Cross revise its statutes and provided financial assistance enabling the leadership to take part in the Movement's 28th International Conference.



# budapest

The Budapest regional delegation, which was established in 1997, aims to develop a broad network of contacts with governments, academic circles, civil society and the media in Central Europe. It supports the civil and military authorities in incorporating IHL into school and university curricula and military training programmes, and backs the development of the region's National Red Cross Societies. In Croatia, the ICRC also addresses the after-effects of the conflicts that occurred between 1991 and 1995, particularly by focusing on the needs of the families of missing persons. The ICRC also supports efforts by the National Societies of Albania and Croatia to raise civilians' awareness of the danger of mines and explosive remnants of war. In Albania, where it has been present since 1997, the ICRC also assists the Albanian Red Cross Society in developing its tracing and dissemination capacities.

## COVERING

Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**760,312**

Assistance

**78,064**

Preventive action

**2,033,960**

Cooperation with National Societies

**1,120,511**

General

**0**

► **3,992,847**

of which: Overheads **243,695**

## PERSONNEL

**4** expatriates

**26** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Croatia adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Albania and the Czech Republic completed studies on the compatibility of their domestic laws with IHL and handed them to the ICRC. A draft report on the Slovak study was presented to the ICRC, and the Czech study was submitted to the Czech foreign ministry.

## CONTEXT

The countries of the region were in political and economic transition and progressing towards membership of supranational institutions, notably the EU and NATO. The leaders of the 15 EU-member States and the candidates (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) preparing to join the EU in 2004 signed treaties on accession in April 2003 in Athens.

In November 2002 Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia were invited to join NATO. In March 2003 the NATO member States signed accession protocols – in fact amendments to the North Atlantic Treaty – which, once ratified, will permit the candidates to become parties to the treaty and, from April 2004, members of NATO. This will complete the integration into the Alliance of all the region's countries except Albania and Croatia. On 2 May 2003 these two States, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States signed the US-Adriatic Charter in Tirana, which formalized US support for the three Balkan countries to join NATO.

Albania continued to recover from the turmoil of 1997 and the ramifications of the Kosovo crisis in 1999, when the country briefly sheltered almost 500,000 refugees. Negotiations for a stabilization and association agreement with the EU were launched in January, but were slowed down by the pace of reform on issues such as the restitution of or compensation for land expropriated during the communist era. This particularly thorny question led to angry

protests over property and agrarian rights in 2003. Other concerns were the traffic in people and drugs, organized crime and the presence in the country of an estimated 250,000 unregistered weapons. The political situation was shaky, notably in the second half of 2003. The threat of mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) had declined sharply, but remained a concern in northern Albania.

In Croatia the pursuit of war-crime suspects and efforts to redress the consequences of past conflicts continued. In March, a Croatian court convicted a former Croat army general for war crimes. Croatia, which had agreed in principle with Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro on a declaration on the return process, was urged by the international community to move swiftly to resolve its domestic dispute over how to return property and lost tenancy rights to Serbs in asylum or compensate them.

Various UN agencies and other organizations such as the OSCE remained present in the countries of the region. In Albania and Croatia governmental and non-governmental organizations concentrated on development and democratization.

The region's economies achieved GDP growth rates ranging from 1.4% for Poland, 5.1% for Latvia, 5.8% for Estonia and 6.7% for Lithuania. Nevertheless, some of the countries such as Bulgaria, Slovakia, Poland and Romania were plagued by unemployment rates of up to 22%. The

main problems in the region included the widening gap between rich and poor, minority issues, migration, and human and drug trafficking.

## ICRC ACTION

National implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) continued to constitute the main thrust of ICRC work in the region. National IHL committees being crucial to IHL implementation, and also a platform for dialogue on other humanitarian issues, the ICRC continued supporting them or their creation. In addition, it maintained bilateral contacts with the region's governments and supranational decision-makers, such as the OSCE.

The ICRC pursued its cooperation with the region's National Red Cross Societies, especially in promoting IHL and carrying out tracing activities. Efforts were also kept up to encourage integration of human rights law and humanitarian principles into the doctrine and training of police and security forces. Contacts were maintained with the media, and programmes for the promotion of IHL and humanitarian principles among secondary-school and university students continued, in cooperation with the National Societies.

In Croatia, the ICRC focused on efforts to shed light on the fate and whereabouts of people missing as a result of past conflicts. Support to the relevant government bodies and the families of missing persons in identifying human remains helped provide some answers on this pressing issue. The organization also assisted the Croatian Red Cross in assuming responsibility for the programme to raise civilians' awareness of the dangers of mines/ERW.

The ICRC enjoyed good cooperation with the Albanian Red Cross, and continued working to strengthen its programmes for IHL promotion, tracing and mine/ERW awareness. Three partner National Societies operated in Albania, where they carried out health-care programmes for children, tracing, and organizational development of the Albanian Red Cross.

## CIVILIANS

### Shedding light on the fate of missing persons

In Croatia, to update data on missing persons and encourage the authorities to provide answers about what happened to them, the ICRC continued to collect tracing requests and to record reported deaths. It submitted 119 requests concerning people who went missing in the former UN sectors to the Government Office for Detained and Missing Persons. Information provided by the authorities, the National Society and families enabled the ICRC to confirm eight reported deaths and close 282 tracing requests (in all, 54 people were located and 236 were confirmed dead). Over the year, 42 enquirers were informed that the tracing requests or cases of reported deaths that they had opened for their missing relatives had been processed.

By providing ante-mortem data (AMD) and other support, the ICRC assisted the Government Office for Detained and Missing Persons in carrying out identification of bodies exhumed in 2001 in Knin. Families were then given death certificates and were assisted with arrangements to reclaim the remains for proper burial.

The ICRC also enabled 188 family members in Serbia and Montenegro who, because of their refugee status, had no valid travel documents or means, to travel to Croatia to help identify human remains or attend funerals. The identification efforts supported by the ICRC involved 183 bodies, 94 of which were identified.

The organization continued to cooperate with associations of the families of people missing as a result of former conflicts.

### Minimizing civilian suffering caused by mines/ERW (Albania)

The ICRC worked with other organizations to help mine/ERW victims receive specialized treatment in Albania, Germany and Malta. The Orthopaedics Centre in Tirana received a year's supply of components for the production of prostheses. Together with representatives of the centre, the Albanian Red Cross and the Albanian Mine Action Executive, the ICRC conducted visits to mine-contaminated northern Albania to establish the treatment needs of mine victims. It also conducted an assessment of the centre's physical rehabilitation programme to determine what form future support should take and prepare an exit strategy.

Over the year, presentations were conducted:

- in 3 mine-contaminated localities for some 7,200 people including children

Meetings were held with:

- the Swiss Federation for Mine Action and local leaders to prepare for mine-clearance
- the Special Fund for the Disabled and other actors to discuss mine-clearance priorities
- 10 village leaders to discuss cooperation with a mine-clearance company

The ICRC organized the showing of a mobile exhibition on mines, with a section specifically for children, and distributed mine-awareness materials including children's games.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Croatia

By the end of the year 63 people were in detention on charges of war crimes in Croatia. The ICRC continued its programme to enable family members from Croatia to visit their relatives detained in Serbia and Montenegro and vice versa. The programme was highly appreciated by families and detainees alike and ran smoothly throughout the year. While it provided transport and safe passage, the ICRC's main concern was to ensure that even family members who had no travel documents could visit their detained relatives.

In 2003:

- 41 detainees in Croatia were visited by relatives from Serbia and Montenegro
- 4 detainees released from prison in Croatia were assisted in rejoining their families in Serbia and Montenegro.
- 323 detention certificates were issued

## AUTHORITIES

### Working with the national authorities to implement IHL

A draft report on the study on the compatibility of Slovak law with IHL was handed over to the ICRC during the reporting period. Albania and the Czech Republic both completed such studies and submitted them to the ICRC and the Czech foreign ministry respectively. The ICRC met with the Romanian authorities to discuss a similar study and the prospects of establishing a national IHL body.

Working in cooperation with the Slovenian foreign ministry and the IHL committee, the ICRC organized a regional meeting of national IHL committees in Ljubljana in March. This provided an opportunity to update representatives of the national IHL committees of Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia, and the Polish foreign ministry on new developments in IHL, and gave the participants a chance to hear how other national committees work. In 2003 Croatia adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The ICRC's contribution to IHL promotion included support in organizing the second regional seminar on implementation for legal advisors in the armed forces and ministries of foreign affairs, held in June in Prague, in the Czech Republic. This, together with high-level meetings with foreign and defence ministry officials, helped convince the Czech authorities of the need to expedite implementation of IHL, especially the creation of a national IHL committee. Further ICRC support will be needed to bring such a committee to life.

Responding to a request from the Hungarian government, the ICRC prepared a draft amendment to the law on the Hungarian Red Cross, incorporating regulations on the red cross emblem. This will assist the government in drafting amendments and new laws concerning the International Criminal Court.

Throughout 2003, the ICRC provided legal advice to governments in the region to assist them in complying with their obligations under IHL. In-depth discussions were held with the Latvian authorities, who pledged to work with the ICRC to finalize a study on the compatibility of Latvian law with IHL, and the Slovenian authorities, who affirmed their commitment to the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties and the integration of IHL into training for the armed forces and school curricula.

Through meetings, presentations and other activities, the ICRC maintained contact with representatives of the international bodies in its efforts to promote IHL.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In addition to maintaining contact with the region's armed forces, the ICRC continued to participate in or facilitate their IHL training activities. To that end, it funded the production of promotional and training material, conducted instructor courses, seminars and workshops on specific issues and provided scholarships to senior officers to attend courses at the International IHL Institute in San Remo, Italy. Moreover, the ICRC began providing extensive IHL briefings to Polish troops departing for Iraq.

The ICRC held a three-day course in Latvia for Latvian State police. It also organized three round-table meetings with police commanders and trainers in Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia to discuss human rights law and the promotion of humanitarian principles within national police and security forces. Other activities included:

- ▶ 2 IHL instructor courses for the army and 1 seminar for the navy in Albania
- ▶ 1 IHL seminar for senior officers in Bulgaria
- ▶ 1 IHL workshop each for the Slovak, Lithuanian, Latvian and Hungarian armed forces
- ▶ 1 IHL workshop for the Polish air force
- ▶ 1 IHL/human rights instructors' course for the Albanian Police Institute

## CIVIL SOCIETY

ICRC activities involving the region's media increased as a result of the war in Iraq. In addition to its daily contacts with journalists, the ICRC organized a round-table conference for senior representatives of the Hungarian media; in April, the Slovak Red Cross held a press briefing on Iraq. Meanwhile, the Albanian press published information at home and abroad to raise the awareness of Albanians wherever they might be of the availability of Red Cross tracing services.

Within the scope of IHL promotion in the region's universities, the ICRC held two lectures for journalism students of the University of Zagreb and provided the law faculty of the University of Budapest with teaching materials in the form of videos on IHL. It also provided the European Law Students' Association in Bucharest with financial, material and technical support in organizing, in December, its second two-week law course on protection of the civilian population in armed conflict, including a moot-court competition on IHL, which

was attended by 24 law students from seven countries.

Meetings held with law professors in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Romania and Slovenia centred on technical and material support that the ICRC could provide universities to bolster ongoing IHL studies or efforts to launch such studies. In Slovenia, where IHL is taught at one university, meetings with that institution's professors led to an agreement to work with other departments to expand the teaching of IHL.

## Promoting the study of IHL in secondary schools

The ICRC maintained contacts with the Latvian education ministry and the Latvian Red Cross in an effort to encourage the integration of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into the secondary-school curriculum. As a result, the education minister pledged to have the programme implemented. Similar contacts were maintained in Albania. In Lithuania, the process of integrating EHL into the curriculum continued with the Ministry of Education Curricula Committee's endorsement of the Lithuanian language version of EHL. The Lithuanian Red Cross organized a second teacher-training seminar for 30 secondary-school teachers. In Croatia, a cooperation agreement was signed between the education ministry and the Croatian Red Cross on implementation of EHL in secondary schools. Two EHL workshops were conducted for 50 teachers and human rights education coordinators.

From 5-11 July 2003, the ICRC organized a seminar to discuss the study of IHL and related issues in secondary schools. Held in Budapest, the event drew over 100 participants from 39 countries. Twenty-nine education specialists from ten of the region's governments and National Red Cross Societies discussed the challenges of introducing the EHL programme into their countries' education systems.

Major progress in integrating the EHL programme into secondary education in the countries of the region was expected for the future. At the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the National Societies and governments of the European Union and the new member States pledged to promote the study of IHL in secondary school systems in the EU through educational tools such as EHL. The Bulgarian government also committed itself to cooperating with the Bulgarian Red Cross to introduce EHL.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC provided several National Societies in the region with training in working in a conflict environment. The Safer Access framework was used to help prepare National Societies for the specific challenges of gaining and maintaining access to victims during conflict, to alert them to the importance of real and perceived neutrality and independence, and to inform them of the security measures that may be adopted to protect personnel. The ICRC carried on supporting the region's National Societies in tracing and disaster preparedness and encouraged them to get involved in EHL programmes. It provided financial support for the dissemination activities of the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak Red Cross Societies.

The ICRC also continued to provide training support for the tracing activities of the region's National Societies, and to financially

assist the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian National Societies' tracing services. Discussions were held with other organizations present in Albania on the problem of child trafficking, and work began on a media plan to heighten community awareness of the tracing services offered by the Albanian Red Cross. In addition, the ICRC and the Hungarian Red Cross visited a refugee camp in eastern Hungary to evaluate refugees'/migrants' needs with regard to restoring and maintaining family links and to raise awareness of Red Cross activities in this regard.

The Hungarian Red Cross supported the ICRC in carrying out relief operations in response to the war in Iraq and handled local media requests for information on the subject.

The Croatian Red Cross continued to assume greater ownership of the mine-awareness programme, taking over financial responsibility for training instructors.

Mine-awareness activities continued to aim at sustaining a decrease in the number of children involved in mine accidents. To this end, the ICRC found sponsors to establish safe play areas in some of the mine-affected communities. It also maintained its support for the programme by holding training workshops and presentations and providing materials.

The Albanian Red Cross Society, which has fully integrated a tracing programme into its activities and is cooperating with a number of external partners such as the International Organization for Migration, handled some 200 tracing cases in 2003. Of these, 110 had been registered previously while 90 were registered during the reporting period, and there were indications that the number of cases was increased.



ICRC regional delegation

# kyiv

The Kyiv regional delegation, which has been operating since 1996, concentrates on promoting IHL and encouraging the authorities in the region to implement it. The far-reaching reforms currently under way in the countries covered offer a unique opportunity for IHL to be incorporated into national legislation, university curricula and training programmes and codes of conduct of the armed, police and security forces. The “Exploring Humanitarian Law” programme is being introduced into secondary-school curricula with the cooperation of the National Societies. Other areas of cooperation between the Societies and the ICRC include tracing and dissemination.

## COVERING

Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**10,644**

Assistance

**0**

Preventive action

**944,643**

Cooperation with National Societies

**334,483**

General

**0**

► **1,289,770**

of which: Overheads **78,718**

## PERSONNEL

**1** expatriate

**8** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC had access to the 3 remaining detainees of the “Ilascu group” in Transnistria for the first time in 10 years.
- The “Exploring Humanitarian Law” (EHL) programme, carried out in partnership with the National Societies and education ministries of the countries covered, gained momentum as it was launched in Moldova and 386 schools took part on a pilot basis in Belarus and Ukraine.
- The authorities showed their willingness and ability to implement IHL, as evidenced by the Belarus-led first meeting of Euro-Asian national IHL committees and Belarus’s ratification of the 1997 Ottawa Convention.
- The armed forces of all three countries had integrated IHL requirements in their planning procedures, and police and security forces regularly requested and received IHL and human rights training for their various units, including those with peace-keeping duties abroad.
- IHL was taught at 22 universities in the three countries; all three sent representatives to international IHL-related events; and Moldova organized its first national IHL competition.

## CONTEXT

The year 2003 brought little political change in the countries covered by the Kyiv regional delegation. Ukraine’s president sought to consolidate his position in preparation for presidential elections in 2004. His party proposed an amendment to the constitution laying down that parliament, rather than the public, would elect future presidents. A serious border dispute with Russia over the Kerch Strait giving access to the Azov Sea was resolved by the Ukrainian and Russian presidents in December. Belarus remained in political isolation and its relations with Russia were strained although it signed a Single Economic Space Treaty with three other countries (Ukraine, Russia and Kazakhstan) of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in September.

## ICRC ACTION

The process of integrating international humanitarian law (IHL) into domestic legislation and academic teaching being well advanced, the ICRC concentrated on developing the capacity of its local partners to promote IHL proactively and independently. As the armed forces had integrated IHL into the training programmes of military academies and institutions, the ICRC’s focus was on strengthening operational training in IHL. Similar efforts were made to promote respect for basic IHL and human rights norms in law enforcement. The Kyiv regional delegation continued to support the incorporation of EHL into secondary-school curricula.

Cooperation with the National Societies centred on restoring family links, dissemination of IHL (primarily through the EHL programme) and, in Ukraine, limited medical support for first-aid posts in remote settlements run by the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.

The Kyiv regional delegation expanded contact with academics, the media, representatives of parliaments and non-governmental organizations so as to deepen their understanding of IHL and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2003 the ICRC gained renewed access to security detainees of the Ilascu group, whom it had last visited in 1993. In May 2001 the administration in Tiraspol freed Mr Ilascu, but not his three fellow detainees. Delegates visited them in August 2003.

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to advise the authorities of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine regarding accession to humanitarian treaties and implementation of IHL at national level. It provided material and financial support enabling them to produce reference materials and official translations of humanitarian treaties and to organize IHL-related events. The protection of cultural property, repression of war crimes and the 1997 Ottawa Convention were central topics in 2003.

- the ICRC, jointly with the UNDP, organized a seminar on the Ottawa Convention for the Ukrainian and Belarusian authorities and Canadian and European Union representatives
- Belarus acceded to the Ottawa Convention and organized a seminar on implementation for some 60 government officials and representatives of UN agencies and the ICRC
- the Belarusian national IHL committee held a training session for judges, law enforcement personnel and academics on the repression of war crimes and new provisions of the criminal code; it also organized the first meeting of Euro-Asian national IHL committees, attended by representatives of IHL committees and expert observers from 10 CIS countries, Belgium and Lithuania
- a new criminal code including a comprehensive section on repression of war crimes entered into force in Moldova
- with ICRC support, studies to assess the compatibility of the Statute of the International Criminal Court with domestic legislation were completed in Moldova and Ukraine
- 12 representatives from Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova took part in the ICRC's annual advanced course on IHL for civil servants and academics in Moscow
- the governments of Ukraine and Belarus actively participated in the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In all three countries covered by the Kyiv regional delegation, the ICRC pursued its cooperation programmes with the respective defence ministries with a view to promoting the integration of IHL in military training and procedures. This involved giving seminars on IHL for senior officers from various armed services and lecturers and students from military academies, training IHL instructors in specialized courses, taking part in military exercises and providing financial and other support for IHL-related events. All three countries had already included IHL requirements in military planning procedures.

Cooperation with the interior ministries of these countries involved organizing seminars and presentations on IHL, international human rights law and humanitarian principles for senior police officers and lecturers and students of police academies and other educational institutions. An important aspect of the ICRC's activities in Ukraine consisted in preparing police officers to take part, as instructors or policemen, in UN civilian police missions abroad, for example in Kosovo.

In addition, the ICRC provided, produced or helped to produce a broad range of publications and training materials, including a manual on IHL in modern combat.

- commanding staff of the Russian, Moldovan, Transdnistrian and Ukrainian forces keeping the peace between Moldova and Transdnistria attended an IHL seminar
- 3 high-ranking officers from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine took part in the 100th IHL course in San Remo, Italy
- 153 IHL instructors were trained in the 3 countries and 990 armed forces personnel participated in 30 seminars
- 8 teams from military institutions in Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and the Russian Federation took part in the 3rd international IHL competition organized by the ICRC in Odessa
- the ICRC participated in the multi-national "Peace Shield 2003" exercise held in Ukraine as part of the NATO "Partnership for Peace" programme
- 118 IHL and human rights instructors were trained in the 3 countries, 558 police and security forces personnel took part in 20 seminars, and 29 police officers were trained for UN missions

- 1 team of interior troop cadets took part in the first "Serving the law, we serve the people" competition in St Petersburg, Russian Federation, and 2 teams of police cadets from Moldova and Ukraine participated in a human rights law competition in Belgorod, Russian Federation

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Promoting IHL in academic circles

The ICRC maintained contact with selected universities in the region to promote the study of IHL as part of law, international relations and journalism courses, mainly by providing relevant literature, supporting the involvement, as participants or organizers, of teachers and students in IHL-related events, helping them prepare teaching and research materials and promoting academic exchange.

- 3 student teams from the 3 countries took part in the Jean Pictet competition on IHL in Greece
- 8 teams from Moldova, including Transdnistria, took part in the country's first national IHL competition, held in Chisinau
- 2 students from Ukraine and Moldova attended the ICRC's annual international IHL course for academics in Warsaw
- 7 IHL experts from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine took part in the third "Martens Readings" Conference on IHL in St Petersburg
- 5 Moldovan universities, including Tiraspol University, took part in a round-table discussion on the role of IHL in the "fight against terrorism" organized by the International University of Moldova

### "Exploring Humanitarian Law": introducing young people to humanitarian law

In Ukraine, the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme had already been introduced on a pilot basis in the Kyiv and Donetsk regions using the recently translated Russian version. In 2003, the programme was tested in 150 schools in seven more regions. Orientation seminars and training workshops continued to be organized for representatives of the regional education authorities, pedagogical institutes and universities, directors of schools and teachers of courses preparing students for military service.

In Belarus, the education ministry gave its approval for the programme to be tested during the 2003-04 school year in all the countries' regions in secondary and professional schools as part of a course on human rights and IHL. The Red Cross Society of Belarus, through its regional branches, co-organized teacher training seminars with the regions' Institute of In-Service Education and held a series of after-school events.

In Moldova, the education ministry declared its intention to integrate the programme in the secondary-school curriculum. The ICRC, jointly with the ministry and the National Society, held introductory workshops for teachers from three districts. Based on a decree issued by the education ministry, 16 schools were designated to test the programme.

- ▶ 7 representatives of the education ministries and National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine took part in an EHL international leadership seminar organized by the ICRC in Budapest, Hungary
- ▶ 16 schools in Moldova started testing the programme as from October 2003; it was taught in 150 schools reaching 8,000 pupils in Ukraine, and 205 schools reaching over 6,800 pupils in Belarus
- ▶ over 550 teachers, education officials and Red Cross representatives attended training workshops in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova
- ▶ 41 regional education officials and Red Cross representatives from Belarus, Moldova and 9 regions of Ukraine took part in an EHL conference in Kyiv to exchange experiences and report on progress and future plans
- ▶ 146 pupils from Belarus and Ukraine attended EHL summer camps organized by their countries' National Societies

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

As in the past, the regional delegation gave financial and material support and technical advice to the National Societies of the countries covered, in particular their tracing and dissemination services. Dissemination activities, which focused on the EHL programme, were carried out in close cooperation with the National Societies and involved the production of promotional materials. In Ukraine, the ICRC increased the salary support it had already been providing for one regional dissemination officer so as to cover another three such officers. In addition, its continued support enabled financially weak first-aid posts in Crimea to purchase basic medicines. In Belarus, the National Society appointed eight regional dissemination officers so as to be able to step up activities in all the country's regions.

ICRC support enabled the Ukrainian Red Cross Society tracing service to respond more effectively to requests relating to compensation for victims of the Second World War, which represented the bulk of its caseload. The Ukrainian Red Cross also trained its counterparts in the Red Cross Society of Belarus in the use of computerized tracing programmes.

The ICRC gave financial and technical support for the programmes to be installed in Belarus and purchased the equipment. In Moldova, the ICRC continued to cover the salaries of a National Society dissemination officer and a National Society tracing officer.

With ICRC support:

- ▶ 30 first-aid posts in Crimea provided urgently needed health services in remote settlements
- ▶ 24 participants attended the annual round-table meeting of heads of National Society tracing services of CIS countries and the Baltic States, held in Kyiv, to discuss activities linked to migration issues and natural disasters
- ▶ over 28,000 tracing cases relating to the Second World War were handled in Belarus and Ukraine



ICRC regional delegation 
 ICRC sub-delegation 
 ICRC office 
 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

# moscow

The Moscow delegation, which was opened in 1992, combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions in other member States of the CIS. In the Russian Federation the ICRC assists vulnerable populations affected by the hostilities in Chechnya, and visits people detained in connection with that context. In the other countries of the CIS, the ICRC runs long-term communication and preventive programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, the armed and security forces and civil society, and to foster understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

## COVERING

The Russian Federation, with specialized services for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and to some extent Central Asia

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection  
**1,973,783**  
 Assistance  
**22,563,219**  
 Preventive action  
**5,438,726**  
 Cooperation with National Societies  
**1,735,143**  
 General  
**72,343**

**► 31,783,214**  
 of which: Overheads **1,896,352**

## PERSONNEL

**33** expatriates  
**353** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued visits to people detained in connection with the conflict in Chechnya, enabling them and their families to exchange news via RCMs; it also urged the authorities to investigate and provide answers as to the whereabouts of missing persons.
- Between 95,000 and 134,000 IDPs and vulnerable residents regularly received food and other supplies; elderly bedridden residents were given food and hygiene kits in cooperation with the Russian Red Cross.
- Support continued for the renovation of public infrastructure in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan; hygiene facilities were maintained for IDPs, and the renovation of hospitals and collective centres for IDPs was under way.
- Support was given to 12 hospitals, Grozny's central blood bank and clinical laboratories; hospital health workers and prosthetic/orthotic technicians were trained, and the ICRC assisted in developing the Grozny prosthetic/orthotic centre.
- Programmes were conducted to raise awareness of the dangers posed by mines/UXO in Chechnya and parts of Daghestan.
- Programmes promoting IHL continued for the national authorities, the armed and security forces, universities and secondary schools.

## CONTEXT

For most of 2003, domestic politics in the Russian Federation were dominated by December's parliamentary elections which confirmed the United Russia Party's majority and prepared the ground for federal presidential elections in March 2004.

The federal government took a series of measures to stabilize the situation in Chechnya, such as the March referendum in which Chechens voted in favour of a new constitution. This paved the way for October's elections in the republic, from which Akhmad Kadyrov emerged as Chechnya's new president.

Armed confrontations and security operations continued to cast uncertainty over people's lives. Civilians were killed or injured by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Hostage-taking was a serious threat. Arrests, as well disappearances, continued to occur in Chechnya. The security situation therefore remained a major problem for the local population and hampered humanitarian action, for which there was still an acute need.

The situation of internally displaced people (IDPs) from Chechnya in Ingushetia and Daghestan was a source of concern. While official pressure increased to close the camps housing many of these people, Chechnya still did not have enough housing for all potential returnees.

A string of bomb blasts, including suicide bombings, that claimed many civilian victims in Moscow and other Russian cities,

and an attack against a military hospital in Mozdok, were further cause for concern.

On 2 August, unidentified armed men abducted a Chechen employee of the ICRC from his home near Gudermes during the night. His whereabouts remained unknown at the end of the year.

## ICRC ACTION

As in previous years, the ICRC's large-scale operation in the northern Caucasus comprised assistance (emergency-response and reconstruction) and protection activities. The volatile security environment continued to hamper the ICRC's work, particularly in Chechnya, where it remained one of few organizations on the ground, but also in Daghestan. This meant that protection and assistance programmes could not be fully implemented.

In view of the high security risk, the ICRC's expatriate team stayed based in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria) and Nazran (Ingushetia), and missions to Chechnya were extremely limited. The main challenge was to manage an operation of this size by "remote control," the only possible way to work in such a volatile context. A great deal of responsibility was placed on national staff, and special training was required as a result. Nearly 300 national staff, including 98 permanently based in Grozny, carried out a broad range of aid programmes regionwide. Another problem was the internal crisis affecting the ICRC's main implementing partner in the region, the Chechen branch of the Russian Red Cross, which began in August 2002 (see *National Society*). The crisis eased, and cooperation with the Chechen branch resumed in August 2003. A primary health-care programme initiated by the Russian Red Cross was suspended pending a re-evaluation of needs. In Daghestan, activities for IDPs had to be suspended between July and November.

In 2003 the ICRC changed the eligibility criteria for its bread programme in Chechnya, i.e. beneficiaries were selected on the basis of economic need rather than according to the category they belonged to in the social-welfare system. In Ingushetia, it focused on assisting only the most vulnerable IDPs. In Daghestan, it ended assistance to residents adversely affected by the 1999 hostilities and concentrated on IDPs instead. These changes resulted in a drop in the overall number of people receiving food and other basic supplies, from 134,700 in early 2003 to 96,400 at the end of the year.

The ICRC was still the only organization in the region to carry out visits to detainees on a regular basis. In and around Chechnya, delegates visited detention centres, held talks with the authorities, registered detainees and interviewed them in private so as to monitor the material and psychological

conditions of detention. This was done on a confidential basis and the observations and recommendations were discussed only with the authorities concerned. The ICRC also sought to engage the authorities in dialogue with a view to promoting respect for the civilian population, in particular residents in Chechnya and IDPs in Daghestan and Ingushetia. The ICRC emphasized that any returns to Chechnya should take place on a voluntary basis.

The ICRC's regional communication centre based in Moscow continued to play an important role in coordinating and supporting long-term communication and IHL programmes in the Russian Federation and other member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The ICRC opted for a selective approach, targeting universities, NGOs and think tanks concerned with IHL and humanitarian issues, and aiming to build contact with media and publishers that reach out to leaders and opinion-makers in both Russia and the CIS. In June, the ICRC cemented its partnership with the Russian Association of International Law through a cooperation agreement. In preparation for phasing out the school programme to promote the teaching of IHL concepts and humanitarian principles, it was decided to concentrate on 70 key regions in the Russian Federation.

Cooperation with the Russian Red Cross focused on strengthening its operational response capacity by involving it closely in aid programmes in the northern Caucasus, and building up its tracing and IHL dissemination services.

Coordination with other members of the Movement, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations working in the northern Caucasus remained an essential aspect of the ICRC's operation.

## CIVILIANS

### Helping Chechnya's vulnerable resident population

Reconstruction work progressed only haltingly. While vulnerable Chechens benefited from regular if minimal payment of State pensions, unemployment ran high and social and economic conditions were generally poor, as elsewhere in the northern Caucasus. The need for humanitarian aid and rebuilding was still huge. Security continued to be a major concern as ongoing violence and armed operations across the republic prevented people from resuming normal lives.

### Restoring contact between separated relatives

The need for family links to be restored or maintained was felt most acutely by elderly civilians in Chechnya, Chechens living abroad looking for their relatives in the northern Caucasus, and people held in detention. The ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) network enabled them to meet this need.

In addition, the Moscow delegation dealt with a growing number of requests for travel documents enabling refugees and asylum seekers to travel to a host country that had granted them asylum, and with requests for family reunification.

The ICRC continued to receive requests for information from families regarding the whereabouts of their relatives whom they believed to be detained by federal security forces, armed opposition groups or other armed elements, and regularly submitted them to the authorities for clarification. (The figures below do not represent the total number of persons missing, as not all families who have lost contact with a relative report the case to the ICRC.)

### Providing food and other aid for Chechnya's most destitute

Despite security constraints, the ICRC regularly provided an average of 42,000 vulnerable people with bread, sugar, oil, soap and tea each month. The programme underwent a major change with the switch from category-based to economic eligibility criteria; assessing beneficiaries' needs required visits to over 25,000 households over nine months. IDPs living in collective centres were also visited; the vulnerable among them were included in the bread programme, and food aid to collective centres ended by mid-2003. In addition, the ICRC provided supplementary food, hygiene kits and other items such as blankets and bed sheets for some 650 people in eight medical and social-welfare institutions. Some 14,000 schoolchildren from families assisted under the bread and institution programmes received winter and summer clothes.

### Improving water and habitat conditions in Chechnya

Reconstruction efforts were not enough to repair the infrastructure which had been wrecked by years of hostilities, particularly in Grozny, and by decay due to lack of maintenance and investment. The ICRC continued to support the efforts of the local water board to increase its capacity to repair and maintain the water-supply

network by supplying it with materials and equipment such as pipes, an auto crane, and a mobile workshop.

An ICRC-operated chlorinating and filling point linked to the main water network produced sufficient safe drinking water to supply people across Grozny. The water was distributed by the International Rescue Committee, the municipal housing department and private trucks. In addition, the ICRC donated pumps and other materials to the Polish Humanitarian Organization, an NGO active in this field, to operate two similar filling and chlorinating installations.

To improve conditions in schools, collective centres and social-welfare institutions, the ICRC water and habitat team continued to install gas stoves in Grozny and Chechnya's other major cities. Emergency repair projects in Argun and Gudermes to improve conditions in three collective centres housing IDPs were nearing completion at the end of the year. An excavator was donated to the town water board. Work to establish communal washing and laundry facilities in Gudermes was still in progress.

### Helping IDPs in Ingushetia

There were still tens of thousands of IDPs remaining in Ingushetia, living in private accommodation or (often inadequate) collective centres and tent camps. The exact number of IDPs was hard to establish, as many of them frequently ventured into Chechnya or moved either back to Chechnya or elsewhere in Ingushetia, as tent camps were closed down.

After distributing a last round of food parcels and hygiene kits to all IDPs (78,500 people) at the beginning of 2003, the ICRC focused on 36,500 of the most vulnerable, whom it provided with supplementary food rations, hygiene kits, blankets, bed sheets and sugar for preservation. Some 12,000 school-age children from displaced families also received clothes and shoes twice a year (summer and winter). All IDPs continued to receive basic food rations from the World Food Programme through its implementing partners.

The ICRC carried on water and sanitation activities for IDPs, gradually scaling them down as camps were closed. These activities included trucking water to collective centres, tent camps and other accommodation, and securing the water supply for a village inhabited by some 4,000 IDPs and 4,000 residents by improving the existing infrastructure. The number of IDPs assisted in this way decreased from 6,200 at the

beginning of the year to 2,200 in the last quarter. In the course of the year the number of ICRC-operated shower blocks was reduced from 13 serving 22,000 IDPs to seven serving 7,000 IDPs in two camps and five collective centres. In addition, the ICRC maintained 13 water-distribution points used by around 6,000 IDPs.

### Helping vulnerable groups in Daghestan

In Daghestan, one of Russia's poorest republics, the ICRC ended its assistance to residents living in areas bordering Chechnya and refocused on IDPs from Chechnya whom it had identified as particularly vulnerable in 2002. In the course of the year several collective centres housing them were closed down. The ICRC supplied all 8,300 IDPs with hygiene kits, blankets, bed sheets and sugar for food preservation, while their food needs were covered by other organizations. The ICRC also gave clothes and winter boots to some 2,100 schoolchildren from displaced families. The distribution of summer shoes had to be cancelled owing to the suspension of activities in the republic. The school lunch programme for 500 children in the Novostroy district, carried out in cooperation with the Daghestan branch of the Russian Red Cross, ended mid-year with the school summer break.

The ICRC also started to upgrade water and habitat conditions in run-down collective centres housing IDPs. It donated a waste-collection truck and 20 containers to Khasavyurt municipal services so that regular refuse collection could resume in the centres.

### Helping needy residents and IDPs across the region

In Daghestan, Ingushetia and seven other republics and regions, vulnerable residents benefited from a home-care programme carried out by the National Society with ICRC support. In coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continued to lend financial support to a National Society programme providing IDPs and residents with psychological counselling and legal advice. For further details, see *National Society*.

### Alerting the population to the mine threat

Many people in Chechnya and the Novolak and Botlikh districts of neighbouring Daghestan lived under constant threat of a mine or UXO accident. Based on accident data collected from hospitals receiving its aid, the ICRC prepared mine-awareness

messages for the main groups at risk, which included people who venture into forest areas – to collect firewood for example – and children. After being trained by the Chechen Puppet Theatre, children in Grozny started using puppets to teach other children about safe behaviour, such as avoiding using short cuts. In Daghestan, children learnt about the mine danger when the puppet show "The Thousandth Jug" visited their villages. Teachers were included in the mine-awareness programme and the ICRC provided schools in Chechnya and Daghestan with teaching materials, stationery with which to prepare their own mine-awareness posters, and other items. Round-table discussions were held to brief journalists on what information and advice to include in newspaper articles and television broadcasts. Discussions about the relevance of the messages of ICRC-produced television spots were organized by village leaders. A café to be run by mine victims was set to open in Grozny.

### Restoring family links

- 1,156 RCMs were delivered and 483 travel documents issued
- 820 tracing requests remained unresolved since 2001 (including 295 received in 2003)

### Economic security

#### *Total northern Caucasus*

- 17,519 food parcels, 1.18 million hygiene kits and/or soap, 7,242 tonnes of food, 45,000 blankets, 45,200 bed sheets, and 170 beds were provided
- 25,150 sets of summer clothes, 51,350 pairs of shoes and boots and 28,350 winter jackets were distributed to schoolchildren

### Water and habitat

- 21,000 cubic metres (monthly average) of safe water were provided for some 40,000 inhabitants of Grozny and 350 stoves were installed in Chechnya
- 2,000 cubic metres (monthly average) of water were trucked and 10,000 IDPs benefited from water and habitat activities in Ingushetia

### Mine action

- 90 children were trained to relay mine-awareness messages to other children
- 5,353 children saw the puppet show "The Thousandth Jug"
- 556 schools in Chechnya and 58 schools in Daghestan received various materials

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

On the basis of an agreement with the Russian authorities first concluded in May 2000, the ICRC continued to have access to people detained in connection with the situation in Chechnya. The volatile security situation and restrictions imposed on the movement of ICRC staff meant that certain places of detention remained out of bounds, particularly within Chechnya. The ICRC sought to engage in direct, constructive dialogue with detaining authorities and the relevant ministry officials, aiming to ensure that the detainees were treated humanely. During each visit, detainees were given the opportunity to send RCMs to their families.

- ▶ 66 visits were carried out to 34 places of detention (including 24 visits to 15 places in Chechnya)
- ▶ 201 RCMs were delivered to detainees
- ▶ 3,072 detainees were registered since May 2000 (including 633 in 2003)

## WOUNDED AND SICK

In the northern Caucasus, health services remained plagued by lack of financing, poor maintenance, outdated equipment, inadequate drug supplies and unevenly distributed resources. These problems, coupled with general poverty, and in the case of Chechnya, war damage and lack of security, made access even to basic health care difficult for the population.

The ICRC continued to supply, as needed, 10 hospitals in Chechnya and one referral facility each in Ingushetia and Dagestan with medicines and surgical materials and equipment. To respond better to the needs of these facilities, the ICRC extended its assistance beyond surgical services to other areas (internal medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology). It completed projects to upgrade the water supply and sanitary conditions and made structural improvements in two of the referral hospitals it supports (Shali and Argun), and started planning work on a third one (Gudermes).

In addition, the ICRC organized training in war surgery for surgeons from the northern Caucasus – for the first time in Nalchik – and arranged for Chechen doctors to receive specialized training in Moscow at the ICRC's annual war surgery seminar for surgeons from CIS countries, and at a convention in Yaroslavl, paying for their travel and lodging.

The programmes to support laboratories in Chechnya and the Grozny blood bank continued, consisting in deliveries of equipment and such materials as reagents and tests, as well as an emergency stock for the blood bank.

Its contingency stock of medicines and surgical kits enabled the ICRC to step in rapidly on several occasions to help out hospitals facing emergencies, such as after a bomb blast.

- ▶ 12 hospitals, 2 laboratories and 1 blood bank were assisted
- ▶ 63,485 patients were admitted (including 912 war-wounded, of whom 334 mine injured)
- ▶ 18,984 surgical operations were carried out
- ▶ 2 hospital water and habitat projects were completed
- ▶ 60 surgeons from CIS countries, including 40 from the northern Caucasus, attended ICRC seminars on war surgery in Moscow and Nalchik
- ▶ 8 Chechen doctors were trained in specialized courses

### Physical rehabilitation of amputees and other disabled people

Through its surgical and orthopaedic programme, the ICRC provided wheelchairs and crutches to patients with disabilities. To address longer-term needs for physical rehabilitation among Chechnya's several thousand war amputees and other disabled people, the ICRC pursued its programme to train specialized Chechen staff for the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Grozny. This training comprises a two-year training course at a centre in Sochi as well as practical work at the Grozny centre. The ICRC also supported further training of these technicians in St Petersburg. In addition, it organized a workshop in Sochi attended by technicians from across the northern Caucasus. The ICRC also donated equipment to the centres in Grozny, Sochi and Makhachkala (Dagestan).

- ▶ 3 centres were supplied with equipment, technical expertise and training
- ▶ 8 orthopaedic technicians received training
- ▶ 11 technicians attended an ICRC workshop in Sochi
- ▶ 148 prostheses were manufactured
- ▶ 148 new patients (including 97 mine victims) were fitted with prostheses
- ▶ 69 wheelchairs and 1,434 pairs of crutches were provided

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC strengthened working relations with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, for which it provided information and documentation on IHL treaties to help with the drafting of model laws and recommendations. A cooperation agreement between the Assembly and the ICRC was being prepared for signature in 2004. The Assembly adopted resolutions on promoting the Ottawa Convention and recommending ratification of the ICC Statute. Moscow-based lawyers of the Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law monitored and provided support for the adoption of legislative and administrative measures to implement IHL in the countries of the region.

The ICRC pursued a concerted dialogue with the various ministries of the Russian Federation concerned with the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, such as the 1997 Ottawa Convention, the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its protocols, and the 1998 ICC Statute. Preparation began of draft legislation on ratification of the 1996 amended Protocol II to the 1980 Convention, as did an assessment of criminal legislation in the light of the provisions of the ICC Statute. The Ministry of Justice mandated a working group with drafting proposals for amendments to be made to the criminal code and the code of criminal procedure, so as to pave the way for implementation of the ICC Statute and future cooperation with the ICC.

- ▶ over 50 representatives of 7 CIS countries attended the ICRC's annual advanced course on IHL for civil servants and academics in Moscow, and a Russian observer took part in the meeting of national IHL committees in Minsk (see *Kyiv regional delegation*)
- ▶ over 20 members of State and government bodies of the Russian Federation took part in the "Third Martens Readings" conference (see *Civil society*)

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC maintained cooperation with the defence and interior ministries regarding the integration of IHL rules – and, for law enforcement personnel, international human rights law and humanitarian principles – into all aspects of their training and operations.

The plan to integrate the defence ministry's new regulations into armed forces training structures was gradually being implemented by the ministry's interdepartmental working group on IHL integration. The interior ministry had yet to issue similar regulations and set up a working group.

Training of trainers continued in the form of intensive courses, presentations and workshops for key personnel concerned with armed forces and interior troop or police training and legal services, at training centres in both the Moscow region and the northern Caucasus. The ICRC worked with the interior ministry to design a special training programme and materials. Production began of a Russian version of the ICRC-developed DVD *To Serve and to Protect*. With a view to raising the quality of IHL education for future military and police career officers the ICRC focused its efforts on leading cadet training establishments and military secondary schools.

Training sessions on IHL and international human rights law were also given for troops due to be deployed in the northern Caucasus or peace-support operations abroad.

To foster knowledge and understanding of the ICRC and its mandate and activities, particularly in the northern Caucasus, the organization nurtured contacts with military and police media-relations personnel and decision-makers, provided them with information, and held workshops and discussions.

- 246 high-ranking officers of the defence ministry, 20 interior troops officers and 80 military prosecutors attended seminars and presentations
- 10 officers of defence ministry, federal border service and interior troops took part in the 100th and 103rd IHL courses in San Remo
- 236 officers of defence ministry, federal border service and interior troops were trained in instructors' courses on IHL and international humanitarian rights law
- 280 commanding and teaching staff and trainee officers of 3 army training establishments attended lectures and workshops; a Russian team of officer cadets won the 2nd international IHL competition for military academies in San Remo; 48 officer cadets from 12 defence ministry and federal border service training institutions took part in an IHL competition in Solnechnogorsk;

a Russian team of officer cadets won the 3rd international IHL competition for military academies in Ukraine

- 100 commanding and teaching staff and trainee officers of 35 police and interior troops training establishments attended lectures and workshops; 7 teams of future police officers from 7 institutions took part in a "Professional of the future" competition in Belgorod; 6 teams of interior troop cadets and officers, including 1 from Belarus, took part in the 1st "Serving the law, we serve the people" competition in St Petersburg
- 1,531 armed forces and 5,260 police/interior troop personnel attended presentations in preparation for active duty in the northern Caucasus and abroad

## CIVIL SOCIETY

To promote knowledge and understanding of its mandate and activities, the ICRC worked to build an extensive network of contacts among the media, NGOs, think tanks and the authorities, both in Moscow and the northern Caucasus. It organized and took part in a wide range of events, including press conferences and workshops for journalists, and produced newsletters, fact sheets and press releases in English and Russian, which it distributed widely. Work on an ICRC Russian website was nearing completion.

- ▶ the ICRC's travelling exhibition entitled "Humanity and war" continued its tour of southern Russia and the northern Caucasus, attracting over 5,000 viewers
- ▶ IHL lectures were delivered for first time at universities in Kabardino-Balkaria, North Ossetia, Chechnya and Ingushetia
- ▶ the ICRC "Women and war" study was translated into Russian and launched in Moscow on 8 March in the presence of journalists and women's rights NGOs
- ▶ 4 spots highlighting Red Cross activities were broadcast on main TV channels and shown on street screens in Moscow

### Promoting IHL concepts in schools

Working through a team of Russian education experts responsible for training and monitoring a network of regional programme coordinators, the ICRC continued its school programme, begun in 1995, which aimed to familiarize secondary-school pupils across the Russian Federation with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action.

In 2003 the focus was on continued teacher training, promotional efforts and lobbying in education circles to ensure that *A world around you*, a series of four ICRC-sponsored literature textbooks for grades 5 to 8, was regularly used by at least half of all pupils in these grades in some 70 key regions of the Russian Federation. A survey confirmed that this goal had already been achieved in 20 regions, three of which had made the textbooks mandatory. The ICRC's goal of having IHL topics included in all civic education and "basics of living safely" classes in grades 9 and 11 was achieved through their inclusion in a number of course books. Ongoing promotional efforts were still required, however, to convince the education authorities of the need to make IHL a permanent feature not just of individual books but of teaching curricula.

Cadet schools and secondary schools offering military training, but under the responsibility of the education ministry, were another focus of the ICRC school programme. By year's end, 60 schools (out of a total of 71) had received programme-specific teacher training and included IHL in their teaching programmes.

A qualitative evaluation of the programme began that was to be carried out over four years in a dozen classes in several of Russia's regions. The programme was also evaluated in Azerbaijan (see *Armenia and Azerbaijan*).

The ICRC maintained contact with the Ministry of Education regarding its long-term goal of having IHL topics included in

federal education standards, and pursued the search for potential donors to ensure the programme's continuation.

- ▶ some 940 pupils from 137 military schools took part in an IHL competition as part of national "military-patriotic competitions" held twice yearly

### Promoting IHL teaching in universities

The ICRC maintained cooperation with law, international relations and journalism faculties across the Russian Federation, and with the Russian Association of International Law. It focused its efforts on creating a pool of IHL experts among Russian academics and State officials, capable of initiating IHL-related events and training, developing reference materials and assisting the authorities in integrating IHL in national legislation. The ICRC also assisted the Moscow State Institute of International Relations in developing a standard IHL teaching kit.

- ▶ over 100 leading scholars and professors of international law, State and government authorities, and foreign experts took part in the "Third Martens Readings" conference on the ICC, terrorism and IHL, organized by the ICRC and St Petersburg State University
- ▶ some 24,000 copies of IHL publications were distributed to the 151 law and journalism faculties in the Russian Federation
- ▶ 120 essays on IHL themes were submitted in an essay competition organized in cooperation with the Russian Association of International Law for law students from across the Russian Federation

### NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to support the Russian Red Cross Society (RRC) in its efforts to strengthen its tracing and dissemination services nationwide. In particular, ICRC support enabled the RRC tracing centre in Moscow, which still handles some 40,000 cases relating to the Second World War every year, to computerize its registration-card index. A pilot project to improve the dissemination capacity of local Red Cross branches through youth volunteers continued in 10 regions, as did training for RRC staff at headquarters and on regional committees. The National Society also changed the concept of its magazine.

The ICRC maintained cooperation with the 14 branches in southern Russia and the northern Caucasus. This included support for programmes benefiting IDPs and for the National Society's traditional home-care programme that provided elderly and bedridden people with food parcels, hygiene kits and basic medical and personal care on a regular basis. The ICRC also supported the RRC in its efforts to find local funding for the programme.

The ICRC continued to lend financial support to an RRC programme to provide residents and IDPs with psychological care and legal counselling on such matters as their rights and legal status. The National Society's Ingush branch ran playrooms for pre-schoolers, providing them with toys, snacks and games as well as the services of a psychologist. Baby clothes and hygiene items were distributed to mothers with newborn babies. In March, a recreation centre with a library, computer services and a gym opened for teenagers in Nazran.

Operational cooperation with the National Society's Chechen branch, a major implementing partner of the ICRC, resumed in August after a one-year period of internal problems during which the home-care programme was suspended and the ICRC temporarily took charge of the bread programme. By year's end, these were once again run in cooperation with the Chechen branch.

- ▶ 15 youth volunteers presented IHL and the Movement to over 10,000 people in 10 regions
- ▶ 6 issues (10,000 copies) of the newly designed Russian Red Cross magazine were published
- ▶ 2,350 people benefited from a home-care programme
- ▶ 19 psychologists worked in 13 regions giving consultations for 1,333 people each month, while 15 legal advisers in 10 regions provided advice to 776 people monthly (average figures)
- ▶ the Ingush branch of the Russian Red Cross ran 16 playrooms in 4 IDP camps, which were regularly attended by over 1,300 children, and a recreation centre frequented by 700 youngsters from the displaced and local populations



ICRC regional delegation

# washington

The ICRC's regional delegation in Washington has become an acknowledged source of information for government officials, organizations and interested individuals. Since January 2002, the ICRC has been regularly visiting internees held by the US armed forces at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and at a Navy Brigade in the US proper. The ICRC works closely with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies, mainly within the framework of their international activities and the promotion of IHL. The ICRC delegation in Washington was established in 1995.

## COVERING

Canada, United States of America

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,716,677**

Assistance

**0**

Preventive action

**1,603,078**

Cooperation with National Societies

**220,597**

General

**6,483**

► **3,546,834**

of which: Overheads **216,473**

## PERSONNEL

**8** expatriates

**5** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC carried out 6 visits to the US-run detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, where it saw 723 internees, collected 2,564 Red Cross messages (RCMs) and delivered 3,270.
- A dialogue was maintained with the US authorities regarding internees held in relation to the "global war on terror" at Guantanamo Bay, in the US, in Afghanistan and at what the US refers to as "undisclosed locations".
- The delegation kept the US authorities and the media informed about ICRC activities in Iraq.
- The ICRC attended conferences and panel discussions organized by a wide range of organizations.
- The ICRC participated in training for humanitarian operations planned by the US Marine Corps.
- Close contact was maintained with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies.

## CONTEXT

The year 2003 was essentially marked by the US-led military campaign in Iraq, which toppled Iraq's government and brought about the occupation of the country by a coalition of States. The run-up to the war and the military campaign itself had far-reaching implications for the United States' relations with the rest of the world and for the global economic, security and political environment. Meanwhile, the United States' ongoing campaign against "global terrorism" continued to have ramifications both regionally and internationally. Together these events instigated challenging and diverging views about international humanitarian law (IHL) and issues of humanitarian concern.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Using its customary procedures, the ICRC regularly visited the internees held by the US government, many of them for more than two years, at Guantanamo Bay, as well as in US locations. Delegates visited the internees and interviewed them in private, reviewing their access to food, shelter and medical care as well as general conditions and treatment. The delegation also facilitated the exchange of brief personal messages with relatives, in the form of Red Cross messages. Altogether, the ICRC handled 8,834 RCMs during the year.

Meetings followed visits to detainees, with officials of the Defence and State Departments, the National Security Council and with

other authorities, during which the conditions of internment were discussed.

## AUTHORITIES

In an effort to consolidate its internee-welfare activities in Afghanistan and in Iraq, the delegation intensified its existing contacts with US Central Command and Southern Command in Florida.

In addition to its dialogue with US authorities concerning internees and other matters of humanitarian concern in the Afghan conflict and the war in Iraq, the delegation remained in close touch with government departments and offices concerning other issues relating to international humanitarian aid. These departments included the Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (and legal advisers), all at the State Department; the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance and the Offices of Food for Peace and Foreign Disaster Assistance, all at the US Agency for International Development; the Stability Operations department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the General Counsel and Policy offices, all at the Defense Department; as well as related units of the National Security Council at the White House.

The delegation continued its discussions with Canadian officials on the full range of ICRC programmes worldwide and maintained relations with Canadian government bodies concerned with international

humanitarian aid, in particular the Canadian International Development Agency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In its dialogue with the authorities, the ICRC discussed its humanitarian concerns throughout the world, particularly regarding the numerous situations of persistent political tension and conflict. The organization also pursued efforts to help settle the issue of formal recognition of Israel's National Society, the Magen David Adom, as a full member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Throughout the year, the Washington delegation had regular contact with regional commands such as Central Command in Tampa, Florida and Southern Command in Miami, Florida in connection with its operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The ICRC took part in IHL-training programmes and explained its mandate, activities and modus operandi to the students and faculty of a number of mid-to-top level military schools. In the US these included the National War College, the Inter-American Defense College, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security and Cooperation, the Naval War College, the US Marine Corps School for Advanced Warfare and the US Marine Corps Command and Staff College. In Canada the ICRC worked closely with the Judge Advocate General's School and the Canadian Forces Support Training Centre. ICRC delegates also gave talks on the organization and its activities during US Marine Expeditionary Units field-training exercises.

Delegates took part in a number of conferences organized by military or related organizations concerning IHL as well as the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq and their consequences in humanitarian terms.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The delegation continued its efforts to promote understanding within the United States of the ICRC's activities and concerns. The presence of legal and media specialists within the delegation greatly enhanced the ICRC's position in the major debate about international humanitarian law and the future of conflict-related humanitarian action in general.

The delegation was asked on a number of occasions to take part in discussion of a wide range of topics with a variety of think-tanks, policy centres and academic institutions. These requests illustrated the importance that portions of American society attach to the debate concerning the US's role on the international stage in the environment following the attacks of 11 September 2001. The delegation was also regularly approached by the press on subjects relating specifically to ICRC operations, but also in the wider context of the future of humanitarian action in conflict.

In Canada, the delegation supported the Canadian Red Cross in its efforts to promote international humanitarian law and the role of the Movement in Canada.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The relationship with the American Red Cross remained strong. The Washington delegation played a major role in sharing information on joint concerns and in supporting the National Society in promoting knowledge and understanding of the Movement, its role on the international stage and IHL.

The delegation sent an expert to the Canadian Red Cross to enhance its expertise in spreading knowledge of IHL. It also participated in regular forums within the Canadian Red Cross, explaining the role of the ICRC and its concerns.



# brussels

The ICRC has been working in Brussels since 1999 to build strong institutional and operational relations with the EU institutions, NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The aim is to heighten awareness of the ICRC's mandate and mobilize political, diplomatic and financial support for ICRC activities to ensure that victims of armed conflict receive the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under IHL.

## COVERING

Institutions of the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**7,421**

Assistance

**0**

Preventive action

**1,256,718**

Cooperation with National Societies

**458,442**

General

**53,825**

► **1,776,406**

of which: Overheads **108,563**

## PERSONNEL

**1** expatriate

**5** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC continued to strengthen its dialogue with EU institutions on IHL and operational issues and contexts through the EU presidency (held successively by Greece and Italy), the General Secretariat of the EU, and the European Commission (in particular, it strengthened ties with ECHO by signing a new Framework Partnership Agreement with the European Commission/ECHO), and by following the work of the European Parliament. It worked to further develop dialogue with NATO and to engage political, academic and humanitarian circles in a dynamic dialogue on IHL and related issues.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, as in previous years, the ICRC delegation in Brussels pursued its dialogue with EU institutions (the European Commission, the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU and the European Parliament) and with NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Given the development of the EU's common foreign and security policy and its increasingly prominent role on the international scene, particularly in the area of crisis management, the ICRC continued to assign a high priority to enhancing its dialogue with EU institutions, especially on issues relating to respect for international humanitarian law (IHL).

In 2003, the EU launched its first two military operations, "Concordia" in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and "Artemis" in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and its first police mission, in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Thessaloniki European Council Conclusions of June 2003 included a reference to IHL in a chapter on external relations and the common foreign and security policy, emphasizing the need for national armed forces to observe applicable humanitarian law and for dialogue with the ICRC on this matter. The EU also reiterated its strong support for the International Criminal Court (ICC), which it regards as an important step towards enforcing IHL and international human rights law. At the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent held in Geneva in December, the EU pledged to promote dissemination of IHL in schools.

Similarly, in view of NATO's involvement in contexts where the ICRC carries out its humanitarian tasks, the ICRC continued its efforts to develop a constructive dialogue with that organization.

## ICRC ACTION

### EU institutions

In 2003, the ICRC kept up extensive high-level discussions with the European Commission (the Humanitarian Aid Office ECHO, the EuropeAid Co-operation Office, and the External Relations Directorate-General) and with the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU. The aim was to ensure that the ICRC's viewpoint on specific issues of humanitarian concern was taken into account. These included the war in Iraq and its aftermath, the situation in the Middle East, the transition process in the Balkans, several situations of humanitarian concern in Africa, situations of violence in central America, security in Afghanistan, the ICC and protection for children in armed conflict.

The presidency of the EU Council was held by Greece during the first semester and by Italy during the second. Having met the Greek president in Athens in December 2002, the president of the ICRC travelled to Rome in June 2003 for discussions with the Italian president and other senior government officials to ensure that humanitarian issues were on the EU agenda.

The ICRC president visited Brussels in June and December for his twice-yearly meetings with the EU political and security committee,

at which he emphasized the ICRC's operational priorities. As of April 2003 the committee included the ambassadors of the 10 future member States, in addition to the ambassadors of the 15 existing member States. ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger had meetings with EU Commissioner Poul Nielson and Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the EU's common foreign and security policy. He thanked the EU for its support, emphasized the relevance of IHL to current security policy trends and outlined the ICRC's operational concerns in a number of contexts.

In May, the ICRC vice-president participated in the EU regional conference on conflict prevention organized in Athens by the Greek presidency. In his speech he emphasized the importance of spreading knowledge of IHL, especially among young people.

ICRC legal experts took an active part in a second expert meeting to discuss the financial and political support needed to ensure the effective functioning of the ICC, which was convened in Naples in September by the European Commission through its EuropeAid Co-operation Office. The first such meeting had taken place in January 2002.

Throughout the year, the Brussels delegation arranged meetings between ICRC staff and their counterparts in EU institutions. For example, as a member of the ICRC's Donor Support Group, ECHO Director Costanza Adinolfi took part in field visits to gain first-hand knowledge of ICRC operations in Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, and a member of her staff made a similar visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. At the invitation of the EU presidency, the ICRC had the opportunity to address several working groups of the Council of the EU, particularly regarding operational aspects of IHL and the ICC, in view of the review conference to be held by the Council's committee on public international law in 2009.

## NATO

The ICRC continued efforts to develop a structured dialogue with the NATO Secretariat and the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and fostered a substantive exchange of views with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

Throughout the year, the ICRC took every opportunity to raise concerns of a humanitarian nature and ensure that IHL was high

on the agenda of military fora. For example, the Brussels delegation and the Danish Red Cross jointly organized a seminar on ICRC and National Society activities to promote IHL in the armed forces of member countries of the CIMIC (civil-military cooperation) Group North. The 20 or so participants included representatives of the National Societies of Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, the SHAPE official in charge of CIMIC and other military representatives.

In May, at the invitation of the NATO secretary-general, the ICRC president briefed the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) on ICRC operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and other humanitarian issues. In June, the ICRC addressed the EAPC on operational issues in Afghanistan. In October, ICRC delegates attended a NATO conference on "Securing peace: NATO's role in crisis management."

To deepen the dialogue with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, delegates attended the Assembly's spring session in Prague, Czech Republic, and its 49th General Assembly, held in Orlando, United States, in November.

## Others

In February, the ICRC drew attention to the relevance of IHL for the protection of children in armed conflict at a seminar on the rights of the child in the EU, organized in Brussels by Save the Children. The participants included parliamentarians, government officials and representatives of UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In March and September, the ICRC participated in seminars on children in armed conflict organized by the UNICEF Innocenti Research Institute with the support of the EU presidency.

In April, at the invitation of the Brussels-based Corporate Social Responsibility Europe network, delegates presented the ICRC's mandate and work to representatives of the multinational business community and emphasized that it is especially important for the corporate sector to respect humanitarian principles when working in unstable political and military contexts.

In May, Voluntary Organizations Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE), a group comprising some 100 NGOs, invited the ICRC to a conference on challenges facing EU humanitarian aid. Amid discussions of the role of NGOs and their aid efforts within the EU's foreign and security policy, the

ICRC stressed that all humanitarian action must be guided by the principles of IHL.

Cooperation continued between the ICRC and the College of Europe in Bruges, a private institute for post-graduate European studies. In September, in the context of the fourth jointly organized annual Bruges Colloquium, IHL scholars, government experts, and representatives of regional bodies, NGOs and National Societies took part in a seminar on improving compliance with IHL. It was the fifth in a series of ICRC regional expert seminars held in 2003 on the same theme.

In October, the ICRC took part in a workshop on sexual violence organized by Médecins Sans Frontières of Belgium, which served as a forum for various organizations to discuss ways of providing medical, psychological and legal aid for victims of sexual violence in central and western Africa.

In November, ICRC representatives participated in a conference entitled "Legal remedies for victims of international crimes: fostering an EU approach to extra-territorial jurisdiction," organized by the International Federation of Human Rights Associations and the "Redress" NGO at the request of the European Commission. The aim was to define a common European stance in support of the ICC and the prosecution of war crimes. A conference on the same topic had been held in Paris the previous year.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Brussels delegation maintained close relations with the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in Brussels, such as the EU Red Cross Liaison Bureau and the Belgian Red Cross.



# new york

The United Nations role of ensuring international peace and security has many humanitarian aspects. Open since 1983, the ICRC delegation to the UN provides support and a liaison service for the organization's operational and legal activities. The delegation puts across the ICRC's viewpoint, keeps abreast of trends and developments relating to issues of humanitarian concern, and promotes IHL.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

0

Assistance

0

Preventive action

**1,643,764**

Cooperation with National Societies

**34,003**

General

**459,992**

► **2,137,759**

of which: Overheads **130,474**

## PERSONNEL

**3** expatriates

**6** local staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The delegation worked to spread knowledge of and garner support for the ICRC's mandate and activities.

## CONTEXT

The ICRC's New York delegation remained in close contact with numerous UN bodies, think tanks, academic circles and the media. It continued its efforts to ensure that the UN and its various components had an accurate understanding of issues of ongoing humanitarian concern, and that the ICRC's neutral and impartial activities were facilitated. In particular, the delegation sought to secure acceptance for the ICRC's mandate and ensure that its specific concerns were taken into account in any UN deliberations having direct implications for humanitarian work.

## UNITED NATIONS

### Security Council

The delegation kept a close eye on issues addressed by the Security Council. In accordance with established practice, the delegation met at the beginning of each month with the Council president to discuss the ICRC's concerns regarding situations on the Council's agenda.

### General Assembly

In order to keep abreast of developments relevant to the ICRC, and where necessary to promote understanding of and support for the ICRC's work, the delegation closely monitored the deliberations of the General Assembly (in which it has observer status) and its subsidiary bodies, such as the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. It also attended meetings relating to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as the International Criminal Court's Assembly of States Parties.

During the General Assembly's 58th session, the delegation made statements on a variety of issues including disarmament, enforced or involuntary disappearances, the report of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), children's rights, the advancement of women, the establishment of the International Criminal Court, and the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief.

On these and other topics, the delegation maintained regular contact with permanent missions to the UN. Jointly with the New York University School of Law, the delegation

organized the 20th annual seminar on IHL for diplomats accredited to the UN.

### **Secretariat**

The delegation attended the weekly meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In its capacity as a "standing invitee", the ICRC also attended working sessions on issues such as the impact of sanctions in humanitarian terms, the review of needs assessment, humanitarian financing, the future of humanitarian action, protection of civilians in armed conflict and preparations for the humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session. It also took part in expert group meetings chaired by the UN Mine Action Service.

Numerous bilateral meetings were held with various Secretariat departments to discuss issues of common concern, which were often related to situations in which the UN and the ICRC were both active. The protection of vulnerable groups in areas where peace-keeping operations were deployed was one such topic. The delegation also maintained regular contact with the UN Children's Fund, The UN Development Programme, the World Food Programme and the UNHCR on issues such as the delivery of aid in Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, and Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories.

## **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

The delegation participated in numerous round tables, discussion groups and workshops on topics related to the ICRC's mandate, operations and policy concerns, convened by various organizations and think tanks, including the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, the International Peace Academy, the Business Council for the UN, Columbia University, the City University of New York and the Stanley Foundation.

The delegation regularly published press releases on ICRC operations and responded to queries from the media, private organizations and individuals on issues such as the law on occupation, protection of persons deprived of their freedom, staff security, the ICRC's working methods and the red cross and red crescent emblems.

Students, academics and representatives of various organizations regularly consulted the delegation on topical issues of humanitarian concern. Its documentation centre was frequently visited and its resources

were made available to permanent missions, the media and the public. Upon request, the delegation provided its visitors with information on the ICRC's work and on IHL.

The delegation helped provide students from a number of countries with insight into the ICRC's work vis-à-vis the UN through briefing sessions organized in connection with Model United Nations conferences. As in previous years, the delegation was invited to make a presentation on IHL and the role of the ICRC to naval officers from a variety of countries being trained at the Naval Staff College in Newport, Rhode Island.



# paris

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, focuses on promoting IHL and facilitating ICRC operations in the field. Its target audiences include the French authorities, representatives of the French-speaking world, economic interest groups, the media, the diplomatic community, military and academic circles and the French Red Cross.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

0

Assistance

0

Preventive action

**1,099,238**

Cooperation with National Societies

**64,949**

General

**4,507**

► **1,168,695**

of which: Overheads **71,329**

## PERSONNEL

**1** expatriate

**4** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- In June, the French authorities granted the Paris delegation privileges and immunities equal to those of UN representations on French territory.
- The Paris delegation maintained and consolidated relations with numerous French government ministries and organizations in its efforts to promote IHL and pave the way for ICRC operations worldwide, particularly in response to the conflicts in Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- IHL briefings were given for more than 2,500 French soldiers, including 1,000 due to leave for theatres of operation abroad, mainly the Balkans. The Paris delegation strengthened its relations with several French universities by contributing to courses and seminars in Paris and elsewhere.

## CONTEXT

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, remained a key element in the ICRC's network for humanitarian diplomacy, through which the organization seeks to promote IHL, increase understanding of its mandate and stimulate debates on issues of humanitarian concern. Throughout the year, the delegation aimed to position the ICRC and its viewpoint vis-à-vis the authorities, foreign opposition movements based in France, non-governmental organizations, and media and opinion makers, and pursued operational diplomacy in close cooperation with the ICRC's Geneva headquarters.

## AUTHORITIES

The delegation maintained contact and shared ICRC concerns with the French authorities, in particular with the offices of the president of the Republic, the prime minister and the president of the National Assembly, and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Cooperation and the French-speaking Communities. In November, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger met the new director of the international organizations department of the French foreign ministry at the ICRC's Geneva headquarters to discuss the situation in Iraq, Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories, and the northern Caucasus, as well as the applicability of IHL in the "fight against terrorism" and in internal conflicts.

Regarding ICRC operations, the Paris delegation was mobilized in connection with several crises, such as the one in Côte d'Ivoire. It took part in negotiations held in Marcoussis near Paris between the various parties to the conflict and maintained close contact with the French authorities.

The Paris delegation met various political leaders visiting France and maintained contact with numerous representatives of opposition groups based in France. For the most part, ICRC operational diplomacy focused on matters of concern to Africa and the Middle East.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Based on its agreement with the *École de gendarmerie* in Rochefort, which prepares armed forces personnel for service in foreign theatres of operation, the delegation continued to regularly give courses on IHL for French soldiers due to leave on missions abroad, and for dozens of personnel from other countries taking part in military training programmes in France. It also worked with the *École de l'Armée de l'air*, also based in Rochefort, where it gave IHL presentations for over 1,000 personnel.

In addition, the delegation continued to deliver and organize lectures and presentations at leading military academies, such as the *Institut des hautes études de défense nationale*, the *Collège interarmées de défense* and the *École spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr-Coëtquidan*.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

In connection with the war in Iraq, the Paris delegation played an important part in presenting the ICRC's humanitarian response to a broad audience and relaying the message of IHL to the French and the international press.

The delegation strengthened its relations with the media by taking part in various seminars on the protection of journalists in war zones and by introducing an ICRC press prize at the 43rd Monte Carlo Television Festival.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The delegation maintained constructive relations with the French Red Cross, seeking to develop joint projects to promote IHL and advising the National Society regarding its activities in conflict zones worldwide.



# international tracing service

The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, is an international institution which assembles, classifies, preserves and evaluates, for strictly humanitarian purposes, records concerning civilians persecuted during the National Socialist period in Germany (1933-1945) and non-Germans displaced as a result of the Second World War up until 1952. The ITS searches for missing persons and issues certificates to civilians who suffered incarceration or forced labour and to their family members eligible for financial compensation. The institution, which derives its mandate from the Bonn Agreements of 1955, is run by an ICRC-appointed director and supervised by an international commission comprising 11 member States.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**386,073**

Assistance

0

Preventive action

0

Cooperation with National Societies

0

General

0

► **386,073**

of which: Overheads **23,563**

## PERSONNEL

**1** expatriate

The mandate of the ITS is to gather, file, preserve and process personal records concerning civilians who were persecuted under the Third Reich. In particular, the ITS regularly acquires archival documents – in 2003, more than 940,000 new names were added to the central databank – and provides victims of the Nazi regime with certificates attesting to the fact that they were persecuted, for example by being deported, interned or subjected to forced labour.

The ITS grew out of the Central Tracing Bureau, which was set up by Allied Headquarters, assisted by the ICRC, at the British Red Cross in London in 1943. The Bureau moved several times before finally settling in Arolsen, Germany, in 1946. It adopted its current name on 1 January 1948. Since 1955, the ITS has been directed and administered by the ICRC and supervised by an international commission composed of representatives of the ITS member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and, since March 2000, Poland).

The digitization of the ITS central index of names (47 million records) was completed at the end of 1999. The databank, which became operational in the second half of 2000, makes it possible to process a considerable quantity of data electronically rather than manually, and thus to respond more quickly to requests for information and certificates. The scanning of all documentary material from the ITS archives was started in 1999 to expedite the processing of requests and secure the information contained in the documents, which are mostly in poor

condition owing to their age and frequent handling by caseworkers.

So as to preserve for future generations the historically precious documents stored in its archives – and not just the information they contain in its digital state – the ITS carries out conservation and restoration work, such as paper deacidification or delamination and the repair of mechanical damage. In 2003, the ITS began working systematically on larger stocks of concentration-camp documents, according to a list of priorities. In cooperation with a specialized company, 70,825 single documents from the Buchenwald index pertaining to male detainees were restored and deacidified, and original list material from various concentration camps was delaminated; in total, some 720,000 documents have been treated since the start of the conservation and restoration process.

Under a German law enacted on 12 August 2000, a federal foundation entitled *Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft* (Remembrance, Responsibility and Future) was set up to provide financial compensation for persons persecuted by the Nazi regime, including those subjected to slave or forced labour. As a result, there was a surge in the number of enquiries sent to the ITS. To deal with the additional workload, the ITS developed a new system for processing requests, using standard lists. This system enables the German foundation's partner organizations (five major foundations in Central and Eastern Europe, the Jewish Claims Conference and the International Organization for Migration in Geneva) to transfer the data contained

in the requests they receive to the lists. These are then passed on to the ITS, which cross-checks the names in its central data-bank and enters the information it finds directly on the lists, before sending them back to the partner organizations. In 2003, under this programme, the ITS cross-checked 201,815 names sent in by the partner organizations and other bodies, such as the Migrant Service in Australia and various National Societies, as well as by individuals.

Since the ITS stock of documentary materials is unfortunately far from complete, many requests for information could not be met. To give the enquirers an additional chance to provide evidence of their persecution, the Federal Association for Information and Advice for Persecutees of National Socialism in Cologne, the Federal Archives in Koblenz and the ITS have established a cooperation network ensuring that individual and list enquiries which cannot be answered by the ITS are forwarded electronically to numerous participating archives in Germany for further checks. By the end of 2003, the ITS had forwarded 386,765 requests to the cooperation network and received positive information in 29,199 cases. This number does not include the replies sent back directly to the partner organizations.

In addition to the enquiries received in connection with the German foundation, during the year under review the ITS received 147,831 new individual requests from 64 countries and gave 173,434 replies to these and other requests received earlier. In total, the ITS replied to 468,976 requests in 2003. At the end of the year, 328,099 requests still awaited processing.



Achieving peace of mind by keeping in touch with family members in the midst of conflict.

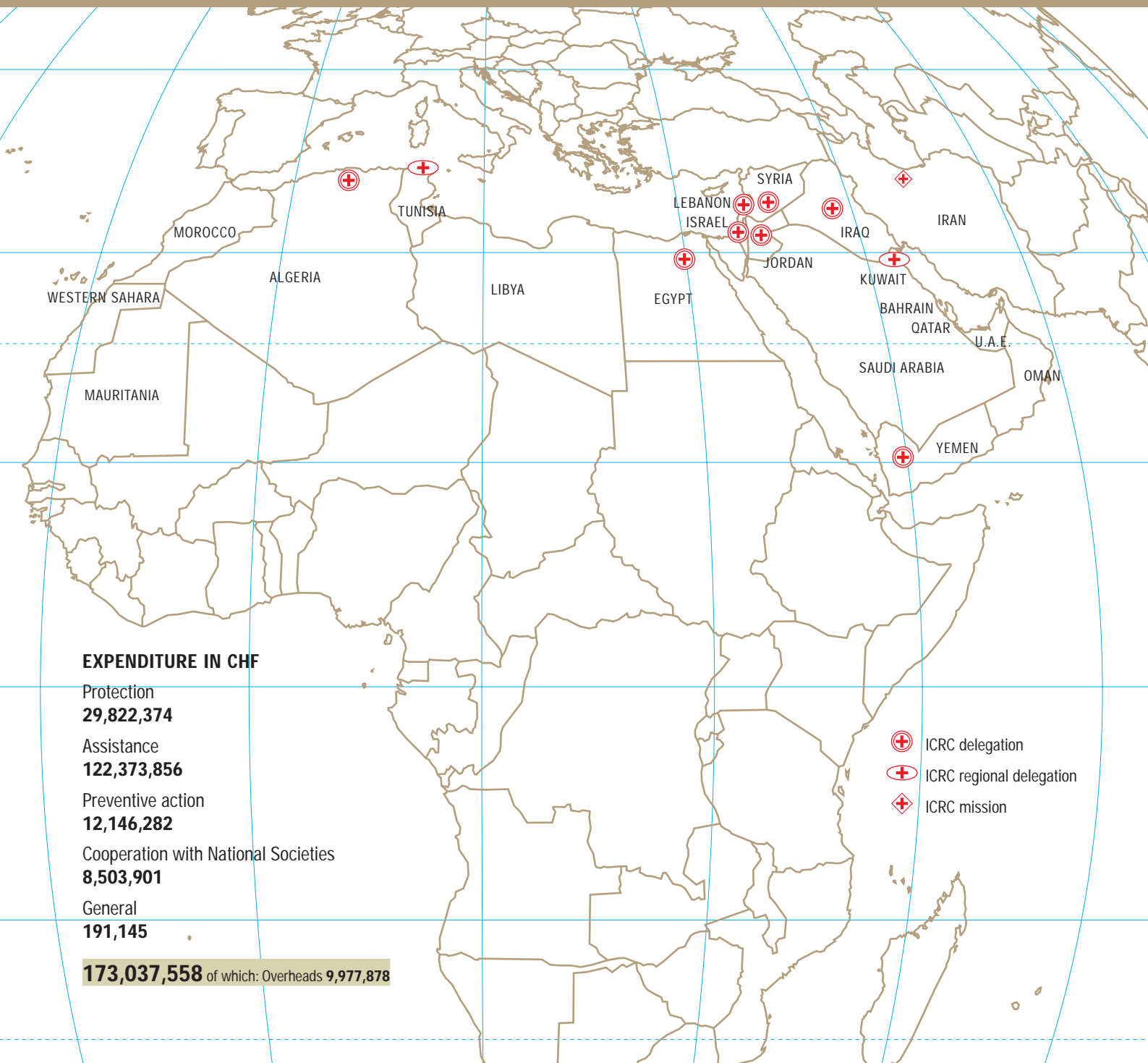
## DELEGATIONS

Algeria  
Egypt  
Iran  
Iraq  
Israel, the Occupied Territories  
& the Autonomous Territories  
Jordan  
Lebanon  
Syria  
Yemen

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Kuwait  
Tunis

# MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**29,822,374**

Assistance

**122,373,856**

Preventive action

**12,146,282**

Cooperation with National Societies

**8,503,901**

General

**191,145**

**173,037,558** of which: Overheads **9,977,878**

⊕ ICRC delegation  
⊕ ICRC regional delegation  
⊕ ICRC mission

The outbreak of full-scale war in Iraq and persistent Israeli-Palestinian violence, coupled with signs of mounting violent Islamic militancy in some parts of the Middle East and North Africa, again focused world attention on this troubled region.

True to its tradition and mandate, the ICRC was at the forefront of humanitarian action to alleviate human suffering caused by present and past conflicts in the region.

The ICRC was the only international humanitarian organization to remain operational in central, southern and northern regions of Iraq throughout the most intensive phase of the war and the subsequent period of lawlessness that swept across the country after the downfall of the Iraqi government. Its prompt and sustained humanitarian action undoubtedly contributed to saving many lives and preventing an outbreak of epidemics in those regions.

The humanitarian mission in Iraq was dealt a severe blow by three security incidents that resulted in the death of four ICRC staff. Three of the victims died in deliberate armed attacks against the ICRC, while the fourth was killed in crossfire. These attacks underscored the increasing security problems faced by ICRC staff working across front lines in war zones. The killings were also a brutal reminder of the failure of the perpetrators of such acts to understand or respect the strictly independent, neutral and impartial nature of ICRC action.

Despite these tragic setbacks, the ICRC remained determined to pursue its humanitarian mission in Iraq where it has been present without interruption since 1980. The prevailing insecurity nevertheless compelled the organization to temporarily reduce staff levels and review its working methods, although it continued to operate in Iraq without military protection in order to preserve its independent status.

As full-scale war in Iraq became increasingly likely, substantial human and material resources were mobilized both inside Iraq and in surrounding countries to respond rapidly and flexibly to any sharp deterioration of the situation in the country. Thousands of tons of essential relief supplies were stockpiled in a network of logistics bases set up in Iraq and in six locations in four surrounding countries in order to be able to reach potential conflict victims over a wide area at short notice. A comprehensive mechanism, including a tracing website and a satellite telephone service, as well as "safe and well" and Red Cross messages

(RCMs), was set up to enable family members separated from one another by the Iraqi crisis to restore contact.

After the onset of major hostilities in Iraq the ICRC emergency-response plan of action was immediately put into effect. Medical kits for the war-wounded, water and other essential supplies were provided to scores of surgical hospitals caring for thousands of war casualties and chronically ill patients. Repair work on hospital infrastructure damaged during the hostilities, or as a result of looting and vandalism, enabled operating theatres and intensive care units to remain functional.

Major repair and maintenance work was carried out at water treatment and sewage plants serving millions of people across the country. Mobile water-distribution units were set up in urban areas suffering from acute shortages and ICRC water-tankers made regular deliveries to regions with no alternative source of supply. Food, water and shelter were provided to internally displaced people and to homes for the elderly, orphanages and other social institutions. In addition, ICRC delegates visited more than 11,000 prisoners of war and civilian internees in Iraq to monitor their treatment and conditions of internment and to enable them to re-establish contact with their families.

After the collapse of the Iraqi government, the ICRC worked to ensure respect of international humanitarian law (IHL) by the Occupying Powers in Iraq, although it continued to carry out "quick-fix" repairs on public utilities and other emergency activities such as the delivery of medical supplies and water to hospitals.

In May, the ICRC President visited Baghdad and held talks with coalition civil authorities in order to reiterate the responsibilities of the occupying powers and to discuss the future work of the ICRC in Iraq as an independent humanitarian organization.

In Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, the main focus of ICRC action was to monitor compliance with IHL, particularly regarding Israel's obligations towards the Palestinian population under its occupation, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to provide emergency aid to those most in need. The consequences in humanitarian terms of continued Israeli restrictions on the movement of people and goods in the Palestinian Territories, and the construction by Israel of a barrier in and around the West Bank, were of particular concern to the ICRC.

Delegates based in 12 offices in the West Bank and Gaza closely monitored the impact of these measures on the Palestinian civilian population and representations were made to the relevant authorities, as deemed appropriate.

Two major ICRC economic-security programmes in the West Bank were completed at the end of the year. The programmes, introduced as temporary and emergency measures in mid-2002 after Israeli forces redeployed in the West Bank, helped more than 50,000 destitute families in the territory to overcome a period of particularly acute hardship and deprivation.

Under other assistance programmes, emergency shelter and household kits were provided to hundreds of Palestinian families made homeless by Israeli house demolitions and expropriations, and water supplies were delivered to thousands of West Bank families in areas not linked to water-distribution networks. In addition, mobile water-distribution kits were provided to the Palestine Red Crescent (PRCS) to reinforce its response capacity in the event of water-shortage emergencies.

Visits were made to thousands of Palestinian detainees held by Israel and several hundred people detained by the Palestinian authorities in order to assess their treatment and conditions of detention. Assistance was provided to Palestinian detainees in hardship cases and family visits for them were arranged in coordination with the detaining authorities.

Ambulance movements were facilitated to allow access to the wounded and sick in the highly restrictive security environment prevailing in the West Bank and Gaza. ICRC support was also maintained for the life-saving work of the PRCS Emergency Response Service throughout the West Bank and Gaza. The ICRC furthermore signed its first cooperation agreement with Israel's Magen David Adom (MDA) covering ICRC support for its ambulance service and tracing unit, and a new MDA disaster management department.

Jordan served as a major ICRC logistics and supply base to support the organization's emergency operations in Iraq during the most intensive phase of the war there. Emergency supplies and ICRC staff were airlifted or transported overland into Iraq from Amman while food and basic household relief assistance was provided to several hundred people stranded in no-man's land between Iraq and Jordan after fleeing the hostilities in Iraq. Visits were made to the

main detention centres in Jordan to monitor the treatment and detention conditions of detainees.

Technical and training support was given to the Jordan Red Crescent to reinforce its capacity in the fields of tracing, the promotion of IHL and mine-risk education. The ICRC also facilitated the smooth running of the Jordanian Red Crescent and PRCS ambulance service operations between Jordan and the West Bank for the transfer of emergency medical cases.

In Syria, the ICRC operated a logistics and supply centre as part of a regional network of bases set up to support ICRC operations in Iraq. ICRC tracing and communication services enabled Iraqi refugees and Syrian nationals to locate and restore contact with family members either interned/detained or located in Iraq, and Syrian nationals were repatriated under ICRC auspices following their release from detention in Iraq. The emergency-response capacity of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent was reinforced to meet humanitarian needs arising from the war in Iraq. As in past years, travel was facilitated for Syrian nationals living in the Israeli-occupied Golan, enabling them to go to Syria proper for religious or study purposes, and travel documents were issued to refugees in Syria seeking repatriation or resettlement in third countries. Technical and financial support was also provided to a prosthetic-orthotic centre for disabled Palestinians run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Damascus.

Sporadic border clashes continued between Israeli forces and Lebanon-based Hezbollah fighters and the ICRC maintained a response capacity in the region to meet emergency needs in the event of a sudden surge in cross-border violence. The ICRC monitored the situation of returnee Lebanese civilians who had fled to Israel from southern Lebanon after Israeli forces withdrew from the region in 2000 to ensure that they were not subjected to discrimination, and enjoyed acceptable living conditions.

A number of Lebanese detainees were repatriated under ICRC auspices upon their release in Israel, as were the human remains of Lebanese nationals who died in Israel. Material assistance was provided to particularly needy families in Lebanon whose breadwinners were detained in Israel. These families were also able to maintain contact and exchange official documents with relatives detained or living in Israel through RCM exchanges.

Talks continued with the relevant Lebanese authorities with a view to starting visits to detainees in Lebanon in accordance with a government decree adopted in 2002 granting the ICRC access to all places of detention in Lebanon. Efforts were also pursued to gain access to three Israeli soldiers and one Israeli civilian captured by Hezbollah in 2000. Assessing the scope of issues related to persons unaccounted for in Lebanon as a result of past conflicts and occupation was another ICRC concern. The ICRC also sponsored the participation of hundreds of young Palestinian refugees in vocational training programmes, and Palestinian refugee amputees continued to receive ICRC prosthetic fittings not available to them under the Lebanese health-care system.

A dialogue was maintained with the Iranian authorities on issues related to the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, particularly regarding Iraqi POWs whose fate or whereabouts still required clarification. In 2003, 941 Iraqi POWs from the Iran-Iraq war and the human remains of 45 Iranian and 86 Iraqi soldiers killed during that conflict were repatriated under ICRC auspices.

Substantial quantities of essential supplies were dispatched overland to Iraq from ICRC logistics and supply bases set up in the northwestern towns of Kermanshah and Orumiyeh to provide support for ICRC emergency relief operations in Iraq. ICRC relief supplies were also made available to the victims of a powerful earthquake that killed more than 40,000 people and left large numbers of people homeless in south-east Iran in December. ICRC tracing staff teamed up with Iranian Red Crescent Society workers to help survivors in the disaster zone locate and restore contact with their families.

In Kuwait, efforts to clarify the fate of persons still unaccounted for from the 1990-1991 Gulf war were given fresh impetus after Iraq agreed to resume direct talks with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for the first time in more than four years within the framework of the ICRC-chaired Tripartite Commission set up to deal with this issue. Two meetings of the Commission and six meetings of its Technical Sub-Committee were held under ICRC auspices and chairmanship in 2003. Between January and March representatives of Iraq's former government participated in four meetings of the Sub-Committee. After the collapse of the Iraqi government in April, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) appointed Iraqis to represent Iraq in meetings of the Commission and its Sub-Committee held

later in the year. Dozens of cases investigated within the Commission framework were resolved after Kuwaiti forensic experts identified human remains exhumed from mass gravesites in southern Iraq.

In October, the ICRC President visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to strengthen the organization's dialogue with the authorities of these countries with regard to humanitarian issues of mutual concern.

Kuwait was also a key support base for ICRC emergency operations in Iraq throughout the year. ICRC aircraft and a fleet of trucks were deployed in Kuwait to transport staff and emergency supplies into Iraq. The first visits to prisoners of war and civilian internees held by the coalition forces in Iraq were made by ICRC teams stationed in Kuwait. ICRC staff in Kuwait also played a crucial role in restoring water supplies in Basra, Iraq's second largest city, disrupted by power failures shortly after the outbreak of major hostilities there in March. Acting as a neutral intermediary respected by the belligerent parties, the ICRC enabled local water board technicians to access the city's main water plant and ICRC engineers carried out cross-border operations to help them repair generators providing power to restart the facility. Visits were also carried out to monitor detainees' treatment and conditions of detention. Certificates of detention and travel documents were issued to foreigners released from detention or held in deportation camps in Kuwait to facilitate their resettlement in third countries, or repatriation.

In Yemen, the ICRC pursued efforts to resume visits to people deprived of their freedom in all places of detention in the country in order to assess their treatment and living conditions. A steady stream of refugees, mostly from the war-torn Horn of Africa region, continued to enter Yemen, which has given shelter to tens of thousands of refugees in recent years. ICRC travel documents were issued to refugees seeking resettlement in third countries and certificates of detention were transmitted to former detainees seeking refugee status in Yemen. Medical care and vocational training were provided to female detainees in Yemen and support was maintained for mentally ill detainees in central prisons under an ICRC programme that was partially handed over to the Yemeni health authorities. Theoretical and practical training for technicians was provided in prosthetic-orthotic centres in Sana'a and Mukalla, both of which continued to receive ICRC materials for the production of artificial limbs.

The ICRC maintained a strong presence in Egypt to pursue its primary objective of promoting knowledge and acceptance of IHL in the country and throughout the region. A strengthened working relationship with the Cairo-based League of Arab States boosted ICRC efforts to persuade governments in Arab countries to adhere to IHL treaties to which they were not yet party, or to ratify and implement those to which they had already acceded. Furthermore, ICRC seminars and workshops held for representatives of Arab League member countries served to speed up the integration of IHL into university and school curricula and into the training programmes of government-controlled armed forces in the region.

By the end of 2003 a growing number of Arab States had established national committees for the implementation of IHL or were in the process of doing so as a result of sustained promotional, teaching and training activities carried out by the Cairo delegation. During the year Sudan and Morocco joined Egypt, Iran, Jordan and Yemen on the list of countries in the region with national IHL committees. This enlarged the regional network of ICRC-trained Arab IHL experts and extended the reach of activities aimed at accelerating the IHL implementation process in the Arab-speaking world. An ICRC Arabic language website, online since the second half of 2003, constituted an important new tool in this regard. ICRC written and audiovisual documents on IHL-related topics, including translations of IHL treaties, continued to be produced at the organization's Cairo-based documentation centre for distribution to government and civil society audiences throughout the region.

At national level, ICRC training in IHL continued for the Egyptian armed and security forces and for civilian and military magistrates with the aim of building up their capacity to teach IHL independently. Progress was also made towards incorporating IHL into Egyptian school and university curricula. ICRC legal advisory services contributed to a study undertaken by the Egyptian authorities to evaluate the compatibility of Egyptian legislation with the basic provisions of IHL and the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Assistance was also provided to asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt to trace and restore contact with family members in their home countries and to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

The Tunis regional delegation focused primarily on humanitarian issues related to the 1975-1991 Western Sahara conflict.

The ICRC continued to call for the release of all Moroccan prisoners from that conflict still held by the Polisario Front, in conformity with the provisions of IHL. At the beginning of the year 1,257 Moroccan prisoners were still being held by the Polisario Front. By the end of the year a total of 614 remained in captivity after the release and repatriation under ICRC auspices of 643 prisoners in three separate operations. Consultations were also pursued with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front with a view to clarifying the fate of combatants unaccounted for as a result of the Western Sahara conflict. The first regional seminar on IHL for legal experts representing national IHL committees in the Arab world was held in Rabat under the auspices of the Moroccan Ministry of Human Rights, the League of Arab States and the ICRC.

Cooperation was reinforced with the Algerian authorities and key segments of Algerian society after the Algerian presidency ratified a headquarters agreement in March 2003 formally establishing a permanent ICRC presence in the country. This closer proximity enabled the ICRC to ensure more effective follow-up of its expanding activities in Algeria.

Visits were carried out to people detained in penitentiary establishments under the jurisdiction of the Algerian Ministry of Justice and to those remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries* run respectively by the interior and defence ministries. Assistance was maintained for Algerian Red Crescent programmes providing psychological support, vocational training and care for women and children traumatized by acts of violence. The ICRC also continued to provide technical and financial support for a prosthetic/orthotic production unit using ICRC technology that opened at Ben Aknoun hospital in Algiers in 2002.

An ICRC course in IHL was held for the first time for Algerian armed forces instructors with a view to making IHL an integral part of the national military training programme.

ICRC tracing and communication services enabled contact to be restored between thousands of persons in the region and family members either detained abroad or separated from one another by conflict. The tracing and emergency-response capacities of many National Societies were also upgraded to enable them to respond to increased needs in these fields.



# algeria

The ICRC in Algeria carries out visits to people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and to those remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries* run respectively by the Ministries of the Interior and Defence. It supports various Algerian Red Crescent Society programmes, in particular those providing assistance to women and child victims of violence, and also measures to strengthen the National Society's first-aid network. Promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) among the Algerian authorities, in civil society and in the armed forces is another priority.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**365,254**

Assistance

**57,132**

Preventive action

**197,101**

Cooperation with National Societies

**317,942**

General

**0**

► **937,429**

of which: Overheads **57,214**

## PERSONNEL

**1** expatriate

**3** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Contacts were stepped up with the Algerian authorities and key segments of Algerian society after ratification by the Algerian presidency in March of an agreement formally establishing a permanent ICRC presence in Algeria.
- Treatment and detention conditions were assessed in prisons, police stations and *gendarmeries*.
- The first ICRC course in IHL was held for Algerian armed forces instructors, aimed at making IHL an integral part of the military training programme.
- ICRC financial, technical and training assistance was maintained for Algerian Red Crescent programmes to provide psychological support, vocational training and care for women and children traumatized by violence.
- Technical and financial aid was provided to a prosthetic/orthotic production unit using ICRC technology to fit Algerian and Sahrawi amputees.
- ICRC material assistance and training helped to strengthen the National Society's first-aid network.

## CONTEXT

Algeria pursued a policy of reinforcing national unity fractured by persistent internal violence that has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of Algerians in the past 12 years.

Attacks against civilians continued, as did clashes between government forces and armed groups, although the number of civilian casualties was lower compared with previous years. The authorities maintained the state of emergency declared in 1992 given the volatile security situation that still prevailed in some parts of the country.

In May, a powerful earthquake east of Algiers killed over 2,000 people and injured thousands more. The disaster prompted a large-scale international relief response to back relief efforts by the Algerian government and the Algerian Red Crescent.

## ICRC ACTION

In March, the Algerian president ratified the headquarters agreement signed in August 2002 to formally establish a permanent ICRC presence in Algeria which had previously been covered by the organization's regional delegation in Tunis.

A direct presence enabled the ICRC to more closely follow its expanding activities in Algeria, and also to strengthen its relationship with the Algerian authorities, various segments of Algerian society and other humanitarian and international agencies present in the country.

As in past years, ICRC activities in Algeria focused primarily on the welfare of people deprived of their freedom and on assisting programmes run by the Algerian Red Crescent Society (ARCS) to provide psychological support, as well as vocational and recreational facilities, for women and child victims of violence.

A first seminar on IHL was organized for military instructors from all branches of the Algerian armed forces and for the *gendarmerie*. Support was consolidated for the introduction of IHL into university curricula, and for the adaptation and integration of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) syllabus into secondary school curricula. Algeria was also encouraged to ratify IHL instruments to which it is not yet party and to incorporate their provisions into national legislation, as well as to promote the creation of a national committee for the implementation of IHL.

The Red Cross message (RCM) service enabled families in Algeria to remain in contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad, or located in countries embroiled in conflict or internal violence.

Algerian amputees continued to receive fittings and physical rehabilitation at an ICRC-supported orthotic/prosthetic centre in Algiers using ICRC technology to produce artificial limbs.

## CIVILIANS

### Alleviating the mental trauma of violence

The ICRC continued to support programmes for women and child victims of violence that have been running under the management of the ARCS since 1999 in conjunction with the Algerian Ministries of Health and Labour. Technical and financial backing was provided for the Society's sewing and embroidery workshops, State-run child-care centres and courses to enhance the group-therapy skills of psychologists. The ultimate objective was to provide psychological support for those traumatized by the violence and to promote their reintegration into society (see *National Society*).

- financial, technical and training support was maintained for National Society programmes of psychological support, vocational training and care for women and children traumatized by violence

### Restoring family contacts

The ICRC tracing network enabled Algerians to locate and restore contact with close relatives detained/interned abroad, or with family members in countries such as Iraq where conflict or internal violence made communications between them difficult.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visits to detainees

Visits were carried out to people detained in penitentiary centres run by the Ministry of Justice and to those remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries*, run respectively by the Interior and Defence ministries.

- 23 visits were made to 9,073 detainees in 16 places of detention

## WOUNDED AND SICK

ICRC technical and financial support was provided to a prosthetic/orthotic production unit in Algiers that uses ICRC technology to produce artificial limbs. Assistance was also given for the transport, accommodation and fitting of Algerian and Sahrawi amputees brought to the centre for treatment.

- amputees were fitted with artificial limbs at a prosthetic-orthotic production centre in Algiers using ICRC technology

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC was able to broaden and step up its contacts with the Algerian authorities after it established a permanent presence in the country. Discussions focused on the issue of Algeria's adherence to IHL instruments to which it was not yet party and on the most appropriate ways to incorporate IHL into national legislation, including creation of an inter-ministerial committee on the implementation of IHL.

The ICRC sponsored the participation of two Algerian representatives at a meeting in Cairo of Arab experts organized in conjunction with the League of Arab States to promote national measures in Arab countries for the implementation of IHL.

- discussions progressed with the Algerians authorities on a plan of action to incorporate IHL into national legislation

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC worked towards ensuring the integration of IHL into the theoretical and practical instruction programmes of the Algerian armed forces. In March the ICRC organized its first IHL seminar for Algerian armed forces instructors. Twenty-six senior officers and instructors from the army, air force, navy, air defence and the *gendarmerie* participated in the event held at the Cherchell Military Academy. ICRC documentation on IHL was also donated to five military libraries.

- 26 Algerian armed forces' senior officers and instructors participated in an ICRC course on IHL

## CIVIL SOCIETY

In October 2003, two experts from the Ministry of Education took part in the second regional meeting of Arab educationalists on implementing the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme in Arab States. The meeting was held in Amman under the auspices of the Jordanian Ministry of Education. The ICRC held a follow-up meeting in December with senior officials of the Ministry of Education in Algiers to examine the way forward in light of the recommendations made at the Amman Meeting. As a first step, it was suggested that a steering committee of experts be set up to review the programme and submit a plan for its introduction on a trial basis in the Algerian education system.

- progress was made on plans to introduce the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" programme into the Algerian education system

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Material aid was provided to equip Ministry of Labour workshops intended to enable women to engage in income-generating activities such as sewing and embroidery. These served to enhance their work skills in order to facilitate their reintegration into society after psychological trauma treatment.

The ICRC sponsored traumatized children from specialized institutions to attend Red Crescent summer camps and strengthened the Society's ability to provide psycho-social care in the regions worst affected by the continuing violence.

Financial, technical and material support was also provided to help the Red Crescent build a national first-aid network capable of rapid and effective action in mass casualty situations. This included organizing refresher courses for National Society instructors and producing and translating first-aid manuals in conjunction with the International Federation.

The ICRC also worked with the Society to organize the first in a planned series of training sessions in group therapy techniques for post-traumatic care specialists. These sessions were also organized for Red Crescent instructors to help them provide medical and psycho-social care in the regions worst affected by continuing internal violence.

- ICRC financial, technical and training support was maintained for psycho-social rehabilitation programmes for child and women victims of violence run by the Algerian Red Crescent
- first-aid courses and group-therapy training sessions were organized for National Society instructors in regions worst affected by internal violence
- material aid was provided to equip Ministry of Labour workshops providing income-generating activities for women such as sewing and embroidery
- the ICRC sponsored the participation of traumatized children from specialized institutions in National Society summer camps



ICRC delegation

# egypt

The ICRC promotes IHL and its incorporation into national legislation in Egypt and, through its cooperation with the Arab League, throughout the Arab world. It supports training in IHL organized by the authorities for the armed and security forces and for civilian and military magistrates, and promotes the inclusion of IHL and related subjects in university and school curricula. These efforts are backed up by technical and academic support for implementation bodies, producing and distributing teaching materials and other dissemination tools, and increasing the capacity of local bodies, including the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, to teach IHL. Communication with the region's media is also carried out from Cairo, where the ICRC's first Arabic website was launched in late 2003. The ICRC has been working in Egypt, with some interruptions, since the beginning of the Second World War.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**128,228**

Assistance

**25,487**

Preventive action

**1,015,368**

Cooperation with National Societies

**109,140**

General

**5,524**

► **1,283,748**

of which: Overheads **78,351**

## PERSONNEL

**4** expatriates

**26** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Travel documents were issued to thousands of refugees in Egypt seeking resettlement in third countries.
- Egyptians were given the opportunity to restore contact with family members deprived of their freedom abroad, in Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, Afghanistan and Iraq, through the Red Cross message (RCM) service; ICRC tracing and RCM services were also used by refugees in Egypt to locate and restore links with family members in their home countries.
- Support was maintained for an Egyptian Red Crescent relief centre for people blocked by Israeli security clearance delays on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border post with Gaza.
- ICRC legal experts helped the Egyptian authorities to prepare a study assessing the compatibility of Egyptian legislation with IHL.
- ICRC training and technical assistance accelerated the process of incorporating IHL into the Egyptian school and university curricula and into the teaching and training programmes of the Egyptian armed forces.

## CONTEXT

Egypt remained generally calm despite strong public opposition to the war in Iraq and sporadic outbursts of internal social unrest triggered by persistently high levels of poverty and unemployment.

Security forces were kept on a high state of alert to contain increasingly strident public calls for political and economic reform as well as demonstrations against the war in Iraq and developments in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

Although no major security incidents were reported, the government maintained the state of emergency declared in 1981 as a precaution against any resurgence of the violent Islamic militancy that disrupted the country in the 1990s. Hundreds of anti-government militants arrested during that period were released from detention before completing their sentences when they renounced acts of violence.

As in past years, Egypt was a pivotal regional participant in efforts to restore peace to the Middle East. In June, Egypt hosted a summit attended by the United States president and several Arab leaders aimed at boosting the Middle East "road map" peace process. It also organized talks in Cairo and Gaza with Palestinian militant group leaders to try and secure their agreement on a ceasefire in the Israeli-Palestinian context. The talks resulted in a pause in the fighting that lasted for several weeks in the summer months. In another peace initiative, the Egyptian president made his first State visit in 10 years to Sudan, where he discussed ways to end the conflict in that country.

Growing numbers of young Egyptians continued to enter the job market in a persistently difficult economic environment exacerbated by dwindling tourism earnings and income from Egyptians working in Gulf countries. Government subsidization of certain staple products for an increasingly impoverished population continued to place a heavy burden on the State budget.

Significant numbers of refugees, mainly African nationals fleeing war, internal violence and economic hardship in Horn of Africa countries and southern Sudan, continued to enter Egypt in 2003.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained a strong presence in Egypt in order to pursue its primary objective of promoting knowledge and acceptance of international humanitarian law (IHL) in the country and throughout the region.

By the end of 2003 a growing number of Arab States had established national committees for the implementation of IHL or were in the process of doing so as a result of sustained ICRC promotional, teaching and training activities carried out by the Cairo delegation. During the year Sudan and Morocco joined Egypt, Iran, Jordan and Yemen on the list of countries in the region with national IHL committees. This enlarged the regional network of ICRC-trained Arab experts on IHL and extended the reach of activities aimed at accelerating the IHL implementation process in the Arab-speaking world. An ICRC Arabic website, online since the second half of 2003, constituted an important new information tool in this regard.

A reinforced working relationship with the Cairo-based League of Arab States boosted ICRC efforts to persuade governments in Arab countries to adhere to IHL treaties to which they were not yet party, or to ratify and implement those to which they had already acceded. Furthermore, ICRC seminars and workshops held for representatives of Arab League member countries served to speed up the integration of IHL into university and school curricula and into the training programmes of government-controlled armed forces in the region.

Documents and audiovisual material on IHL-related topics, including translations of IHL treaties, continued to be produced at the organization's Cairo-based documentation centre for distribution to government and civil society audiences throughout the region.

Training in IHL continued for the armed and security forces and for civilian and military magistrates with the aim of building up their capacity to teach IHL independently. Progress was also made to incorporate IHL into Egyptian school and university curricula.

ICRC legal advisory services contributed to progress on the drafting of a study undertaken by the Egyptian authorities to evaluate the compatibility of Egyptian legislation with the basic provisions of IHL and the Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Assistance was provided to asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt to trace and restore contact with family members in their home countries and to facilitate their resettlement in third countries. Egyptian families were also given the opportunity to locate and re-establish links with relatives deprived of their freedom in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay through ICRC tracing services.

## CIVILIANS

Refugees, mainly from the Horn of Africa, were given the opportunity to restore contact with family members in their home countries through ICRC tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) services. There was a significant increase in requests for such services from Sudanese refugees.

ICRC tracing and RCM services also helped Egyptians to re-establish ties with family members abroad who were either deprived of their freedom (in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay and Iraq) or present in countries where normal communications were disrupted by armed conflict.

Support was maintained for an ICRC-equipped Egyptian Red Crescent first-aid and emergency relief centre set up for people stranded, sometimes for days on end, on the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing point into southern Gaza as a result of intensified Israeli security measures. In response to an ICRC proposal, the National Society also set up a temporary border camp for people returning from their annual pilgrimage to religious sites in Saudi Arabia who found themselves blocked for several days at the Rafah frontier post. The ICRC provided supplies for the camp, which was designed to accommodate up to 500 people.

- ▶ asylum seekers and refugees in Egypt received help to trace and restore contact with family members in their home countries and to facilitate their resettlement in third countries
- ▶ Egyptians were given an opportunity to restore contact with family members deprived of their freedom abroad through the ICRC RCM service
- ▶ ICRC support was maintained for a Egyptian Red Crescent relief centre set up at the Gaza border with Egypt to provide aid to people stranded there as a result of cross-border security clearance delays

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In late May, the ICRC visited an Egyptian national imprisoned in Egypt after his release from internment in Guantanamo Bay. It was the first time the ICRC had been authorized by the Ministry of the Interior to visit a person held in detention in Egypt.

- ▶ an ICRC detention visit was carried out for the first time in Egypt

## AUTHORITIES

Working closely with the League of Arab States, the ICRC delegation in Cairo enhanced its status among Arab governments as a focal point for advice on IHL and for information on humanitarian activities in Iraq and in the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories.

The harmonization of national legislation with IHL remained the ICRC's principal objective in the region. In accordance with a plan of action approved at a meeting of Arab experts on IHL held under the auspices of the League of Arab States and the ICRC in October 2002, a coordinated regional approach to IHL training and dissemination was implemented.

A first regional seminar on human rights and IHL, organized in conjunction with the Egyptian Ministry of Justice and the Arab League's Council of Justice, took place in January and was attended by 35 magistrates from 13 Arab countries who agreed to hold further meetings. In April, an ICRC seminar was held in Cairo under the auspices of Egypt's Ministry of Justice to discuss ways of improving compliance with IHL in Arab countries. Participants included representatives from the justice ministry, former United Nations Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, several Arab and European professors of IHL, a former president of the International Court of Justice, and a judge from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

The ICRC monitored deliberations among Arab States on ratifying the ICC Statute and reviewed the response of Arab countries to an ICRC model law on ICC implementation conveyed to Arab League member States in 2002. To support the Arab League in its efforts to promote IHL in countries that had signed but not yet ratified the Rome Statute, the ICRC provided legal advice and Arabic translations of comparative laws. It also provided training and technical

assistance to boost the effectiveness of national implementation bodies, and encouraged the formation of national IHL committees in countries where they did not yet exist.

Contacts were reinforced with the Egyptian authorities to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation. A parliamentary commission on IHL created in January accepted an ICRC proposal to coordinate its activities with the national IHL committee. The commission planned to hold a seminar for members of the parliamentary legislative, foreign affairs, defence and Arab affairs commissions on ways of accelerating the IHL implementation process. The ICRC agreed to provide the commission with a library of basic works on IHL and to meet with it regularly to discuss issues relating to IHL in Egypt and worldwide.

Support was maintained for an Egyptian national IHL committee study on the compatibility of Egyptian legislation with the basic provisions of IHL and the Rome Statute. The governments of several other Arab countries requested ICRC help in the preparation of similar studies concerning their own national legislation.

Arabic translations of technical documents and model legal texts were made available to the Egyptian national IHL committee. Egypt signed the Rome Statute in 2002 but had yet to ratify it by the end of 2003. A draft law to protect the red cross and red crescent emblems, prepared by the national IHL committee in conjunction with the ICRC, still awaited Egyptian parliamentary approval.

At the annual meeting of the Egyptian Association of Criminal Law, which was chaired by the president of the Egyptian parliament, the harmonization of Egyptian legislation with IHL was a central theme. ICRC presentations were made on the applicability of IHL in cases of war crimes and genocide. The meeting's participants, among whom were civilian and military magistrates, professors, diplomats and lawyers, adopted a recommendation to draft a national law for dealing with such crimes to be presented to the national IHL committee and the relevant parliamentary commission.

The Egyptian authorities and the Arab League increasingly solicited ICRC legal counsel on IHL, particularly regarding its application to the situation in the Palestinian territories and in Iraq.

- a first regional seminar on human rights and IHL for Arab magistrates was organized in conjunction with the Egyptian Ministry of Justice and the League of Arab States
- legal advice and Arabic translations of comparative laws were provided for the Arab League and the authorities in certain Arab countries to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation
- the Egyptian national IHL committee was given help with a study on the compatibility of Egyptian legislation with the basic provisions of IHL and the Rome Statute
- training and technical assistance were provided for national IHL implementation bodies
- the authorities were encouraged to set up national IHL committees in countries where they did not yet exist

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Since the Egyptian national committee on IHL was formed, rapid progress has been made towards incorporating IHL instruction into the training programmes of the national armed forces.

A combined basic and instructors' course was held in Cairo in April for 10 brigadier generals and 20 senior officers from various training institutions on integrating IHL in military operational procedures and training. A seminar on the law of war was also given to 20 military instructors in January.

Instruction in IHL was incorporated into the police academy curriculum. In addition, IHL courses were organized for police commanders, officers and trainees and for civilian magistrates and deputy public prosecutors.

In conjunction with the Interior Ministry, the ICRC organized a second regional seminar on IHL in Cairo for 36 police and security officers from 11 Arab countries and the Palestinian Authority. The seminar focused on universally accepted procedures for making arrests, detaining people, using armed force and maintaining public order. Another ICRC seminar provided an opportunity to assess the knowledge of IHL of 20 Egyptian police officers, including 12 human rights and IHL instructors, and their skills in teaching the subject.

- ICRC courses on IHL maintained for Egyptian armed and security forces

- substantial progress was made towards the incorporation of IHL instruction in armed forces training programmes

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Steady progress was made towards the introduction of the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into secondary-school curricula throughout the country. To this end the ICRC continued to advise the members of a sub-committee on education and training set up by the national IHL committee.

The strategy for implementing EHL in Egypt was presented to 65 senior ministerial representatives in December. By the end of the year, over 60 Ministry of Education supervisors in various governorates and around 80 schoolteachers had completed ICRC training courses on the programme, and were due to receive refresher courses. The ICRC's goal was to provide instruction in the programme for 2,000 educators and to incorporate it into the curricula of 1,000 secondary schools throughout the country.

During the year, three schools in Cairo and Giza introduced the EHL programme on a pilot basis. The ICRC then conducted an assessment of the programme's impact on students and evaluated the teachers' skills in teaching the subject. Competitions, discussion groups, and school radio and theatre productions on concepts relating to the programme were also organized outside the classroom. In addition, Egyptian Red Crescent youth leaders were taught how to use the programme manual.

In October, two senior representatives from the Ministry of Education attended the second regional meeting of Arab educationalists on implementing the EHL programme in Arab education systems, organized in Amman by Jordan's education ministry in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the ICRC.

Contact was stepped up with various Islamic groups with a view to ensuring that they had an accurate perception of the ICRC as a neutral and independent organization serving the interests of victims of war and other situations of violence in an impartial manner. ICRC delegates met with the editors of the Cairo-based Islam-online.net website to discuss the organization's mandate and activities, particularly in the context of the conflict in Iraq.

- ▶ the EHL education programme was introduced on a pilot basis into the curricula of a number of Egyptian secondary schools
- ▶ an ICRC Arabic-language website was launched

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Cooperation with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society was reinforced to promote IHL training for members of its youth-section dissemination team and the introduction of the EHL programme in school curricula. Training sessions on using the programme manual were held for National Society branch-office members engaged in IHL dissemination activities. In addition, the ICRC and the Egyptian Red Crescent agreed to organize a regional seminar on the programme in 2004.

The ICRC continued to provide supplies for Egyptian Red Crescent training centres. It also sponsored the participation of a National Society doctor in a H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) training course in the management of humanitarian aid.

The Egyptian Red Crescent actively supported ICRC operations in Iraq and the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories. Together with the Egyptian Red Crescent and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC organized a basic training course for staff made available from the National Societies of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to assist activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Iraq.



◆ ICRC mission + ICRC office □ ICRC warehouse

# iran

The ICRC has been working in Iran, with some interruptions, since 1978. Since the 1988 ceasefire agreed between Iran and Iraq, the organization has urged both parties, in accordance with international humanitarian law (IHL), to release and repatriate all POWs, to make progress in identifying and repatriating the remains of those killed in the war, and to resolve the problem of those missing in action. The ICRC speaks in private with the POWs it registered during the Iran-Iraq war so as to ascertain that they do indeed wish to return home, and supervises their repatriation. It is also working to strengthen its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society and to promote IHL in that country. As part of its regional relief operation for Iraq and in conjunction with the Iranian Red Crescent, the ICRC set up two logistical supply bases in western Iran in early 2003.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**385,128**

Assistance

**938,604**

Preventive action

**192,723**

Cooperation with National Societies

**418,282**

General

**8,492**

► **1,943,229**

of which: Overheads **118,601**

## PERSONNEL

**17** expatriates

**27** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- A total of 941 Iraqi POWs from the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war plus the remains of 45 Iranian and 86 Iraqi soldiers killed during that conflict were repatriated under ICRC auspices.
- Dialogue was maintained with the Iranian authorities regarding Iraqi POWs from the Iran-Iraq war whose fate or whereabouts still required clarification.
- Substantial quantities of essential supplies were dispatched overland to Iraq from two ICRC logistics bases set up in north-western Iran to support ICRC relief operations in Iraq.
- Contact was restored between Iraqi refugees in Iran and their families in Iraq through Red Cross messages (RCMs), "Safe and Well" messages and ICRC satellite-phone services.
- Tracing requests from families in Iran were processed regarding relatives unaccounted for in Iraq.
- The ICRC enabled Iranian families to locate and restore contact with relatives detained or interned abroad.

## CONTEXT

Tens of thousands of people were killed in a powerful earthquake that devastated the ancient city of Bam in the southeastern province of Kerman on 26 December. The disaster prompted a large-scale relief response from the international community. Thousands of earthquake survivors who lost their homes were living in emergency tent dwellings as 2003 ended.

western borders with Iraq to accommodate a refugee influx.

Municipal elections in early March 2003, the second such ballot to be held in Iran since 1999, produced a voter turnout of less than 50% and victory for conservative candidates. Later, campaigning got under way for parliamentary elections scheduled to take place in February 2004.

Iran continued to host hundreds of thousands of refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan and to support UNHCR repatriation programmes carried out within the limits of the security situation in those countries. According to the UNHCR, between 130,000 and 150,000 Iraqi refugees and up to 700,000 Afghan refugees were still in Iran at the end of 2003. Approximately 20,000 Afghan refugees had returned home each month from May 2003 onwards under a repatriation scheme initiated by the UNHCR in 2002. In November 2003 the UNHCR started a voluntary programme to repatriate Iraqi refugees.

No major movements of Iraqi civilians towards the borders with Iran were reported after the outbreak of major hostilities in Iraq in late March. The Iranian authorities had prepared 10 camps inside the country's

## ICRC ACTION

In 2003, the ICRC in Iran focused mainly on supporting ICRC operations in neighbouring Iraq. Prior to the outbreak of full-scale war in Iraq, two logistical supply bases were set up inside the Iranian border with Iraq to pre-position substantial stocks of medical supplies, shelter material and food in anticipation of potential needs in Iraq.

In the months that followed the onset of full-fledged hostilities in late March, ICRC convoys transported more than 2,600 tonnes of essential supplies from the bases in Kermanshah and Orumiyeh to Baghdad and to Arbil in northern Iraq. These consignments included medical supplies, water-purification equipment, family food parcels, bulk food, tents, tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene kits, heaters, mattresses and clothing. Cross-border missions were also carried out to assess health-care facilities, the water supply, and the need for tracing and action to deal with unexploded remnants of war.

In addition to setting up this relief-supply line into Iraq, the ICRC provided tracing and communications services to enable members of the large Iraqi refugee community in Iran to locate and restore ties with family members detained, interned or otherwise living in Iraq. Similar services were offered to Iranian families seeking contact with relatives detained/interned abroad.

Sizeable consignments of ICRC relief supplies were also made available to the victims of the powerful earthquake that killed more than 40,000 people and left large numbers homeless in southeast Iran in December. ICRC tracing staff teamed up with Iranian Red Crescent workers to help survivors in the disaster zone locate and restore contact with their families.

Information continued to be exchanged with the Iranian authorities concerning the issue of Iraqi POWs previously registered by the ICRC, or known to the organization through the RCM network, whose fate or whereabouts still required clarification.

As in past years, private interviews were conducted with Iraqi POWs released in Iran to determine whether they wished to be repatriated. By the end of 2003, the ICRC had interviewed over 7,500 Iraqi POWs released in Iran since 1998.

In 2003, a total of 941 Iraqi prisoners of war from the Iran-Iraq conflict were repatriated under ICRC auspices. Acting as a neutral

intermediary, the organization also repatriated the remains of 45 Iranian soldiers and 86 Iraqi soldiers killed in the same war. An increased demand was registered for certificates of detention from released Iraqi POWs in Iran and Iraq. By the end of 2003 the ICRC had repatriated more than 97,000 POWs on both sides since the Iran-Iraq conflict began in 1980.

The ICRC strengthened its partnership with the Iranian National Society and helped to upgrade its emergency-response capacity, particularly in the field of tracing. Initial steps were taken to increase the Society's involvement in promoting IHL and incorporating that law into the national school curriculum. Discussions were held with the national committee for the implementation of IHL, chaired by the Red Crescent, with a view to integrating IHL into the training programmes of the Iranian armed forces.

## CIVILIANS

### Aid to war victims in Iraq

As part of its regional mobilization to furnish humanitarian relief in Iraq, the ICRC set up two logistical bases in the north-western towns of Kermanshah and Orumiyeh to support ICRC operations inside Iraq.

Prior to the start of major hostilities in Iraq, significant stockpiles of food, medicines, shelter materials and household items were pre-positioned in 3,600 square metres of warehouse space made available to the ICRC by the Iranian Red Crescent.

From late March onwards a total of 40 ICRC relief convoys were dispatched from these bases – 25 from Kermanshah to the Baghdad area and 15 from Orumiyeh to Arbil in northern Iraq. These cross-border convoys transported more than 1,300 tonnes of medicines, other medical supplies and water purification equipment, some 1,000 tonnes of family food parcels and bulk food, and over 300 tonnes of shelter material and household items including tents, tarpaulins, blankets, hygiene parcels, cooking stoves, kitchen sets, heaters, mattresses and clothing. The ICRC also transported relief supplies donated by the Iranian National Society from Kermanshah to Baghdad.

ICRC staff in Kermanshah conducted cross-border missions to Wasit governorate (Al-Kut and Badrah) to assess health-care facilities, the water supply and the need for tracing and action regarding unexploded remnants of war. A limited quantity of

locally purchased water and sanitation supplies was also shipped from Iran to Afghanistan in support of ICRC operations there.

The high degree of cooperation from the Iranian authorities and the Red Crescent was a crucial factor throughout the year in ensuring the success of ICRC activities in Iran in support of ICRC relief operations in Iraq. The Orumiyeh base, opened in February, was closed down in September after its stocks and transport vehicles were moved to the Kermanshah facility.

### Relief for earthquake victims

The ICRC donated a sizeable initial consignment of relief supplies to the Iranian Red Crescent in support of its relief operations for the victims of the Bam earthquake. They included 1,500 family tents, 13,800 family food parcels, 11,000 blankets and nearly 4,500 paraffin heaters. A further 32-tonne relief shipment, including 8,000 blankets and sufficient medical supplies to treat several thousand casualties, was later airlifted into the country for distribution in the disaster zone.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked closely with the Iranian Red Crescent to bring emergency relief to the Bam earthquake victims.

### Restoring family links

Iraqi refugees in Iran were able to find and restore contact with loved ones in their home country through ICRC tracing and communications services and were offered the possibility of registering their names on an ICRC tracing website set up specifically for the Iraqi crisis. As in other countries in the region, families in Iran also used the RCM network to maintain contact with relatives detained or interned abroad.

- ▶ thousands of tonnes of relief supplies were transported to Iraq from two ICRC logistical and supply bases set up inside the Iranian borders to support ICRC operations in Iraq
- ▶ substantial relief supplies plus tracing and communications services were provided for victims of the Bam earthquake
- ▶ ICRC tracing and communications services enabled Iraqis in Iran to restore contact with family members in Iraq
- ▶ Red Cross messages were exchanged between Iranian nationals and family members detained or interned abroad

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Repatriation of POWs and human remains from the Iran-Iraq war

In 2003, a total of 941 Iraqi POWs were repatriated in two operations carried out under ICRC auspices.

During the first operation, in March, 882 Iraqi POWs were repatriated following bilateral discussions between the Iranian and Iraqi authorities. Their return was supervised by a team of 14 ICRC delegates, including doctors and interpreters, at the Mundharieh/Khosravi border checkpoint.

A further 59 Iraqi POWs returned home under ICRC auspices in May. A team of five ICRC delegates, including a doctor and a nurse, accompanied the returnees from Tehran to Baghdad aboard an ICRC aircraft. Arrangements were made by the ICRC to reunite the returnees with their families in Iraq.

Prior to both operations the ICRC, in accordance with its standard procedures, registered the prisoners and interviewed each of them in private to ensure that they were returning home of their own free will.

In mid-May, the remains of 45 Iranian and 86 Iraqi soldiers killed during the Iran-Iraq war were also repatriated under ICRC auspices. The operation – simultaneous in both directions – took place at the border checkpoint outside the Iranian town of Shalamshah. A similar operation was carried out on 12 May when the ICRC repatriated the remains of two Iraqi soldiers killed in the same conflict and handed them over to the British authorities in Basra for return to their families.

ICRC tracing and RCM services enabled families in Iran to locate and restore contact with relatives detained/interned abroad.

- 941 Iraqi POWs and the remains of 45 Iranian and 86 Iraqi soldiers killed during the Iran-Iraq war were repatriated under ICRC auspices
- the ICRC registered and processed thousands of requests for detention certificates from former Iraqi POWs in both Iran and Iraq
- discussions were held with the Iranian authorities on thousands of Iranians and Iraqis still unaccounted for from the Iran-Iraq war and more than 1,500 Iraqi POWs whose fate or whereabouts still required clarification

## CIVIL SOCIETY

A solid working relationship was developed with the national committee on the implementation of IHL, chaired by the Iranian Red Crescent. Joint meetings focused on measures to enhance knowledge of IHL and promote the “Exploring Humanitarian Law” (EHL) programme, with the ultimate goal of incorporating the programme into the school curriculum.

The ICRC agreed to provide financial support for the translation into Farsi and publication of books on IHL for the national committee's library. Documentation on IHL was also furnished for the National Society's library. Two workshops were organized for 40 Iranian journalists in Kermanshah and Orumiyeh to increase their knowledge and understanding of the ICRC's mandate and the organization's work in the region.

- discussions began with the national IHL committee on a plan of action to incorporate the EHL programme into national school curricula
- ICRC financial support was pledged for the translation into Farsi and publication of IHL books for the national IHL committee library

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC engaged in talks with the national IHL committee to develop a strategy to promote the integration of EHL into the teaching and training programmes of the Iranian armed forces.

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Close cooperation was established with the Iranian Red Crescent to operate the two logistical bases set up in Iran in support of ICRC operations in Iraq. Relief aid for Iraq from the Iranian National Society itself was transported to Baghdad in ICRC convoys.

Cooperation between the two organizations was also close in connection with the Bam earthquake zone, where they teamed up to provide tracing services for people anxious for news about missing relatives. Training in ICRC tracing techniques was given to Red Crescent field staff, who also distributed substantial quantities of ICRC relief supplies donated for the victims.

An ICRC training workshop was held in Kermanshah for 16 National Society staff.

It focused on techniques to restore family links at refugee camps set up by the Iranian authorities and the Society in locations close to Iran's border with Iraq. Six of the participants had attended a one-week tracing workshop in Tehran in December 2002. Two ICRC seminars on the dangers of unexploded remnants of war were organized in conjunction with the Society. In addition, the ICRC offered the Society its help in enhancing its ability to spread knowledge of IHL and the role and mandate of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The National Society played a key role in enabling Iraqi refugees to locate and restore contact with loved ones in Iraq through ICRC tracing and communications services.

- ICRC tracing and communications services worked with the National Society to help Bam earthquake survivors restore contact with families
- substantial ICRC relief supplies were distributed to Bam earthquake victims by Red Crescent staff
- National Society staff were trained to use ICRC techniques to put Iraqi refugees in contact with relatives in Iraq
- the ICRC transported Iraqi Red Crescent relief supplies by road from Iran to Baghdad
- dialogue was initiated with the national committee for the implementation of IHL and with the Iranian Red Crescent to increase their ability to spread knowledge of IHL, both within the National Society itself and in other realms of Iranian society
- 2 seminars were held in conjunction with the National Society to raise awareness of the dangers of explosive remnants of war



# iraq

The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980. In recent years it has placed particular emphasis on repairing water, sanitation and health-care infrastructure impaired during that conflict and the 1990-1991 Gulf war, and as a consequence of nearly 13 years of trade sanctions. In 2003, priority was initially assigned to the urgent need for humanitarian aid arising from the fully-fledged international armed conflict in Iraq during that year. During the current occupation of the country, the ICRC's main priority is to ensure that the rights of the civilian population and people deprived of their freedom are respected and that the occupying powers are aware of and fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**12,517,194**

Assistance

**69,236,743**

Preventive action

**5,015,670**

Cooperation with National Societies

**2,003,766**

General

**26,591**

► **88,799,964**

of which: Overheads **4,983,405**

## PERSONNEL

**51** expatriates

**458** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC maintained an operational presence in Iraq throughout the most intensive phase of military operations in Iraq and the chaotic period that followed.
- More than 11,000 prisoners of war and civilian internees in Iraq were visited to monitor their treatment and conditions of internment and to enable them to restore contact with their families.
- ICRC tracing and communications services restored contact between thousands of people separated from relatives by the conflict.
- Substantial medical, water and other essential supplies were provided to more than 65 key urban hospitals caring for thousands of war casualties and chronically ill patients, while emergency repair work was carried out on water, sanitation and power systems in hospitals and maternity and paediatric centres throughout Iraq.
- ICRC engineers carried out emergency repair work on more than 160 water treatment and sewage stations serving millions of people across the country.
- Mobile water-distribution units were set up in urban areas suffering from acute shortages and ICRC water-tankers made regular deliveries to regions with no alternative source of supply.
- Food, water and shelter were provided to internally displaced people and to homes for the elderly, orphanages and other social-welfare institutions.

## CONTEXT

A military coalition force led by the United States invaded Iraq in late March and placed it under provisional occupation after forcing the collapse of the government of President Saddam Hussein.

Coalition forces declared an end to major combat operations on 1 May but were the target of increasing armed attacks as 2003 drew to a close. Despite the persistent attacks, the Coalition Provisional Authority pressed ahead with plans to transfer power to an interim Iraqi administration by mid-2004 prior to general elections at a later date.

An Iraqi Governing Council was appointed by the Authority to help it run the country on an interim basis and to prepare a constitutional framework for sovereign rule acceptable to the diverse religious and ethnic groupings of Iraqi society. The Governing Council was established after the Authority dismantled institutional bodies of the former government, including the armed forces and several ministries.

Thousands of Iraqis, including former President Saddam Hussein and many senior members of the former government, were captured and held as prisoners of war or civilian internees by the coalition forces.

Humanitarian relief efforts in Iraq were dealt a severe blow by a series of deliberate armed attacks in which several humanitarian staff were killed. These attacks prompted many relief organizations to withdraw from Iraq.

In October, an international donor conference pledged 13 billion US dollars to finance reconstruction operations in Iraq. However, the implementation of reconstruction projects was hampered by the precarious security situation and the absence of a centralized administration.

A majority of Iraq's 23 million population continued to rely on food handouts under a distribution programme (formerly the UN oil-for-food programme) now managed by the occupying powers, and essential public services remained far from adequate to meet the needs of the population.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC was the only international humanitarian organization to remain operational in central, southern and northern regions of Iraq throughout the most intensive phase of the war and the subsequent period of lawlessness that swept the country following the downfall of the Iraqi government. Its prompt and sustained humanitarian action in Iraq in 2003 undoubtedly helped save many lives and prevent epidemics.

At the height of the conflict, priority was assigned to providing medical supplies to key urban surgical hospitals caring for the war-wounded, and to maintaining vital water, sanitation and power facilities serving millions of people across the country.

ICRC staff carried out daily visits to hospitals to assess the most urgent needs. Medical kits for the war-wounded, water and other essential supplies were provided to scores of hospitals treating thousands of war casualties and chronically ill patients. Repair work on hospital infrastructure damaged during the hostilities, or as a result of looting and vandalism, enabled operating theatres and intensive care units to remain functional.

Hundreds of emergency interventions were carried out to keep water, sewage and power systems running. Emergency relief supplies were delivered to internally displaced people and to social-welfare institutions such as orphanages and homes for the elderly and disabled. ICRC delegates visited thousands of POWs and interned civilians held by the occupying powers to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, and a mechanism was set up to restore contact between family members separated from one another by the conflict.

Much of the success of ICRC operations was attributed to contingency planning prior to the onset of full-scale war. This was based solely on established targets to deliver emergency humanitarian services inside the country when the needs were greatest. Substantial human and material resources were mobilized both inside Iraq and in surrounding countries to provide a rapid and flexible response to the most urgent potential needs.

Despite the tragic loss of four of its staff killed in three separate armed attacks – two of which deliberately targeted the organization – the ICRC remained determined to pursue its humanitarian mission in Iraq, where it has been working without

interruption since 1980. The prevailing insecurity nevertheless compelled the organization to temporarily reduce its staff levels and to review its working methods, although it continued to operate without military protection in order to preserve the organization's neutral, independent and impartial character.

## CIVILIANS

### ICRC preparedness

The ICRC spent the first months of 2003 finalizing preparations for the anticipated needs for humanitarian aid in the event of full-fledged war in Iraq. During both the planning and implementation stages, the ICRC was able to benefit from its previous experience in the country throughout the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict.

Substantial human and material resources were mobilized both inside Iraq and in surrounding countries to provide a rapid and flexible response to any sharp deterioration of the situation. Thousands of tonnes of essential relief supplies were positioned in a network of logistical bases set up in Iraq and in six locations in four surrounding countries in order to be able to reach conflict victims over a wide geographical area at short notice.

Surgical equipment and supplies were stockpiled to provide immediate care for up to 7,000 war-wounded and to cover the basic medical needs of 150,000 people, while provision was made to deliver food, water and shelter for up to 150,000 displaced people inside the country. ICRC aircraft and a fleet of trucks stood ready in neighbouring countries to transport extra staff and emergency relief to supplement the already substantial supplies stockpiled in the country, and teams of ICRC delegates were mobilized to visit and register POWs and other people deprived of their freedom. Furthermore, an effective system was established to restore contact between family members separated by the conflict. This involved satellite telephones, "Safe and Well" and Red Cross messages, and a tracing website set up specifically for the Iraq crisis.

### ICRC reminder of the limits to warfare

In the days preceding the United States-led attack on Iraq, the ICRC submitted formal representations to the States concerned to remind them of their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL) to protect the civilian population during

military operations. Hours after the first missiles fell on Baghdad, the ICRC president made a public statement reminding the parties to the conflict of the limits to warfare enshrined in this body of law. Throughout the hostilities, the ICRC repeatedly appealed to the warring parties to strictly abide by the principles of IHL and to do their utmost to spare civilian lives and property during the fighting.

After the fall of Baghdad to coalition forces and the collapse of the Iraqi government in early April, most urban centres throughout the country fell prey to a wave of looting and vandalism that severely undermined security and the functioning of vital public services. The ICRC repeatedly called on the occupying powers to restore law and order and to protect essential public services, in accordance with their obligations under IHL. As a result, some key facilities were subsequently provided with coalition military protection, although law and order still remained a matter of serious concern for the ICRC as the year ended.

Through its established role as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated meetings between the coalition authorities and local Iraqi administrative bodies with a view to restoring basic services. On 5 May, the ICRC President visited Baghdad and held talks with coalition civil authorities to reiterate the responsibilities of the occupying powers, and to discuss the future role of the ICRC operating in Iraq as an independent humanitarian organization.

Prior to the outbreak of full-scale war in late March, the ICRC had completed more than 300 projects throughout the country to rehabilitate facilities in the health, water and sanitation sectors. These included the complete overhaul of 10 major hospitals and 15 primary health-care centres. As major hostilities in Iraq became increasingly likely, other such projects in these fields were temporarily suspended to focus on emergency operations in the event of a war.

### Ensuring a supply of safe drinking water

Even before the latest hostilities, Iraq's water supply and sanitation systems had gradually deteriorated in recent years and were inadequate to serve the needs of the population. Damage caused by the war, severely aggravated by the looting and vandalism that followed the acute combat phase of the conflict, further disrupted water and sanitation services throughout the country.

More than 70 ICRC engineers and support staff were mobilized to keep water, sewage and power facilities operational. As a precautionary measure, back-up generators were installed or repaired in a number of water-treatment and pumping stations to ensure operation during power failures. ICRC mobile water-treatment and distribution units were pre-positioned in areas of Baghdad and Basra poorly served by the piped water-distribution network, and a fleet of ICRC water-tankers was deployed to make emergency deliveries as required within the limits imposed by the security situation. In addition, water-storage bladders and steel tanks were installed in the main surgical hospitals, substantially increasing supplies available for operating theatres and emergency units. Generators were also installed or upgraded in several hospitals and social-welfare institutions to neutralize the effects of power cuts.

During the major combat period, ICRC staff performed extensive emergency repair and maintenance work on more than 160 water and sewage plants serving millions of residents throughout the country. Similar work was carried out in 65 hospitals treating the war-wounded and chronically ill, as well as in orphanages, homes for the elderly and disabled and other institutions caring for particularly vulnerable groups.

Frequent power cuts caused by war damage, looting or vandalism, substantially increased the dependency of water and sanitation infrastructure on back-up generators. Consequently, repair and maintenance work on generators was a priority activity. For example, at the start of major hostilities ICRC engineers and local technicians repaired all six back-up generators at the main pumping station serving the southern city of Basra after it was disabled by a power cut, depriving much of the city's 1.5 million inhabitants of clean water supplies for several days. This restored clean water supplies to some 50% of the population. In another example, ICRC teams repaired generators at key water-purification plants in Baghdad after power cuts left many of the city's more than five million inhabitants without water. Similar engineering work on back-up power systems was carried out at key water and sanitation plants, hospitals, other health-care centres and social-welfare institutions throughout the country, thus averting potentially serious health and hygiene problems. These emergency or "quick-fix" interventions were continuing as 2003 drew to a close.

Thousands of one-litre water bags were delivered daily to hospitals, other health-care centres and social welfare institutions to supplement supplies pre-positioned there prior to the conflict. ICRC water-tankers made regular deliveries to urban areas with no alternative access to clean drinking water while ICRC water-distribution units served the population's needs in other urban areas.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC played a key role in initiating contact between the former Iraqi authorities responsible for public utilities and the occupying powers so they could agree on immediate requirements to restore basic public services nationwide. It also repeatedly called on the Coalition Provisional Authority, as the occupying power, to assume its responsibilities under IHL to protect these essential facilities from looting and vandalism.

- ▶ ICRC water-tankers delivered more than 20,000,000 litres of drinking water to poorly served areas of Baghdad and Basra, Iraq's two largest cities, and to villages in the north of the country
- ▶ nearly half a million one-litre water bags were delivered to 65 hospitals around the country to supplement ICRC water reserves positioned there prior to the outbreak of war
- ▶ emergency repair and maintenance work was carried out at more than 160 water, sewage and power stations and on water and sanitation facilities in over 60 hospitals and other health-care centres throughout the country
- ▶ generators were installed or repaired in scores of hospitals, as well as in water-purification and sewage-treatment facilities, to ensure that they continued to function during power cuts

### Helping displaced people

Emergency-relief supplies were pre-positioned inside Iraq and in surrounding countries to provide immediate aid for up to 150,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), with the possibility of expanding stocks at short notice to cover the needs of 500,000 IDPs.

Limited population movements were monitored in northern parts of the country at the start of major hostilities in late March. These displacements primarily involved Iraqi Kurds who moved away from cities to seek refuge in mountainous regions, as well as other Iraqis who fled northwards to Kurdish-controlled areas. A similar pattern was observed in other parts of the country,

including Baghdad and Basra in the south. However, most displaced people returned to their homes shortly afterwards. The ICRC also monitored the situation of people displaced as a consequence of previous violence.

Basic relief was provided to 8,500 families in Baquba and to 51,000 people in Muqaddiya, both located in Diyala Governorate. This consisted of tents, food parcels, blankets, kitchen sets and hygiene supplies delivered either directly by the ICRC or through the Iraqi Red Crescent Society. Similar assistance was provided to a group of some 1,300 people, mainly Iranian Kurds, who were still stranded in a strip of no-man's-land between Iraq and Jordan as the year ended after they fled a refugee camp in Al Tash west of Baghdad in mid-April. The ICRC had registered some of these people at the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. Delegates continued to visit the group regularly for several months to assess their living conditions and needs and to enable them to use ICRC facilities to restore contact with their families.

Several hundred third-country nationals left Iraq for neighbouring countries where they were assisted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other organizations such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

- ▶ basic relief, including food, water, tents and essential household items, was supplied to thousands of internally displaced people, including a group of 1,300 people stranded in a strip of no-man's-land between the Iraqi and Jordanian borders since the occupation of Iraq
- ▶ a consignment of more than 2,000 tonnes of food was made available for distribution to the most vulnerable population groups, notably hospitals and other social institutions

### Restoring family links

As a result of the hostilities, telecommunications services were severely disrupted and left much of the population with no means to communicate with anxious family members in other parts of the country or abroad.

Red Cross message (RCM) and satellite-telephone services enabled thousands of Iraqis separated from one another by the conflict to re-establish links. An ICRC website was set up in English and Arabic to help people trying to locate and re-establish contact with relatives. Over 8,000 people registered their names on the site. Prior to

the outbreak of full-scale war, an ICRC data centre was set up in Geneva to centralize information on people deprived of their freedom in Iraq and tracing activities related to the Iraq crisis. More than 50 people, mainly English/Arabic translators, data-entry operators, computer technicians and specialists in detention-related and tracing activities were mobilized to operate the data centre.

Following ICRC visits to places of detention in Iraq, families were informed of the capture of their loved ones through "Safe and Well" messages written by POWs, civilian internees and detainees. These were forwarded by ICRC delegates to addressees in various parts of the country in conjunction with the Iraqi Red Crescent. This was later extended to enable Iraqis to exchange RCMs with their families abroad, a service that required the cooperation of various ICRC delegations and National Societies in 66 countries.

- over 42,000 RCMs and more than 34,000 satellite-telephone calls were made between family members separated from one another by the conflict
- more than 8,000 people were registered on an ICRC website set up to enable people to trace and restore contact with family members separated by the Iraq crisis

### Explosive remnants of war

Before the latest war, Iraq was already one of the world's countries most severely affected by the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) – a lethal legacy of past conflicts. Even larger quantities of ERW littered many parts of Iraq in the aftermath of the most recent hostilities, posing a serious threat to the safety of the civilian population. The danger was further aggravated by the presence in many urban areas of large quantities of weapons and munitions abandoned in public places by the former Iraqi armed forces.

Prior to the war, the ICRC was already running ERW-risk education programmes in many parts of Iraq. From May onwards the ICRC worked closely with the Iraqi Red Crescent to identify newly contaminated sites, collect data on victims and initiate an awareness-raising campaign in the worst affected regions. Almost 400 Red Crescent volunteers across the country were trained to carry out field surveys and to alert a maximum number of people to the dangers in contaminated areas. ICRC-produced information leaflets and posters were widely distributed and radio spots highlighting the issue were prepared for local and international stations broadcasting in and to Iraq.

Efforts to clear explosive remnants of the war were severely impaired during the lawlessness that prevailed after the fall of the former government. Moreover, large quantities of weapons distributed to the Iraqi civilian population in the weeks before the outbreak of full-fledged conflict remained in circulation, despite a call by the occupying powers for Iraqis to surrender them. This heightened the risk of accidents and further violence in an already tense environment.

In the aftermath of major hostilities, hospitals reported a significant increase in admissions following accidents involving mines and unexploded ordnance. The ICRC visited hospitals treating the victims and supplied them with urgently needed drugs and surgical materials. Working together, the ICRC and the Iraqi Red Crescent identified dozens of ERW-contaminated sites, including industrial areas, playgrounds, schools, civilian houses and makeshift rubbish dumps in urban residential areas. Information gathered was relayed to the occupying powers who were urged to immediately address this issue in accordance with their responsibility to ensure the welfare and protection of the civilian population living under occupation.

- working with the Iraqi Red Crescent, the ICRC assessed the dangers posed by ERW, including abandoned munitions, in different locations and notified the coalition authorities accordingly
- hundreds of Red Crescent volunteers were trained to carry out field surveys and to alert the population to the dangers of ERW

### Issues outstanding from previous conflicts

The issue of people unaccounted for following previous conflicts remained a major ICRC concern. Before assigning priority to emergency operations related to the latest war, the ICRC had bilateral discussions with the parties directly concerned to determine the fate or whereabouts of missing persons.

On 9 January, the Technical Sub-Committee of the Tripartite Commission investigating cases of persons still missing in connection with the 1991 Gulf War held its first meeting in four years in Amman. In the new political context, the ICRC approached the occupying powers to urge them to assume their responsibilities with regard to the Tripartite process. Several further meetings of the Sub-Committee were held in Baghdad and Amman later in the year. In December, the

38th session of the Tripartite Commission was held in Geneva. For the first time in almost a decade, 46 individual cases were closed following the conclusive identification of human remains exhumed in mass graves in Iraq.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC also pursued efforts to trace and repatriate POWs and human remains from the Iran-Iraq war.

Between 17 and 18 March the ICRC repatriated 882 Iraqi prisoners of war following bilateral talks between the Iraqi and Iranian authorities. On 5 May, another 59 Iraqi POWs held in Iran since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The Baghdad delegation arranged for the returnees to be reunited with their families in Iraq. In accordance with standard ICRC procedures, prior to departure, the released POWs were interviewed to ensure that they were returning home of their own free will.

In May, the mortal remains of 45 Iranian soldiers killed in the Iran-Iraq war were handed over to the Iranian authorities under ICRC auspices at a border checkpoint located about 10 km east of Iraq's southern city of Basra. British forces in southern Iraq had discovered the Iranian bodies in early April on an abandoned Iraqi military base in Al-Zubeir, near Basra. During the same month the ICRC repatriated the remains of 86 Iraqi soldiers who died in captivity or were killed in the Iran-Iraq conflict.

These events highlighted the plight of other families desperate to obtain information about missing loved ones. The ICRC remained concerned that all possible steps be taken to provide them with answers, and urged the occupying powers in Iraq to protect all newly identified gravesites and information related to mortal remains, in accordance with IHL.

Since the Iran-Iraq war began in 1980, the ICRC had, by the end of the period under review, supervised the repatriation of more than 98,000 POWs on both sides.

- 941 Iraqi POWs held in Iran since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war and the remains of 86 Iraqi soldiers and 45 Iranian soldiers from the same conflict were repatriated under ICRC auspices
- the ICRC chaired several meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee investigating cases of persons still unaccounted for from the 1990-1991 Gulf war

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC began visiting Iraqi POWs captured by coalition forces on 31 March in order to register them and determine their conditions of internment and treatment. By the end of 2003 the ICRC had visited more than 11,000 POWs, civilian internees and detainees held by the occupying powers, including former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and several senior members of the former Iraqi government.

With the support of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society, the ICRC processed thousands of Red Cross and "Safe and Well" messages between people deprived of their freedom in Iraq and their families in Iraq and abroad.

The ICRC also facilitated the repatriation of several hundred foreign prisoners following their release by coalition forces.

- ▶ 156 visits were made to 11,360 POWs, civilian internees and detainees in 52 places of internment or detention throughout Iraq
- ▶ over 16,000 Red Cross messages were exchanged between people deprived of their freedom and relatives in Iraq and abroad
- ▶ in special hardship cases, basic aid was provided to people deprived of their freedom

## WOUNDED AND SICK

Before the onset of full-fledged war, sufficient stocks of medical supplies were pre-positioned inside Iraq and in five logistics bases in neighbouring countries to treat up to 7,000 war-wounded casualties and to meet the basic medical needs of up to 150,000 people. The ICRC's medical aid plan was to support existing health-care facilities rather than substituting for them with field hospitals and outside medical staff.

Daily visits were made to key city surgical hospitals caring for the war-wounded and chronically sick patients. Assistance ranged from emergency repair and maintenance work on hospital water, sanitation and power systems to the delivery of urgently needed water, fuel and medical supplies, including medicines, surgical instruments, oxygen, anaesthetics, dressing materials, wheelchairs, stretchers and bedding.

Most health-care services were stretched to the limit during the most active phase of military operations, when many hospitals

reported admissions of more than 100 war-wounded per day. The situation deteriorated rapidly after the collapse of the Iraqi government on 9 April when a looting rampage swept the country and brought many public services to a virtual standstill. Several main hospitals were ransacked and could barely function after being stripped of everything from beds, surgical equipment and water and sanitation equipment to light fixtures, window glass and refrigerators. In several cases the ICRC re-equipped hospitals with these basic items, thereby enabling them to restore medical services. In addition, stocks of essential household items were distributed to several regional health directorates.

In April, in view of the deteriorating situation, the ICRC issued a strong public appeal to the coalition forces and all other people in authority to do everything possible to protect essential infrastructure from looting and destruction. It recalled that the coalition forces, as occupying powers, had specific responsibilities under IHL to take all measures required to ensure the welfare and protection of the civilian population. Some key hospitals and public service installations were subsequently provided with coalition military protection.

The ICRC also facilitated contact by the coalition civilian authorities with the Iraq health authorities and the National Society in an effort to restore medical services and the payment of salaries to medical staff.

Prior to the outbreak of major hostilities, the ICRC had rehabilitated 15 primary health-care centres and 10 major hospitals. Additional similar projects under way in the health and sanitation sectors were temporarily suspended early in the year to focus on emergency operations, as was support for limb-fitting and physical rehabilitation centres. These activities were resumed when major combat operations ended and several new projects in the same sectors were initiated.

- ▶ daily visits were carried out to assess needs in hospitals caring for the war-wounded and chronically ill patients in the main urban centres, notably Baghdad and Basra
- ▶ substantial quantities of medical supplies and equipment were delivered to more than 60 urban hospitals
- ▶ emergency repair and maintenance work was carried out on water, sanitation and power infrastructure in 102 hospitals and 48 primary health care centres throughout the country

- ▶ hospitals were supplied with hundreds of thousands of litres of drinking water, nearly 30,000 oxygen bottles, 67,000 litres of liquid oxygen and 190,000 litres of generator fuel
- ▶ basic household supplies were distributed to many regional health directorates

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society, supported by the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and several other National Societies, was an important provider of humanitarian services during 2003. At the height of the conflict, some IRCS branches gave first aid, assisted hospitals in basic nursing and helped bury the dead.

Often working at considerable personal risk, Red Crescent staff also provided invaluable support to the ICRC in its role as lead agency for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Iraq throughout the year. This included help in the delivery of emergency supplies to hospitals, social-welfare institutions and camps for groups of internally displaced people, as well as in providing ICRC tracing and communications services to enable thousands of people to trace and restore contact with family members.

As the conflict developed, ICRC supplies were also delivered to National Society branches around the country. Following the breakdown of Iraq's telecommunications system, the Red Crescent headquarters in Baghdad was able to restore contact with its branch offices through the ICRC satellite-telephone service.

In the immediate aftermath of major hostilities, the ICRC resumed mine-risk education and almost 400 ICRC-trained Red Crescent volunteers started to assemble information on contaminated areas and to launch public awareness campaigns throughout the country.

### Cooperation with partner National Societies

National Societies were involved at an early stage of ICRC contingency planning for the Iraq operation. Together with the International Federation, the ICRC held several meetings with National Societies during the initial planning phase in order to involve them in the ICRC-led operations in Iraq at the earliest possible stage, within limits dictated by the security environment.

Throughout the acute phase of hostilities the ICRC kept the National Societies informed on a daily basis about the situation and the ICRC's response inside Iraq through field briefing notes and regular telephone conferences. Shortly after major hostilities ended, representatives of 35 National Societies participated in a meeting organized by the ICRC in Baghdad, which enabled them to make a first-hand appraisal of the situation in Iraq, and to discuss a coordinated Movement approach to meeting the needs of the country's civilian population.

A total of 27 expatriate delegates from 15 National Societies were involved in the ICRC operation in Iraq as soon as the security situation on the ground permitted. Twenty-three National Societies supported ICRC activities in Iraq. A list of relief items based on an ICRC survey of needs was communicated to National Societies shortly before the outbreak of major hostilities and on several subsequent occasions. Twenty-one National Societies, including many from countries in the region, responded to the ICRC appeal for its emergency operations in Iraq.

- 35 National Societies participated in a meeting organized by the ICRC in Baghdad, which enabled them to make a first-hand appraisal of the situation in Iraq, and to discuss a coordinated Movement approach to meeting the needs of the country's civilian population
- 27 expatriate delegates from 15 National Societies were involved in the ICRC operation in Iraq and 23 National Societies supported ICRC activities in Iraq



## israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories

The ICRC has maintained a permanent presence in Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It works towards ensuring the faithful application of and respect for IHL, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians in times of war and occupation. In the current climate of violence, it monitors the situation of the Palestinian civilian population, carries out visits to detainees and makes representations to the relevant authorities, both Israeli and Palestinian. It provides direct assistance to Palestinians whose houses have been demolished and people worst affected by curfews, closures and other restrictions in West Bank and Gaza towns and villages. As lead agency in this context, the ICRC is coordinating the relief response of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It also supports the activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and the Magen David Adom (MDA).

### EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**12,550,856**

Assistance

**50,496,914**

Preventive action

**2,329,274**

Cooperation with National Societies

**4,498,663**

General

**0**

► **69,875,708**

of which: Overheads **4,118,574**

### PERSONNEL

**80** expatriates

**189** national staff

### KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Thousands of detainees held by Israel were visited to monitor their treatment and living conditions and enable them to maintain family contact.
- 2 major ICRC aid programmes were completed for more than 50,000 destitute West Bank families.
- Hundreds of Palestinian families made homeless by Israeli house demolitions or military operations received emergency shelter kits.
- Ambulance movements were facilitated to ensure timely access to the wounded and sick in Gaza and the West Bank
- Water was delivered to West Bank communities not linked to water networks; mobile water units were supplied to the Palestine Red Crescent, whose staff were trained to respond to water-shortage emergencies
- Thousands of people separated by the hostilities or arrest were able to restore contact with their families through the Red Cross message service.
- ICRC support was maintained for the life-saving work of the Palestine Red Crescent emergency response service throughout the West Bank and Gaza.
- The ICRC signed its first cooperation agreement with the Magen David Adom covering support for its ambulance service, tracing unit and a new disaster management department.

## CONTEXT

Persistent Israeli-Palestinian hostilities blocked progress on the implementation of the Middle East "road map" peace plan launched in mid-2003 and aimed at ending a crisis that has beset the region for several decades.

The plan, drawn up by the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia, set a timetable for the creation of a sovereign Palestinian State by 2005, and was endorsed by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Implementation of the first step of the plan, providing for an immediate cessation of hostilities, was undermined by Palestinian attacks in Israel and Israeli military strikes in the Palestinian territories.

Israel maintained a heavy military presence in most areas of the West Bank throughout the year following its massive military redeployment in the territory in 2002. Israeli forces also significantly stepped up ground incursions and air strikes, particularly in the Gaza Strip, targeting members of militant Palestinian groups.

Stringent constraints on the movement of people and goods further depressed the already grim living conditions of the more than two million inhabitants of the West Bank, where unemployment and poverty reached unprecedented levels. Mobility restrictions were also enforced in the Gaza Strip, home to over one million Palestinians living in dire conditions in one of the world's most densely populated areas.

Israeli settlement expansion resulted in further expropriation or destruction of Palestinian land, increasing hardship for Palestinian families left homeless or dispossessed of farmland that often constituted their sole source of income. The construction by Israel of a security barrier in and around the West Bank that began in June 2002 also led to the expropriation or leveling of Palestinian housing and land, and left growing numbers of Palestinian communities isolated on the Israeli side of the separation line as it encroached deeper into Palestinian territory. Israel furthermore continued to demolish houses owned by persons held responsible for attacks against Israelis.

## ICRC ACTION

In 2003, the ICRC pursued its mandate to alleviate human suffering and seek greater compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) in a context of recurrent armed violence and persistent disregard by all parties engaged in the hostilities for some of the basic tenets of this body of law.

As in previous years, in accordance with its core mandate, the primary objective was to persuade Israel to comply with its obligations under IHL with regard to the welfare and protection of the Palestinian population living under its occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

The ICRC's activities centred on providing increased protection and assistance to civilian victims of violence and extreme hardship induced primarily by Israeli security restrictions in the Palestinian territories. As an absolute priority, all parties engaged in the hostilities were repeatedly exhorted to spare the lives of civilians not directly participating in the violence.

An expansion of its presence in the region in 2002 enabled the ICRC to monitor and document breaches of IHL and to make representations to the parties concerned more effectively. It also enhanced the organization's capacity to assess and respond to emergency needs on a more timely and comprehensive basis.

Two large-scale ICRC economic security programmes launched in the West Bank in mid-2002 were completed at the end of 2003. These programmes were designed as temporary and emergency measures to help more than 300,000 residents of the West Bank overcome a period of particularly acute hardship following Israel's military redeployment in the territory in the spring of 2002. A smaller scale ICRC economic security programme was maintained to respond to persistent emergency needs in parts of the West Bank town of Hebron, as was ad-hoc assistance for social-welfare and educational institutions with extremely limited resources.

Palestinians made homeless by the destruction or expropriation of their homes by Israeli forces continued to receive ICRC aid in the form of emergency shelter and basic household supplies.

Under an emergency water-supply programme initiated in 2002, the ICRC organized deliveries of water by tanker trucks to rural West Bank communities not connected to

water-distribution networks. It also increased water-storage capacity in certain areas subject to chronic water shortages through the construction and installation of cisterns.

ICRC delegates visited thousands of people held by Israel to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, and to enable them to maintain contact with their families. Similar visits were made to persons deprived of their freedom in detention centres controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Assistance was provided to detainees in acute hardship cases.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC helped coordinate the movement of ambulances and medical staff to ensure they had access to the wounded and sick in the Palestinian territories with a minimum of Israeli security clearance delays. Similar action was taken to help Palestinian health authorities deliver emergency medical supplies to hospitals and health-care centres.

ICRC communications services enabled Lebanese nationals imprisoned in Israel, and those who fled there following Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, to maintain contact with their families in Lebanon. The human remains of Lebanese citizens killed in hostilities with Israeli forces or who died in Israel were repatriated under ICRC auspices. In addition, efforts continued to clarify the fate of Israelis unaccounted for after their capture by Hezbollah operatives in 2000.

Dialogue was reinforced with the Israeli armed forces, the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian militant groups so as to promote better understanding of and respect for IHL. Progress was achieved towards integrating the basic principles of IHL into Israeli and Palestinian secondary education curricula.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies increased their support for the activities of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent Society. This strengthened their capacity to deliver emergency humanitarian services. The first cooperation agreements were signed between the ICRC and the MDA.

## CIVILIANS

### Protection of the civilian population

In 2003, Israeli and Palestinian civilians were again the main victims of violence as a result of the persistent failure of those

engaged in the hostilities to make a clear distinction between protected civilians and combatants or other armed actors. Hostilities increasingly occurred in densely populated urban areas, heightening the risk of death or injury among the civilian population.

The ICRC made repeated representations to the parties directly engaged in the hostilities to spare civilian lives and property as well as vital infrastructure. In particular, Israel was urged to reconcile its legitimate security concerns with its overriding responsibility to provide for the welfare and protection of the civilian population living under its occupation, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention and other instruments of IHL. More specifically, the ICRC called on Israel to ease restrictions on the movement of people and goods that severely undermined normal living conditions in the Palestinian territories. The organization also conveyed its concern to the Israeli authorities with regard to the implications in legal and humanitarian terms of the barrier under construction in and around the West Bank, particularly the destruction or expropriation of Palestinian property and land and the forced displacement and isolation of Palestinian communities in its path or vicinity.

- efforts were stepped up to put a stop to the killing of civilians not directly engaged in the hostilities
- Israel was strongly urged to fully assume its obligations under IHL to ensure the welfare and protection of the Palestinian population living under its occupation

### Economic-security programmes

Two large-scale ICRC economic security programmes that began in mid-2002 were brought to a successful conclusion at the end of 2003, as planned in the ICRC budget extension appeal issued in June 2003. These programmes were introduced as temporary measures to help more than 300,000 vulnerable residents of the West Bank to overcome the hardships of the particularly acute emergency situation that prevailed following Israel's military redeployment in the territory in April 2002.

Under the urban voucher programme 20,000 families, representing 20% of the population in the nine main West Bank urban centres, received vouchers to exchange for food and other basic commodities from selected traders. Another 30,000 families, constituting 10% of the West Bank rural population, were provided with bulk food under the rural relief programme. In addition,

2,000 of the poorest families living in parts of Hebron Old City severely affected by curfews, closures, Israeli military operations and violence between Israeli settlers and Palestinians were provided with food parcels and basic household assistance on a monthly basis. The Hebron relief programme was due to be expanded to 2,500 beneficiary families in 2004.

Following the phase-out of the urban voucher and rural relief programmes, the ICRC continued to monitor the impact of Israeli military operations and security restrictions on the lives of the Palestinian population. It also maintained a substantial relief response capacity in the region to address humanitarian emergencies should the need arise. However, the ICRC stressed that Israel bore the primary responsibility for the welfare of the Palestinian population living under its occupation and that the ICRC would not relieve Israel of its obligations in this regard.

- ▶ large-scale ICRC relief programmes ended after helping more than 300,000 of the neediest Palestinians in the West Bank to survive a period of particularly acute hardship and deprivation
- ▶ the ICRC maintained a substantial relief response capacity in the region to address potential emergency needs
- ▶ 2,000 destitute families in Hebron Old City continued to receive regular food and other basic aid

### Access to clean water

The quality and quantity of clean water supplies available to the Palestinian population continued to be affected by Israeli restrictions on access to natural sources and on Palestinian Authority participation in water-distribution planning. Clean water supplies were further impaired by the chronically inadequate state of waste-water disposal and sewage-treatment facilities. Sanitary conditions also continued to deteriorate as a result of closures, curfews and restrictions of movement, which hampered regular refuse collection, standard hygiene controls and maintenance work at water and sewage-treatment plants, as well as access to a major part of the Palestinian territories dependent on tankers to empty septic tanks.

Almost 40% of households in the West Bank and Gaza are still not connected to central water-distribution networks and remained reliant on makeshift rooftop rainwater-harvesting systems or low storage-capacity underground cisterns as their sole sources of drinking water to meet

needs through the dry summer season. With the majority of the population unemployed and poverty-stricken, few households could afford the expense of purchasing tanker-delivered water in communities where rainwater supplies collected during the winter started to run out at the onset of the summer season.

The ICRC maintained an emergency water-supply programme initiated in 2002, involving the delivery of water by tankers to certain rural areas (Salfit and Hebron) worst affected by chronic water shortages. An additional programme was started in 2003 to increase water-storage capacity in villages around Hebron through the construction of water-storage cisterns.

Representations were made to the Israeli authorities concerning damage caused to water supply facilities during Israeli military incursions into Palestinian areas. The ICRC also facilitated access to damaged sites by local maintenance and repair teams through prior coordination of their movements with the Israeli authorities.

Mobile reservoirs, water-distribution ramps, water-testing kits and water-treatment chemicals were provided to the Palestine Red Crescent to increase its capacity to respond to water-shortage emergencies. In further support action, ICRC engineers gave water and sanitation emergency-preparedness courses for Palestine Red Crescent staff to enable them to set up and operate the mobile water-distribution kits at short notice. This programme was initiated following the water crisis experienced in several West Bank urban areas during hostilities in the spring of 2002, when the city water networks were severely impaired as a result of military activities, closure trench-digging and the erection of earth walls to block access in and out of West Bank towns and cities.

- ▶ safe water supplies were delivered to thousands of Palestinian families in areas not connected to water-distribution networks
- ▶ water-storage capacity was increased in communities not linked to water supply systems
- ▶ mobile water-distribution units were supplied to the Palestine Red Crescent to boost its capacity to respond to water-shortage emergencies

### House destruction relief programme

Several hundred more families were made homeless as a result of the continued destruction by Israeli forces of dwellings

owned by Palestinian militants and by persons suspected of acts of terror in Israel or in Israeli settlements.

Further destruction or expropriation of property and land owned by Palestinians occurred as a result of construction work that began in June 2002 on a security barrier between Israel and the West Bank. The route of the barrier started to encircle a growing number of Palestinian communities stranded in enclaves on the Israeli side, isolating them from health care, schooling and also from their farmland in the West Bank – often their sole means of a livelihood.

Palestinian families rendered homeless continued to benefit from the ICRC house-destruction relief programme designed to cover the basic shelter and household equipment needs of victims within four days of home loss. Two ICRC reports on the destruction of real and private property by Israeli forces in 2002 were submitted to the legal department of the Israeli Defence Force in March.

- ▶ ICRC emergency shelter and household equipment was provided to hundreds of Palestinian families made homeless by the demolition or expropriation of their house by Israeli forces
- ▶ an ICRC assessment was made to determine the consequences in humanitarian terms of the security barrier under construction in and around the West Bank

### Restoring family links

Several thousand Lebanese nationals who fled to Israel following the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000 were still in the country and found it difficult to maintain contact with their families in Lebanon since the two countries have no official ties. The ICRC therefore arranged for the exchange of family news and official documents such as power-of-attorney, birth and marriage certificates. It also organized the exchange of Red Cross messages between Lebanese nationals detained in Israel and their families in Lebanon.

Lebanese nationals in Israel were informed about developments in Lebanon, particularly with regard to their legal status there with a view to their possible voluntary repatriation. Information was gathered on third countries that might accept voluntary resettlement and family reunification of Lebanese citizens residing in Israel. The ICRC closely monitored Israel's compliance with the prohibition under IHL regarding involuntary repatriation as applied to

Lebanese nationals living in Israel who feared possible persecution for their political or religious beliefs should they return home.

Approximately 19,000 Syrian nationals living in the Israeli-occupied Syrian Golan remained separated from their families elsewhere in Syria. The ICRC repeatedly urged the Israeli authorities and local community leaders to permit Golan residents to meet family members in Syria once a month. It also facilitated student and pilgrim travel from the occupied Golan to Syria for educational or religious purposes, cleared authorization for wedding ceremonies of persons separated by the demarcation line to take place in the separation zone and exchanged documents between families in the occupied Golan and Syria proper.

- Lebanese nationals resident or detained in Israel were able to maintain contact and exchange official documents with their families in Lebanon via the Red Cross message service
- the human remains of two Lebanese nationals in Israel were repatriated under ICRC auspices
- the ICRC facilitated travel by students and pilgrims in the occupied Golan to Syria for study or religious purposes and weddings between persons separated by the demarcation line

### Clarifying the fate of the missing

Unresolved cases of missing persons continued to cause deep anguish among families who in some instances had remained without knowledge of their fate or whereabouts for many years. Among the missing persons were three Israeli military personnel captured by Hezbollah operatives along the Israeli-Lebanese border in October 2000, and one Israeli civilian also held by Hezbollah.

The ICRC, acting as a neutral intermediary, remained at the disposal of all parties concerned to help resolve pending issues of humanitarian concern relating to these and other missing persons, and to organize the repatriation of those found to be alive as well as the remains of others requested by families. Regular contact was maintained with the families to brief them on any developments that might help clarify the fate of missing persons. The Red Cross message system was used wherever possible to ensure contact between families and located relatives.

In August, the ICRC repatriated the remains of two Hezbollah fighters killed several years previously in clashes with Israeli forces.

- efforts continued to clarify the fate or whereabouts of persons unaccounted for from previous hostilities in the region and to organize the repatriation of those found to be alive as well as the remains of others
- the remains of 2 Hezbollah fighters were repatriated from Israel to Lebanon

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Regular visits were made to thousands of Palestinians detained by the Israeli authorities in Israel and the West Bank to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. These visits were followed up by representations to the relevant authorities whenever deemed appropriate. Visits were also made to detainees held by the Palestinian Authority. In June, the ICRC was authorized to resume visits to detention centres controlled by the Palestinian military security services for the first time since 1999.

Family visits organized by the ICRC to detainees held in Israel partially resumed in the West Bank in March after being severely disrupted by the marked upsurge in violence in 2002. The visits were suspended again in October, but resumed in November. In view of the unreliability of the family visits, the ICRC continued to provide various forms of assistance to detainees with basic clothing, hygiene products, newspapers and magazines. It also delivered parcels to detainees sent by their families, and provided 380 particularly destitute detainees with stipends of 60 new Israeli shekels per month. In another project for detainees not receiving family visits, persons held in a Gaza prison were supplied with materials to tailor 365 sports outfits.

In October, the ICRC repatriated a Lebanese national after his release from detention in Israel. Prior to the repatriation operation, the ICRC interviewed the released detainee in private to establish that his return home was voluntary.

A significant number of persons deprived of their freedom in Israel were administrative detainees who, under Israeli law, faced renewable six-month detention periods without charge. These included two persons captured by Israeli forces in Lebanon in 1989 and 1994 and held under the terms of an Israeli "Law on the Detention of Unlawful Combatants." The widespread use of administrative detention orders was of major concern to the ICRC. Respect for

judicial guarantees, such as access to legal counsel, was closely scrutinized.

- visits were made to thousands of persons detained by the Israeli authorities and to hundreds detained by the Palestinian authorities to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention
- family visits were arranged for Palestinians deprived of their freedom in Israel
- assistance was provided to Palestinian detainees in Israel who received no visits or aid from their families
- 1 Lebanese national was repatriated under ICRC auspices after his release from detention in Israel

### WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC and the Palestine Red Crescent focused on identifying and resolving problems related to the coordinated movement of ambulances, particularly following security incidents such as the wounding of Palestine Red Crescent paramedics by Israeli fire in Gaza in the first half of the year. Strong representations were made to the Israeli authorities regarding these incidents. In addition, the ICRC documented cases of Israeli military security clearance measures that hindered the mobility or threatened the security of medical personnel.

Assistance was provided to the Palestinian Ministry of Health to transport emergency medical supplies to hospitals and health centres through prior coordination of medical convoy movements with the Israeli authorities. Medical journals were provided to the main surgical hospitals to enable staff to inform themselves about developments in their fields.

A series of eight seminars on war surgery was organized in conjunction with the Palestinian health authorities for nurses and paramedical staff in the West Bank and Gaza to increase their capacity to respond to mass-casualty emergencies. Similar seminars had been held in 2002 for medical staff, including surgeons, working in major Palestinian hospitals.

- 8 war surgery seminars were held for nurses and paramedical staff in the West Bank and Gaza to upgrade their capacity to respond to mass-casualty emergencies
- the ICRC facilitated access to the wounded and sick in the Palestinian territories through prior coordination of ambulance and medical staff movements with the Israeli authorities

- Palestinian Ministry of Health deliveries of emergency medical supplies to hospitals and health-care centres were facilitated through prior coordination of medical convoy movements with the Israeli authorities

## AUTHORITIES

The scale of violations of IHL related to hostilities in Israel and the Occupied and the Autonomous Territories was reflected in the high number of casualties among Israeli and Palestinian civilians not directly participating in the violence. Representations were made to the relevant authorities or armed groups as deemed appropriate.

The ICRC consolidated its extensive network of contacts with diplomatic missions in Israel to heighten awareness of the issues of humanitarian concern in the Israeli-Palestinian context, and to maintain the support of the international community for ICRC representations concerning violations of IHL.

Discussions were held with the legal department of the Israeli Defence Force on the protocols to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons that Israel had yet to ratify, particularly with regard to the use in the Israeli-Palestinian context of devices covered by the treaty. Discussions also focused on the implementation and interpretation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and other instruments of IHL, respect for red cross and red crescent emblems and for medical personnel, and the obligation to prosecute persons suspected of being responsible for violations of IHL. ICRC delegates provided support to the Tel Aviv College of Management, which established a research centre on the implementation of IHL in Israel.

Palestinian media contacts were expanded through a three-day training workshop on the ICRC, IHL and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement attended by 18 editors, producers, field reporters and newsreaders of the Palestinian television and radio network in Gaza. The workshop gave the ICRC new channels of access to Palestinian and other Arab audiences in the region.

For the second consecutive year, the ICRC conducted a specialized IHL training programme for senior Palestinian lawyers and legal experts working for Palestinian human rights groups, government ministries, private organizations and international

non-governmental organizations. An IHL course was also organized for third-year law-faculty students at Najah University in Nablus.

Significant progress was made towards introducing IHL teaching into secondary school education in the Palestinian territories. As a result of a memorandum of agreement concluded with the education authorities, the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme was included as a pilot project in the ninth-grade curriculum for the subject area of civic education. A core team of EHL experts was selected to train over 80 educators to teach the programme in 92 schools reaching some 4,000 male students in the West Bank and Gaza. An additional 1,000 teachers were expected to receive training in the programme in 2004.

IHL workshops were organized in cooperation with an educational NGO at the Al-Ain refugee camp to prepare students and Palestine Red Crescent volunteers to give IHL presentations in summer youth camps. IHL sessions on the protection of journalists were held for female students at the Gaza Islamic University.

In Israel, meetings were held with the Ministry of Education to finalize a Hebrew translation of the EHL programme materials and to promote the inclusion of IHL courses in Israeli secondary-school education.

- the ICRC monitored and documented violations of IHL and made representations to the relevant authorities and parties as deemed appropriate
- progress was made towards the integration of the EHL programme into secondary-school curricula in Israel and the Palestinian Territories
- an IHL course was also organized for third-year law-faculty students at Najah University in Nablus and a specialized IHL training session was held for senior Palestinian lawyers and legal advisors working for Palestinian human rights groups, ministries, private organizations and international NGOs

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Contacts were reinforced with the Israeli Defence Force command structures to promote greater understanding of and compliance with the principles of IHL related to the protection of civilians. The Israeli Defence Force accepted an ICRC offer to help incorporate IHL principles into their military training programmes.

For the first time presentations on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities were made to Israeli Defence Force operational commanders and Israeli border-guard commanders in the West Bank, and to "humanitarian officers" of the Israeli Civil Administration. Presentations on IHL were also held for hundreds of Israeli Defence Force combat-unit cadets at the Junior Officers School and for Civil Administration commanders and cadets. In addition, senior Israeli army officers attended an ICRC seminar to discuss the treatment of the civilian population in situations of low-intensity conflict. Several meetings were also held with Palestinian security-force commanders in Gaza, where planned IHL courses were postponed because of the security situation.

- IHL presentations were made for the first time to IDF operational commanders and Israeli border-guard commanders in the West Bank and to "humanitarian officers" of the Israeli Civil Administration
- the IDF accepted an ICRC offer of support to help incorporate IHL principles into IDF military training programmes
- dialogue was reinforced with the Israeli armed forces, the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian militant groups so as to promote a better understanding of and respect for IHL
- progress was achieved towards integrating the basic principles of IHL into Israeli and Palestinian secondary education curricula

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Acting as lead agency, the ICRC endeavoured to ensure a coordinated approach among all components of the Movement active in the region, in accordance with the Seville Agreement. Many National societies in and beyond the region provided material aid in support of ICRC operations in the Palestinian Territories.

The ICRC and the International Federation increased training and material support to boost the capacities of the MDA and the PRCS to respond to emergencies.

The first cooperation agreements between the ICRC and the Magen David Adom were signed in June. In addition to the central Cooperation Framework Agreement, the basic provisions of the formal cooperation relationship, four programme agreements were signed in the fields of emergency medical services, tracing, internal training

regarding the Movement and the promotion of humanitarian values and IHL.

An ICRC review of the Palestine Red Crescent emergency medical services was completed and resulted in improved ambulance-fleet management. The review also prompted the adoption of sound guidelines relating to medicine and equipment needs. ICRC assistance included salary support for 260 staff and 500 volunteers and new equipment and medicines for the ambulance service. A stress-management project delegated to the German Red Cross continued to provide psychological support and training to Palestine Red Crescent emergency medical service staff working under constant pressure in a precarious security environment.

The Palestine Red Crescent's capacity to respond to water-shortage emergencies was strengthened through the provision of mobile water-distribution units and practical training that enabled volunteers and staff to set them up at short notice. (see *Civilians*).

A new Magen David Adom disaster-management unit was created with technical support from the ICRC and the International Federation. In November, the Magen David Adom organized its first disaster-management workshop which was co-sponsored by the ICRC, the International Federation and the American Red Cross. Technical specialists on disaster management from the British, German and Norwegian Red Cross Societies and from the Palestine Red Crescent also participated in the workshop.

- acting as lead agency, the ICRC endeavoured to ensure a coordinated approach among all components of the Movement active in the region
- training and material support for the Palestine Red Crescent was increased to reinforce its emergency-response capacity
- a review of the Palestine Red Crescent's emergency medical services resulted in improved ambulance-fleet management performance
- the ICRC helped the Palestine Red Crescent to establish a new tracing department to enhance its capacity to undertake tracing activities in the event of natural disasters
- follow-up training was given to Palestine Red Crescent volunteer teams as part of a mine-risk education programme in the West Bank and Gaza
- technical aid was given for a new Magen David Adom disaster-management unit and support was stepped up for its tracing and emergency medical services



# jordan

The ICRC has been present in Jordan since the 1967 Middle East war. Its work there mainly focuses on visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, helping family members separated for conflict-related reasons to restore and maintain contact with one another, and promoting IHL throughout Jordanian society in cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support for ICRC relief operations in Israel, the Occupied and Autonomous territories, and Iraq.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**819,998**

Assistance

**406,165**

Preventive action

**543,623**

Cooperation with National Societies

**79,466**

General

**0**

► **1,849,251**

of which: Overheads **112,216**

## PERSONNEL

**32** expatriates

**79** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Jordan served as a major ICRC logistics and supply base supporting the organization's emergency operations in Iraq during the most intensive phase of the war there.
- Contact was restored between civilians separated from one another by the war in Iraq and between families in Jordan and relatives detained or interned in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, Afghanistan and the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories.
- Food and other aid were provided for several hundred people stranded in no man's land between Iraq and Jordan after fleeing the hostilities in Iraq.
- Visits were made to detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions.
- Meetings of the Tripartite Commission Technical Sub-Committee investigating cases of persons missing in connection with the 1990-91 Gulf war resumed after a four-year interruption (the Sub-Committee met three times in Amman under ICRC auspices).
- The capacity of the National Society to carry out tracing, IHL dissemination and mine-awareness activities was reinforced, and the ICRC facilitated Jordan Red Crescent and Palestine Red Crescent emergency ambulance services between Jordan and the West Bank.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, Jordan again faced the potential fallout from renewed Middle East turmoil as war broke out in Iraq and continuing Israeli-Palestinian violence raged along its borders, raising fears of a surge in domestic tension and a major influx of refugees.

However, large-scale population movements from Iraq into Jordan, which many had predicted would be similar to those registered during the 1990-91 Gulf war, failed to materialize. Nor were any major security incidents reported, despite the anti-war protests held in most Jordanian cities at the start of major hostilities in Iraq.

Jordan set up two camps inside its borders with Iraq to accommodate the few thousand Iraqi and third-country nationals who sought refuge in the country. From March onwards another group of over 1,200 war-displaced people, mainly Iranians of Kurdish origin, remained blocked in a strip of no man's land between the Iraqi and Jordanian borders.

Several international relief organizations working in Iraq transferred expatriate staff to Jordan after being deliberately targeted in devastating armed attacks that severely undermined their humanitarian mission in Iraq.

Jordan's King Abdullah II continued to play a key role in efforts to restore peace and stability to the region in meetings with world leaders both at home and abroad. In June, Jordan hosted a summit attended by the president of the United States and the

prime ministers of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, which aimed at injecting fresh impetus into the Middle East peace process.

Independent candidates loyal to the king won two-thirds of the seats in the first parliamentary elections held since the monarch acceded to the throne in 1999.

## ICRC ACTION

For much of 2003, ICRC staff in Jordan were engaged in emergency-response preparations and humanitarian activities in support of the organization's operations in Iraq. The scope of ICRC operations in Jordan expanded considerably after the outbreak of major hostilities in Iraq in late March. During the most intensive phase of the war and the chaotic period that followed, medical, food and other essential aid was airlifted into Iraq or dispatched there by road convoy from ICRC warehouses in Amman.

Jordan's role for the ICRC in the Iraq context became even more pivotal after deliberate armed attacks against ICRC staff and premises in Iraq compelled the organization to scale back its operations temporarily and relocate some of its expatriate staff to Amman and elsewhere in the region. The acutely insecure situation in Iraq also led the ICRC to transfer a data processing centre set up specifically for the Iraq crisis from Baghdad to Amman. In addition, the ICRC moved significant amounts of humanitarian aid supplies that had been stockpiled in Iraq prior to the war to Amman, where they were kept for distribution to the needy in Iraq as the security situation allowed. Furthermore, the ICRC provided food and other aid for several hundred people stranded in no man's land between Iraq and Jordan after fleeing their homes in Iraq shortly after the onset of war.

Thousands of people among the estimated 300,000-strong Iraqi community in Jordan were able to locate and restore contact with civilian family members in Iraq through the ICRC tracing-unit satellite phone, Red Cross message and website services. ICRC tracing and communications services also enabled families in Jordan to restore and maintain contact with relatives detained or interned in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq and the Palestinian territories.

As in past years, the ICRC carried out regular visits to places of detention in Jordan to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees.

In addition, the organization continued to coordinate relief aid to the Palestinian territories supplied primarily by National Societies in the region.

Promoting more widespread knowledge and understanding of international humanitarian law (IHL) among the Jordanian authorities and within Jordanian civil society remained a priority for the ICRC. Support

was increased for measures to integrate IHL into national legislation and IHL teaching into school and university law-faculty curricula, and into training programmes of the armed forces and the national police and security forces.

Three meetings of the Tripartite Commission Technical Sub-Committee investigating cases of persons missing in connection with the 1990-91 Gulf war were held in Amman under ICRC auspices. These meetings resumed after a four-year interruption prompted by Iraq's non-participation.

The ICRC continued to provide training and technical support for the National Society to upgrade its capacity to carry out tracing work and activities to raise awareness of the danger posed by explosive remnants of war.

Throughout the year, ICRC delegates attended basic and advanced training courses offered by the organization's regional training unit in Amman.

## CIVILIANS

### Support for ICRC operations in Iraq

Amman served as a key link in a regional network of logistics bases set up in Iran, Jordan, Kuwait and Syria to support ICRC operations in Iraq. Prior to the war, substantial quantities of food, medical and other supplies were stockpiled in Amman and in other bases in the region in anticipation of potential needs in Iraq.

Several consignments of essential supplies were transported to Iraq by air and overland from ICRC warehouses in Amman as the security situation in Iraq allowed.

- ICRC airlifts and road convoys transported food, medical and other supplies from Amman to Iraq after the outbreak of major hostilities in late March

### Restoring family links

ICRC satellite phone and Red Cross message services enabled thousands of people to re-establish contact with family members from whom they were separated by the war in Iraq. These included members of the 300,000-strong Iraqi community in Jordan, Jordanian nationals seeking news of relatives detained, interned or resident in Iraq, as well as Iraqi and third-country nationals located in camps set up inside the Jordanian border. Similar ICRC communications services as well as food and other

aid were provided for more than 1,200 mainly Iranian Kurds who were still stranded in no man's land between the Iraqi and Jordanian borders as the year ended, months after leaving their camps in Iraq when the war was at its fiercest.

Hundreds of ICRC travel documents were issued in response to requests from embassies and the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, mainly for people without recognized identity papers who had been accepted for resettlement in third countries.

- Red Cross messages were exchanged between civilians and detainees in Jordan and family members in Iraq and other countries
- 8,172 ICRC satellite phone calls were made by war-displaced people in 2 camps located inside Jordan and another in no man's land between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders to re-establish contact with their families
- 237 ICRC travel documents were issued for people without recognized identity papers seeking resettlement in third countries

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Visits to detainees

Tracing delegates also took action to help families in Jordan to locate and restore contact through the Red Cross message network with relatives detained in Iraq. In addition, tracing services enabled Jordanian families to maintain contact and exchange official documents with relatives detained or interned in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

The ICRC continued to monitor the treatment of detainees and their conditions of detention during visits to 11 places of detention, including correctional rehabilitation centres and a juvenile detention centre run by the Public Security Directorate, and an interrogation centre under the jurisdiction of the General Intelligence Directorate.

In cooperation with the Jordanian prison services, the ICRC forwarded money, clothes and letters to foreign detainees in Jordan from their families elsewhere. The ICRC provided similar assistance for Jordanians detained abroad, in particular in Israel and in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

In June, a summary report covering visits by the ICRC to places of detention in Jordan in 2002 was submitted to the authorities concerned.

- ▶ 41 visits were carried out to a total of 5,642 detainees in 11 detention centres
- ▶ 149 Red Cross messages were exchanged between detainees in Jordan and their families
- ▶ 3,821 Red Cross messages were exchanged between families in Jordan and relatives detained or interned in Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories
- ▶ 5 Jordanian nationals were repatriated after their release from detention in Iraq

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Ensuring an efficient ambulance service

In cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society, the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the ICRC's Jerusalem delegation, the Amman delegation continued to coordinate a smooth-running ambulance service transferring people in need of medical care, or in some cases mortal remains, between Jordan and the West Bank. Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the transfers by ensuring that the authorities concerned kept administrative delays and security constraints for ambulance crossings at a minimum. Requests to the ICRC for this kind of assistance increased owing to the frequent closures in the West Bank, as well as tightened entry controls on the Jordanian side of the King Hussein/Allenby Bridge crossing point.

- ▶ the ICRC facilitated medical evacuations between the West Bank and Jordan, and the transport of bodies for burial purposes

## AUTHORITIES

Promoting more widespread knowledge and understanding of IHL among the Jordanian authorities and within Jordanian civil society remained a priority for the ICRC.

An ICRC legal expert held weekly meetings with a core group of members of the national committee for the implementation of IHL responsible for carrying out a study on the compatibility of Jordanian civil and military legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute.

Draft laws on the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems and on the banning of anti-personnel mines in compliance with the 1997 Ottawa Convention were prepared for the core group. The president of the national committee pledged to convey them to the Jordanian prime minister for follow-up action.

In December, the ICRC arranged for a judge and a university professor to take part in a symposium on the International Criminal Court organized in Syria by Damascus University and the ICRC. Three members of the national IHL committee and the head of the Jordan Armed Forces legal department attended the annual meeting of Arab national implementation bodies held in October in Rabat, Morocco, under the auspices of the League of Arab States and the ICRC.

The national IHL committee was provided with technical and financial assistance to produce an information brochure on its aims and activities.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### IHL courses for the military

The ICRC's training and dissemination courses aimed at speeding up the incorporation of IHL in the teaching and training programmes of the Jordan Armed Forces.

ICRC presentations and training sessions on the applicability of IHL in armed conflicts were given in military installations for hundreds of Jordan Armed Forces commanders, senior officers and training staff, and their counterparts from several other mostly Arab countries.

- ▶ 16 Royal Naval Force officers and 15 Royal Air Force officer instructors attended IHL training workshops
- ▶ 21 Jordan Armed Forces majors and lieutenant-colonels participated in a training course at the Peacekeeping Institute in Zarqa on the applicability of IHL during peacekeeping operations, the specific responsibilities of military commanders, and the mandate and role of the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- ▶ 269 officers from Jordan, 5 other Arab countries and Pakistan attending advanced training courses at the King Abdullah Infantry School were briefed on the basic rules of IHL and the specific responsibilities of military commanders

- ▶ 29 colonels from Jordan and the United Arab Emirates were briefed on the rules of war and the differences between IHL and human rights law at an annual IHL Day ceremony held at the Royal War College
- ▶ 45 high-ranking Jordan Armed Forces officers participating in advanced command training courses at the Royal Artillery School and the Martyr King Abdullah School were given a presentation on IHL

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### IHL teaching in schools and universities

Measures to integrate IHL into national legislation and IHL teaching into school and university law-faculty curricula were given broad support in 2003.

The Ministry of Education set up committees to deal with the technical and administrative aspects of adapting the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme to the Jordanian education system and incorporating it in secondary-school curricula. The ICRC participated in several workshops held by the technical committee, which drew up a plan to implement the programme and chose a group of teachers to be trained to teach EHL in schools.

In October, the Ministry of Education hosted a second annual regional meeting of Arab educationalists to discuss the implementation of the EHL programme in Arab education systems. Organized in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the ICRC, the meeting brought together 55 representatives from 14 Arab countries. The goal was to share information on what had been achieved since the first regional meeting in Morocco in 2002 and to examine the way forward in 2004.

Discussions were pursued with the Ministry of Higher Education and university deans and professors with a view to introducing the teaching of IHL as a separate subject in Jordanian universities. A meeting was organized for 30 law-faculty deans from nine Jordanian universities to review mechanisms to accelerate this process. Several universities stated that they would start teaching IHL in their law faculties as of the next academic year.

Two international law professors from the universities of Jerash and Aal al-Bait and a member of the national IHL committee were invited to attend a regional ICRC

workshop on IHL held in August and September in Lattakia, Syria.

IHL documentation was provided to several university libraries and to the National Centre for Human Rights.

### **Incorporating IHL into national legislation**

As part of efforts to raise awareness of IHL and promote its incorporation into national legislation, a one-week workshop was held for a group of Jordanian judges focusing on a comparison of IHL and human rights law.

Representatives of the local and regional media, human rights organizations and academic institutions attended a ceremony to publicize the launching in October of the ICRC's Arabic website.

The ICRC granted hundreds of television, press and radio interviews, as it was frequently called upon to provide information on IHL and the organization's regional activities for many of the approximately 1,500 international and regional media representatives who converged on Amman at the onset of the war in Iraq. It supplied video footage to several international television broadcasters highlighting the network of ICRC logistics bases set up throughout the region to respond to the Iraq crisis.

- a plan of action was drawn up to incorporate IHL teaching in secondary-school curricula
- discussions were pursued with the Ministry of Education and university deans and professors aimed at introducing the teaching of IHL as a separate subject at Jordanian universities
- university students studying IHL and human rights were briefed on the ICRC's mandate and activities and on basic humanitarian principles
- 15 universities were provided with IHL documentation
- 30 Jordanian judges attended a workshop on IHL and human rights law as part of a campaign to promote the incorporation of IHL into national legislation

included assistance to develop the National Society's new centralized dissemination department and training sessions for volunteers in local branches.

The National Society's capacity to spread knowledge and understanding of IHL throughout Jordanian society continued to increase. As an example, ICRC-trained Jordanian Red Crescent workers conducted 15 dissemination sessions in schools in various parts of the country between October and December.

Seminars were held to train National Society volunteers in the use of satellite phones, the ICRC tracing website, the Red Cross message system and other ICRC services designed to restore family links. The trained volunteers joined ICRC teams in border camps working on behalf of Iraqis and third-country nationals fleeing the war and insecurity in Iraq.

National Society volunteers also attended ICRC workshops on promoting awareness of the dangers of explosive remnants of war before being assigned to risk-education tasks in the border camps. An awareness briefing was also given to staff of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In November, a volunteer trained by the ICRC gave presentations on explosive remnants of war to more than 120 officers and staff from the Civil Defense Directorate.

- ICRC-trained Jordan Red Crescent volunteers helped thousands of people in Jordan, as well as hundreds of people displaced by the war in Iraq located in border camps, to restore contact with family members in that country via ICRC satellite phone and Red Cross message services
- Jordan Red Crescent volunteers were trained to carry out mine-risk education work in border camps set up to provide shelter for persons fleeing the war in Iraq

## **NATIONAL SOCIETY**

### **Building capacity**

The Jordan National Red Crescent Society was provided with further financial, training and technical support to strengthen its dissemination and tracing capacities and reinforce its role in efforts to incorporate IHL into national legislation. This support



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC office

# lebanon

The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since 1967. It focuses on gaining access to people detained by the Lebanese authorities, in accordance with its mandate. Securing access to Israeli nationals held by Hezbollah has been another ICRC concern, as is the issue of the numerous persons still missing after Lebanon's civil war and Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon. Since the end of the occupation in May 2000, the ICRC has continued to monitor the situation of civilians living in the former occupied zone, particularly refugees returning from Israel to where they had fled when the occupation ended. Restoring and maintaining contact between people separated from members of their families is another priority for the ICRC in Lebanon. Promoting IHL and working with the Lebanese Red Cross Society in the fields of first aid and mine awareness are other important aspects of the ICRC's work in the country.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**567,286**

Assistance

**198,249**

Preventive action

**619,740**

Cooperation with National Societies

**309,285**

General

**0**

► **1,694,560**

of which: Overheads **103,424**

## PERSONNEL

**1** expatriates

**10** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Talks continued with the Lebanese authorities on starting detention visits in Lebanon in accordance with a government decree adopted in 2002 which grants the ICRC access to all places of detention in the country. The ICRC also pursued efforts to gain access to three Israeli soldiers and one Israeli civilian captured by Hezbollah in 2000.
- The ICRC monitored the situation of returned Lebanese civilians who had fled to Israel from southern Lebanon after Israeli forces withdrew from the region in 2000 to ensure that they were not subjected to discrimination and enjoyed acceptable living conditions.
- Lebanese detainees were repatriated under ICRC auspices upon their release in Israel, as were the remains of Lebanese nationals who had died in Israel. Material aid was provided to particularly needy families whose breadwinner relatives were detained in Israel.
- The Red Cross message (RCM) service enabled families in Lebanon to maintain contact and exchange official documents with relatives detained in Israel or still living there since they fled southern Lebanon in 2000.
- An ICRC response capacity was maintained to meet emergency needs in the event of a sudden major escalation of cross-border violence between Hezbollah militants and Israeli forces.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, sporadic clashes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces continued to destabilize the lives of civilians in southern Lebanon and northern Israel and to raise fears of an escalation of the violence.

Intermittent Israeli-Hezbollah skirmishes persisted following the end of Israel's 22-year occupation of southern Lebanon in May 2000, after which Hezbollah considerably increased its presence in the region. The major flashpoint of the violence remained the disputed Israeli-occupied Shebaa Farms area claimed by Lebanon and which Israel captured during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Regular Israeli surveillance flights over Lebanon frequently drew anti-aircraft fire from Hezbollah positions, often prompting reprisal air raids by Israel. The hostilities occasionally resulted in civilian casualties and damage to civilian property on both sides of the border.

Media reports of a possible exchange of prisoners between Lebanon and Israel increased amid indications that both sides were close to an agreement on the issue. Meanwhile, Lebanese nationals who fled to Israel after it ended its occupation of southern Lebanon continued to return home. By the end of 2003, more than half of the estimated 6,500 Lebanese nationals who went to Israel at the time had returned to Lebanon. Some faced arrest upon their return on charges of membership of the former Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army.

Acts of violence against mainly Western targets in Beirut were again reported. In late

2003 a number of men were imprisoned after being found guilty of charges related to bomb attacks on Western fast-food restaurants in Lebanon and the Lebanese authorities announced that they had foiled a plot to assassinate the United States ambassador.

Violence also persisted between rival factions in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon where some 400,000 people – many of whom have been in the camps for more than 50 years – continued to live in difficult conditions exacerbated by limited educational and employment prospects.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of civilians living in the former occupied zone, particularly Lebanese nationals returning from Israel, where they had fled following Israel's withdrawal in 2000. The ICRC maintained its ability to meet needs in the event of a sudden escalation of the cross-border violence that has persisted intermittently since Israel ended its occupation.

The impact of cross-border Israeli-Hezbollah violence on civilians on both sides of the border was documented and representations were made to the relevant parties, as deemed appropriate.

Talks continued with the Lebanese authorities to secure access to all places of detention in Lebanon, in accordance with the ICRC's mandate and in implementation of a government decree adopted in 2002 authorizing such visits.

Representations also continued to be made to the relevant parties with a view to gaining access to three Israeli soldiers and one Israeli civilian captured by Hezbollah in 2000. As 2003 drew to a close, the German government was reportedly acting as a mediator in negotiations between Hezbollah and the Israeli government focused on a possible exchange of prisoners between them.

Material aid was furnished to particularly needy families with relatives detained in Israel. Certificates of detention were forwarded to those families to qualify them for government assistance. As in past years, the ICRC supervised the repatriation of Lebanese nationals upon their release from detention and the remains of Lebanese who had died in Israel. The remains of two Hezbollah fighters who died in clashes with Israeli forces in 1998 and 1999 were also repatriated to Lebanon under ICRC auspices in August.

As in past years, Red Cross messages enabled families in Lebanon to maintain contact and exchange official documents with loved ones either detained in Israel or living there since they had fled southern Lebanon after the Israeli withdrawal.

Support was maintained for vocational training programmes organized for Palestinian refugees with limited prospects to learn a trade and find work. Palestinian amputees continued to receive ICRC-made artificial limbs not available to them through the Lebanese health-care system.

The ICRC endeavoured to assess the scope of issues regarding persons unaccounted for in Lebanon as a consequence of past conflict and occupation. It sought to initiate a process with the Lebanese authorities of identifying human remains discovered in the country in order to resolve cases of missing persons.

Further steps were taken to promote the introduction of international humanitarian law (IHL) into training for Lebanese magistrates and diplomats following its incorporation into training for the Lebanese armed and security forces. Measures were also taken to accelerate the introduction of IHL into the curriculum of Lebanese law faculties and to integrate the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into secondary school courses.

The ICRC strove to help strengthen the first-aid network of the Lebanese Red Cross Society and its programme to raise public awareness of the dangers represented by explosive remnants of war that still contaminated some parts of the country.

As part of efforts to promote more widespread knowledge of IHL principles and the ICRC's mandate and activities, contact was stepped up with the media, with academic circles and with other influential circles with a view to better acquainting the general public with IHL-related issues. There were also contacts with militant groups such as Hezbollah to promote greater understanding of IHL and the ICRC mandate. Promoting respect for the red cross/red crescent emblem was another priority.

## CIVILIANS

### Protecting the civilian population

The ICRC monitored the impact of cross-border hostilities between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants on the civilian populations of southern Lebanon and northern Israel and made representations to the parties concerned, as deemed appropriate.

In cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC maintained a capacity to meet emergency needs among the civilian population in the event of a sudden intensification of cross-border hostilities. The organization also continued to monitor the resettlement and reintegration of Lebanese families as they returned to their homes from Israel, where they had lived in self-imposed exile since the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000. Ad hoc assistance was provided in hardship cases.

### Assistance for Palestinian refugees

The nearly 400,000 Palestinian refugees living in crowded and often unsanitary camps throughout Lebanon continued to have only limited access to employment, higher education and vocational training. Consequently, although many had lived in the country for more than 50 years, most Palestinian refugees remained unable to enter the mainstream of Lebanese society and were still dependent on outside aid.

The ICRC therefore continued to sponsor hundreds of young Palestinians living in various refugee camps to take part in vocational training programmes.

### Safeguarding family links

Families in Lebanon were able to maintain contact by means of Red Cross messages with loved ones either living in self-imposed exile or detained in Israel. The ICRC also remained the only channel through which family members in Lebanon and Israel were able to exchange official papers such as power-of-attorney documents and birth, death and marriage certificates. Representations were made to the Lebanese authorities with regard to delays in forwarding RCMs and official documents as a result of official censorship and/or confiscation.

For families with relatives detained in Israel, aid continued to supplement Lebanese government allowances, which they received after presenting the ICRC detention certificates issued annually.

As in past years, the remains of Lebanese nationals who died in Israel were repatriated under ICRC auspices and handed over to their families for burial.

### Clarifying the fate of missing persons

A significant number of people remained unaccounted for in Lebanon as a result of past conflict and occupation. No major progress was registered on this issue in 2003 although the ICRC encouraged the Lebanese authorities to initiate a process of identifying human remains discovered in Lebanon.

The ICRC also did its utmost to maintain interest among key sectors of Lebanese civil society – including political, academic and student circles – regarding the issue of missing persons, and supported efforts by non-governmental organizations and other relevant organizations to address the problem.

- ▶ the ICRC monitored the impact of Israeli-Hezbollah cross-border violence on civilians and made representations to the relevant authorities whenever deemed appropriate; a response capacity was maintained to meet emergency needs in the event of a major escalation of cross-border violence
- ▶ contacts were maintained and official documents were exchanged between families in Lebanon and relatives either detained or living in Israel via the Red Cross message service
- ▶ assistance was provided to particularly needy families of Lebanese nationals detained in Israel
- ▶ the ICRC sponsored the participation of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in vocational training programmes
- ▶ Lebanese nationals released from detention in Israel, as well as the remains of Lebanese civilians who died in Israel and Hezbollah fighters killed in fighting with Israeli forces, were repatriated under ICRC auspices

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### Gaining access to places of detention in Lebanon

Talks continued with the Lebanese authorities aimed at securing access to all places of detention in Lebanon in accordance with a decree issued by the Lebanese government in late 2002. However, these visits had still not started at the end of 2003.

- ▶ the ICRC pursued talks with the Lebanese authorities aimed at implementation of a government decree granting access to all places of detention
- ▶ Lebanese nationals were repatriated under ICRC auspices following their release from detention in Israel

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Fitting Palestinian amputees with artificial limbs

Palestinian amputees unable to receive prostheses through the Lebanese health-care system remained dependent on ICRC support for their artificial limbs under a programme that began in 1982.

Urgently required medical supplies were also furnished to Palestinian hospitals and medical centres in Beirut, the Bekaa Valley and in southern and northern Lebanon.

- ▶ Palestinian amputees received prosthetic fittings not otherwise available to them
- ▶ ICRC medical supplies were provided to 8 Palestinian hospitals and medical centres

## AUTHORITIES

### Incorporating IHL into national legislation

The ICRC sought to encourage the Lebanese authorities to incorporate IHL into national legislation and to accede to humanitarian treaties to which Lebanon is not yet party.

Close contact was maintained with government ministries with a view to creating a national committee on the implementation of IHL. A proposal to create an IHL committee was conveyed by the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Justice for further consideration.

In order to promote wider knowledge and understanding of IHL, the ICRC encouraged regular participation by Lebanese representatives in regional meetings on this subject organized by the ICRC, often in conjunction with the League of Arab States. The director-general of the Lebanese Ministry of Justice attended one such meeting held in Rabat, Morocco in October. In the same month a seminar on IHL was organized for around 60 judges at the Institute of Judicial Studies in Beirut, and another was held for more than 100 lawyers at the Lebanese Bar Association in conjunction with the Institute of Human Rights.

- ▶ efforts were stepped up to encourage the incorporation of IHL into national legislation
- ▶ seminars on IHL were organized for some 60 Lebanese judges and over 100 lawyers

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Integrating IHL into military planning and orders

Following the incorporation of IHL instruction into military training at all levels, including the Command and Staff College, steps were taken to integrate IHL into military planning and standing orders.

ICRC-trained armed forces instructors organized two IHL workshops at the Command and Staff College for Lebanese and Syrian officers. The Lebanese armed forces sponsored the participation of an

army colonel in a course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in San Remo, Italy.

Regular meetings were held with the armed forces director of training and ICRC support was provided, upon request, to help sustain IHL training in the military. A dialogue was also maintained with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon, which mans border posts between Lebanon and Israel, in order to heighten awareness of IHL and the role and mandate of the ICRC. In addition, contacts were developed with armed groups such as Hezbollah to promote greater understanding of and respect for IHL and to make representations whenever deemed appropriate regarding violations of IHL during military operations.

- ▶ steps were taken to incorporate IHL into military planning and standing orders following its integration into training for Lebanese armed forces

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### Launch of the "Woman Facing War" study in Lebanon

In mid-June, Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah of Jordan and the wife of the Lebanese president, Mrs Andr   Lahoud, officiated at the launch in Lebanon of the Arabic version of the "Women facing War" study prepared by the ICRC.

At the launch ceremony, organized in conjunction with the Lebanese American University and the Lebanese Red Cross, Queen Rania presented awards to five students of the university for their outstanding artistic work based on the "Women facing War" theme. These included posters displayed at a one-week ICRC photo and video exhibition on the same topic held to mark the launch of the study. A presentation on the study was made for representatives of Arab States and UN agencies at a meeting in Beirut of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which focused on gender issues. A summary of the study was placed on the Commission's website.

### Incorporating EHL into school curricula

The integration of the EHL programme into school curricula remained a priority and contacts to this end were stepped up with the Ministry of Education, in particular its Pedagogical Centre for Research and Development.

In October, four representatives from the Ministry and the Pedagogical Centre attended a regional ICRC workshop on EHL in Amman, Jordan. Later the same month 25 Ministry and Centre staff attended a round-table on EHL organized by the ICRC in cooperation with the Centre. Participants proposed a plan for introducing EHL teaching in Lebanese schools. A follow-up meeting in December with the head of the Pedagogical Centre resulted in plans to prepare an agreement on cooperation in the field of EHL to be signed by both parties in 2004.

A two-day workshop on EHL was held for 35 volunteers from 10 Lebanese Red Cross youth sections.

### Teaching IHL at universities

Relations were strengthened with universities with a view to introducing IHL as a separate subject in law faculties and political science programmes. As part of this process, professors from four Beirut universities participated in an ICRC workshop in Lattakia, Syria and the head of the Beirut International College philosophy faculty was invited to attend a similar ICRC workshop in Tehran.

Furthermore, agreement was reached with the League of Arab States' Centre for Legal and Legislative Research to organize an annual regional course on IHL in Beirut. The first such course was scheduled for May 2004.

Regular briefings and interviews were given to the media regarding the ICRC mandate, its working procedures and current activities.

- the Arabic version of the ICRC "Women facing War" study was launched in Lebanon
- progress was made towards incorporating the EHL programme into Lebanese school curricula and teaching IHL as a separate subject at Lebanese universities

Support was also provided for the National Society's mine-risk education programme in response to the growing number of victims of explosive remnants of war following the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon in 2000. The ICRC helped the Society to organize training workshops for new volunteers promoting mine-awareness and took part in regular meetings of the National Demining Office as well as a training workshop on mine-risk education organized by it in conjunction with USAID.

The Lebanese Red Cross has a long history of providing first-aid, ambulance and other health-related services throughout the country and has a strong tradition of volunteer work. The Society has been undergoing a process of change to open up membership to all citizens and to make the organization more representative of Lebanon as a whole. In 2003, the ICRC worked closely with the International Federation to promote institutional development of the Society within the framework of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's values and principles.

- financial and technical support was maintained for the Society's nationwide network of first-aid centres and its mine-risk education programme
- material aid and training was provided to IHL instructors

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

### Support for Red Cross first-aid and ambulance services

In close conjunction with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC strove to increase the operational capacity of the Lebanese Red Cross. This mainly took the form of technical and financial assistance for first-aid and ambulance services and programmes to spread knowledge of IHL.



ICRC delegation

# syria

In Syria, the ICRC acts as a neutral intermediary in matters of humanitarian concern regarding the Syrian population living in the part of the Golan occupied by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The ICRC facilitates travel by Syrian students and pilgrims living in the occupied Golan to Syria proper for study and religious purposes and arranges for engaged couples separated by the demarcation line to get married in the separation zone. It furthermore pursues efforts to persuade the parties concerned to allow a resumption of meetings between family members separated by the conflict with Israel that were discontinued in 1981 after Israel annexed the part of the Golan that it occupied in 1967. The ICRC also works to spread knowledge of international humanitarian law and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in close cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**177,500**

Assistance

**73,767**

Preventive action

**617,855**

Cooperation with National Societies

**93,425**

General

**0**

► **962,547**

of which: Overheads **58,747**

## PERSONNEL

**2** expatriates

**9** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- The ICRC operated a logistics and supply centre in Syria as part of a regional network of bases set up to support ICRC operations in Iraq.
- ICRC tracing and communications services enabled Iraqi refugees and Syrian nationals to locate and restore contact with family members deprived of their freedom or resident in Iraq.
- Under ICRC auspices, Syrian nationals were repatriated following their release from detention in Iraq.
- The emergency-response capacity of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent was reinforced to meet the need for humanitarian aid arising from the war in Iraq.
- The ICRC facilitated travel for Syrian nationals between the Israeli-occupied Golan and Syria proper and issued travel documents to refugees in Syria seeking repatriation or resettlement in third countries.
- The ICRC provided technical and financial support for a prosthetic/orthotic centre for disabled Palestinians run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Damascus.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, Syria remained generally calm despite the proximity of hostilities in neighbouring Iraq and increased tension with Israel after it carried out its first air strike inside Syrian territory in more than three decades.

Syrian armed forces were placed on a heightened state of alert in October after the Israeli attack, which targeted what Syria said was a civilian site and not a training camp for Palestinian militants as claimed by Israel.

The bombing came amid mounting threats of political and economic sanctions against Syria by the United States, which accused the country of harbouring alleged terrorist groups and developing weapons of mass destruction. Syria strongly denied the charges.

Prospects for an early resumption of Israeli-Syrian peace talks on the issue of Israel's continuing occupation of parts of the Syrian Golan overrun by its forces in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, and annexed by Israel in 1981, remained uncertain. The talks collapsed in early 2000 and both sides have so far failed to agree on a starting point from which they might resume.

Meanwhile, direct contact between the more than 19,000 Syrian residents of the Israeli-occupied Golan and family members among the estimated half a million Golanese living in Syria proper remained restricted, except in certain specific cases facilitated by the ICRC.

The massive influx of refugees that many had predicted as a result of the war in Iraq did not materialize. Only a few hundred Iraqi refugees and third-country nationals were registered in border refugee and transit camps set up by the Syrian authorities and international humanitarian organizations prior to the conflict.

## ICRC ACTION

In 2003, the ICRC pursued its mandate to monitor compliance with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention applicable to the Syrian civilian population living in the part of the Golan occupied by Israel since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Particular emphasis was placed on preserving at least a minimum level of contact between the more than 19,000 Syrians living in the Israeli-occupied Golan and their families in Syria proper within the limits imposed by the Israeli authorities. A concerted dialogue was maintained with the authorities concerned to bring about a resumption of meetings between Syrians living in the occupied Golan and relatives who fled the region to Syrian-controlled areas after it was overrun by Israeli forces in 1967. These family meetings were discontinued in 1981 when Israel annexed the part of the Golan that it first occupied in 1967 and have not taken place since then.

As in past years, the ICRC supervised operations that enabled Syrian students and pilgrims in the occupied Golan to travel to Syria proper for study and religious purposes. It also enabled future marriage partners living on opposite sides of the United Nations-controlled demarcation line between the occupied Golan and Syria proper to meet and be married in the separation zone, and arranged for the exchange of official documents between the two locations.

Tracing activities increased in response to requests for information from Syrian nationals and Iraqi refugees in Syria concerning relatives either unaccounted for or deprived of their freedom in Iraq. The ICRC also continued to enable Syrian nationals and Palestinian refugees living in Syria to maintain contact with relatives detained by Israel. Furthermore, Syrian civilian internees were repatriated under ICRC auspices upon their release in Iraq after the ICRC had ensured that they wished to return home of their own free will.

Demand increased for ICRC travel documents to facilitate the resettlement of Iraqi and other refugees in third countries. The ICRC remained in close contact with destination-country embassies and with the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to coordinate the resettlement process.

The ICRC continued to provide technical and financial support for a prosthetic/

orthotic centre treating disabled Palestinians run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Damascus. The organization also maintained its support for a Syrian Arab Red Crescent campaign to raise awareness of the danger posed by the explosive remnants of war that still litter some parts of the country.

The promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) in Syrian government and civil society circles and its incorporation into national legislation, school and university teaching curricula, and training programmes of the Syrian armed forces remained key priorities. In pursuit of these objectives the ICRC organized, for the first time ever in the Arab world, a regional course on IHL for law professors in Lattakia, Syria. It also convened an international symposium on IHL in Damascus, which was attended by judges from the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia as well as legal experts from various Arab and European countries.

Prior to the outbreak of full-scale war in Iraq, an ICRC logistics and supply base was set up near the Iraqi-Syrian border to provide support for ICRC relief activities in Iraq. Several cross-border relief convoys dispatched from the base delivered humanitarian aid to various locations in Iraq.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family contacts

ICRC tracing and communications services provided many Iraqi refugees and Syrian nationals with their only means to trace and restore contact with family members living in Iraq after the onset of major hostilities there.

Satellite-telephone and Red Cross message (RCM) services were set up in two border refugee camps run by the National Society and in a UNHCR-run camp to enable Iraqi refugees and third-country nationals fleeing the war to restore contact with family members in Iraq and elsewhere. People anxious for news of relatives in Iraq were also able to register their names on an ICRC tracing website established specifically for the crisis.

A number of tracing requests from families in Syria were processed to establish the fate or whereabouts of persons reported missing in Iraq. Many such cases were resolved after the ICRC located the people concerned during visits to places of detention in Iraq.

A major effort was made to preserve at least a minimum level of contact between the more than 19,000 Syrian inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied Golan and their families who fled or were expelled from the region after it was overrun by Israeli forces in 1967. In particular, the ICRC pursued efforts to bring about resumption of regular family meetings between members of this community and their relatives in Syria proper.

The ICRC supervised operations that enabled students in the occupied Golan to travel to Syria proper to attend university, and to return home during academic holidays or upon completion of their studies. Similarly, pilgrims from the occupied Golan travelled to Syria proper under ICRC auspices to visit holy sites and perform their religious duties. The ICRC also enabled future marriage partners living on opposite sides of the United Nations-controlled demarcation line to meet and be married, and arranged for people requiring emergency medical attention to be transferred from the occupied Golan to Syria proper.

Syrian nationals also continued to rely on the ICRC to arrange for the exchange of official papers, such as power-of-attorney documents and marriage, birth and death certificates, between the occupied Golan and Syria proper.

### Support for ICRC operations in Iraq

Prior to the war in Iraq, the ICRC set up a logistics and supply base in the Deir-ez-Zor border region where a fleet of trucks was stationed and substantial quantities of food, medical and other supplies were stockpiled in anticipation of potential needs in Iraq. A dozen local staff were hired for logistics, protection and administrative work, and several cross-border convoys carrying essential supplies were dispatched from the base to various locations in Iraq. ICRC humanitarian convoys were still being sent into Iraq from Syria as the year ended.

- more than 650 tonnes of food and other basic relief items, as well as substantial quantities of medical supplies, were stockpiled at a base set up for cross-border relief operations into Iraq
- hundreds of Syrian nationals and Iraqi refugees were able to locate and restore contact with relatives in Iraq through ICRC tracing and communications services
- the emergency-response capacity of the National Society was upgraded to meet increased needs arising from the war in Iraq

- ▶ efforts were pursued to resume meetings between Syrian family members in the Golan and relatives now living in Syria proper who fled or were expelled from the part of the Golan that Israel occupied in 1967
- ▶ travel to Syrian-controlled areas for academic and religious purposes was arranged for hundreds of Syrian students and pilgrims in the Israeli-occupied Golan; wedding ceremonies in the separation zone were arranged for several future marriage partners living on opposite sides of the Golan/Syria proper demarcation line
- ▶ technical and financial support were provided for a prosthetic/orthotic centre caring for disabled Palestinians run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society in Damascus
- ▶ 550 travel documents were issued to facilitate the resettlement of 842 Iraqi and other refugees in third countries

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC tracing and RCM services enabled Syrian nationals, as well as Iraqi and Palestinian refugees to locate and re-establish or maintain links with relatives detained or interned in Iraq and Israel. A number of people reported by relatives in Syria as missing in Iraq were traced during ICRC visits to places of detention there. Their families in Syria were informed of their whereabouts and given the possibility of exchanging RCMs with them.

A number of Syrian civilian internees were repatriated under ICRC auspices upon their release from detention in Iraq after being interviewed to ensure that they wished to return home of their own free will.

Certificates of detention were provided to former Syrian, Iraqi and Palestinian detainees living in Syria in cases where they had not been issued by the detaining authorities concerned in other countries.

- ▶ 1,570 RCMs were exchanged and 947 ICRC satellite-telephone calls were made between Iraqi refugees and Syrian nationals and their relatives deprived of their freedom or resident in Iraq
- ▶ 13 Syrian nationals were repatriated under ICRC auspices after their release from civilian detention in Iraq
- ▶ 39 cases of persons reported missing in Iraq by their relatives in Syria were solved by the ICRC
- ▶ the RCM network maintained contact

between Syrian and Palestinian families in Syria and relatives detained in Israel

- ▶ the ICRC facilitated the transfer of Syrian government material assistance and family financial support to relatives detained in Israel

## WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC remained committed to alleviating the shortage in Syria of prosthetic/ orthotic facilities to fit Palestinian refugees with artificial limbs and provide them with rehabilitation. It maintained its technical and financial support for a centre offering these services run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society.

- ▶ technical and financial support was maintained for a prosthetic/orthotic centre providing Palestinian refugees with artificial limbs and physical rehabilitation services

## AUTHORITIES

The cooperation of the Syrian authorities was crucial to ICRC contingency planning as the organization prepared to support its operations in Iraq from a logistics and supply base near the border.

Discussions continued with the authorities concerned on launching a study on the compatibility of Syrian legislation with IHL, and on Syria's adherence to international treaties to which it is not yet party.

The ICRC followed deliberations on Syria's ratification of the ICC Statute, which it signed in 2000.

"The International Criminal Court and Enlarging the Scope of IHL" was the theme of a symposium organized by the ICRC and the University of Damascus in December. The event brought together some 20 legal experts from Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom, and judges from the ICC and the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia. Opening speeches were made by the ICC president and Syria's minister for higher education. Discussion topics included the impact of the ICC on IHL implementation, the distinction between combatants and non-combatants and between international and non-international armed conflicts, the definition of acts that constitute crimes, and the mandate of the ICC.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Coordination with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force enabled students and pilgrims to travel across the demarcation line and weddings to take place in the separation zone under ICRC auspices.

The ICRC sought to reinforce dialogue with the Ministry of Defence on incorporating IHL into the training programmes of the Syrian armed and security forces.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

### IHL teaching in schools and universities

In accordance with recommendations made during the first regional meeting of Arab educationalists held in Rabat in 2002, the Syrian Ministry of Education introduced measures to incorporate the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme into secondary-school curricula. It formed a committee to study the programme and adapt it to the Syrian education system. In cooperation with the ICRC and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the ministry organized training for educational supervisors and social sciences teachers from several schools chosen to use the programme on a trial basis.

Four officials of the Ministry of Education participated in a second regional meeting of Arab educationalists on implementing the EHL programme in Arab education systems, which was held under the auspices of Jordan's education ministry in Amman in October.

Two IHL seminars were conducted for senior staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and another was organized for staff of the State-run Journalism Training Institute. For the first time in the Arab world, the ICRC organized a regional course on IHL for law professors, which was held in Lattakia, Syria, and attended by 38 people from 16 countries.

Documentation on IHL was made available to the media and to students of international law.

- ▶ a workshop on the EHL programme was held for national education officials and teachers from schools introducing the programme
- ▶ the ICRC organized its first-ever regional IHL course for law professors in the Arab world

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Against the backdrop of the looming war in Iraq in early 2003, the ICRC focused on upgrading the capacity of Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff and volunteers to carry out tracing activities and restore contact between family members separated by conflict.

ICRC-trained National Society staff and volunteers subsequently helped to collect and distribute RCMs and operate an ICRC satellite-telephone service to enable Iraqi refugees and third-country nationals located in three refugee camps inside Syria's border to restore contact with their families in Iraq.

- Syrian Arab Red Crescent tracing services were upgraded to enable Iraqi refugees and third-country nationals who fled the war in Iraq to locate their families.
- ICRC-trained Syrian Arab Red Crescent staff and volunteers helped to collect and distribute RCMs and operate an ICRC satellite-telephone service to enable Iraqi refugees and third-country nationals to restore contact with their families



ICRC delegation ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

# yemen

In Yemen the ICRC is working to resume visits to people deprived of their freedom in all places of detention in the country in order to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention. It provides key support for programmes run in cooperation with the Yemeni Red Crescent to aid vulnerable groups of detainees such as women and the mentally ill, and contributes to the development of facilities in Yemen to care for physically disabled people. ICRC tracing and communications networks enable refugees in Yemen to locate and restore contact with relatives in their home countries and furnish the only means available for Yemeni families to re-establish and maintain ties with relatives detained abroad. Another priority is to promote knowledge of IHL and to encourage its incorporation into national legislation, into university and school curricula, and into training for the armed and police forces. The ICRC also works to increase understanding of its mandate and working procedures. It has been present in Yemen since the outbreak of the civil war there in 1962.

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**365,450**

Assistance

**864,790**

Preventive action

**316,884**

Cooperation with National Societies

**221,603**

General

**0**

► **1,768,727**

of which: Overheads **107,951**

## PERSONNEL

**5** expatriates

**15** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Thousands of RCMs were exchanged between refugees in Yemen and their relatives left behind and between Yemeni nationals detained abroad and their families in Yemen.
- Travel documents were issued to refugees seeking resettlement in third countries and certificates of detention were transmitted to former detainees seeking refugee status in Yemen.
- Medical care and vocational training were given to female detainees and support was maintained for mentally ill detainees in central prisons under an ICRC programme that was partially handed over to the Yemeni health authorities in the course of the year.
- Theoretical and practical training for technicians was provided in the limb-fitting and rehabilitation centre in Sana'a and the newly established facility in Mukalla, both of which continued to be supplied with ICRC materials for the production of artificial limbs.
- Efforts were pursued to incorporate IHL into national legislation, the national education system and training for the Yemeni armed forces.

## CONTEXT

In 2003, the Yemeni armed forces stepped up security operations to counter continuing armed attacks against government and Western targets while the government sought to end the violence by promoting dialogue with militant Islamic groups and tribal leaders.

A large-scale military offensive was launched in the summer against a mountainous militant stronghold 120 km northeast of Aden after an attack on a military convoy distributing medical supplies in the region.

An undisclosed number of arrests were also made relating to several high-profile political assassinations and attacks against Western targets in 2002, the bombing of the USS Cole off Aden in 2000, and attacks allegedly planned against Western embassies in Sana'a. However, nearly 150 detainees suspected of links with the al-Qaeda network were reportedly released under a presidential pardon in November, during Ramadan, after pledging to renounce acts of violence. The release underscored national reconciliation efforts by the government to heal rifts in Yemen's deeply fractured society stemming from past civil war and decades of internal violence.

Another attempt to introduce legislation banning the right to carry or trade in weapons and explosives failed to gain parliamentary approval as a result of stiff resistance from tribal and business sectors, leaving most males in possession of a variety of firearms.

The ruling General People's Congress party of President Ali Abdullah Saleh retained a comfortable parliamentary majority in elections held in April after a campaign marred by political violence in which at least 10 people were killed and 25 injured.

As in past years, a steady stream of refugees continued to enter the country, mostly from the conflict-ridden Horn of Africa. Yemen has given shelter to tens of thousands of mostly Somali refugees in recent years and hosts the Arabian Peninsula's largest non-Palestinian refugee population.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC focused on resuming visits to all people deprived of their freedom in Yemen in order to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, in accordance with the organization's mandate.

The ICRC suspended visits early in 2003 after being informed by the Yemeni authorities that they would be restricted to central prisons only. As 2003 drew to a close, the ICRC was still engaged in talks with the authorities concerned to secure access to all places of detention in the country without restriction.

Aid programmes were maintained for vulnerable groups of detainees, primarily women and the mentally ill, to provide them with improved medical care, as well as vocational training and literacy courses for women in prison to enhance their prospects of reintegration into society following release.

Technical and material support was expanded for State-run limb-fitting centres caring for large numbers of physically disabled people. The ICRC also started a three-year teaching programme in these centres to increase the skills of technicians producing artificial limbs by means of ICRC technology.

Progress was made towards incorporating international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation, into the training for the armed and police forces and into school and university curricula.

ICRC tracing services helped refugees in Yemen to locate and restore contact with relatives in their home countries, mostly in the Horn of Africa. Red Cross messages also enabled Yemeni families to restore ties with relatives held in United States detention facilities in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay. Significant numbers of Yemeni families and Iraqis living in Yemen were also able to locate and re-establish contact with relatives in Iraq through the ICRC tracing unit.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring family links

Throughout the year tracing was an important feature of ICRC work in Yemen, where significant numbers of people, mainly from countries in the Horn of Africa racked by war and internal violence, continued to seek refuge.

For many refugees, ICRC tracing services provided the only means of finding and contacting their families at home. Tracing staff was particularly active at the UNHCR refugee camp in Kharaz and in refugee community centres in Mukalla and Sana'a.

Red Cross travel documents were issued to facilitate the resettlement of refugees in third countries and certificates of detention were obtained from ICRC delegations abroad for former detainees seeking refugee status in Yemen.

- 5,600 RCMs were exchanged between refugees in Yemen and relatives at home
- 20 ICRC travel documents were issued for people in Yemen seeking resettlement in third countries
- 31 detention certificates were transmitted to people seeking refugee status in Yemen

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

### ICRC suspends visits to detainees in Yemen

The ICRC suspended visits to places of detention run by the Ministry of the Interior after it was informed by the Ministry at the end of 2002 that such visits would thereafter be restricted to central prisons only. As 2003 drew to a close, the ICRC was pursuing talks with the Ministry in order to gain access to all detention centres under its authority.

As for places of detention administered by the Political Security department, a first series of visits started in August 2002 and was completed in March 2003. In July, the ICRC was granted access to detention facilities in Sana'a run by the Political Security department but had to interrupt these visits owing to a lack of understanding of its universally applied working procedures. Talks with the authorities resumed in December to clarify the situation.

### Breaking the isolation of women in prison

An ICRC programme to aid women detainees continued to be run in conjunction with the Yemen Red Crescent Society in the three central prisons in Hodeida, Dhamar and Al-Mahwit, and new agreements were being planned with Society branches to extend the programme to other parts of the country.

In 2003, the ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent promoted a new project to market items produced by women in prison as a

means of financing their welfare. Together with medical staff from the National Society, Red Crescent volunteers monitored medical care provided to female detainees and their children.

As part of a plan to extend the "Women in Prison" programme, the possibility was studied jointly with the Red Crescent of establishing sewing facilities and literacy courses in the women's sections of central prisons in Taiz and Amran. Sewing and literacy courses were organized for women detainees in three central prisons to break their isolation and enhance their social reintegration prospects, while new professional sewing machines were delivered to Hodeida and Dhamar central prisons.

- recreational activities and literacy classes were organized for women detainees to break their isolation and enhance their social reintegration prospects

### Aiding mentally ill detainees

In the framework of a project delegated to the Netherlands Red Cross, support was maintained for hundreds of mentally ill detainees in the central prisons in Ibb, Sana'a and Taiz. Initiated in 1995, the programme is designed to ensure that these detainees have access to appropriate medical and psychiatric care and are afforded acceptable conditions of detention. In cooperation with the ICRC, the Yemen Mental Health Association, the Amin Nasher Institute for Health Science and the Salam Psychiatric Hospital offered specialized training in psychiatric care to Red Crescent volunteers and nurses involved in the project.

The process of handing over this project to the Ministry of Public Health initiated in 2002 progressed and the ICRC phase-out was completed in the Sana'a and Taiz operations in April and August 2003 respectively. (A similar phase-out was planned for the Ibb programme by the end of April 2004.) After the handover, the ICRC continued to monitor the situation in the psychiatric sections of central prisons and to draw the attention of the health authorities to specific problems whenever this was deemed appropriate.

Training in psychiatric care (including a one-year course for 30 volunteers to sustain psychiatric nursing care in Sana'a, Taz and Ibb prisons) was organized for National Society volunteers and nurses working with mentally ill detainees.

Given the suspension of visits to places of detention, the ICRC did not undertake any new prison rehabilitation projects in 2003, despite requests for such assistance from the Prison Service. Instead, the ICRC repeatedly stressed that such assistance could not be dissociated from full and unconditional access to all detention centres in Yemen. Nevertheless, in order to help the central prison in Hodeida cope with an outbreak of scabies, the ICRC provided emergency aid in the form of basic hygiene items and medicines. In recent years the ICRC has repaired and maintained prison water and sanitation facilities, and rebuilt prison bread ovens.

- ▶ training in psychiatric care was organized for National Society volunteers and nurses working with mentally ill detainees

### Tracing Yemeni detainees abroad

Several tracing requests were opened for Yemeni families seeking news of relatives missing abroad. Some cases were resolved after ICRC delegates had located the people concerned during visits to detainees/internees in other countries. The Red Cross message service helped contact to be restored.

ICRC tracing services also enabled many Yemeni families and Iraqis living in Yemen to trace and re-establish contact with relatives either detained/interned or otherwise located in Iraq during the most intensive phase of the war there, when normal communications between the two countries were severely disrupted.

A Yemeni national was repatriated under ICRC auspices upon his release from detention in Iraq.

- ▶ some 700 RCMs were exchanged in 2003 between Yemeni families and relatives detained/interned abroad (Afghanistan/Guantanamo Bay)
- ▶ 8 new tracing requests were opened for Yemeni nationals reported missing in Afghanistan after 11 September 2001; 2 cases were resolved when the ICRC located the people concerned during visits to US detention facilities in Guantanamo Bay

## WOUNDED AND SICK

### Support for limb-fitting centres

ICRC polypropylene-based techniques for the production of artificial limbs were introduced in Yemen in 2001 when the technology and on-the-job training for prosthetic/orthotic technicians started at the main limb-fitting centre in Sana'a. In February 2003, two ICRC limb-fitting technicians introduced, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, a similar programme at a newly established State-run facility in Mukalla and monitored progress at the Sana'a centre.

- ▶ 431 prostheses and 2,073 orthoses were produced by ICRC-trained technicians using ICRC technology at limb-fitting centres in Sana'a and Mukalla
- ▶ Yemeni technicians were selected to follow a 3-year training course in Tanzania

## AUTHORITIES

### Promoting IHL

The ICRC continued to provide the Yemeni authorities with legal advice, information and IHL documentation in order to encourage ratification of IHL treaties and the law's incorporation into national legislation.

In conjunction with the Supreme Institute of Justice, preparations were made for a three-day workshop scheduled for January 2004 in Sana'a for 44 judges and public prosecutors to discuss the applicability of IHL in armed conflict and to review the compatibility of Yemeni legislation with IHL.

A round-table discussion on the Statute of the International Criminal Court was held in February at the joint instigation of the Yemeni parliament, the national committee for the implementation of IHL and the ICRC. It was chaired by the director of the Yemeni parliament's committee for institutional and legal affairs. Participants included representatives from other Arab national IHL committees and the Cairo-based League of Arab States. Following a recommendation by participants, the government agreed to ratify the Rome Statute and requested the Ministry of Justice to adapt national legislation accordingly.

The ICRC supplied the Yemeni parliament and the supreme committee for human rights with extensive IHL documentation, particularly regarding the Rome Statute, in order to help its members to make a

comparative study of Yemeni legislation's compatibility with IHL. In October, two Yemeni IHL experts attended an ICRC regional seminar for the legal advisers of national IHL committees, held in Rabat, Morocco. The ICRC also made a presentation on its activities and mandate in Yemen at a workshop organized for government employees by the UNHCR and the Human Rights Ministry.

- ▶ legal advice and IHL documentation were provided to the Yemeni authorities to facilitate the incorporation of IHL treaties into national legislation
- ▶ a round-table of Yemeni and international experts was held to discuss Yemen's ratification of the Rome Statute
- ▶ preparations were completed for a workshop for 44 judges and public prosecutors on the integration of IHL into Yemeni legislation

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

### Military IHL instructors study "Operations other than War"

By means of follow-up training and other measures the ICRC continued fostering the sustainability of IHL training programmes, which over the years have attained a large degree of autonomy. In May, a seminar on the ICRC study "Operations other than War" was held in conjunction with the military's Moral Guidance Department for 87 officers from various Yemeni armed forces units. The study focuses on the provisions of IHL applicable to the conduct of armed and security forces during internal security operations and peace-keeping missions.

Excerpts of the ICRC's model manual on the law of armed conflict, entitled "Fight it Right", were published in the monthly armed forces magazine *Al-Jaish* distributed free of charge to Yemeni armed forces personnel and Yemeni embassies worldwide.

- ▶ a Yemeni armed forces lieutenant-colonel participated in a course at the Institute of International Humanitarian Law in San Remo in May
- ▶ an ICRC seminar was held for 87 Yemeni military officers to promote IHL's incorporation into military training

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC pursued its goal of spreading knowledge of IHL applicable in armed conflict among decision-makers, the media and in academic circles, and encouraged them to make key aspects of the law known to the general public.

The incorporation of IHL into school and university curricula remained another ICRC priority in which notable progress was achieved during the year. Participants at a two-day round table on IHL teaching in Yemeni universities, organized by the ICRC in May, urged the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Yemeni government as a whole to include this law as a separate subject in Yemeni law studies. Among the participants were law professors from the universities of Sana'a, Aden and Taiz, and representatives of the general prosecutor's office and the national committee on IHL. ICRC publications on IHL were also supplied to the libraries of law faculties at the universities in Sana'a, Aden, Taiz and Al Hodeidah.

In another promising development the Ministry of Education gave instructions for the ICRC's "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) module to be introduced on an experimental basis in 16 schools in eight governorates by 32 teachers previously trained by the ICRC. In support of this action, a second course on EHL was held, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, for teachers in September and October at the Educational Research and Development Centre in Sana'a. Three experts from the Ministry of Education participated in the second regional meeting of educators in Amman in October.

On the occasion of an ICRC photo exhibition reflecting the suffering of women affected by armed conflict, and to mark International Women's Day, the ICRC organized a press conference in March to announce the publication in Yemen of the Arabic version of the "Women Facing War" study. In the same context, the ICRC broadened its network of contacts with local human rights non-governmental organizations to share concerns about the vulnerability of women in Yemeni society, particularly women detainees, and to exert a positive influence on public debate of women-related issues.

- 16 schools in 8 governorates were selected to introduce EHL on an experimental basis

- follow-up instruction in EHL was given to school teachers as part of a pilot project to introduce EHL into school curricula

## NATIONAL SOCIETY

Ongoing ICRC support helped develop the activities of the Yemen Red Crescent Society in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This included training to increase the Society's ability to spread knowledge of IHL, restore links between refugees and their families abroad, and strengthen its role in helping introduce IHL teaching in schools on the basis of the ICRC's EHL programme.

Red Crescent volunteers received follow-up training in psychological care for mentally ill detainees in the psychiatric sections of prisons and aid in organizing vocational and literacy training for women detainees living in complete isolation from their families and from society (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

ICRC-trained Red Crescent volunteers conducted 50 sessions to spread knowledge about the Movement and IHL for more than 1,600 people, including university instructors and government officials from various governorates. Several National Society branches also decided to include IHL teaching in their first-aid courses.

ICRC ad hoc technical and ongoing financial support contributed to the production of the bi-monthly Red Crescent Society magazine and activity reports published by various branch offices.

- ICRC-trained Red Crescent volunteers conducted 50 information sessions about the Movement and IHL for more than 1,600 people



ICRC regional delegation

# kuwait

The ICRC's presence in the region is linked to the humanitarian issues still outstanding from the Gulf war and to issues regarding detention in Kuwait and Qatar. In addition, the ICRC focuses on communication strategies with a view to promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) and its own role as a neutral intermediary in situations of armed conflict and other situations of violence. Reinforcing cooperation with the National Red Crescent Societies of the region is another priority. In 2003, Kuwait served as a key support base for ICRC operations in Iraq.

## COVERING

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**1,192,773**

Assistance

**5,378**

Preventive action

**563,562**

Cooperation with National Societies

**145,392**

General

**150,538**

► **2,057,643**

of which: Overheads **125,584**

## PERSONNEL

**17** expatriates

**24** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- Efforts were pursued to elucidate the fate of persons unaccounted for since the 1990-1991 Gulf War within the framework of the ICRC-chaired Tripartite Commission established to resolve this issue.
- Kuwait was a key support base for the ICRC's humanitarian emergency operations in Iraq.
- Contact was restored between people in the Gulf region and family members located in Iraq and relatives detained or interned abroad.
- Visits were carried out to detainees in Kuwait to monitor their treatment and living conditions; certificates of detention were issued to released prisoners without diplomatic representation in Kuwait as a consequence of the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict; a number of released detainees were repatriated under ICRC auspices.
- Travel documents were issued to foreigners without valid identity papers to facilitate their resettlement in third countries, or family reunification.
- Progress was made towards integrating IHL into national education systems and into the teaching and training programmes of the national armed forces in Gulf States.

## CONTEXT

Regional security cooperation was stepped up when full-scale war in Iraq appeared increasingly likely and after devastating suicide attacks in Saudi Arabia, which killed more than 50 people, including many foreigners.

After the outbreak of major hostilities in Iraq, Gulf countries, fearing a massive influx of Iraqi refugees, declared their borders closed to Iraqi nationals, but nevertheless allowed in Iraqi war-wounded for medical treatment and participated in the relief effort for the civilian population in Iraq.

The trend towards political reform in the region led to changes in some Gulf States. Saudi Arabia announced that elections for 14 municipal councils would be held within a year – the first elections of any kind to be held in the Kingdom since its creation in 1932. The Saudi King also granted increased powers to the Consultative Council, enabling it to initiate legislation without first obtaining his approval. In Qatar, voters approved a new constitution, which provides for a 45-member parliament with 30 elected members and the rest selected by the Emir, while in Oman the ruling Sultan extended voting rights to all citizens over the age of 21. In Kuwait, the Emir separated the post of prime minister from the role of heir to the throne for the first time since independence.

## ICRC ACTION

Fresh impetus was given to efforts to clarify the fate of persons unaccounted for since the 1990-1991 Gulf war after Iraq agreed to resume direct talks with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia for the first time in more than four years within the framework of the ICRC-chaired Tripartite Commission set up to deal with this issue.

Two meetings of the Commission and six meetings of the Sub-Committee were held under ICRC auspices and chairmanship in 2003. Between January and March representatives of Iraq's former government participated in four meetings of the Sub-Committee. After the collapse of the Iraqi government in April, the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) represented Iraq in meetings of the Commission and its Sub-Committee held later in the year. Dozens of cases investigated within the Commission framework were resolved after Kuwaiti forensic experts identified human remains exhumed from mass gravesites in Iraq.

In October, the ICRC President visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia as part of the organization's efforts to strengthen dialogue with national authorities of countries in the Arabian Peninsula on issues of mutual humanitarian concern.

Kuwait was a central link in regional support operations for ICRC humanitarian relief and protection activities inside Iraq at the height of military hostilities and the anarchy that followed. Two ICRC aircraft and a fleet of ICRC trucks were deployed in Kuwait to transport staff and supplies into Iraq. Some 50 ICRC expatriates were based in Kuwait for emergency cross-border operations.

Gulf country nationals and residents were able to restore and maintain contact with family members either detained abroad, or separated by conflict (Iraq) through the Red Cross message (RCM) network. Links were also re-established by the same means between Iraqi war-wounded evacuated to Gulf countries for medical treatment and their families in Iraq.

Prisoners without diplomatic representation in Kuwait as a consequence of the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict and detainees released in Kuwait were issued with certificates of detention, and some were repatriated under ICRC auspices. Asylum seekers and other civilians not in possession of valid identify papers received ICRC travel documents to facilitate resettlement in third countries, or family reunification.

Regular visits were made to the main detention centres in Kuwait in order to monitor treatment and conditions of detention. People deprived of their freedom visited by the ICRC included civilians without diplomatic representation in Kuwait.

Promotional activities were pursued with a view to incorporating IHL into the teaching and training programmes of the armed forces in Gulf countries and into secondary school curricula in the region.

## CIVILIANS

ICRC activities in the region were primarily linked to humanitarian issues still outstanding from the 1990-1991 Gulf War and emergency operations related to the Iraq crisis.

### Emergency support for the Iraq crisis

Prior to the war in Iraq contact was established with the coalition central-command headquarters in Qatar to obtain security clearance for ICRC ground and air transport movements inside Iraq and to secure communications frequencies in support of ICRC operations there. Authorities in the Gulf were informed of planned ICRC activities for Iraq and were supportive of ICRC programmes in the context.

Consultation meetings were held with the International Federation, the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) and other National Societies in the region to clarify the roles of Movement components inside and outside Iraq.

### Issues outstanding from the 1990-1991 Gulf War

The fate and whereabouts of persons unaccounted for since the end of the 1990-1991 Gulf war remained a question of deep humanitarian concern for the ICRC and for hundreds of families still without news of loved ones.

Iraq's agreement to resume direct talks with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia under ICRC auspices for the first time in more than four years was the result of years of concerted ICRC effort and accelerated progress on this issue.

Under ICRC auspices and chairmanship, four meetings of the Tripartite Commission's Technical Sub-Committee were held between January and March in Amman, Jordan, between representatives of Iraq's former government, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Following the collapse of the Iraqi government in April, in response to a request by Kuwait, the ICRC agreed to organize and chair a meeting of the Tripartite Commission in Baghdad which took place on 1 June 2003 with the participation of the CPA which represented Iraq. The ICRC chaired three more meetings of the Sub-Committee in Baghdad in June and in Kuwait in July and October. A further session of the Tripartite Commission was held in Geneva in December.

During the three Technical Sub-Committee sessions the parties began exchanging information on numerous mass graves discovered in Iraq with the aim of elucidating the fate of persons unaccounted for since the 1990-1991 Gulf War. A number of cases of persons unaccounted for were resolved after Kuwaiti forensic experts, acting in the framework of the Tripartite Commission, exhumed and identified human remains in mass graves in southern Iraq.

The ICRC was also approached by the families of a number of stateless people reported missing since the 1990-1991 Gulf War whose cases are not dealt with in the Tripartite process. The ICRC will continue consultations with the Kuwaiti authorities with a view to clarifying these cases.

- the ICRC chaired 2 meetings of the Tripartite Commission and 8 meetings of its Technical Sub-Committee investigating the fate or whereabouts of persons unaccounted for since the 1990-1991 Gulf War
- the cases of 46 persons unaccounted for since the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict were resolved after their human remains were identified during exhumations of mass graves in Iraq

### Restoring family links

Gulf country nationals and residents were able to restore and maintain contact with family members detained abroad through the Red Cross message (RCM) network. ICRC satellite phones and RCMs also enabled people in Kuwait to restore contact with relatives in Iraq during and after the most intensive phase of hostilities in Iraq in March-April 2003. War-wounded Iraqis evacuated for medical treatment to coalition military hospitals in Kuwait used the same means to re-establish links with their families in Iraq. Evacuated war-wounded patients who did not survive their injuries were repatriated to their families in Iraq under ICRC auspices.

Released prisoners without diplomatic representation in Kuwait as a consequence of the 1990-1991 Gulf conflict were issued certificates of detention while asylum seekers and other civilians lacking identity papers received ICRC travel documents to facilitate resettlement in third countries, or family reunification.

- ▶ 4,629 RCMs were exchanged between people in Gulf countries and family members either detained abroad, or located in countries afflicted by armed conflict and internal strife

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits were carried out to the three main detention centres for men and women in Kuwait in order to monitor treatment and conditions of detention. Those visited included people deprived of their freedom without diplomatic representation in Kuwait as a consequence of the 1990-1991 Gulf War and detainees with mental disorders. Meetings were held with the prison authorities to discuss the specific needs of mentally ill detainees.

Reinforced security measures in Kuwait led to the arrest of a number of illegal foreign workers and Iraqis who allegedly tried to enter the country illegally. Several Iraqi nationals and stateless people of Iraqi origin requested repatriation after the ouster of the Iraqi government in April. Others requested resettlement in third countries, principally Canada. A number of released Iraqi people deprived of their freedom were repatriated under ICRC auspices.

In response to a request from the Saudi authorities, the ICRC agreed to coordinate with the CPA in Iraq the repatriation of 394 Iraqi nationals detained in Saudi Arabia since the 1990-1991 Gulf War. By the end of 2003, the ICRC had still not been able to interview the detainees, in accordance with its standard procedures, to ensure that they wished to be repatriated of their own free will.

On 7 January, at the request of the Kuwaiti government, the ICRC repatriated four Iraqi seamen arrested by the Kuwaiti authorities in December 2002. The ICRC, in accordance with its standard procedures, had previously spoken privately with the four Iraqi nationals to ensure that their repatriation was voluntary.

The inauguration of a new central prison in Kuwait with a capacity of 2,000 detainees was again postponed. Its opening was expected to improve detention conditions for people deprived of their freedom. Meanwhile, IHL sessions were held for Kuwaiti prison officers.

- ▶ 53 visits were made to 1,460 detainees in 5 places of detention in Kuwait

## AUTHORITIES

Regular dialogue was maintained with Gulf-country legal and international relations departments, ministries of justice, as well as with the Gulf Cooperation Council, to explain the ICRC's mandate, its specific role in the region, and the tenets of IHL with a view to encouraging the incorporation of IHL into national legislations. The ICRC also promoted understanding for and accession to international treaties and conventions to which some Gulf countries were not yet party. In this regard, agreement was reached to hold IHL seminars for Ministry of Justice officials in Kuwait.

A meeting was held with representatives of the Kuwait Institute of Judicial and Legal Studies to discuss ways of increasing mutual cooperation to promote IHL and to integrate ICRC seminars as a permanent feature of the Institute's annual programme. A memorandum of understanding was drafted with a view to starting annual IHL seminars for magistrates at the regional and national levels, organized by the Institute in conjunction with the ICRC. At the end of the year the memorandum was awaiting approval by the legal affairs department of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Seminars were organized on IHL-related themes through the region, often in cooperation with National Societies, and the authorities of Gulf States were encouraged to support the participation of Arab experts in conferences on IHL and to promote the implementation of IHL and the provisions of international customary law.

During his visit to the Gulf region, the ICRC president met with the King of Saudi Arabia and the foreign and interior ministers of Kuwait. Discussions centered on various humanitarian issues of mutual concern, including ICRC visits to Gulf country nationals detained abroad.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHERS BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promotional activities were pursued with a view to incorporating IHL into the training and instruction curricula of the armed forces in Gulf countries. Presentations on IHL were given for officers at the Kuwait Command and Staff College and the Kuwait Junior Staff College, and a one-week basic IHL course was held for armed forces training officers in Bahrain where an agreement was reached to integrate IHL into military training and teaching programmes.

- ▶ 14 armed forces officers from Bahrain, the UAE, Kuwait and Oman participated in a course on IHL at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Further progress was made towards familiarizing education ministries in Gulf States with the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) programme aimed at incorporating the study of IHL in the curricula of secondary education.

In Kuwait, an integrated project to start EHL teaching in secondary schools was presented to the Ministry of Education and 36 implementation supervisors and senior teachers from various districts were nominated to take part in a training seminar to be organized in conjunction with the ICRC. The ICRC also reached agreement with the ministry to promote closer familiarity with humanitarian law and EHL among its staff. Kuwait University law-faculty students were provided with information and documentation on the ICRC's mandate and role, particularly with regard to ICRC activities in Iraq.

The UAE Ministry of Education continued to restructure its education system and expressed interest in incorporating the EHL programme into the new curriculum. A report on the first regional meeting on IHL held in Morocco in 2002 was presented to the Ministry of Education in Qatar.

Qatar approved a plan of action for IHL implementation in the national school system proposed by representatives of the Ministry of Education who participated in IHL regional training sessions in Morocco. An implementation body was established comprising the National Committee for Education, Culture and Sciences, the

Educational Rehabilitation Center, and other institutions concerned. A team of teachers was selected to receive training in EHL in mid-October to prepare the ground for effective implementation.

In Oman, as a result of the outcome of the first regional meeting of Arab educationalists on EHL in Rabat in 2002, a national project supervisory committee was set up to study the EHL programme and adapt it to the Omani educational environment. Committees responsible for compiling textbooks were instructed to examine ways of including EHL concepts in the academic curricula for new classes. It was also suggested that IHL should be included among the subjects taught in secondary education.

Ministry of Education officials from Oman in charge of the national IHL project for schools confirmed that they had submitted their implementation proposals to the minister for education who passed it on to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for final approval.

The ICRC was invited to hold its first meeting with the Dean of Kuwait University's law faculty to discuss the introduction of IHL as a separate subject.

ICRC mine-risk education leaflets and posters were produced in Kuwait for ICRC mine awareness programmes in Iraq.

- senior representatives from the Ministries of Education in Kuwait, Qatar and Oman participated in the second regional meeting of Arab educationalists on the implementation of IHL in the Arab world hosted by Jordan in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the ICRC in October 2003

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

National Societies in the Gulf countries responded generously to an ICRC appeal to support its emergency operations related to the armed conflict in Iraq. Many also continued to provide material and financial support for ICRC operations in the Palestinian Territories and for other ICRC emergency operations throughout the world.

A major effort was undertaken to ensure a coordinated emergency response among components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement within the limits imposed by the security situation in Iraq.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked closely with the KRCS and other National Societies in countries surrounding Iraq to increase their preparedness to respond to any major influx of Iraqi refugees and third-country nationals after the outbreak of the war. For example, in Saudi Arabia the ICRC and the Federation held seminars and basic training courses in Riyadh for Saudi Red Crescent volunteers.

KRCS warehouse space in Kuwait allocated to the ICRC enabled the organization to pre-position substantial food, shelter and medical supplies in Kuwait for delivery by air or overland to civilian victims of the war in Iraq.

Concerted action was coordinated with National Societies in the region to upgrade their capacity to cope with any sudden need for expanded tracing activities in response to potential large-scale population displacements and the need for families in Gulf States to restore contact with relatives in Iraq during and following the war.

Prior to the onset of full-scale war in Iraq, the ICRC provided more than 200 KRCS volunteers with basic training on how to manage refugee camps, particularly regarding tracing activities and the restoration of family links. The ICRC also participated in KRCS meetings to discuss security, the dangers represented by mines and unexploded ordnance and the use of VHF radio systems. More than 70 United Arab Emirates Red Crescent volunteers received basic ICRC training in February and the ICRC provided training in tracing for some 50 volunteers from the Bahrain National Society in March. An introductory presentation on the Movement, the ICRC's mandate and activities and the basic rules of IHL was made in January for some 30 staff and volunteers of the Bahrain Red Crescent.

Several National Societies of Gulf countries provided material and financial support for ICRC-led operations in Iraq. A number of them carried out unilateral relief convoy and rehabilitation operations in Iraq.

The UAE Red Crescent was provided with an ICRC-produced video documentary entitled "Women in Armed Conflict" which was aired by Abu Dhabi TV on the occasion of Women's Day on 8 March.

At the request of the ICRC, the Bahrain Red Crescent took care of the families of three wounded Iraqis for the duration of their treatment in a Manama hospital.

The ICRC participated in a conference on the theme of "Human Rights in Peace and War" organized by the Saudi Red Crescent in Riyadh. ICRC videotapes on humanitarian themes and IHL publications were made available at an exhibition held at the conference venue.



ICRC regional delegation

# tunis

The Tunis regional delegation, which has been in operation since 1987, focuses on the humanitarian issues arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. At the same time, it concentrates on promoting knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL), its national implementation and its integration into school and university curricula and armed forces training programmes in North Africa. The region's National Societies are essential partners in this process.

## COVERING

Libya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia

## EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

**752,707**

Assistance

**70,626**

Preventive action

**734,482**

Cooperation with National Societies

**306,937**

General

**0**

► **1,864,753**

of which: Overheads **113,811**

## PERSONNEL

**4** expatriates

**9** national staff

## KEY POINTS IN 2003

- A total of 643 Moroccan prisoners were repatriated under ICRC auspices following their release by the Polisario Front.
- Moroccan prisoners still detained by the Polisario Front were visited by ICRC delegates to assess their treatment and conditions of detention.
- Efforts were pursued to clarify the fate of combatants missing since the end of the Western Sahara conflict in 1991.
- Contact was restored between prisoners still held by the Polisario Front and their families in Morocco, as well as between families in the region and relatives interned/detained abroad via the Red Cross message (RCM) network.
- Technical and financial support was provided to integrate the "Exploring Humanitarian Law" (EHL) education programme into secondary-school curricula in Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia, in cooperation with their respective educational authorities and National Societies.
- A national committee for the implementation of IHL was created in Morocco.

## CONTEXT

By the end of 2003, more than 12 years after the Western Sahara armed conflict ceased, negotiations on the future status of the disputed territory remained deadlocked.

According to the UN, some 150,000 refugees who fled their homes in the Western Sahara as a result of the conflict continued to live in precarious conditions in makeshift camps situated in the desert of southwest Algeria.

A total of 643 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front were released in 2003 and repatriated under ICRC auspices. However, another 614 still remained in captivity.

In Morocco, 43 people were killed in a series of suicide bomb attacks in Casablanca in May.

The Mauritanian President was re-elected with 67 per cent of the vote in first round elections in November. This followed a failed attempt by rebel forces to overthrow the government in June.

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to visit Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front to assess their treatment and conditions of detention and arrange for them to maintain contact with their families. During the visits medical and dental treatment was provided to the prisoners, many of whom have been held in detention for more than 20 years.

As in past years, the ICRC urged the Polisario Front to release all Moroccan prisoners still held and to organize the repatriation of prisoners after their release. In 2003, a total of 643 Moroccan prisoners were repatriated under ICRC auspices after their release.

Efforts were also pursued to clarify the fate of combatants still missing since the end of the West Sahara conflict in 1991.

Progress was made towards introducing IHL principles into school curricula and into the teaching and training programmes of the armed and security forces of countries in North Africa.

## CIVILIANS

### Restoring links between dispersed families

Families in North African countries were able to maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad through the Red Cross message (RCM) exchange service. The ICRC tracing unit also enabled people in the region to locate and exchange RCMs with family members in Iraq after the disruption of communications links with that country in late March.

- 11,340 RCMs were exchanged between people in North Africa and family members detained/interned abroad and between families in the region and relatives either detained/interned or located in Iraq

### Tracing the missing

Consultations were pursued with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front with a view to clarifying the fate of combatants unaccounted for since the Western Sahara conflict. ICRC delegates interviewed three people listed as missing from the conflict by the Polisario Front who had been located by the Moroccan *Gendarmerie Royale*.

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued to call for the release of all Moroccan prisoners from the Western Sahara conflict still held by the Polisario Front, in conformity with the provisions of international humanitarian law.

At the beginning of the year 1,257 Moroccan prisoners were still being held by the Polisario Front. By the end of the year a total of 614 remained in captivity after the release and repatriation under ICRC auspices of 643 prisoners in three separate operations. In accordance with standard ICRC procedures, the released prisoners were interviewed to ensure that they wished to return home of their own free will, and ICRC medical teams examined them to determine their general health status and fitness to travel. ICRC certificates of detention were issued to the released Moroccan prisoners.

As in previous years, two rounds of visits to Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front were carried out during the year to assess their treatment and conditions of internment. During the visits, the ICRC collected and distributed RCMs exchanged between the prisoners and their families and provided dental and medical care to the prisoners. RCMs were also collected and distributed during visits made to the prisoners' families organized in conjunction with the Moroccan Red Crescent and the Moroccan armed forces.

- 643 Moroccan prisoners were repatriated under ICRC auspices following their release by the Polisario Front
- 2 rounds of visits were made to Moroccan prisoners still held by the Polisario Front to assess their treatment and conditions of detention and to provide them with dental and medical care
- Moroccan prisoners were able to maintain contact with their families via the Red Cross Message network

## AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to promote the creation of national committees on the implementation of IHL in North African countries. It also held discussions with the authorities of these countries on the question of their ratification of IHL instruments to which they are not yet party and follow-up action required to accelerate the incorporation of IHL into national legislations.

In October, the first regional seminar on IHL for legal experts representing National IHL Committees in the Arab world was held in Rabat under the auspices of the Moroccan Ministry of Human Rights, the League of Arab States and the ICRC.

Representatives of the National Committees for the implementation of IHL of Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Sudan and Yemen attended the seminar, as well as delegates from Algeria, Kuwait, Lebanon, Qatar, Syria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, countries that have yet to establish similar implementation bodies. Morocco established a national IHL committee shortly before the seminar took place.

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss measures to align national legislations with the provisions of IHL and to accelerate the ratification in the countries concerned of IHL treaties and conventions to which they are not yet party.

- the first regional seminar on IHL for legal experts representing national IHL committees in the Arab world was held in Rabat

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Efforts were pursued to integrate IHL into the training programmes of the armed forces of North African countries and to develop appropriate teaching materials.

In Morocco, progress was made towards making IHL an integral part of the curricula in military colleges and in the training and operational programmes of the armed forces. Recommendations made by the ICRC regarding the content of the armed forces instruction manual were taken into consideration by the Moroccan military authorities which also expressed interest in an ICRC offer of services to conduct training sessions on IHL for military instructors.

Senior officers of the Libyan armed forces participated in IHL seminars organized by the ICRC in Amman and Tunis and contacts were developed with the legal department of the Tunisian Ministry of Defence to organize an IHL seminar for Tunisian armed forces instructors. ICRC delegates also met Ministry of Defence officials in Mauritania to organize a seminar for instructors of the Mauritanian armed forces, the national police force, the national guard and civil protection officers.

- progress was made towards integrating IHL into the training programmes of the armed forces of North African countries

## CIVIL SOCIETY

Substantial progress was made to introduce the teaching of IHL into university and school curricula in the region.

Contacts were developed with the media in Morocco and Tunisia to promote understanding of IHL and the role, mandate and activities of the ICRC in conjunction with National Societies of the region. The ICRC continued to ensure the distribution of the ICRC-produced publications *L'Humanitaire-Maghreb* and *Al Insani* dealing with humanitarian issues and related ICRC activities.

- progress was made towards introducing the teaching of IHL into university and school curricula in the region

### Libya

IHL documentation was provided to the legal advisor of the Libyan Red Crescent with a view to the organization of a round table attended by university officials to discuss the promotion of IHL teaching in Libyan university law faculties.

### Morocco

In December, the Ministry of Education and the ICRC signed an agreement that established a formal cooperation framework for the introduction of the EHL programme in the Moroccan school system. The agreement was the result of three years of concerted dialogue and collaboration between the Ministry, the Moroccan Red Crescent and the ICRC.

The promotion of IHL in the law faculties of Moroccan universities also remained a priority and contacts were reinforced with education ministry officials to accelerate progress towards integrating IHL teaching as a separate subject in university education. Following consultations with Moroccan academic circles that began in 2000, the Hassan II University in Casablanca started courses on "Islam and IHL".

- 8 ministerial representatives participated in the second regional meeting of Arab educationalists on EHL hosted in Amman by the Ministry of Education of Jordan, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the ICRC

### Mauritania

The Mauritanian authorities expressed an interest in establishing a partnership agreement with the ICRC to introduce the EHL programme into national secondary school curricula early in 2004.

Two senior representatives from the Ministry of Education attended the second regional meeting on EHL for Arab educationalists held in Amman. At the request of the Ministry, the ICRC began to draw up a tripartite protocol agreement for EHL teaching in the Mauritanian education system between the Ministry, the Moroccan Red Crescent and the ICRC.

### Tunisia

Twenty-two teachers and school directors attended a seminar held in July in Hammamet, organized by the Ministry of Education of Tunisia, the Tunisian Red Crescent and the ICRC, to discuss ways of advancing the introduction of the EHL programme in their national school programmes. The seminar focused on familiarizing participants with IHL and adapting the EHL programme to the specificities of existing academic curricula in the countries concerned. This was followed by a regional workshop, which brought together the representatives of the steering committees on EHL established in Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

EHL was adopted by the National Centre for Pedagogical Innovation and Educational Research. Two education ministry officials participated in the regional meeting of Arab educationalists in Amman. Four school inspectors who took part in an EHL seminar held in Rabat in 2002 initiated pilot EHL projects in the five governorates of the greater Tunis region that will include training seminars for teachers organized in conjunction with the ICRC.

## NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Red Crescent Societies in the Maghreb continued to develop their activities in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

The Moroccan Red Crescent, together with the ICRC and the International Federation, focused on senior-staff training and the production of IHL dissemination tools. A joint planning meeting in April took the decision to begin staff training programme at branches in Casablanca and to formulate a more extended training plan of action based on the results of the project in the city.

A training course was organized in December, in conjunction with the International Federation, for 120 Moroccan Red Crescent senior staff members and first-aid workers.

Meetings with the secretary-general of the Tunisian Red Crescent confirmed established objectives, including: a reinforcement of information and dissemination capacities through the recruitment of a National Society information officer whose salary would be partially covered by the ICRC; the initiation of a training programme for senior National Society staff designed to identify individuals whose task would be to define and support a long-term national dissemination programme; National Society support for ICRC efforts to obtain Ministry of Education approval for the incorporation of IHL into university and secondary school education in Morocco.

The last in a planned series of four seminars on the basic rules of IHL, organized jointly by the National Society and the ICRC, were attended by IHL dissemination officers from National Society branches. A plan of action was drawn up to select IHL trainers in regional branches and to produce an IHL training manual for the National Society.

In Mauritania, priority was given to provide IHL instruction to 50 National Society trainers by the end of 2005 under a programme called "Dissemination Mauritania 2005".

The ICRC and the International Federation organized a training workshop in October for 45 Mauritanian Red Crescent first-aid workers. The ICRC also supplied the Society with first-aid materials to increase its preparedness to address needs arising from potential civil unrest related to the presidential elections in Mauritania following the failed attempt by rebels to topple the government earlier in the year.

- efforts were reinforced to develop the capacity of Red Crescent Societies in countries of North Africa to deliver humanitarian services in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles

# STATISTICS



## PROTECTION STATISTICS

	WORLD	AFRICA	ASIA & THE PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA	MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM</b>						
<b>All categories/all statuses</b>						
Detainees visited	469,648	227,257	159,885	11,595	33,844	37,067
Detainees visited and monitored individually	126,923	83,896	10,855	7,542	1,950	22,680
Detainees newly registered in 2003	34,418	5,357	5,326	4,007	705	19,023
Detainees released	54,961	29,895	4,429	905	448	19,284
Number of visits carried out	5,223	2,114	1,291	621	313	884
Number of places of detention visited	1,933	768	615	225	128	197
Number of detainees who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme	10,476	1,366	1,031	5,892	47	2,140
<b>Women</b>						
Women detainees visited and monitored individually	3,843	2,321	657	629	60	176
Women detainees newly registered in 2003	1,060	158	421	320	39	122
Women detainees released	1,649	1,071	409	97	20	52
Number of women who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme	199	21	39	139	0	0
<b>Minors</b>						
Detained minors visited and monitored individually	3,028	623	1,434	89	25	857
Detained minors newly registered in 2003	2,308	454	963	88	9	794
Detained minors released	1,455	459	540	15	3	438
<b>International armed conflict (Third Geneva Convention)</b>						
Prisoners of war (POWs) visited	6,795	30	64	0	604	6,097
POWs newly registered in 2003	5,210	1	0	0	1	5,208
POWs released	5,902	11	57	0	80	5,754
POWs repatriated by/via the ICRC	1,673	11	0	0	0	1,662
Number of visits carried out	57	6	17	0	10	24
Number of places visited	25	1	2	0	4	18
<b>International armed conflict (Fourth Geneva Convention)</b>						
Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited	6,053	523	0	0	4	5,526
CIs and others newly registered in 2003	5,694	261	0	0	3	5,430
CIs and others released	3,780	624	0	0	4	3,152
CIs and others repatriated by/via the ICRC	281	123	0	0	3	155
Number of visits carried out	188	127	0	0	4	57
Number of places visited	53	41	0	0	3	9
<b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>						
<b>Red Cross messages (RCMs)</b>						
RCMs collected	717,592	611,475	41,642	1,359	14,477	48,639
of which from detainees	89,212	34,830	24,724	614	3,422	25,622
of which from unaccompanied/separated children	7,389	7,367	17	0	5	0
of which from civilians	620,991	569,278	16,901	745	11,050	23,017
RCMs distributed	568,734	473,826	33,099	1,035	16,014	44,760
of which to detainees	55,238	23,706	14,978	165	3,814	12,575
of which to unaccompanied/separated children	4,064	4,056	6	0	2	0
of which to civilians	509,432	446,064	18,115	870	12,198	32,185
RCMs not distributed (back to sender)	41,945	36,942	2,426	67	251	2,259

	WORLD	AFRICA	ASIA & THE PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN	EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA	MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
<b>Family contact and reunification, transfers and repatriation</b>						
Telephone calls made to relatives (by satellite or cellular phone)	45,554	1,019	2	318	0	44,215
Names published on the ICRC website	14,605	11,011	0	0	3,594	0
People reunited with their families	2,640	2,618	6	0	15	1
Civilians transferred	1,795	34	0	0	27	1,734
Civilians repatriated	823	792	0	0	0	31
<b>Tracing requests</b>						
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	15,564	12,130	1,585	623	822	404
who were women	4,784	4,213	341	82	115	33
who were minors at the time of disappearance	2,706	2,291	293	72	40	10
Tracing requests closed positively (person located)	4,142	1,518	906	146	1,330	242
Tracing requests closed negatively (person not located)	5,073	4,129	497	355	26	66
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2003	54,144	13,125	8,874	2,113	26,857	3,175
of which for women	7,946	4,381	808	235	2,452	70
of which for minors at the time of disappearance	5,266	2,495	1,112	202	1,375	82
<b>Unaccompanied children (UAMs) and separated children (SCs)</b>						
UAMs/SCs newly registered	4,954	4,937	6	0	2	9
by the ICRC	4,274	4,260	6	0	2	6
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families	3,289	3,286	0	0	2	1
by the ICRC	2,452	2,451	0	0	0	1
UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2003	6,628	6,576	44	0	0	8
Number of demobilized child soldiers newly registered	437	437	0	0	0	0
by the ICRC	371	371	0	0	0	0
Demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families	205	205	0	0	0	0
by the ICRC	114	114	0	0	0	0
Cases of demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December 2003	546	546	0	0	0	0
<b>Missing persons</b>						
Cases of missing persons newly opened	1,808	131	375	489	811	2
of whom women	255	0	81	59	115	0
of whom minors when reported missing	180	6	78	56	40	0
Cases of missing persons closed positively	1,967	1	399	77	1,318	172
Cases of missing persons closed negatively	395	0	85	289	20	1
Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December 2003	36,992	528	5,746	1,856	26,854	2,008
of whom women	3,169	0	502	207	2,452	8
of whom minors when reported missing	2,387	39	804	167	1,375	2
<b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>						
People to whom travel documents were issued	9,023	1,011	910	14	636	6,452
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	9,667	2,296	414	74	387	6,496
Other attestations issued	5,755	114	1	9	444	5,187
Documents transmitted/transferred	3,424	137	42	0	19	3,226
<b>PERSONS SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD</b>						
People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices	438,965	158,977	14,478	13,342	29,433	222,735

## PROTECTION STATISTICS– CLARIFICATION AND DEFINITIONS

### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

#### PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

##### **Detainees visited**

During the period under consideration, the number of detainees visited, whether monitored individually or otherwise; includes detainees seen and registered for the first time, and those registered previously and visited again, and groups having received aid collectively without being registered individually.

##### **Detainees visited and monitored individually**

Number of detainees visited and monitored individually, i.e. those seen for the first time and registered, and those registered previously and visited again, during the period under consideration.

##### **Detainees newly registered in 2003**

Number of detainees visited for the first time since their arrest and registered during the period under consideration.

##### **Detainees released**

Number of detainees released as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of places of detention visited**

Number of places of detention visited, including places that were found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of visits carried out**

Number of visits made, including those to places found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of detainees benefiting from the ICRC's family visits programme**

Number of detainees who were visited by a relative via an ICRC-organized or -financed visit during the period under consideration.

#### INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT (THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION)

##### **Prisoners of war (POWs) visited**

Number of POWs visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **POWs newly registered in 2003**

Number of POWs visited for the first time since capture, and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **POWs released during 2002**

Number of POWs released during the period under consideration.

##### **POWs repatriated by/via the ICRC**

Number of POWs released and repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of places visited**

Number of places, holding or having held POWs, visited during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of visits carried out**

Number of visits to POWs carried out during the period under consideration.

#### INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT (FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION)

##### **Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited**

Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **CIs and others newly registered in 2003**

Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited for the first time since the start of their internment and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

##### **CIs and others released**

Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were released, as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of places visited**

Number of places, holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, visited during the period under consideration.

##### **Number of visits carried out**

Number of visits carried out to places holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention during the period under consideration.

### RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

#### RED CROSS MESSAGES (RCMS)

##### **RCMs collected**

Number of RCMs collected regardless of the destination of the RCM during the period under consideration.

##### **RCMs distributed**

Number of RCMs distributed, regardless of the origin of the RCM during the period under consideration.

##### **RCMs not distributed and sent back to sender**

Number of RCMs which were impossible to distribute – either because the addressee could not be located or because the addressee refused to accept the RCM (for whatever reason) – and sent back to sender during the period under consideration.

## FAMILY CONTACT AND REUNIFICATION, TRANSFERS AND REPATRIATION

### People reunited with their families

Number of people reunited with their families under the auspices of the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### Civilians transferred

Number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, transferred by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### Civilians repatriated

Number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

## TRACING REQUESTS<sup>1</sup>

### People for whom a tracing request has been newly registered

Number of people for whom a tracing request was initiated during the period under consideration – e.g. because there has been no news of them, were not located by RCM, were sought by their families, were presumed to have been arrested and/or detained – and for whom the ICRC is going to take steps to locate them or clarify their fate.

### Tracing requests closed positively

Number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and, during the period under consideration, was located or whose fate was established (closed positively).

### Tracing request closed negatively

Number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and, during the period under consideration, was not located or whose fate was not established and for whom the ICRC has exhausted its tracing possibilities (closed negatively).

### Tracing requests still being handled

Number of tracing requests still open and pending at the end of the period under consideration at 31 December.

## UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (UAMS)<sup>2</sup>/SEPARATED CHILDREN (SC)<sup>3</sup>/DEMobilized CHILD SOLDIERS

### UAMs/SC/demobilized child soldiers newly registered

Number of UAMs/SC/demobilized child soldiers registered by the ICRC or by another organization and the data of which are centralized by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### UAMs/SC/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their family

Number of UAMs/SC/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration.

### Cases of UAMs/SC/demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December

Number of UAMs/SC/demobilized child soldiers whose cases were opened but who have not yet been reunited by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration; these include cases concerning either children whose parents are being sought, or children whose parents have been found but with whom they have not yet been reunited.

## MISSING PERSONS

### Cases of missing persons newly opened

Number of people for whom a missing person file was opened during the period under consideration.

### Cases of missing persons closed positively

Number of people whose case has been resolved (closed positively), i.e. people who have been located or confirmed deceased, during the period under consideration.

### Cases of missing persons closed negatively

Number of people whose cases have not been resolved, and for whom the ICRC has decided not to pursue enquiries (closed negatively), during the period under consideration.

### Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December

Number of people whose cases are still open (pending) at the end of the period under consideration.

## DOCUMENTS ISSUED

### People to whom travel documents were issued

Number of beneficiaries of travel documents issued by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

### People to whom a detention attestation was issued

Number of people who received a certificate testifying to their detention according to ICRC records of visits, during the period under consideration.

### Other attestations issued

Number of attestations – not related to detention – issued during the period under consideration.

### Documents transmitted/transferred

Number of documents – e.g. passport, power of attorney, death certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and ICRC certificates such as house destruction certificates, tracing requests (other than detention certificates) – forwarded or transmitted during the period under consideration.

## PEOPLE SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD

### Number of people who visited/telephoned ICRC offices

Number of people who contacted an ICRC office in the field, either in person or by telephone, during the period under consideration.

1. All cases regarding people being sought on the basis of information received by the ICRC as to people whose fate is not known either to their families or the ICRC and for whom the ICRC is going to undertake some kind of action to clarify their fate or to confirm their alleged fate; these can include allegations of arrest and co-detention, and tracing requests collected following unsuccessful attempts to restore family links by other means.
2. Child under 18 or under legal age of majority separated from both parents and from all other relatives and not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.
3. Child under 18 or under legal age of majority who is separated from both parents or from his/her previous legal caregiver but is accompanied by another adult relative.

## ASSISTANCE STATISTICS – WORLD

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
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## 1 STATISTICS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

<b>IDPs</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
FOOD	128,659	149,505	210,085	127,300	100,614	190,210	182,847	110,576	189,564	103,075	97,317	147,278
NON-FOOD	116,127	193,470	205,267	124,951	134,359	129,695	153,245	152,766	198,003	157,359	85,136	173,215
AGRO/REHAB.	0	0	22,330	5,500	40,048	130	0	5,182	0	7,230	5,695	0
<b>Residents</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
FOOD	262,922	431,337	930,366	449,957	712,834	663,187	497,528	486,433	351,460	303,645	189,119	179,406
NON-FOOD	84,832	105,575	63,491	108,953	181,161	139,793	114,231	163,230	140,110	160,437	177,692	181,496
AGRO/REHAB.	31,464	269,034	766,276	365,217	123,778	198,142	90,000	395,876	29,178	80,319	56,097	54,436
<b>Refugees (includes returnees)</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
FOOD	0	29,910	24,223	22,024	13,228	23,618	31,716	14,067	10,267	24,138	15,103	1,161
NON-FOOD	12,920	25,210	23,988	17,528	13,228	36,314	31,716	14,067	24,364	26,315	21,092	5,776
AGRO/REHAB.	12,920	8,482	0	22,024	13,228	22,893	19,658	14,067	5,440	15,120	15,103	2,000
<b>Detainees</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
FOOD	97,662	92,496	83,500	78,662	77,288	79,497	80,909	81,417	83,405	82,978	87,554	82,883
NON-FOOD	104,937	103,915	103,307	91,390	88,361	97,175	85,932	94,105	90,895	91,936	97,398	93,516
AGRO/REHAB.	918	450	0	4,268	0	0	530	0	0	0	232	770

## 2 STATISTICS FOR WATER AND HABITAT

<b>IDPs</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
			14,790			55,811			160,476			191,886
<b>Residents</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
			1,634,293			2,155,834			3,275,238			4,013,678
<b>Health structures</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
			42,793			370,986			1,739,686			626,149
<b>Detainees</b>												
<i>No. of beneficiaries</i>												
			73,535			5,500			15,046			17,351

## 3 STATISTICS FOR MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

Health centres supported	266	280	304	288	264	255	277	271	267	262	271	258
Estimated population covered by these health centres	2,514,553	3,000,914	2,712,667	2,286,834	2,499,452	2,350,633	2,864,057	4,056,242	4,078,298	3,816,483	3,844,506	3,881,899
TOTAL no. of Health-centre consultations	180,145	161,563	163,769	181,600	201,434	194,788	229,024	237,893	242,030	230,345	196,210	193,101

## 4 STATISTICS FOR SURGERY AND HOSPITAL ASSISTANCE

Total number of hospitals supported	61	59	69	64	63	64	58	60	61	52	50	56
Number of operations performed	6,729	6,724	7,523	7,699	7,696	7,859	7,968	7,766	7,826	7,564	6,560	6,889
Number of OPD cases treated	48,879	41,259	45,215	42,497	69,166	54,450	53,415	45,038	50,637	37,894	32,348	35,413
Total number of first-aid posts supported	3	3	3	9	13	10	10	9	15	11	3	2
Number of wounded treated in the first-aid posts	36	69	0	93	17	3	4	78	2	0	1	0

## 5 STATISTICS FOR PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

Number of prostheses delivered	1,282	1,163	1,380	1,345	1,426	1,548	1,506	1,258	1,346	1,839	1,217	1,260
Number of orthoses delivered	1,277	1,141	1,346	1,309	1,465	1,415	1,678	1,413	1,382	1,640	1,059	1,830

## ASSISTANCE STATISTICS – EXPLANATIONS

### 1 STATISTICS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

IDPs	No. of beneficiaries
FOOD	Number of IDPs receiving various food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
NON-FOOD	Number of IDPs receiving various non-food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
AGRO/REHAB.	Number of IDPs receiving agro/rehabilitation assistance in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
RESIDENTS	No. of beneficiaries
FOOD	Number of residents receiving various food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
NON-FOOD	Number of residents receiving various non-food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
AGRO/REHAB.	Number of residents receiving agro/rehabilitation assistance in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
REFUGEES	No. of beneficiaries
FOOD	Number of residents receiving various food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
NON-FOOD	Number of residents receiving various non-food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
AGRO/REHAB.	Number of residents receiving agro/rehabilitation assistance in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
DETAINEES	No. of beneficiaries
FOOD	Number of detainees receiving various food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
NON-FOOD	Number of detainees receiving various non-food items in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>
AGRO/REHAB.	Number of detainees receiving agro/rehabilitation assistance in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated. <sup>1</sup>

### 2 STATISTICS FOR WATER AND HABITAT

IDPs No. of beneficiaries

Residents No. of beneficiaries

Detainees No. of beneficiaries

Given the nature of water and habitat activities, figures are reported on a quarterly basis only. The December figure represents the annual total.

### 3 STATISTICS FOR MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

#### Health centres supported

Number of health centres assisted in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated.<sup>1</sup>

#### Estimated population covered by these health centres

Estimated population covered by the health centres assisted in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated.<sup>1</sup>

#### Total no. of health-centre consultations

Number of consultations carried out by the health centres assisted in a given month; monthly figures can be cumulated.

### 4 STATISTICS FOR SURGERY AND HOSPITAL ASSISTANCE

#### Total number of hospitals supported

Number of hospitals assisted in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated.<sup>1</sup>

#### Number of operations performed

Number of operations performed in the hospitals assisted in a given month; monthly figures can be cumulated.

#### Number of OPD cases treated

Number of outpatients treated in the hospitals assisted in a given month; monthly figures can be cumulated.

#### Total number of first-aid posts supported

Number of first-aid posts assisted in a given month; monthly figures cannot be cumulated.<sup>1</sup>

#### Number of wounded treated in the first-aid posts

Number of wounded treated in the first-aid posts assisted in a given month; monthly figures can be cumulated.

### 5 STATISTICS FOR PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

#### Number of prostheses delivered

Number of prostheses delivered in a given month; monthly figures can be cumulated.

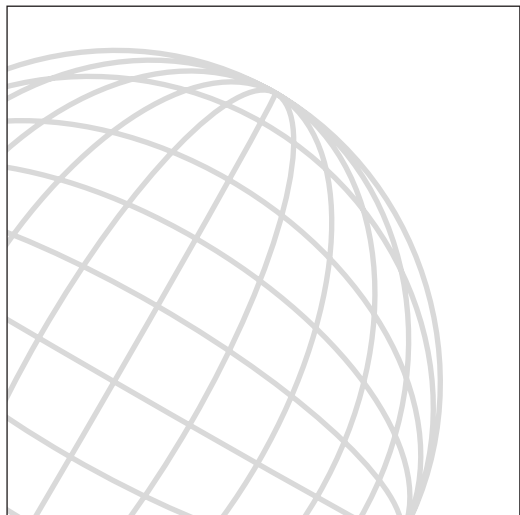
#### Number of orthoses delivered

Number of orthoses delivered in a given month; monthly figures can be cumulated.

1. Monthly figures cannot be cumulated where significant overlapping of individual beneficiaries occurs.

# FINANCE





## the financial year 2003

The improvement in the institution's financial situation through 2003, as it appears in the latest financial statements, took place in a rapidly changing and fluctuating environment, where the changing nature of financial risks had to be monitored closely.

At the end of the first quarter 2003, when the media and donor's attention was almost exclusively concentrated on the situation in Iraq, an important assistance operation was carried out in Ethiopia. In response to the events seen in Iraq and despite security concerns the ICRC was involved by mid-March in a widespread operation within the country (2003 expenditure: CHF 88 million). Elsewhere, the ICRC's activities were developed in various other countries (Afghanistan, Angola, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Israel and the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories, Liberia, Moscow/Northern Caucasus, Sudan). Despite a virtual halving of expenditure over 2003 from the previous year the ICRC remained heavily involved in Afghanistan (2003 expenditure: CHF 59.4 million). In 2003, total expenditure in the field increased by almost CHF 60 million from 2002.

Initially, the result of the media attention focused on Iraq meant strong financing specifically for ICRC operations there. As of summer 2003, the goodwill of certain donors made it possible to limit the over-financing of the operation in Iraq to reduce the deficit recorded on practically all other operations. At year-end, despite a surplus of CHF 51 million for operations in Iraq, operations elsewhere recorded a deficit of CHF 16 million.

In addition to the regular activities and projects carried out at headquarters' support for the operation in Iraq involved the mobilization of large amounts of resources. Despite this development, the budget presented in the appeal was practically met (appeal: CHF 149.9 million; expenditure: CHF 150.1 million) thanks to the ICRC management's firm control of expenditure and posts.

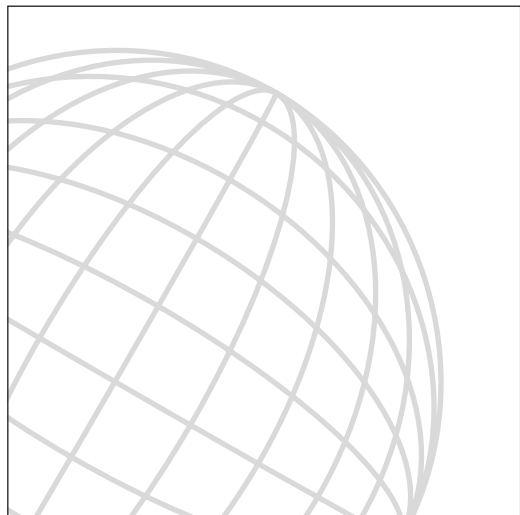
On the assets side, the increase in treasury was due to the improved response of donors to the appeals, a reduction in the time taken to make payments of the promised contributions and to the surplus carried forward from the operation in Iraq. The amount of debts also increased primarily because of the contributions promised for the operation Iraq, but not received by the end of 2003. The assets

under "property and equipment" increased primarily because of the replacement of some of the vehicle fleet.

As for liabilities, the increase in the "restricted reserves" is above all due to the amount of "donor-restricted contributions", which grew because of the increased contributions received for Iraq when compared to expenditure in 2003. The reserve for operational risks also had to be increased to improve the institution's capacity for self-insurance when faced with the volatilities of the insurance market.

Finally, the reserve for future operations, which is used to undertake ICRC activities with the necessary independence required and ensure the organization has the capacity to react when wanted to meet identified humanitarian needs, was increased by more than CHF 8 million, but it is however still below the desired objective of two and a half months field expenditure (average over 5 years).

The financial years 2002 and 2003 allowed for various improvements in the financial standing of the institution, however attention should be paid to the increasing financial risks to which the institution is exposed and to the fact that part of these improved results comes from specific factors such as the temporary financial surplus for operations in Iraq.



# financial statements of the ICRC 2003

1. **Balance Sheet**
2. **Statement of Income and Expenditure**
3. **Cash Flow Statement**
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**1. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003**

(in Swiss francs ,000)

ASSETS	Notes	2003	2002
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.3.1	194,729	170,278
Securities	5.3.2	50,036	49,176
Accounts receivable and prepayments	5.3.3	91,837	68,360
Inventories	5.3.4	20,208	17,470
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>356,810</b>	<b>305,284</b>
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Property and equipment	5.3.5	78,089	69,152
Intangible assets: software	5.3.5	6,303	7,744
Financial assets		5	0
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>84,397</b>	<b>76,896</b>
<b>Total ASSETS</b>		<b>441,207</b>	<b>382,180</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Bank borrowings	5.3.6	808	521
Accounts payable	5.3.7	40,572	45,364
Provisions	5.3.8	23,677	21,688
Accrued expenses and prepaid contributions	5.3.9	43,878	41,503
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>108,935</b>	<b>109,076</b>
<b>Non-current Liabilities</b>			
Interest-bearing loan	5.3.6	7,500	7,700
Other non-current liabilities	5.3.6	9,383	9,592
<b>Total Non-current Liabilities</b>		<b>16,883</b>	<b>17,292</b>
<b>Total LIABILITIES</b>		<b>125,818</b>	<b>126,368</b>
<b>Restricted Reserves</b>			
<b>Total Funds &amp; Foundations</b>	5.4.6	<b>10,630</b>	<b>9,293</b>
<b>Funding of Field Operations</b>			
	5.3.11		
Field operations with temporary deficit financing		-15,650	-19,660
Donor-restricted contributions		55,040	19,708
<b>Total Funding of Field Operations</b>		<b>39,390</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Total Restricted Reserves</b>		<b>50,020</b>	<b>9,341</b>
<b>Unrestricted Reserves</b>			
<i>Reserves designated by the Assembly</i>	5.3.12		
Future operations		118,521	110,104
Operational risks		19,590	12,805
Assets replacement		90,315	87,017
Financial risks		11,051	8,779
Human resources		8,294	9,102
Specific projects		3,198	4,264
<b>Total Designated Reserves</b>		<b>250,969</b>	<b>232,071</b>
<i>Other Unrestricted Reserves</i>			
General reserve		12,500	12,500
Retained surplus at beginning of the year		1,900	1,900
<b>Total Other Unrestricted Reserves</b>		<b>14,400</b>	<b>14,400</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted Reserves</b>		<b>265,369</b>	<b>246,471</b>
<b>Total RESERVES</b>		<b>315,389</b>	<b>255,812</b>
<b>Total LIABILITIES and RESERVES</b>		<b>441,207</b>	<b>382,180</b>

## 2. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003

(in Swiss francs ,000)

	Notes	2003	2002
<b>Total CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	5.3.13	895,899	788,325
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	5.3.14		
Staff-related costs	5.3.10/15	-370,073	-340,218
Mission costs		-29,394	-27,022
Premises and equipment		-61,935	-55,948
Transport		-62,016	-67,343
Assistance to victims		-175,913	-160,147
Financial assistance to National Societies		-31,098	-31,617
Financial assistance to third parties		-18,359	-17,058
General supplies and services		-76,242	-65,903
Depreciation and amortisation		-19,710	-16,447
<b>Total OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>		-844,740	-781,703
<b>NET RESULT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		51,159	6,622
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>			
Contributed assets		1,476	355
Financial income, net	5.3.17	3,344	0
Other	5.3.18	15,092	14,590
<b>Total OTHER INCOME</b>		19,912	14,945
<b>OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>			
Foreign exchange loss, net	5.3.17	-1,187	-10,251
Impairment of assets	5.3.5	-411	-160
Financial expenses, net	5.3.17	0	-829
Other	5.3.18	-9,896	-7,762
<b>Total OTHER EXPENDITURE</b>		-11,494	-19,002
<b>NET RESULT OF NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		8,418	-4,057
<b>RESULT FOR THE YEAR before transfers</b>		59,577	2,565
<b>TRANSFERS TO RESERVES NET</b>	Table 4	-58,240	-2,592
Change in Funds and Foundations	Table 4	-1,337	27
<b>BALANCE after transfers</b>		0	0

**3. CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

(in Swiss francs ,000)

	Notes	2003	2002
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Result for the year before transfers		59,577	2,565
<i>Adjustments for:</i>			
Reclassification of other income and expenditure		-1,579	-2,028
Depreciation of and impairment on assets	5.3.5	20,276	16,607
Increase in provisions	5.3.8	1,989	2,581
Transfers on assets	5.3.5	-14	423
(Gain) / Loss on securities, net	5.3.17	-1,424	3,207
Gain from disposals of fixed assets, net	5.3.5	-482	-1,515
Contributed assets		-1,476	-355
<b>Operating surplus before changes in working capital</b>		<b>76,867</b>	<b>21,485</b>
<i>Changes in working capital:</i>			
(Increase)/Decrease in accounts receivable and prepayments, net	5.3.3	-23,595	30,379
(Increase)/Decrease in inventories	5.3.4	-3,132	4,747
(Decrease) in accounts payable and accrued expenses	5.3.7/9	-2,417	-418
<b>Net Cash from Operating Activities</b>		<b>47,723</b>	<b>56,193</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b>			
Acquisition of fixed assets	5.3.5	-27,470	-17,839
Acquisition of financial assets		-5	0
Purchase of securities available-for-sale		-12,753	-12,550
Proceeds from disposals of fixed assets	5.3.5	2,182	2,538
Proceeds from sale of securities available-for-sale		13,317	8,142
Interest received	5.3.17	1,010	1,294
Securities' income, net	5.3.17	910	1,084
<b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities</b>		<b>-22,809</b>	<b>-17,331</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities</b>			
Interest paid	5.3.6/17	-341	-350
Repayment of loan	5.3.6	-409	-408
<b>Net Cash from Financing Activities</b>		<b>-750</b>	<b>-758</b>
<b>NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	5.3.1	<b>24,164</b>	<b>38,104</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		169,757	131,653
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December		193,921	169,757

**4. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003**

(in Swiss francs ,000)

	Restricted		Unrestricted		Total
	Funds and foundations	Funding of field operations	Designated by the Assembly	Other unrestricted reserves	
Notes	5.4.6	5.3.11	5.3.12		
Balance at 31 December 2001	9,320	3,334	226,193	14,400	253,247
Net result of funds and foundations	-27				-27
<b>2002 transfer to/from reserves</b>					
Decrease/(increase) of field operations with temporary deficit financing		11,803			11,803
Increase/(decrease) in donor-restricted contributions for specific operations		-15,089			-15,089
Use of reserves designated by the Assembly			-10,522		-10,522
Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly			16,400		16,400
<b>Total, net</b>					<b>2,592</b>
Balance after transfer				0	0
Balance at 31 December 2002	9,293	48	232,071	14,400	255,812
Net result of funds and foundations	1,337				1,337
<b>2003 transfer to/from reserves</b>					
Decrease/(increase) of field operations with temporary deficit financing		4,010			4,010
Increase/(decrease) in donor-restricted contributions for specific operations		35,332			35,332
Use of reserves designated by the Assembly			-7,815		-7,815
Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly			26,713		26,713
<b>Total, net</b>					<b>58,240</b>
Balance after transfer				0	0
Balance at 31 December 2003	10,630	39,390	250,969	14,400	315,389

## 5. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003

#### 5.1 ACTIVITIES

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, is an independent humanitarian non-profit organization (NPO) having a status of its own and being domiciled in Switzerland.

The ICRC's principal tasks consist of:

- ▶ in connection with internal strife, international and non-international armed conflict, and their aftermath:
  - ▶ activities for persons deprived of their freedom
  - ▶ protection and relief (in the form of medical supplies, drinking water, food and shelter) for the civilian population
  - ▶ restoration of family links
- ▶ at all times:
  - ▶ development of and respect for international humanitarian law
  - ▶ promotion and dissemination of humanitarian law and of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
  - ▶ humanitarian diplomacy.

These financial statements of the ICRC for the year ended 31 December 2003 include activities of the Geneva headquarters all ICRC delegations, three funds and one foundation.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 30 March 2004 for issue to the Assembly Council on 15 April 2004 and for approval to the Assembly on 28 April 2004.

#### 5.2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### 5.2.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and interpretations issued by the Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC) of the IASB, and are presented in accordance with the statutes of the ICRC and Swiss law.

Currently, IFRS do not contain specific guidelines for non-profit organizations (NPOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerning the accounting treatment and the presentation of the financial statements.

##### 5.2.2 Basis of presentation

The financial statements are presented in Swiss francs, rounded off to the nearest thousand.

They are prepared on the historical cost convention except that the following assets and liabilities are stated at their fair value: available-for-sale securities and derivative financial instruments. Recognized assets and liabilities that are hedged are stated at fair value in respect of the risk that is hedged.

Fair value is the amount for which a financial asset, liability or instrument could be exchanged between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires the management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. If in the future such estimates and assumptions, which are based on management's best judgment at the date of the financial statements, deviate from the actual circumstances, the original estimates and assumptions will be modified as appropriate in the year in which the circumstances change.

##### 5.2.3 Basis of combination

###### SPECIAL FUNDS AND FOUNDATIONS

Regarding special funds and foundations control exists when the ICRC has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of a fund or foundation so as to obtain benefits from its activities. These special funds and foundations are combined from the date on which effective control is transferred.

They are only excluded from combination, when in aggregate they are not controlled, will not be controlled anymore in the near future or because they are not material.

Details on all funds and foundations are disclosed in note 5.4.6.

##### 5.2.4 Foreign currency transactions

Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Swiss francs at the rate applicable at the year-end. Items of the statement of income and expenditure are converted at monthly exchange rates and any differences are included under other income and expenditure.

The principal rates of exchange are shown below:

	Closing rate of exchange		Average rate of exchange	
	2003	2002	2003	2002
USD	1.2370	1.3880	1.3496	1.5720
EUR	1.5590	1.4555	1.5151	1.4671
GBP	2.2081	2.2353	2.1982	2.3453

##### 5.2.5 Derivative financial instruments

The ICRC uses derivative financial instruments – forward foreign exchange contracts – to hedge its exposure to foreign exchange risks arising from financing and operational activities (for significant pledged contributions and expenditures). In accordance with its treasury policy, the ICRC does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. Recognition of any resultant unrealised gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged (see Note 5.2.6).

The fair value of forward exchange contracts is their market price at the balance sheet date.

### 5.2.6 Hedging

HEDGE OF CURRENCY RISK ON BALANCE SHEET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
Where a derivative financial instrument hedges the variability in fair value of a recognized receivable or payable, any resultant gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure.

The hedged item also is stated at fair value in respect of the risk being hedged, with any gain or loss being recognized in the statement of income and expenditure.

The fair value of the hedged items, in respect of the risk being hedged, is their carrying amount at the balance sheet date translated to Swiss francs at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date.

### 5.2.7 Cash and cash equivalents

The ICRC considers cash on hand, amounts due from banks and short-term time deposits with banks to be cash and cash equivalents.

Bank borrowings that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the ICRC's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

### 5.2.8 Securities

Securities which are *available for sale* are classified as current assets and are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognized in the statement of income and expenditure.

The fair value of *available-for-sale* securities is their quoted bid price at the balance sheet date.

### 5.2.9 Accounts receivable

Receivables are stated at their cost net of a provision on the outstanding amounts to cover the risk on nonpayment (see Note 5.3.3).

The main positions of the receivables are recognized for:

- ▶ *Pledges*: at the moment of a written confirmation;
- ▶ *Re-invoiced costs*: at the moment when (i) the service or basic expenditure is fulfilled or (ii) the ownership of the asset is transferred.

The provision is made based upon a specific review of all significant outstanding positions. For those positions not specifically reviewed, the provision is made at differing rates, based upon the age of the receivable.

### 5.2.10 Inventories

*Inventories held at the headquarters and at the principal regional distribution centre* in Nairobi are considered as uncommitted stocks and are recorded at cost. The cost of inventories includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition.

Expenditure is recognized at the moment of the delivery or consumption of these stocks except for obsolete inventories which are written off.

*Inventories held at other locations* are considered as committed and are included in expenditure owing to the nature of the ICRC operations.

The cost of inventories of perishable goods is based on the first-expired first-out principle.

The cost of other inventories is based on the *first-in first-out* principle except where goods have been specifically earmarked, in which case they are used first and therefore the costs of these items are specifically identified.

### 5.2.11 Property, equipment and software

Assets are measured at their historical costs and are capitalized when (i) they are used for the ICRC and when (ii) the following limits are reached for individual asset amounts:

▶ Real estate	all
▶ Equipment and vehicles	Sfr 10,000,000
▶ Software	Sfr 500,000,000 *)

\*) Licences for commercial software are considered as fully expensed during the year.

Contributed assets are accounted for using the same principles as for purchased assets (see Note 5.2.16).

#### SUBSEQUENT EXPENDITURE

Subsequent expenditure is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property and equipment.

All other expenditure is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an expense as incurred.

#### DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is calculated on the *straight line* method so as to depreciate the initial cost over the estimated useful lives, which are as follows:

	in Switzerland	other countries
Real estate	50 years	10 years
Fixed installations	10 years	10 years
Equipment and vehicles	5 – 8 years	5 – 8 years
Hardware	3 years	3 years
Software	5 years	5 years

#### FINANCE LEASE

Assets acquired under long-term finance leases are capitalized and depreciated in accordance with the ICRC's policy on property, equipment and software. The associated obligations are included in financial liabilities.

### 5.2.12 Impairment

The carrying amounts of the ICRC's assets, other than securities (see Note 5.2.8) and inventories (see Note 5.2.10), are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment.

If any such indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount, which is – owing to the nature of the ICRC's activities – the value in use, is estimated.

An impairment loss is recognized whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates

used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is only reversed to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized.

### 5.2.13 Provisions

A provision is recognized in the balance sheet when the ICRC has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of assets will be required to settle the obligation.

If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flow that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

### 5.2.14 Interest-bearing borrowings and loans

Interest-bearing borrowings and loans are recognized initially at cost, less attributable transaction costs.

Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing loans are stated at amortized cost with any difference between cost and redemption value being recognized in the statement of income and expenditure over the period of the loan on an effective interest basis.

### 5.2.15 Reserves

#### FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS

#### *Field operations with temporary deficit financing*

This position relates to expenditures in the field which have not been financed by contributions received or pledged at 31 December 2003.

#### *Donor-restricted contributions*

Some contributions received by the ICRC are earmarked for specific usage. At the end of the financial year, any such funds which have not yet been spent are recorded under this heading. In case the funds cannot be used, the ICRC either obtains agreement for a reallocation of those funds for a different usage or reimburses them to the donor in which case they are recognized as liability before the effective payment takes place.

#### RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE ASSEMBLY

#### *Future operations reserve*

This position contains the reserve for operational funding. The ideal amount of this reserve is estimated at two and a half months of the field operational cash, kind and service expenditure over the last five years.

#### *Operational risks reserve*

This concerns reserves relating to insurance of equipment and to commercial disputes.

#### *Assets reserve*

The ICRC sets aside funds for capital expenditure on real estate and equipment, in order to be able to make investments, which are essential for its operations regardless of short-term financial fluctuations.

#### *Financial risks reserve*

This covers the risks of exchange rate and price fluctuations in securities.

### *Human resources reserves*

This reserve is set aside to cover the exposure to future payments to management and staff under agreements for early retirements.

### *Specific projects reserves*

Allocations for specific projects to be undertaken are made in anticipation of the events taking place; such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and studies concerning the red cross emblem.

### 5.2.16 Income

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

*Pledges in cash* are recognized on receipt of a written document from the donors.

*Contributions* that are based *on contracts for specific projects* (e.g. European Union, USAID, projects delegated to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) are recognized as the expenditure is incurred.

The *following contributions* are recognized upon receipt of the cash collection:

- ▶ Private sources, associations and companies
- ▶ Legacies
- ▶ Gifts

*Contributions in kind* (goods or interests) *and in services* (in the form of staff, means of transport or rent) are recognized on the date of receipt of the goods or service and are reported as equal contributions and expenses in the income and expenditure statement.

*Contributions in kind for fixed assets* are recorded at fair value under other income. Depreciation of such assets is included in operational expenditure in the same manner as for purchased fixed assets.

The *value of contributions in kind* is determined by the donor's indication of the value of the goods, including the cost of transport to the final destination. The fair value may not be exceeded.

The *value of service contributions* in form of staff is estimated by determining the real cost that would have been incurred had the contribution not been made. In the case of staff seconded to the ICRC, the estimated value consists of the salary plus the social security and insurance contributions paid by the ICRC for the position concerned. From this value, all personnel costs paid by the ICRC directly to the concerned persons or its employer have been deducted to give the value of service recorded.

#### EARMARKING

Cash contributions restricted by donors not other than for general ICRC field operations are considered as *non-earmarked*.

Cash contributions to a given region, country or programme (world-wide) are seen as *loosely earmarked*.

Contributions (in cash or in kind) to the programme or sub-programme of a country, project or goods are *tightly earmarked*.

The table below shows the overall framework for the earmarking level of cash contributions for the field budgets:

Level of earmarking	Range/restrictions	Example
none	overall ICRC field budget	<i>ICRC operations worldwide</i>
region	one of the five regions	<i>ICRC operations in Africa</i>
programme	one of the four programmes	<i>ICRC preventive action activities worldwide</i>
programme/region	one of the four programmes for one of the five regions	<i>ICRC protection activities in Asia and the Pacific</i>
operation	one of the worldwide delegations	<i>ICRC activities in Colombia</i>

Donor-restricted contributions that exceed specific expenditure within the accounting year are carried forward to the following year (see Note 5.2.15).

In cases where the ICRC meets an over-financing due to earmarked contributions for a specific operation, the donor is asked if the contribution can be allocated to another operation or be carried forward to the following year. In cases of over-financing, the donor may also ask for a reimbursement of the donation.

### 5.2.17 Financial income and expenditure

The net financial result is comprised of interest payable on borrowings, interest receivable on funds invested, securities' income, foreign exchange gains and losses, and gains and losses on hedging instruments (see Note 5.2.6).

Interest income is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the asset.

### 5.2.18 Employee benefits

For headquarters and expatriated employees pension obligations are covered by an independent foundation with a defined contribution plan. One third of the contributions are paid by the employees and two thirds by the ICRC.

#### DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Contributions to the defined contribution pension plan are recognized as an expense in the statement of income and expenditure as incurred.

#### EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The ICRC has a plan, which proposes to a certain category of its staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva to have a pre-retirement at 57 instead of 62. This plan is revocable at any time.

The obligation to employees who presently benefit from this plan is shown under accrued expenses and prepaid contributions (see note 5.3.9), discounted to its present value. The discount rate is the yield at balance sheet date on a five-year Swiss Government bond. It covers the period from the date of retirement from the ICRC up to the date of Swiss legal retirement.

Allocations made towards the cost of future early retirements are included in the human resources reserve.

#### LOCAL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS

Personnel employed locally by the delegations receive social benefits in accordance with the legislation of the countries concerned and the local collective staff agreements.

#### AVENIR FOUNDATION

The AVENIR Foundation is an entity, established at the ICRC's initiative, for the benefit of staff working at the headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva under an open-ended contract.

Its purpose is to facilitate training of professional skills, to facilitate career moves and to improve retirement benefits.

The ICRC pays fixed contributions to staff's individual accounts of the foundation depending on the length of their employment.

### 5.2.19 Expenditure

#### OPERATING LEASE PAYMENTS

Payments made under operating leases are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an integral part of the total lease payments made.

## 5.3 DETAILS RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (in Swiss francs ,000)

This section provides a breakdown of the main items on the balance sheet, the statement of income and expenditure, the cash flow statement and the statement of changes in reserves. All figures are in thousands of Swiss francs (Sfr ,000) and represent a consolidation of the headquarters and field financial data.

### 5.3.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	2003	2002
Cash and bank accounts	41,790	33,630
Time deposits	152,939	136,648
Cash and bank balances	194,729	170,278
Bank borrowings	-808	-521
Cash and cash equivalents	193,921	169,757

Cash and bank accounts include balances with funds and foundations of Sfr 1,167 (2002: Sfr 889).

### 5.3.2 Securities

	2003	2002
Shares and bonds	40,525	44,387
Other financial assets	9,511	4,789
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,036</b>	<b>49,176</b>

The securities include securities with funds and foundations of Sfr 9,636 (2002: Sfr 8,497).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

**5.3.3 Accounts receivable and prepayments**

	2003	2002
Pledges	80,857	56,824
Re-invoiced costs commercial	1,277	894
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds	3,560	4,403
Withholding taxes	1,123	773
Provision for accounts receivable	-4,730	-3,860
<b>Total accounts receivable</b>	<b>82,087</b>	<b>59,034</b>
Prepaid expenses	5,624	4,960
Guarantee deposits	897	887
Social security and insurance contributions	168	73
Advance payments to suppliers	228	510
Advance payments to employees	2,833	2,896
<b>Total prepayments</b>	<b>9,750</b>	<b>9,326</b>
<b>Total accounts receivable and prepayments</b>	<b>91,837</b>	<b>68,360</b>

The accounts receivable include withholding taxes with funds and the foundations of Sfr 6 (2002: Sfr 22).

**5.3.5 Property, equipment and software**

	Land and buildings	Equipment and vehicles	Software	Work in progress	Total
<b>Historical acquisition costs</b>					
Balance at 1 January 2003	54,832	111,815	20,080	1,379	188,106
Additions	429	22,800		5,717	28,946
Disposals		-15,742			-15,742
Completion of work in progress	777	706		-1,483	0
<b>Balance at 31 December 2003</b>	<b>56,038</b>	<b>119,579</b>	<b>20,080</b>	<b>5,613</b>	<b>201,310</b>
<b>Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments</b>					
Balance at 1 January 2003	-16,745	-81,536	-12,851	-78	-111,210
Impairment losses		-411			-411
Depreciation charge for the year	-1,536	-13,801	-4,016		-19,353
Disposals		14,056			14,056
<b>Balance at 31 December 2003</b>	<b>-18,281</b>	<b>-81,692</b>	<b>-16,867</b>	<b>-78</b>	<b>-116,918</b>
<b>Net book value as at 31 December 2003</b>	<b>37,757</b>	<b>37,887</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>5,535</b>	<b>84,392</b>
<b>Net book value as at 31 December 2002</b>	<b>38,087</b>	<b>30,279</b>	<b>7,229</b>	<b>1,301</b>	<b>76,896</b>

**a. Work in progress**

Work in progress comprises software in development acquired externally or generated internally for Sfr 3,090 for software (2002: Sfr 515) and Sfr 2,445 for construction and renovation works for buildings (2002: Sfr 786).

**b. Impairment loss**

An assessment of the value attributed to assets caused the ICRC to write down the carrying amount by Sfr 411 (2002: Sfr 160) .

**c. Finance lease**

Net equipment held under finance lease amount to Sfr. 1,820 at 31 December 2003 (2002: none).

**5.3.4 Inventories**

	2003	2002
<b>Breakdown by category of goods:</b>		
Relief	2,829	3,989
Medical and orthopaedic	8,632	7,261
Water and sanitation	4,397	2,188
Other	4,350	4,032
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,208</b>	<b>17,470</b>

Obsolete goods of a total value of Sfr 564 have been amortized in 2003 (2002: Sfr 95).

**d. Security: mortgage loan on property**

At 31 December 2003 the headquarters building No.3 is subject to two mortgage notes of Sfr 7,050 each to secure the interest-bearing mortgage loan (see Note 5.3.6).

**e. Insurance value**

The buildings owned and utilized by ICRC have a total insurance cover of Sfr 105,386 (2002: Sfr 108,000). The buildings that are on ICRC property have an insurance value of Sfr 69,902 (2002: Sfr 72,940).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

### 5.3.6 Borrowings and Loans

	2003	2002
<b>Loans</b>		
Interest-bearing loan	7,500	7,700
Other loan	9,383	9,592
	<b>16,883</b>	<b>17,292</b>
<b>Borrowings</b>		
Bank borrowings	808	521
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,691</b>	<b>17,813</b>

	Total	within 1 year	1-5 years	more than 5 years
<b>Terms and debt repayment schedule</b>				
<b>Secured loan (effective rate)</b>				
Sfr - fixed at 4.43%	7,500	200	800	6,500
<b>Unsecured loan</b>				
Sfr - granted at 0%	9,383	208	834	8,341
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,883</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>14,841</b>

The secured loan of Sfr 7,500 (2002: Sfr 7,700) relates to one building at the headquarters in Geneva. Interest amounted to Sfr 341 in 2003 (2002: Sfr 350).

The unsecured loan of initially Sfr 9,800 is interest free, reimbursable over 47 years and has been granted for the training center in Ecogia-Geneva, Switzerland. Notional interests for a contributed service of Sfr 363 (2002: Sfr 425) has been recorded as expenditure and as income at 3.78 % (2002: 4.25 %).

### 5.3.7 Accounts payable

	2003	2002
Governments	8,418	9,647
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds	1,236	2,911
Suppliers	11,676	17,412
Salaries due to employees	2,585	2,933
Social security and insurance contributions	14,696	12,274
Lease obligation	1,823	0
Sundry items	138	187
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,572</b>	<b>45,364</b>

### 5.3.8 Provisions

	2003	2002
<b>for local employee benefits</b>		
Balance at 1 January	18,426	19,107
Allocations during the year	5,545	2,208
Use of provisions during the year	-2,590	-2,889
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>21,381</b>	<b>18,426</b>
<b>for specific risks on contributions previously received</b>		
Balance at 1 January	3,262	0
Allocations during the year		3,262
Use of provisions during the year	-1,376	
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>1,886</b>	<b>3,262</b>
<b>for specific risks on cash equivalents and receivables</b>		
Allocations during the year	410	0
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,677</b>	<b>21,688</b>

The provision for local employees benefits covers a plan of end of service indemnities (e.g. end of employment, retirement, severance pay).

The provision for specific risks on contributions previously received covers unsettled files of received contributions with a potential risk of reimbursement. The provision for risks on cash equivalents and receivables has been established to cover potential risks of non reimbursements of those positions.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

**5.3.9 Accrued expenses and prepaid contributions**

	2003	2002
Accrued expenses	7,717	11,937
Staff vacation accrual	21,753	20,906
Early retirement	8,546	5,235
National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds	2,524	3,301
Prepaid contributions	3,338	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,878</b>	<b>41,503</b>

**5.3.10 Employee benefits****A. PERSONNEL PENSION PLAN**

Under the defined contribution pension plan the ICRC paid Sfr 29,245 (2002: Sfr 26,765) to the pension fund.

The Pension Fund Board has by a signed agreement with the ICRC accepted the following:

1. The ICRC's level of contributions is fixed at 17% of the pensionable salary.
2. The ICRC will not be liable for any additional contributions if the fund does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits as defined in the pension fund regulations relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.
3. The ICRC will not be liable for any additional contributions if the fund does not maintain a 4% return on investment.
4. Any surplus will not be used to reduce employer contributions.

**B. EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

The future financial commitments due to early retirement benefits are borne by the ICRC and are included under accrued expenses in the amount of Sfr 8,546 (2002: Sfr 5,235) for accepted early retirements. The human resources reserve includes an accumulated allocation of Sfr 4,094 (2002: Sfr 4,402) towards the cost of future early retirements.

The obligation for early retirement is calculated on the basis of the following actuarial assumptions:

	2003	2002
Discount rate	1.96 %	1.65 %
Rate of pension increase	0.86 %	1.13 %

The discount rate is based on a five-year yield Swiss Government bond and the rate of pension increase on the average Swiss inflation rate for the last 10 years.

**C. EXPENDITURE FOR TRAINING – AVENIR FOUNDATION**

In 2003, the contribution to that foundation has been Sfr 9,136 (2002: Sfr 8,311) and an amount of Sfr 4,028 (2002: Sfr 4,974) for training purposes and professional integration outside of the ICRC and early retirements has been paid out.

In addition, the ICRC has recorded direct expenditure for professional training of its staff of Sfr 2,031 (2002: Sfr 2,087).

**5.3.11 Funding of field operations****A. FIELD OPERATIONS WITH TEMPORARY DEFICIT FINANCING**

	2003	2002
Loosely earmarked balances	-15,650	-19,660
Tightly earmarked balances	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>-15,650</b>	<b>-19,660</b>

Field operations are considered as a deficit financing as soon as the contributions do not cover the expenditure.

**B. DONOR-RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS**

	2003	2002
Loosely earmarked balances	53,876	19,156
Tightly earmarked balances	1,164	552
<b>Total</b>	<b>55,040</b>	<b>19,708</b>

In 2003, contributions received in previous years of Sfr 196 were reimbursed (in 2002 none).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

### 5.3.12 Reserves designated by the Assembly

	Future operations	Operational risks	Assets replacement	Financial risks	Human resources	Specific projects	Total
Balance as at 31 December 2001	105,668	10,770	85,142	11,480	9,978	3,155	226,193
Use/release during 2002	0	-360	0	-6,310	-2,346	-1,506	-10,522
Allocations 2002	4,436	2,395	1,875	3,609	1,470	2,615	16,400
Balance as at 31 December 2002	110,104	12,805	87,017	8,779	9,102	4,264	232,071
Use/release during 2003	0	-1,615	0	-1,473	-1,808	-2,919	-7,815
Allocations 2003	8,417	8,400	3,298	3,745	1,000	1,853	26,713
Balance as at 31 December 2003	118,521	19,590	90,315	11,051	8,294	3,198	250,969

The future operations reserve is for insufficient operational funding, estimated at a level of the average of 2.5 months of cash, kind and services expenditure over the last five years including the

overhead for the field structure only. The theoretical level should be Sfr 149,734 (in 2002: Sfr 139,542).

### 5.3.13 Contributions

	2003	2002
Governments	715,186	664,644
European Commission	79,154	40,455
International organizations	2,490	3,521
Supranational organizations	628	202
National Societies	52,965	55,605
Public sources	4,657	4,925
Private sources	40,819	18,973
<b>Total</b>	<b>895,899</b>	<b>788,325</b>

The position private sources includes a contribution of Sfr 1,039 (2002: Sfr 500) for contributions to funds and foundations.

### 5.3.14 Operating expenditure by cash/kind/services and administrative cost

Operating expenditure	Cash	Kind	Services	Total 2003	Total 2002
<b>Field</b>					
Staff-related costs	-246,139		-16,751	-262,890	-236,618
Mission costs	-25,190			-25,190	-23,261
Premises and equipment	-54,705	-84	-269	-55,058	-46,612
Transport	-60,987	-24	-808	-61,819	-67,196
Assistance to victims	-152,892	-23,021		-175,913	-160,147
Financial assistance to National Societies	-30,867	-231		-31,098	-31,617
Financial assistance to third parties	-15,292			-15,292	-14,122
General supplies and services	-53,466			-53,466	-44,955
Depreciation	-13,873			-13,873	-10,387
<b>Total</b>	<b>-653,411</b>	<b>-23,360</b>	<b>-17,828</b>	<b>-694,599</b>	<b>-634,915</b>
<b>Headquarters</b>					
Staff-related costs	-106,786		-397	-107,183	-103,600
Mission costs	-4,204			-4,204	-3,761
Premises and equipment	-5,799		-1,078	-6,877	-9,336
Transport	-197			-197	-147
Financial assistance to third parties	-3,067			-3,067	-2,936
General supplies and services	-22,413	-363		-22,776	-20,948
Depreciation	-5,837			-5,837	-6,060
<b>Total</b>	<b>-148,303</b>	<b>-363</b>	<b>-1,475</b>	<b>-150,141</b>	<b>-146,788</b>

#### ADMINISTRATIVE COST

The following cost centres at headquarters are classified as administrative not direct programme-oriented operating expenditures:

- ▶ Presidency, directorate and management control
- ▶ Finance and administration
- ▶ Human resources
- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ Information systems and archives

Their total cost amounts to Sfr 84,247 (2002: Sfr 86,440) which represents 10.0 % (2002: 11.1 %) of the overall operational expenditures.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

**5.3.15 Staff-related costs and figures**

	2003	2002
Wages and salaries	274,216	250,044
Social insurance and social benefits	78,709	74,371
Contributed services	17,148	15,803
<b>Total</b>	<b>370,073</b>	<b>340,218</b>

The number of positions at the end of 2003 (2002) was:  
*in the field:*

- ▶ 1,325 (1,226) expatriate staff (including 233 (205) seconded by National Societies)
- ▶ 8,458 (8,046) locally recruited employees under ICRC contract
- ▶ 1,877 (1,775) local daily workers.

*at headquarters:*

- ▶ 823 (826) staff (including 9 (9) seconded by National Societies), which represents 685 (691) positions.

**5.3.16 Leases****A. OPERATING LEASES AS LESSEE**

The ICRC leases warehouses, delegation buildings and means of transport under operating leases. The leases may typically run for a period up to ten years, with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments are increased annually to reflect market rentals.

During the current year Sfr 74 million were recognized as rental expense in the statement of income and expenditure in respect of operating leases (2002: Sfr 77 million) as follows:

	2003	2002
Premises and equipment	28,663	27,036
Transport	44,855	50,123
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,518</b>	<b>77,159</b>

**Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:**

- within 12 months	4,645	4,461
- within 1 to 5 years	3,344	3,441
- over 5 years	394	599
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,383</b>	<b>8,501</b>

**B. OPERATING LEASES AS LESSOR**

In 2003, Sfr 356 (2002: Sfr 391) was recognized as income in the statement of income and expenditure in respect of subleases.

**C. FINANCE LEASES AS LESSEE**

	Future value			Present value
	Payments	Interests	Principal	Payments
<b>Non-cancellable finance lease liabilities are as follows:</b>				
- within 12 months	396	48	348	396
- within 1 to 5 years	1,567	83	1,484	1,455
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,963</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>1,832</b>	<b>1,851</b>

The difference between the future value of the minimum lease payments and their present value represents the discount on the lease obligations. There was no finance lease in 2002.

**5.3.17 Financial income and expense**

	2003	2002
<b>Available-for-sale securities:</b>		
Gain / (Loss) on securities	1,424	-3,207
Securities' income, net	910	1,084
<b>Total net income/(expense) on securities</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>-2,123</b>
Interest income	1,010	1,294
<b>Total financial income/(expense), net</b>	<b>3,344</b>	<b>-829</b>
Interest expense	-341	-350
<b>Total financial income / (expense), net</b>	<b>3,003</b>	<b>-1,179</b>
<b>Foreign exchange loss, net</b>	<b>-1,187</b>	<b>-10,251</b>

The position financial income/(expense), net includes an income of Sfr 515 (2002: expense of Sfr 386) concerning the funds and foundations.

The interest expense is already included in the operating expenditure owing to the appeals to donors.

**5.3.18 Other income and other expenditure**

	2003	2002
Decrease in provision for accounts receivable	0	3,730
Decrease in provision for specific risks, net	1,376	0
Re-invoiced costs	5,650	4,860
Income arising from prior period	1,752	1,450
Other	5,130	3,090
Adjustments of operations	1,184	1,460
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>15,092</b>	<b>14,590</b>
Increase in provision for accounts receivable	-870	0
Increase in provision for specific risks, net	-410	-3,262
Expenditure arising from prior period	-866	-687
Other	-7,750	-3,813
<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>-9,896</b>	<b>-7,762</b>

Adjustments of operations concern changes in the funding of field operations recorded in previous years. These comprise mainly transfer of goods between operations, and new estimates of accruals of previous years.

The position other expenditure includes an amount of Sfr 54 (2002: Sfr 47) concerning the funds and foundations.

**5.4 ADDITIONAL NOTES****5.4.1 Taxes**

The ICRC (not its staff) is exempt from taxes in Switzerland and most countries in which its delegations are based.

**5.4.2 Financial instruments****A. FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK**

The ICRC incurs foreign currency risk on pledged contributions that are denominated in a currency other than Swiss francs. The currencies giving rise to this risk are primarily the US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Swedish Kroner.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

*Hedging policy*

The ICRC hedges significant pledged contributions denominated in a foreign currency on the balance sheet.

The ICRC uses forward foreign exchange contracts to hedge its foreign currency risk as soon as the balance sheet item is recognized. The forward exchange contracts have maturities of less than one year after the balance sheet date. Where necessary, the forward exchange contracts are swapped at maturity. No future cash-flow hedges have been contracted in 2003.

In respect of other monetary assets and liabilities held in currencies other than Swiss francs, the ICRC ensures that the net exposure is kept to an acceptable level, by buying or selling foreign currencies at spot rates where necessary to address short term needs.

At the year's end, the following positions are open:

	2003	2002
<b>Forward foreign exchange contracts</b>		
- purchase of foreign currencies	32,632	40,094
- sale of foreign currencies	-49,875	-11,359

**B. FAIR VALUE**

Changes in the fair value of forward exchange contracts that hedge pledged contributions or significant expenditures are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. They are generally offset by foreign exchange gains and losses arising on translation of the hedged item to Swiss francs at the balance sheet date.

Both the changes in fair value of the hedging instruments and the foreign exchange gains and losses relating to the hedged items are recognized as part of "net financial result" (see Note 5.3.16).

The net fair value of forward exchange contracts at the balance sheet date was a charge of Sfr 94 (2002: income of Sfr 285).

**C. INTEREST RATE RISK**

As the ICRC has a fixed mortgage rate up to 30 June 2006, there is no short-term exposure to changes in interest rates.

**D. CREDIT RISK**

The receivables are mostly with governments with high credit ratings, where credit risk is low.

Investments are allowed only in liquid securities and only with counter parties that have a high credit rating.

Other positions are not material, or are covered by provisions.

**5.4.3 Overhead income and expenditure**

As a contribution to the costs of headquarters' support for operations in the field, an additional 6.5 % is added to the budget of each operation for cash and service movements. This support includes services essential for an operation's success such as human resources, finance, logistics, information technology and other support.

The reconciliation of **overhead expenditure** results as follows:

	Headquarters	Field
<b>2003</b>		
Operational expenditure	-150,141	-694,599
Internal allocation to headquarters budget	-	-43,626
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>-150,141</b>	<b>-738,225</b>
<b>2002</b>		
Operational expenditure	-146,788	-634,915
Internal allocation to headquarters budget	-	-40,007
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>-146,788</b>	<b>-674,922</b>

The reconciliation of **overhead income** results in the following breakdown for the last two years:

	Headquarters	Field
<b>2003</b>		
Contributions	122,838	772,189
Internal allocation from field budget	43,626	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>166,464</b>	<b>772,189</b>
<b>2002</b>		
Contributions	121,054	667,025
Internal allocation from field budget	40,007	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>161,061</b>	<b>667,025</b>

**5.4.4 Capital and contractual commitments***Capital commitments*

*Capital expenditures* of Sfr 946 (2002: Sfr 5,638) have been approved but not provided for in these financial statements.

**5.4.5 Related parties****A. IDENTITY OF RELATED PARTIES**

The ICRC has a controlling related party relationship with four of its special funds and foundations (see Note 5.4.6).

Key Management Personnel are persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the ICRC. This includes the directors and senior management as well as close members of their families or households.

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC.

The ICRC has a **conflict-of-interest policy** whereby the Assembly, the Directors, and the Senior Management must advise the Assembly or the responsible Human Resources Management of any direct or indirect interest in any transaction or relationship with the ICRC and are disqualified from participation in discussions and decisions regarding any action affecting their individual, professional, or business interests.

**B. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES**

During the year the ICRC received income of Sfr 167 (2002: 88 Sfr) from two of its funds and foundations (see Note 5.4.6). There were no transactions with key management personnel.

With the exception of the President and the permanent Vice-president the other members of the Assembly, or any person related or connected by business to them, have not received any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

### 5.4.6 Special Funds and Foundations

Fund/ Foundation	Board	Beneficiary	Capital	Net Assets	Result	Transaction to the ICRC
<b>Total 2003</b>						
Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross	ICRC & external	ICRC	6,840	7,926	1,313	134
Clare R. Benedict Fund	ICRC	ICRC	1,633	1,828	-7	23
Omar El Muktar Fund	ICRC	ICRC	761	851	31	10
Max Huber Fund	-	ICRC	25	25		0
<b>Total</b>			<b>9,259</b>	<b>10,630</b>	<b>1,337</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>Total 2002</b>						
			<b>8,123</b>	<b>9,293</b>	<b>-27</b>	<b>88</b>

The assets of the consolidated funds and foundations consist of the following positions:

	Securities	Special Funds	Banks	Withholding taxes
Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross	6,955	-	1,142	6
Clare R. Benedict Fund	-	1,829	-	-
Omar El Muktar Fund	-	852	-	-
Max Huber Fund	-	-	25	-

### 5.4.7 Remuneration

The salaries and benefits of the President, the permanent Vice-president, the six Directors (four Directors until June 2002) and the Management Controller of the ICRC are set by the Assembly. Their total compensation amounted to Sfr 3,194 (2002 Sfr 2,672). This includes employer expenses of Sfr 590 (2002 Sfr 513) for social insurance and social benefits. No other salaries and benefits (e.g. fringe benefits, loans) were granted to them.

The non-permanent members of the Assembly, or persons related or connected by business to them, have not received any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

### 5.4.8 Subsequent events

#### *Reprofile of contributions from the Iraq operations to the Afghanistan operations*

On 18 February 2004 the Canadian Government approved to reprofile in 2004 ICRC accounts a contribution of CAD 10,000 (Sfr. 9,454) received in 2003 by the ICRC for the Iraq operations to the Afghanistan operations.



## Audit

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### Report of the external Auditors to the Assembly of the Members of

#### The International Committee of the Red Cross

As external auditors of your association, we have audited the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure, cash flow statement, statement of changes in reserves and notes) of The International Committee of the Red Cross for the year ended December 31, 2003. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession in Switzerland and with the International Standards on Auditing, issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as of December 31, 2003, and the results of operations, the changes in reserves and the cash flows in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Furthermore, the accounting records and financial statements comply with the Swiss law and the articles of incorporation.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

KPMG Fides Peat

Stéphane Gard  
*Auditor in charge*

Hélène Béguin

Geneva, 15 April 2004

#### Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure, statement of changes in reserves, cash flow statement and notes)



KPMG Fides Peat, a corporation under Swiss law, is a subsidiary of KPMG Holding, a member firm of KPMG International, a Swiss association.

Member of the Swiss Institute  
Of Certified Accountants and Tax Consultants

(in Swiss francs ,000)

**6.1. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RELATED TO THE 2003 EMERGENCY AND HEADQUARTERS APPEALS**

	<b>BUDGET</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME</b> (Cash, kind and services)						
	2003 Initial budget	Amendments	2003 Final budget	Protection	Assistance	Preventive action	Cooperation with National Societies	General	2003 Total expenditure	Overheads (already included in the opposite figures)
<b>1. EMERGENCY APPEAL (FIELD)</b>										
Africa	307,320	51,286	358,606	50,309	203,784	24,934	22,023	675	301,725	17,648
Asia and the Pacific	159,625	-	159,625	29,717	64,241	16,802	13,308	426	124,495	7,593
Latin America and the Caribbean	54,456	-	54,456	7,812	18,044	10,791	3,569	312	40,528	2,472
Europe and North America	120,229	3,600	123,829	15,217	53,597	21,338	7,675	612	98,439	5,934
Middle East and North Africa	109,641	119,717	229,357	29,822	122,374	12,146	8,504	191	173,038	9,978
Contingency	37,564	-3,600	33,964							
Field general	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</b>	<b>788,834</b>	<b>171,002</b>	<b>959,836</b>	<b>132,877</b>	<b>462,040</b>	<b>86,012</b>	<b>55,079</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>738,225</b>	<b>43,626</b>
<b>2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL</b>										
<b>2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</b>										
Africa	24,996	-184	24,812	4,442	11,465	1,487	1,188	6,204	24,785	
Asia and the Pacific	15,526	-109	15,417	3,071	3,303	1,684	1,329	4,548	13,936	
Latin America and the Caribbean	5,108	-29	5,079	797	950	623	419	2,159	4,948	
Europe and North America	12,012	-78	11,934	1,905	2,820	1,288	800	3,687	10,500	
Middle East and North Africa	10,453	3,406	13,859	2,525	5,363	1,411	849	2,963	13,111	
<b>SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</b>	<b>68,095</b>	<b>3,006</b>	<b>71,101</b>	<b>12,740</b>	<b>23,901</b>	<b>6,492</b>	<b>4,586</b>	<b>19,560</b>	<b>67,281</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>										
Assembly, Presidency & Management Control	4,202	-66	4,136	-	-	94	-	4,169	4,263	
Directorate	12,323	-22	12,301	-	-	2,713	73	9,973	12,759	
Operations	25,527	-384	25,143	4,543	6,731	2,526	340	11,869	26,007	
Law, Policy and Cooperation with the Movement	19,392	502	19,894	607	-	11,577	4,140	2,885	19,209	
Communication	20,406	-247	20,159	-	-	15,458	475	3,245	19,177	
Kind and services for buildings								1,445	1,445	
<b>SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>81,850</b>	<b>-217</b>	<b>81,633</b>	<b>5,150</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>32,368</b>	<b>5,027</b>	<b>33,585</b>	<b>82,860</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>	<b>149,945</b>	<b>2,789</b>	<b>152,734</b>	<b>17,890</b>	<b>30,631</b>	<b>38,860</b>	<b>9,614</b>	<b>53,145</b>	<b>150,140</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>3. OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b> (according to table 2 – Statement of income and expenditure)										
Total field and headquarters income and expenditure				150,768	492,671	124,872	64,693	55,362	888,366	43,626
Deduction of field non-operating income										
Deduction of headquarters non-operating income										
Deduction of overheads									-43,626	-43,626
<b>TOTAL FIELD AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b>				<b>150,768</b>	<b>492,671</b>	<b>124,872</b>	<b>64,693</b>	<b>55,362</b>	<b>844,740</b>	<b>-</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

INCOME (Cash, kind and services)							FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS (Balances brought forward)						
Cash contributions	Cash non-operating income	Overheads	Kind contributions	Services contributions	2003 Total income		2002 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward	2002 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward	Adjustments and transfers	2003 Donor-restricted contributions	2003 Field operations with temporary deficit financing		
281,938	2,327		12,568	5,958	302,791		2,240	-7,947	324	2,685	-7,001	<b>1. EMERGENCY APPEAL (FIELD)</b>	
100,391	220		79	5,690	106,380		16,444	-1,196	362		-2,505	Africa	
41,352	219		22	846	42,438			-1,815	-3	92		Asia and the Pacific	
95,577	548		1,214	1,056	98,395		1,024	-3,103	13	938	-3,049	Latin America and the Caribbean	
211,743	880		9,478	4,278	226,378			-5,600	488	51,324	-3,095	Europe and North America	
-	-		-	-	-							Middle East and North Africa	
-	-		-	-	-							Contingency	
-	-		-	-	-							Field general	
731,001	4,194		23,360	17,828	776,383		19,708	-19,660	1,184	55,040	-15,650	<b>TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD)</b>	
												<b>2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL</b>	
												<b>2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</b>	
-	22		-	-	22							Africa	
-	8		-	-	8							Asia and the Pacific	
-	-		-	-	-							Latin America and the Caribbean	
-	1		-	-	1							Europe and North America	
-	12		-	-	12							Middle East and North Africa	
-	43		-	-	43							<b>SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT</b>	
												<b>2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
-	-		-	-	-							Assembly, Presidency & Management Control	
204	44		-	50	298							Directorate	
-	1		-	142	143							Operations	
128	0		-	205	334							Law, Policy and Cooperation with the Movement	
-	23		-	-	23							Communication	
			-	1,442	1,442							Kind and services for buildings	
332	68		-	1,839	2,239							<b>SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
120,999	2,456	43,626	-	1,839	168,920							<b>TOTAL HEADQUARTERS</b>	
												<b>3. OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b>	
852,000	6,650	43,626	23,360	19,667	945,302							Total field and headquarters income and expenditure	
	-4,194				-4,194							Deduction of field non-operating income	
	-2,456				-2,456							Deduction of headquarters non-operating income	
		-43,626			-43,626							Deduction of overheads	
852,000	-	-	23,360	19,667	895,027							<b>TOTAL FIELD AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE</b>	

(in Swiss francs ,000)

**6.2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2003 EMERGENCY APPEALS**

	<b>BUDGET</b>			<b>EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME</b> (Cash, kind and services)							
	2003 Initial budget	Amendments	2003 Final budget	Protection	Assistance	Preventive action	Cooperation with National Societies	General	2003 Total expenditure	Overheads (already included in the opposite figures)	
<b>Africa</b>											
Angola	26,424	-	26,424	7,449	13,517	2,115	442	8	23,529	1,432	
Burundi	9,855	-	9,855	1,307	4,461	740	125	11	6,644	406	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	46,421	-	46,421	7,850	24,795	2,238	2,289	91	37,263	2,274	
The Republic of the Congo	8,027	-	8,027	1,154	4,111	1,141	99	-	6,505	396	
Eritrea	12,153	-	12,153	1,907	6,071	361	857	53	9,250	565	
Ethiopia	26,089	40,528	66,617	5,230	44,950	2,249	1,831	352	54,613	2,686	
Guinea	9,610	-	9,610	3,515	2,687	1,133	1,170	63	8,568	523	
Liberia	21,133	2,345	23,479	2,850	21,494	558	1,601	4	26,506	1,536	
Rwanda	27,385	-	27,385	4,086	14,308	950	558	27	19,930	1,216	
Sierra Leone	8,534	-	8,534	2,919	2,652	451	940	-	6,962	425	
Somalia	23,397	-	23,397	441	19,178	481	1,048	-	21,148	1,274	
Sudan	46,146	-	46,146	3,197	32,139	2,223	1,869	-	39,428	2,405	
Uganda	4,205	-	4,205	361	1,006	213	1,329	12	2,921	178	
Abidjan Regional Delegation	7,650	4,864	12,514	2,236	6,132	1,918	1,555	-	11,840	708	
Abuja Regional Delegation	5,561	-	5,561	-	892	1,476	1,752	25	4,145	253	
Dakar Regional Delegation	3,231	-	3,231	638	317	983	664	-	2,602	159	
Harare Regional Delegation	5,296	-	5,296	1,820	915	670	624	14	4,044	247	
Nairobi Regional Delegation	7,821	-	7,821	1,350	2,813	1,444	892	15	6,514	398	
Pretoria Regional Delegation	4,183	-	4,183	658	127	2,276	1,458	-	4,519	276	
Yaoundé Regional Delegation	4,199	3,549	7,748	1,339	1,220	1,315	918	-	4,793	293	
<b>Total Africa</b>	<b>307,320</b>	<b>51,286</b>	<b>358,606</b>	<b>50,309</b>	<b>203,784</b>	<b>24,934</b>	<b>22,023</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>301,725</b>	<b>17,648</b>	
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>											
Afghanistan	86,506	-	86,506	4,814	46,472	3,449	4,572	111	59,419	3,622	
Indonesia	8,624	-	8,624	1,500	2,598	1,458	1,372	-	6,928	423	
Myanmar	12,877	-	12,877	6,024	5,631	762	652	-	13,069	798	
Nepal	7,860	-	7,860	3,793	1,660	674	749	7	6,884	420	
Pakistan	3,106	-	3,106	837	450	614	531	-	2,431	148	
Philippines	2,671	-	2,671	878	569	590	172	4	2,212	135	
Sri Lanka	10,187	-	10,187	5,677	2,008	1,425	561	3	9,673	590	
Timor-Leste	819	-	819	263	78	118	358	-	817	50	
Bangkok Regional Delegation	9,047	-	9,047	1,084	3,897	1,473	1,308	99	7,861	480	
Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation	1,919	-	1,919	25	-	1,224	127	162	1,538	94	
New Dehli Regional Delegation	5,803	-	5,803	2,621	37	1,508	752	-	4,918	300	
Suva Regional Delegation	2,697	-	2,697	299	50	1,182	1,057	33	2,622	160	
Tashkent Regional Delegation	7,509	-	7,509	1,901	792	2,324	1,097	9	6,123	374	
<b>Total Asia and the Pacific</b>	<b>159,625</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>159,625</b>	<b>29,717</b>	<b>64,241</b>	<b>16,802</b>	<b>13,308</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>124,495</b>	<b>7,593</b>	
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>											
Colombia	34,820	-	34,820	5,125	15,302	3,951	694	34	25,107	1,532	
Peru	5,052	-	5,052	1,761	887	1,308	207	-	4,164	253	
Buenos Aires Regional Delegation	3,018	-	3,018	156	4	1,404	513	126	2,202	134	
Caracas Regional Delegation	1,989	-	1,989	71	76	891	711	-	1,749	107	
Mexico Regional Delegation	9,577	-	9,577	699	1,776	3,237	1,444	152	7,307	446	
<b>Total Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>54,456</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>54,456</b>	<b>7,812</b>	<b>18,044</b>	<b>10,791</b>	<b>3,569</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>40,528</b>	<b>2,472</b>	

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

INCOME (Cash, kind and services)						FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS (Balances brought forward)					
Cash contributions	Cash non-operating income	Kind contributions	Services contributions	2003 Total Income		2002 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward	2002 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward	Adjustments and transfers	2003 Donor-restricted contributions	2003 Field operations with temporary deficit financing	
											<b>Africa</b>
22,211	72	63	468	22,814					-715		Angola
6,864	7	-	38	6,909		-423	-3		-161		Burundi
37,462	29	-	216	37,707		-2,388	19		-1,926		Democratic Republic of the Congo
6,435	53	17	-	6,505			0				The Republic of the Congo
9,043	10	-	197	9,250							Eritrea
41,555	44	10,604	741	52,945		1,634	34				Ethiopia
8,464	24	-	80	8,568							Guinea
25,214	1,737	1,344	676	28,972			1	2,466			Liberia
19,342	54	-	228	19,624		-421	95		-633		Rwanda
6,648	10	-	307	6,965			-3				Sierra Leone
21,355	2	280	77	21,714		-1,599	164		-868		Somalia
36,987	32	17	2,265	39,300		517	-2,668	8	87	-2,358	Sudan
2,890	29	-	-	2,919				2			Uganda
11,667	15	243	22	11,947		-448	1		-340		Abidjan Regional Delegation
4,008	3	-	134	4,145							Abuja Regional Delegation
2,593	3	-	-	2,595			7				Dakar Regional Delegation
3,798	10	-	147	3,955		89					Harare Regional Delegation
6,084	85	-	345	6,514			1				Nairobi Regional Delegation
4,412	91	-	17	4,519							Pretoria Regional Delegation
4,906	18	-	-	4,925				132			Yaoundé Regional Delegation
<b>281,938</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>12,568</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>302,791</b>		<b>2,240</b>	<b>-7,947</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>2,685</b>	<b>-7,001</b>	<b>Total Africa</b>
											<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>
37,682	129	77	4,114	42,003		16,093	339		-984		Afghanistan
6,416	4	-	195	6,615		318	-5				Indonesia
12,645	10	-	364	13,019			-736		-786		Myanmar
6,634	6	-	72	6,712			-299		-471		Nepal
2,283	7	-	139	2,429			2				Pakistan
2,174	4	-	35	2,212							Philippines
9,193	27	-	453	9,673							Sri Lanka
816	0	-	-	817							Timor-Leste
7,643	13	-	173	7,829		32					Bangkok Regional Delegation
1,535	2	-	-	1,538							Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation
5,065	7	-	7	5,078			-161				New Delhi Regional Delegation
2,537	3	-	82	2,622							Suva Regional Delegation
5,768	7	2	56	5,832			26		-265		Tashkent Regional Delegation
<b>100,391</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>5,690</b>	<b>106,380</b>		<b>16,444</b>	<b>-1,196</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-2,505</b>	<b>Total Asia and the Pacific</b>
											<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>
25,753	84	2	813	26,651			-1,449	-3	92		Colombia
4,265	29	20	33	4,347			-183				Peru
2,165	38	-	-	2,202							Buenos Aires Regional Delegation
1,882	49	-	-	1,931			-182				Caracas Regional Delegation
7,288	19	-	-	7,307							Mexico Regional Delegation
<b>41,352</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>42,438</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-1,815</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Total Latin America and the Caribbean</b>

(in Swiss francs ,000)

## 6.2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2003 EMERGENCY APPEALS (cont.)

	BUDGET			EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME (Cash, kind and services)							
	2003 Initial budget	Amendments	2003 Final budget	Protection	Assistance	Preventive action	Cooperation with National Societies	General	2003 Total expenditure	Overheads (already included in the opposite figures)	
<b>Europe and North America</b>											
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5,903	-	5,903	2,397	147	1,668	1,611	-	5,823	355	
Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of	3,262	-	3,262	644	374	910	188	-	2,116	129	
Serbia and Montenegro	20,952	3,600	24,552	4,438	14,813	1,677	1,422	2	22,352	1,343	
Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)	26,930	-	26,930	2,884	15,621	3,062	486	13	22,066	1,338	
Budapest Regional Delegation	4,836	-	4,836	760	78	2,034	1,121	-	3,993	244	
Kyiv Regional Delegation	1,674	-	1,674	11	-	945	334	-	1,290	79	
Moscow Regional Delegation	47,457	-	47,457	1,974	22,563	5,439	1,735	72	31,783	1,896	
Washington Regional Delegation	2,939	-	2,939	1,717	-	1,603	221	6	3,547	216	
Brussels	2,125	-	2,125	7	-	1,257	458	54	1,776	109	
New York	2,651	-	2,651	-	-	1,644	34	460	2,138	130	
Paris	1,172	-	1,172	-	-	1,099	65	5	1,169	71	
Germany ( International Tracing Service )	327	-	327	386	-	-	-	-	386	24	
<b>Total Europe and North America</b>	<b>120,229</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>123,829</b>	<b>15,217</b>	<b>53,597</b>	<b>21,338</b>	<b>7,675</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>98,439</b>	<b>5,934</b>	
<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>											
Algeria	1,646	-	1,646	365	57	197	318	-	937	57	
Egypt	1,088	-	1,088	128	25	1,015	109	6	1,284	78	
Iran	1,076	-	1,076	385	939	193	418	8	1,943	119	
Iraq	21,821	108,533	130,355	12,517	69,237	5,016	2,004	27	88,800	4,983	
Israel, the Occupied Territories & the Autonomous Territories	71,241	11,183	82,425	12,551	50,497	2,329	4,499	-	69,876	4,119	
Jordan	1,779	-	1,779	820	406	544	79	-	1,849	112	
Lebanon	2,733	-	2,733	567	198	620	309	-	1,695	103	
Syria	1,215	-	1,215	178	74	618	93	-	963	59	
Yemen	2,419	-	2,419	365	865	317	222	-	1,769	108	
Kuwait Regional Delegation	2,005	-	2,005	1,193	5	564	145	151	2,058	126	
Tunis Regional Delegation	2,616	-	2,616	753	71	734	307	-	1,865	114	
<b>Total Middle East and North Africa</b>	<b>109,641</b>	<b>119,717</b>	<b>229,357</b>	<b>29,822</b>	<b>122,374</b>	<b>12,146</b>	<b>8,504</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>173,038</b>	<b>9,978</b>	
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>37,564</b>	<b>-3,600</b>	<b>33,964</b>								
<b>Field general</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL FIELD</b>	<b>788,834</b>	<b>171,002</b>	<b>959,836</b>	<b>132,877</b>	<b>462,040</b>	<b>86,012</b>	<b>55,079</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>738,225</b>	<b>43,626</b>	

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

INCOME (Cash, kind and services)						FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS (Balances brought forward)					
Cash contributions	Cash non-operating income	Kind contributions	Services contributions	2003 Total Income		2002 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward	2002 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward	Adjustments and transfers	2003 Donor-restricted contributions	2003 Field operations with temporary deficit financing	
											<b>Europe and North America</b>
5,558	9	-	9	5,576					-247		Bosnia-Herzegovina
2,098	3	-	16	2,116			-0				Macedonia, Former Yugoslav Republic of
21,113	130	355	277	21,874			7		-471		Serbia and Montenegro
22,424	48	147	297	22,916		-1,489	1		-638		Southern Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia)
3,700	41	-	163	3,905	1,021		5	938			Budapest Regional Delegation
1,267	23	-	-	1,290							Kyiv Regional Delegation
30,844	15	712	131	31,702	3	-1,614			-1,693		Moscow Regional Delegation
3,530	7	-	10	3,547							Washington Regional Delegation
1,773	1	-	2	1,776							Brussels
2,119	19	-	-	2,138							New York
1,000	19	-	150	1,169							Paris
153	233	-	-	386							Germany ( International Tracing Service )
<b>95,577</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>1,214</b>	<b>1,056</b>	<b>98,395</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>-3,103</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>-3,049</b>		<b>Total Europe and North America</b>
											<b>Middle East and North Africa</b>
934	3	-	-	937							Algeria
1,271	13	-	-	1,284							Egypt
1,520	5	-	419	1,943			-0				Iran
133,971	340	7,083	1,820	143,214		-3,137	42	51,319			Iraq
64,926	445	2,394	1,102	68,868		-2,263	181		-3,090		Israel, the Occupied Territories & the Autonomous Territories
1,069	17	-	763	1,849							Jordan
1,660	35	-	-	1,695							Lebanon
920	3	-	40	963				5	-5		Syria
1,662	5	-	101	1,769							Yemen
2,000	13	-	30	2,043		-200	215				Kuwait Regional Delegation
1,811	1	-	3	1,815			50				Tunis Regional Delegation
<b>211,743</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>9,478</b>	<b>4,278</b>	<b>226,378</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-5,600</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>51,324</b>	<b>-3,095</b>		<b>Total Middle East and North Africa</b>
											<b>Contingency</b>
											<b>Field general</b>
-	-	-	-	-							
<b>731,001</b>	<b>4,194</b>	<b>23,360</b>	<b>17,828</b>	<b>776,383</b>	<b>19,708</b>	<b>-19,660</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>55,040</b>	<b>-15,650</b>		<b>TOTAL FIELD</b>

## 7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2003

### 7.0 SUMMARY OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
7.1 Governments	114,464,544	581,551,609	2,029,061	698,045,215	14,819,677	2,321,044	715,185,935	886,004	716,071,939
7.2 European Commission	0	80,058,693	-904,283	79,154,410	0	0	79,154,410	0	79,154,410
7.3 International organizations	0	0	0	0	2,489,662	0	2,489,662	40	2,489,702
7.4 Supranational organizations	0	607,053	0	607,053	20,674	0	627,727	0	627,727
7.5 National Societies	5,499,630	26,718,304	-1,015,664	31,202,271	5,892,843	15,870,035	52,965,149	506,164	53,471,313
7.6 Public sources	0	3,620,952	0	3,620,952	0	1,078,956	4,699,908	0	4,699,908
7.7 Private sources	317,111	39,042,740	9,868	39,369,719	137,593	396,717	39,904,028	83,325	39,987,353
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>120,281,286</b>	<b>731,599,351</b>	<b>118,982</b>	<b>851,999,619</b>	<b>23,360,449</b>	<b>19,666,751</b>	<b>895,026,819</b>	<b>1,475,533</b>	<b>896,502,352</b>

**Reconciliation between the consolidated contributions of the ICRC (chapter 5.3.13)  
and the summary of the contributions to the ICRC (chapter 7.0)**

Total consolidated contributions of the ICRC (chapter 7.0)	895,026,819
Contributions received from funds and foundations of the ICRC	1,039,012
Contributions of the consolidated funds and foundations of the ICRC to the ICRC actions (chapter 7.7)	
Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross	-133,760
Clare R. Benedict Fund	-22,922
Omar El Muktar Fund	-10,142
<b>Total contributions of the consolidated accounts of the ICRC (chapter 5.3.12)</b>	<b>895,899,007</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

### 7.1 GOVERNMENTS (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
Algeria	48,580	0	0	48,580	0	0	48,580	0	48,580
Andorra	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	30,000
Australia	1,860,594	8,771,450	0	10,632,044	0	0	10,632,044	0	10,632,044
Austria	527,442	0	0	527,442	0	0	527,442	0	527,442
Azerbaijan	6,785	0	0	6,785	0	0	6,785	0	6,785
Bahamas	13,674	0	0	13,674	0	0	13,674	0	13,674
Barbados	1,323	0	0	1,323	0	0	1,323	0	1,323
Belgium	1,083,456	8,043,427	0	9,126,883	0	774,250	9,901,133	0	9,901,133
Bhutan	21,616	0	0	21,616	0	0	21,616	0	21,616
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	0	1,200	0	1,200
Botswana	1,367	0	0	1,367	0	0	1,367	0	1,367
Bulgaria	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	30,000
Cambodia	300	0	16,178	16,478	0	0	16,478	0	16,478
Canada	2,685,600	28,563,702	0	31,249,302	0	754,935	32,004,237	0	32,004,237
Chile	70,147	0	0	70,147	0	0	70,147	0	70,147
China	520,000	0	0	520,000	0	0	520,000	0	520,000
Colombia	135,265	0	176,292	311,557	0	0	311,557	0	311,557
Costa Rica	41,285	0	37,322	78,607	0	0	78,607	0	78,607
Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	0	0	29,180	0	29,180	0	29,180
Cyprus	80,000	0	0	80,000	0	0	80,000	0	80,000
Czech Republic	77,372	50,000	0	127,372	0	0	127,372	0	127,372
Denmark	2,362,548	7,699,836	0	10,062,384	290,042	0	10,352,426	0	10,352,426
Egypt	0	0	88,205	88,205	0	0	88,205	0	88,205
Equatorial Guinea	150	0	0	150	0	0	150	0	150
Eritrea	150	0	0	150	0	0	150	0	150
Estonia	28,263	48,367	0	76,630	0	0	76,630	0	76,630
Finland	1,532,900	9,945,485	580,000	12,058,385	855,936	666,924	13,581,245	0	13'581'245

**7.1 GOVERNMENTS (CONT.)** (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
France	1,251,316	11,258,792	0	12,510,108	0	0	12,510,108	0	12,510,108
Germany	1,954,952	22,290,135	-10,934	24,234,153	0	0	24,234,153	0	24,234,153
Ghana	900	0	0	900	0	0	900	0	900
Greece	350,000	466,500	0	816,500	0	0	816,500	0	816,500
Grenada	300	0	0	300	0	0	300	0	300
Guyana	3,710	0	0	3,710	0	0	3,710	0	3,710
Holy See	6,940	6,940	0	13,880	0	0	13,880	0	13,880
Hungary	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Iceland	72,566	721,600	0	794,166	0	0	794,166	0	794,166
India	17,680	0	0	17,680	0	0	17,680	0	17,680
Indonesia	34,303	134,348	0	168,652	0	0	168,652	0	168,652
Ireland	200,590	3,008,250	0	3,208,840	0	0	3,208,840	0	3,208,840
Israel	145,200	0	0	145,200	0	0	145,200	0	145,200
Italy	1,205,125	8,183,295	0	9,388,420	0	0	9,388,420	0	9,388,420
Japan	800,000	18,008,000	0	18,808,000	0	0	18,808,000	0	18,808,000
Jordan	20,355	0	0	20,355	0	0	20,355	0	20,355
Kuwait	0	2,608,202	0	2,608,202	0	0	2,608,202	0	2,608,202
Liechtenstein	200,000	250,000	0	450,000	0	0	450,000	0	450,000
Lithuania	3,305	0	0	3,305	0	0	3,305	0	3,305
Luxembourg	651,342	4,492,000	0	5,143,342	0	0	5,143,342	0	5,143,342
Madagascar	109	0	0	109	0	0	109	0	109
Mali	301	0	0	301	0	0	301	0	301
Malta	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	15,000
Mauritius	13,555	0	0	13,555	0	0	13,555	0	13,555
Monaco	100,000	0	0	100,000	0	0	100,000	0	100,000
Morocco	50,000	0	0	50,000	874,833	0	924,833	0	924,833
Myanmar	20,265	0	0	20,265	0	0	20,265	0	20,265
Netherlands	5,135,130	42,564,840	0	47,699,970	0	0	47,699,970	0	47,699,970
New Zealand	324,720	1,208,530	378,650	1,911,900	0	0	1,911,900	0	1,911,900
Nicaragua	101,775	0	0	101,775	0	0	101,775	0	101,775
Norway	894,298	26,763,680	-40,458	27,617,519	2,244,658	0	29,862,177	611,831	30,474,008
Oman	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Panama	42,794	0	0	42,794	0	0	42,794	0	42,794
Poland	155,000	25,962	0	180,962	0	0	180,962	0	180,962
Portugal	200,000	251,450	0	451,450	0	0	451,450	0	451,450
Romania	6,472	0	0	6,472	0	0	6,472	0	6,472
Saint Kitts and Nevis	295	0	0	295	0	0	295	0	295
San Marino	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Saudi Arabia	270,200	271,400	0	541,600	0	0	541,600	0	541,600
Senegal	1,567	0	0	1,567	0	0	1,567	0	1,567
Serbia and Montenegro	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	30,000
Seychelles	0	0	1,082	1,082	0	0	1,082	0	1,082
Singapore	30,925	0	0	30,925	0	0	30,925	0	30,925
Slovakia	35,000	0	0	35,000	0	0	35,000	0	35,000
Slovenia	9,343	0	0	9,343	0	0	9,343	0	9,343
South Africa	131,505	80,100	0	211,605	0	0	211,605	0	211,605
South Korea	400,530	0	0	400,530	0	0	400,530	0	400,530
Spain	622,000	1,803,155	0	2,425,155	0	0	2,425,155	0	2,425,155
Sweden	2,211,440	34,292,500	0	36,503,940	0	0	36,503,940	0	36,503,940
Switzerland	68,904,000	21,820,888	-70,150	90,654,738	0	76,350	90,731,088	274,173	91,005,261
Syria	24,291	0	0	24,291	0	0	24,291	0	24,291
Thailand	101,775	308,404	0	410,179	0	0	410,179	0	410,179
Tonga	300	0	0	300	0	0	300	0	300
Tunisia	9,154	0	0	9,154	0	0	9,154	0	9,154
Turkey	100,000	0	0	100,000	0	0	100,000	0	100,000
United Kingdom	1,349,700	111,801,798	533,550	113,685,048	0	0	113,685,048	0	113,685,048
United States of America	14,994,500	205,808,574	339,324	221,142,398	10,525,028	48,585	231,716,011	0	231,716,011
<b>Total from Governments</b>	<b>114,464,544</b>	<b>581,551,609</b>	<b>2,029,061</b>	<b>698,045,215</b>	<b>14,819,677</b>	<b>2,321,044</b>	<b>715,185,935</b>	<b>886,004</b>	<b>716,071,939</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

**7.2 EUROPEAN COMMISSION** (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
DG Development	0	12,154,369	0	12,154,369	0	0	12,154,369	0	12,154,369
ECHO	0	67,904,324	-904,283	67,000,041	0	0	67,000,041	0	67,000,041
<b>Total from European Commission</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>80,058,693</b>	<b>-904,283</b>	<b>79,154,410</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,154,410</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>79,154,410</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

**7.3 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
WFP	0	0	0	0	2,314,516	0	2,314,516	0	2,314,516
UNHCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	40
UNICEF	0	0	0	0	162,946	0	162,946	0	162,946
Various UN	0	0	0	0	12,200	0	12,200	0	12,200
<b>Total from International organizations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,489,662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,489,662</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2,489,702</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

**7.4 SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS** (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
AG Fund	0	604,650	0	604,650	0	0	604,650	0	604,650
Various	0	2,403	0	2,403	20,674	0	23,077	0	23,077
<b>Total from Supranational organizations</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>607,053</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>607,053</b>	<b>20,674</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>627,727</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>627,727</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

**7.5 NATIONAL SOCIETIES** (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
Andorra	1,307	0	0	1,307	0	0	1,307	0	1,307
Australia	185,257	541,201	-3,049	723,409	0	1,694,528	2,417,937	0	2,417,937
Austria	65,811	1,031,602	0	1,097,413	388,351	311,623	1,797,387	0	1,797,387
Bahamas	2,834	0	0	2,834	0	0	2,834	0	2,834
Bahrain	0	0	0	0	554,090	0	554,090	0	554,090
Belgium	126,479	0	0	126,479	19,973	283,699	430,151	0	430,151
Bolivia	945	0	0	945	0	0	945	0	945
Cambodia	1,889	0	0	1,889	0	0	1,889	0	1,889
Cameroon	932	0	0	932	0	0	932	0	932
Canada	144,112	362,457	-96,000	410,569	0	1,422,091	1,832,660	0	1,832,660
Cape Verde	1,568	0	0	1,568	0	0	1,568	0	1,568
Chile	9,551	0	0	9,551	0	0	9,551	0	9,551
China	70,954	67,550	0	138,504	0	0	138,504	0	138,504
China / Hong Kong	0	89,173	0	89,173	0	5,945	95,118	0	95,118

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
Costa Rica	3,470	0	0	3,470	0	0	3,470	0	3,470
Cyprus	0	73,925	0	73,925	0	0	73,925	0	73,925
Czech Republic	14,713	0	0	14,713	0	0	14,713	0	14,713
Denmark	98,440	1,720,552 <sup>1</sup>	0	1,818,991	144,019	1,361,457	3,324,467	0	3,324,467
Dominica	230	0	0	230	0	0	230	0	230
Egypt	10,496	534,031	9,030	553,557	68,135	0	621,692	0	621,692
Estonia	3,149	0	0	3,149	0	0	3,149	0	3,149
Ethiopia	5,668	0	0	5,668	0	0	5,668	0	5,668
Finland	98,993	195,552	-580,000	-285,455	345,946	863,463	923,955	0	923,955
France	535,094	0	0	535,094	0	696,376	1,231,470	0	1,231,470
Germany	573,142	2,298,166 <sup>2</sup>	-360,401	2,510,907	0	655,057	3,165,964	0	3,165,964
Greece	0	93,486	0	93,486	0	69,247	162,733	0	162,733
Honduras	2,875	0	0	2,875	0	0	2,875	0	2,875
Hungary	5,000	5,675	0	10,675	129,297	0	139,972	0	139,972
Iceland	38,101	0	0	38,101	0	233,524	271,625	0	271,625
Indonesia	5,000	19,926	0	24,926	0	0	24,926	0	24,926
Iran	35,162	70,000	0	105,162	12,098	34,149	151,409	0	151,409
Ireland	18,788	36,875	0	55,663	0	278,612	334,275	0	334,275
Italy	274,463	92,477	0	366,940	0	6,048	372,988	0	372,988
Japan	1,421,463	1,698,387	0	3,119,850	2,327	1,150,020	4,272,197	0	4,272,197
Jordan	840	0	0	840	0	3,934	4,774	0	4,774
Kenya	1,030	0	0	1,030	0	0	1,030	0	1,030
Kuwait	0	13,755	-120,628	-106,873	0	67,880	-38,993	0	-38,993
Latvia	2,309	0	0	2,309	0	0	2,309	0	2,309
Lebanon	0	6,755	0	6,755	0	0	6,755	0	6,755
Libya	13,435	0	0	13,435	0	0	13,435	0	13,435
Liechtenstein	16,794	34,000	0	50,794	0	0	50,794	63,000	113,794
Luxembourg	27,605	22,718	0	50,323	0	0	50,323	0	50,323
Malaysia	20,260	0	0	20,260	0	0	20,260	0	20,260
Mauritania	1,053	0	0	1,053	0	0	1,053	0	1,053
Monaco	18,473	36,875	0	55,348	0	0	55,348	0	55,348
Mongolia	1,064	0	0	1,064	0	0	1,064	0	1,064
Morocco	1,357	0	0	1,357	0	0	1,357	0	1,357
Myanmar	2,027	0	0	2,027	0	0	2,027	0	2,027
Netherlands	234,694	481,232	0	715,926	0	506,940	1,222,866	0	1,222,866
New Zealand	42,509	74,650	0	117,159	0	590,955	708,114	0	708,114
Nigeria	2,631	0	0	2,631	0	0	2,631	0	2,631
Norway	251,661	12,312,854 <sup>3</sup>	40,458	12,604,973	421,533	2,762,886	15,789,393	77,566	15,866,959
Pakistan	4,696	0	0	4,696	0	0	4,696	0	4,696
Portugal	0	0	95,666	95,666	0	0	95,666	0	95,666
Qatar	0	14,629	0	14,629	0	0	14,629	0	14,629
Romania	10,601	0	0	10,601	0	0	10,601	0	10,601
Senegal	963	0	0	963	0	0	963	0	963
Singapore	0	343,627	0	343,627	0	0	343,627	0	343,627
Slovakia	6,193	0	0	6,193	0	0	6,193	0	6,193
South Korea	218,215	50,000	0	268,215	0	0	268,215	0	268,215
Spain	370,094	907,184	0	1,277,278	1,364,768	691,895	3,333,941	0	3,333,941
Sweden	98,270	1,590,840	0	1,689,110	248,023	655,426	2,592,559	0	2,592,559
Switzerland	124,274	1,398,068 <sup>4</sup>	-739	1,521,603	406,163	236,625	2,164,391	166,000	2,330,391
Syria	0	0	0	0	99,553	0	99,553	0	99,553
Thailand	41,670	0	0	41,670	0	0	41,670	0	41,670
Trinidad and Tobago	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	0	1,500
United Arab Emirates	0	126,400	0	126,400	317,336	0	443,736	151,759	595,495
United Kingdom	226,230	81,410	0	307,640	1,076,278	1,241,734	2,625,652	47,839	2,673,491
United States of America	0	292,274	0	292,274	292,853	45,921	631,047	0	631,047
Vietnam	1,280	0	0	1,280	0	0	1,280	0	1,280
Zimbabwe	2,018	0	0	2,018	0	0	2,018	0	2,018
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	0	0	0	0	2,100	0	2,100	0	2,100
<b>Total from National Societies</b>	<b>5,499,630</b>	<b>26,718,304</b>	<b>-1,015,664</b>	<b>31,202,271</b>	<b>5,892,843</b>	<b>15,870,035</b>	<b>52,965,149</b>	<b>506,164</b>	<b>53,471,313</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

- 1 The Kuwaiti Red Crescent contributed 675,530 Swiss francs for the purchase of equipment for a project in Afghanistan.
- 2 The United Kingdom Red Cross contributed 132,890 Swiss francs for "Alternative to Violence" project in Nigeria.

- 3 The Kuwaiti Red Crescent contributed 156,989.87 Swiss francs for the purchase of ambulances for the "Kabul Ambulance Service".
- 4 The Swedish Red Cross contributed 353,493 Swiss francs to the "Environmental Health and Sanitation project in Afghanistan".

**7.6 PUBLIC SOURCES** (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
Basel-Landschaft, Canton of	0	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	100,000	0	100,000
Bellinzona	0	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	5,000
Bernex	0	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	30,000	0	30,000
Cologne	0	80,000	0	80,000	0	0	80,000	0	80,000
Fribourg, Canton of	0	34,200	0	34,200	0	0	34,200	0	34,200
Geneva, Canton of	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000	0	671,856	3,671,856	0	3,671,856
Geneva, City of	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	0	200,000	0	200,000
Gerlafingen	0	500	0	500	0	0	500	0	500
Lausanne, City of	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Lombardia, Region of	0	18,116	0	18,116	0	0	18,116	0	18,116
Schaffhausen, City of	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	10,000	0	10,000
Taipei/Taiwan, RC Society	0	43,135	0	43,135	0	0	43,135	0	43,135
Versoix	0	0	0	0	0	407,100	407,100	0	407,100
Zurich, Canton of	0	90,000	0	90,000	0	0	90,000	0	90,000
<b>Total from public sources</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,620,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,620,952</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,078,956</b>	<b>4,699,908</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,699,908</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

## 7.7 PRIVATE SOURCES (in Swiss francs)

	Headquarters appeal	Emergency appeals	Adjustment on previous year	Total cash	Total kind	Total services	Sub-total	Total assets	Grand total
Direct mail fundraising campaigns	0	3,431,038	-7,610	3,423,428	0	0	3,423,428	0	3,423,428
Spontaneous donations from private individuals	0	4,602,194	0	4,602,194	0	0	4,602,194	0	4,602,194
<b>Donations from foundations/funds</b>									
Ansbacher Trust	0	11,200	0	11,200	0	0	11,200	0	11,200
Better World International Foundation	0	105,000	0	105,000	0	0	105,000	0	105,000
Boston Foundation	0	29,722	0	29,722	0	0	29,722	0	29,722
Charities Aid Foundation	0	38,459	0	38,459	0	0	38,459	0	38,459
Clare R. Benedict Fund	0	22,922	0	22,922	0	0	22,922	0	22,922
Fondation des immeubles pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI)	0	0	0	0	0	362,556	362,556	0	362,556
Fondation pour le CICR	133,760	0	0	133,760	0	0	133,760	0	133,760
Hasibra Foundation	0	277,600	0	277,600	0	0	277,600	0	277,600
Hellas Trust	0	14,279	0	14,279	0	0	14,279	0	14,279
Nikko-I International Trust	0	32,360	0	32,360	0	0	32,360	0	32,360
Noric Foundation	0	68,503	0	68,503	0	0	68,503	0	68,503
Odeon Foundation	0	21,350	0	21,350	0	0	21,350	0	21,350
Fondation Albert Ed Oeschlin	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Omar El Muktar Fund	0	10,142	0	10,142	0	0	10,142	0	10,142
Parthenon Trust	0	2,134,200	0	2,134,200	0	0	2,134,200	0	2,134,200
Poh Teck Tung Foundation	0	92,517	0	92,517	0	0	92,517	0	92,517
RPH-Promotor Stiftung	0	372,233	0	372,233	0	0	372,233	0	372,233
Stiftung Accentus (Redyw- Totta-Fonds)	0	200,000	0	200,000	0	0	200,000	0	200,000
Weyerhaeuser Foundation	13,351	0	0	13,351	0	0	13,351	0	13,351
Willametta K. Day Foundation	0	13,555	0	13,555	0	0	13,555	0	13,555
Kantonale St. Gallische Winkelriedstiftung	0	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	15,000
Others and less than CHF 10,000	0	37,723	3,600	41,323	0	0	41,323	0	41,323
<b>Total donations from foundations/funds</b>	<b>147,111</b>	<b>3,546,766</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,697,477</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>362,556</b>	<b>4,060,033</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,060,033</b>
<b>Legacies</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>549,377</b>	<b>13,877</b>	<b>563,254</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>563,254</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>563,254</b>
<b>Donations from private companies</b>									
Credit Suisse Group	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
F.Hoffmann-La Roche	0	0	0	0	126,000	0	126,000	0	126,000
Firmenich	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0	50,000
Land Rover	0	0	0	0	0	34,161	34,161	0	34,161
Nestlé	70,000	0	0	70,000	0	0	70,000	0	70,000
UBS - Key Club	0	67,850	0	67,850	0	0	67,850	0	67,850
Vontobel Holding	0	21,300,000	0	21,300,000	0	0	21,300,000	0	21,300,000
Others	0	431,351	0	431,351	11,593	0	442,944	83,325	526,269
<b>Total donations from private companies</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>21,899,201</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,969,201</b>	<b>137,593</b>	<b>34,161</b>	<b>22,140,954</b>	<b>83,325</b>	<b>22,224,279</b>
<b>Donations from partnerships</b>									
Rotary International (MINE-EX, Switzerland)	0	500,000	0	500,000	0	0	500,000	0	500,000
Rotary Pallanza Stresa	0	7,743	0	7,743	0	0	7,743	0	7,743
Soroptimist International Finland	0	486,651	0	486,651	0	0	486,651	0	486,651
UEFA	100,000	900,000	0	1,000,000	0	0	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Rotary Club Wells	0	772	0	772	0	0	772	0	772
<b>Total donations from partnerships</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>1,895,166</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,995,166</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,995,166</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,995,166</b>
Various Donors	0	3,119,000	0	3,119,000	0	0	3,119,000	0	3,119,000
<b>Total from private sources</b>	<b>317,111</b>	<b>39,042,740</b>	<b>9,868</b>	<b>39,369,719</b>	<b>137,593</b>	<b>396,717</b>	<b>39,904,028</b>	<b>83,325</b>	<b>39,987,353</b>

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

**8. CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES AND TO DELEGATED PROJECTS 2003** (in Swiss francs)

	Donations in kind (excluding DP)		Donations in services (excluding DP)		Donations for delegated projects (DP)				Grand Total		Number of days of employees' services
	Headquarters	Field	Headquarters	Field	Kind	Services	Cash	Total DP	Total kind	Total services	
<b>NATIONAL SOCIETIES</b>											
Australia	0	0	14,452	1,564,376	0	115,700	446,344	562,044	0	1,694,528	5,551
Austria	0	388,351	37,770	273,853	0	0	0	0	388,351	311,623	1,155
Bahrain	0	554,090	0	0	0	0	0	0	554,090	0	
Belgium	0	19,973	0	283,699	0	0	0	0	19,973	283,699	139
Canada	0	0	112,791	1,285,164	0	24,136	184,351	208,487	0	1,422,091	1,743
Denmark	0	144,019	0	1,239,177	0	122,280	873,975 <sup>1</sup>	996,255	144,019	1,361,457	3,435
Egypt	0	68,135	0	0	0	0	0	0	68,135	0	
Finland	0	345,946	0	817,203	0	46,260	0	46,260	345,946	863,463	3,423
France	0	0	6,998	689,377	0	0	0	0	0	696,376	246
Germany	0	0	10,054	274,865	0	370,138	1,968,455 <sup>2</sup>	2,338,593	0	655,057	1,838
Greece	0	0	0	69,247	0	0	0	0	0	69,247	650
China/Hong Kong	0	0	0	5,945	0	0	0	0	0	5,945	29
Hungary	0	129,297	0	0	0	0	0	0	129,297	0	
Iceland	0	0	0	233,524	0	0	0	0	0	233,524	804
Iran	0	12,098	0	34,149	0	0	0	0	12,098	34,149	
Ireland	0	0	0	278,612	0	0	0	0	0	278,612	23
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	6,048	16,756	22,804	0	6,048	
Japan	0	0	0	432,861	2,327	717,159	1,143,804	1,863,290	2,327	1,150,020	2,831
Jordan	0	0	0	3,934	0	0	0	0	0	3,934	
Kuwait	0	0	0	67,880	0	0	0	0	0	67,880	
Netherland	0	0	9,282	372,211	0	125,447	331,091	456,538	0	506,940	1,284
New Zealand	0	0	0	590,955	0	0	0	0	0	590,955	2,968
Norway	0	344,104	136,560	1,584,344	77,429	1,041,982	3,729,537 <sup>3</sup>	4,848,948	421,533	2,762,886	8,402
Spain	0	1,364,768	0	555,439	0	136,456	907,184	1,043,640	1,364,768	691,895	1,647
Sweden	0	248,023	0	450,125	0	205,301	1,247,443	1,452,744	248,023	655,426	2,226
Switzerland	0	406,163	0	32,538	0	204,087	1,178,362 <sup>4</sup>	1,382,449	406,163	236,625	551
Syria	0	99,553	0	0	0	0	0	0	99,553	0	
United Arab Emirates	0	317,336	0	0	0	0	0	0	317,336	0	
United Kingdom	0	1,076,278	69,326	1,038,261	0	134,147	0	134,147	1,076,278	1,241,734	2,627
United States of America	0	292,853	0	36,102	0	9,819	121,560	131,379	292,853	45,921	28
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	0	2,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,100	0	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,813,087</b>	<b>397,233</b>	<b>12,213,842</b>	<b>79,756</b>	<b>3,258,960</b>	<b>12,148,862</b>	<b>15,487,578</b>	<b>5,892,843</b>	<b>15,870,035</b>	<b>41,600</b>
<b>GOVERNMENTS</b>											
Belgium	0	0	0	774,250	0	0	0	0	0	774,250	
Canada	0	0	0	370,300	0	384,635	594,944	979,579	0	754,935	2,353
Côte d'Ivoire	0	29,180	0	0	0	0	0	0	29,180	0	
Denmark	0	290,042	0	0	0	0	0	0	290,042	0	
Finland	0	855,936	0	0	0	666,924	1,187,958	1,854,882	855,936	666,924	1,796
Morocco	0	874,833	0	0	0	0	0	0	874,833	0	
Norway	0	2,244,658	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,244,658	0	
Switzerland	0	0	0	76,350	0	0	0	0	0	76,350	198
United States of America	0	10,525,028	0	48,585	0	0	0	0	10,525,028	48,585	
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,819,677</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,269,485</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,051,559</b>	<b>1,782,902</b>	<b>2,834,461</b>	<b>14,819,677</b>	<b>2,321,044</b>	<b>4,347</b>

	Donations in kind (excluding DP)		Donations in services (excluding DP)		Donations for delegated projects (DP)				Grand Total		Number of days of employees' services
	Headquarters	Field	Headquarters	Field	Kind	Services	Cash	Total DP	Total kind	Total services	
<b>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>											
WFP	0	2,314,516	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,314,516	0	
UNHCR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
UNICEF	0	162,946	0	0	0	0	0	0	162,946	0	
Various UN	0	12,200	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,200	0	
Sub-total	0	2,489,662	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,489,662	0	0
<b>SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS</b>											
Various	0	20,674	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,674	0	
Sub-total	0	20,674	0	0	0	0	0	0	20,674	0	0
<b>PUBLIC SOURCES</b>											
Geneva, Canton of	0	0	671,856	0	0	0	0	0	0	671,856	
Versoix	0	0	407,100	0	0	0	0	0	0	407,100	
Sub-total	0	0	1,078,956	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,078,956	0
<b>PRIVATE DONORS</b>											
"Fondation des immeubles pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI)"	0	0	362,556	0	0	0	0	0	0	362,556	
Land Rover	0	0	0	34,161	0	0	0	0	0	34,161	
F.Hoffmann-La Roche		126,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	126,000	0	
Others private companies	0	11,593	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,593	0	
Sub-total	0	137,593	362,556	34,161	0	0	0	0	137,593	396,717	0
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	0	23,280,693	1,838,745	13,517,487	79,756	4,310,519	13,931,764	18,322,039	23,360,449	19,666,751	45,947

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

- 1 The Kuwaiti Red Crescent contributed 675,530 Swiss francs for the purchase of equipment for a project in Afghanistan.
- 2 The United Kingdom Red Cross contributed 132,890 Swiss francs for "Alternative to Violence" project in Nigeria.
- 3 The Kuwaiti Red Crescent contributed 156,989.87 Swiss francs for the purchase of ambulances for the "Kabul Ambulance Service".
- 4 The Swedish Red Cross contributed 353,493 Swiss francs to the "Environmental Health and Sanitation project in Afghanistan".

## 9. RELIEF AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TABLES

The statistical data in the following tables can be summarized as follows:

### 9.1 CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2003

All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December, 2003. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistical means. The figures for medical and relief purchase comprise all procurements carried out both with unearmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of 172,084,259 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Relief and medical supplies dispatched in 2003".

### 9.2 RELIEF AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2003

All relief and medical goods received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December, 2003.

### 9.3 RELIEF AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2003

All relief and medical goods distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December, 2003. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 2003 or taken from stock already constituted at the end of 2002.

## 9.1 CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2003

(divided by donors & purchases, according to stock entry date)

Donors	Food	Seeds	Blankets	Tents	Kitchen sets	Clothes	Other relief goods	Total relief	Medical*	Grand total
	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)	(Units)	(Units)	(Units)	(Tonnes)	(Tonnes)	(CHF)	(CHF)	(CHF)
<b>National Societies</b>	<b>1,827.3</b>		<b>131,685</b>		<b>2,620</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>101.2</b>	<b>3,407,883</b>	<b>2,991,125</b>	<b>6,399,008</b>
Austria	804.1							312,079	76,272	388,351
Belgium									19,973	19,973
Bahrain	224.0					3.3		402,080	152,010	554,090
Denmark			19,800			13.6		144,019		144,019
Egypt									68,135	68,135
Finland	385.2		8,000			42.0	5.0	314,586	31,360	345,946
Hungary									129,297	129,297
Iran									12,098	12,098
Japan						0.1		2,328		2,328
Liechtenstein							5.0	63,000		63,000
Norway	1.6		20,250				11.9	411,012	88,087	499,099
Spain	339.9		30,445				4.1	480,911	883,857	1,364,768
Sweden						99.2		248,023		248,023
Switzerland							15.3	178,253	393,910	572,163
Syria	72.5							99,553		99,553
United Arab Emirates							19.0	151,759	317,336	469,095
United Kingdom			18,990		2,520	5.9	10.9	305,327	818,790	1,124,117
United States			34,200				30.0	292,853		292,853
International Federation					100			2,100		2,100
<b>Governments</b>	<b>26,193.4</b>		<b>64,590</b>	<b>600</b>			<b>231.1</b>	<b>14,266,128</b>	<b>1,439,553</b>	<b>15,705,681</b>
Cote d'Ivoire	95.5							29,180		29,180
Denmark									290,042	290,042
Finland	1,343.0		19,800					855,936		855,936
Morocco									874,833	874,833
Norway	13.5		44,790	600			225.6	2,581,811	274,678	2,856,489
Switzerland							3.0	274,173		274,173
United States (USAID, Food For Peace)	24,741.4							10,515,028		10,515,028
United States (USAID, OFDA)							2.5	10,000		10,000
<b>Various donors</b>	<b>6,865.8</b>		<b>15,000</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>27.9</b>	<b>2,532,225</b>	<b>199,069</b>	<b>2,731,294</b>
United Nations (WFP, HCR, UNICEF)	6,838.4		15,000	69			23.7	2,457,345	32,357	2,489,702
Other donors	27.4				4		4.2	74,880	166,712	241,592
<b>TOTAL GIFTS IN KIND</b>	<b>34,886.5</b>		<b>211,275</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>360.2</b>	<b>20,206,236</b>	<b>4,629,747</b>	<b>24,835,983</b>
ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked)	35,896.9	5,276.0	590,023	3,970	139,771	673.5	6,298.1	57,622,979	42,784,511	100,407,490
ICRC PURCHASES (cash for kind)	42,328.8	211.4	162,030	2,250	24,887	44.4	1,727.3	34,688,589	6,993,644	41,682,233
ICRC PURCHASES (deleg. projects)		0.1				3.9	181.1	393,945	4,764,608	5,158,553
<b>TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES</b>	<b>78,225.7</b>	<b>5,487.5</b>	<b>752,053</b>	<b>6,220</b>	<b>164,658</b>	<b>721.8</b>	<b>8,206.5</b>	<b>92,705,513</b>	<b>54,542,763</b>	<b>147,248,276</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>113,112.2</b>	<b>5,487.5</b>	<b>963,328</b>	<b>6,889</b>	<b>167,282</b>	<b>885.9</b>	<b>8,566.7</b>	<b>112,911,749</b>	<b>59,172,510</b>	<b>172,084,259</b>

\* MEDICAL includes medical, prosthetic/orthotic and water and sanitation items.

## 9.2 RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2003

(by receiving countries, according to stock entry date)

Countries	GIFTS IN KIND			PURCHASES BY THE ICRC			TOTAL DISPATCHED			TOTAL (CHF)
	MEDICAL* (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	MEDICAL* (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	MEDICAL* (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>126,325</b>	<b>12,489,692</b>	<b>25,691.9</b>	<b>17,664,793</b>	<b>35,319,637</b>	<b>47,735.9</b>	<b>17,791,118</b>	<b>47,809,329</b>	<b>73,427.8</b>	<b>65,600,447</b>
Angola		62,806	17.0	1,236,485	1,910,693	1,645.9	1,236,485	1,973,499	1,662.9	3,209,984
Botswana					4,748	2.1		4,748	2.1	4,748
Burundi				654,915	50,837	19.2	654,915	50,837	19.2	705,752
Cameroon				8,819	7,219	3.6	8,819	7,219	3.6	16,038
Central African Republic				480,753	25,040	6.7	480,753	25,040	6.7	505,793
Chad				63,652	23,949	3.9	63,652	23,949	3.9	87,601
Comoros				1,543	358	0.1	1,543	358	0.1	1,901
Republic of the Congo		16,800	22.0	177,321	1,379,389	399.5	177,321	1,396,189	421.5	1,573,510
Democratic Republic of the Congo				2,703,259	4,782,813	2,411.1	2,703,259	4,782,813	2,411.1	7,486,072
Côte d'Ivoire	12,200	230,952	413.2	155,422	974,058	475.3	167,622	1,205,010	888.5	1,372,632
Djibouti				34,579	95,314	30.2	34,579	95,314	30.2	129,893
Eritrea				416,986	1,767,520	2,800.9	416,986	1,767,520	2,800.9	2,184,506
Ethiopia		10,652,255	24,757.6	1,112,875	11,661,226	29,284.0	1,112,875	22,313,481	54,041.6	23,426,356
Guinea				299,042	81,754	48.0	299,042	81,754	48.0	380,796
Guinea-Bissau				2,197	2,894	1.1	2,197	2,894	1.1	5,091
Kenya				533,341	145,257	231.7	533,341	145,257	231.7	678,598
Liberia	97,256	1,246,873	456.2	2,738,194	4,839,009	1,678.5	2,835,450	6,085,882	2,134.7	8,921,332
Madagascar				17,629	8,874	3.1	17,629	8,874	3.1	26,503
Namibia				39,503	7,315	3.5	39,503	7,315	3.5	46,818
Niger				164	1,112	0.4	164	1,112	0.4	1,276
Nigeria				21,299	109,238	36.5	21,299	109,238	36.5	130,537
Rwanda				1,109,371	2,455,397	6,343.8	1,109,371	2,455,397	6,343.8	3,564,768
Senegal				1,930	120,746	210.8	1,930	120,746	210.8	122,676
Sierra Leone				325,860	64,355	43.1	325,860	64,355	43.1	390,215
Somalia		280,006	25.9	3,252,666	3,493,626	1,001.8	3,252,666	3,773,632	1,027.7	7,026,298
Sudan	16,869			2,041,867	1,201,763	882.9	2,058,736	1,201,763	882.9	3,260,499
Swaziland					1,627	0.5		1,627	0.5	1,627
Tanzania				79,167	4,970	1.1	79,167	4,970	1.1	84,137
Uganda				22,997	8,191	7.4	22,997	8,191	7.4	31,188
Zambia				127,628	7,663	5.0	127,628	7,663	5.0	135,291
Zimbabwe				5,329	82,682	154.2	5,329	82,682	154.2	88,011
<b>LATIN AMERICA &amp; THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>19,952</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>685,962</b>	<b>6,609,748</b>	<b>5,425.7</b>	<b>687,572</b>	<b>6,629,700</b>	<b>5,433.7</b>	<b>7,317,272</b>
Bolivia				68,477			68,477			68,477
Colombia	1,610	69	0.1	453,154	6,184,690	4,808.3	454,764	6,184,759	4,808.4	6,639,523
Haiti					1,603	0.5		1,603	0.5	1,603
Mexico				127,353	394,304	609.1	127,353	394,304	609.1	521,657
Peru		19,883	7.9	30,105	29,151	7.8	30,105	49,034	15.7	79,139
Venezuela				6,873			6,873			6,873

Countries	GIFTS IN KIND			PURCHASES BY THE ICRC			TOTAL DISPATCHED			TOTAL (CHF)
	MEDICAL* (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	MEDICAL* (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	MEDICAL* (CHF)	RELIEF (CHF)	(Tonnes)	
<b>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</b>	<b>74,897</b>	<b>4,439</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>10,514,005</b>	<b>2,568,446</b>	<b>2,464.2</b>	<b>10,588,902</b>	<b>2,572,885</b>	<b>2,464.6</b>	<b>13,161,787</b>
Afghanistan	74,897	2,339	0.1	8,654,511	1,661,334	2,072.7	8,729,408	1,663,673	2,072.8	10,393,081
Cambodia				269,127	37,174	24.0	269,127	37,174	24.0	306,301
China				234,356			234,356			234,356
Fiji					15,023	7.4		15,023	7.4	15,023
India				202	14,752	5.0	202	14,752	5.0	14,954
Indonesia				271,236	216,211	95.4	271,236	216,211	95.4	487,447
Korea (DPRK)				222,716	946	0.1	222,716	946	0.1	223,662
Kyrgyzstan				7,236	7,602	6.7	7,236	7,602	6.7	14,838
Myanmar				521,485	136,304	88.3	521,485	136,304	88.3	657,789
Nepal				87,997	255,878	85.5	87,997	255,878	85.5	343,875
Pakistan				9,231	79,257	26.5	9,231	79,257	26.5	88,488
Philippines				49,855	45,974	19.1	49,855	45,974	19.1	95,829
Solomon Islands					43,317	21.3		43,317	21.3	43,317
Sri Lanka				30,875	54,578	12.2	30,875	54,578	12.2	85,453
Timor-Leste				39,033	96		39,033	96		39,129
Tajikistan				70,490			70,490			70,490
Thailand				45,655			45,655			45,655
Uzbekistan		2,100	0.3					2,100	0.3	2,100
<b>EUROPE &amp; NORTH AMERICA</b>		<b>1,213,861</b>	<b>2,552.3</b>	<b>4,383,903</b>	<b>16,610,298</b>	<b>22,188.9</b>	<b>4,383,903</b>	<b>17,824,159</b>	<b>24,741.2</b>	<b>22,208,062</b>
Albania				24,632			24,632			24,632
Armenia				161,496	34,748	10.6	161,496	34,748	10.6	196,244
Azerbaijan				202,390	845	0.1	202,390	845	0.1	203,235
Croatia				6,322	4,192	0.5	6,322	4,192	0.5	10,514
Georgia		147,000	385.2	838,198	3,241,110	5,947.6	838,198	3,388,110	6,332.8	4,226,308
Macedonia					1,617	0.2		1,617	0.2	1,617
Russian Federation		712,214	1,223.0	2,944,871	9,337,228	7,009.2	2,944,871	10,049,442	8,232.2	12,994,313
Serbia and Montenegro		354,647	944.1	205,994	3,984,998	9,220.0	205,994	4,339,645	10,164.1	4,545,639
United States of America**					5,560	0.7		5,560	0.7	5,560
<b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>4,386,203</b>	<b>6,161,466</b>	<b>7,487.5</b>	<b>21,294,100</b>	<b>31,597,384</b>	<b>17,067.4</b>	<b>25,680,303</b>	<b>37,758,850</b>	<b>24,554.9</b>	<b>63,439,153</b>
Egypt					17,483	4.9		17,483	4.9	17,483
Iraq	4,385,843	3,767,370	899.2	20,684,901	5,473,830	5,324.9	25,070,744	9,241,200	6,224.1	34,311,944
Israel, the Occ. Terr. & the Autonomous Terr.	360	2,394,096	6,588.3	321,449	25,894,741	11,674.8	321,809	28,288,837	18,263.1	28,610,646
Jordan				19,299	161,821	51.8	19,299	161,821	51.8	181,120
Lebanon				35,713	2,198	1.3	35,713	2,198	1.3	37,911
Syria				37,369			37,369			37,369
Western Sahara				58,402	26,819	4.0	58,402	26,819	4.0	85,221
Yemen				136,967	20,492	5.7	136,967	20,492	5.7	157,459
<b>REGIONAL STOCKS</b>	<b>40,712</b>	<b>316,826</b>	<b>3.5</b>				<b>40,712</b>	<b>316,826</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>357,538</b>
Geneva & Nairobi (only gifts in kind)	40,712	316,826	3.5				40,712	316,826	3.5	357,538
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4,629,747</b>	<b>20,206,236</b>	<b>35,743.6</b>	<b>54,542,763</b>	<b>92,705,513</b>	<b>94,882.1</b>	<b>59,172,510</b>	<b>112,911,749</b>	<b>130,625.7</b>	<b>172,084,259</b>

\* MEDICAL includes medical, prosthetic/orthotic and water and sanitation items.

\*\* Detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

### 9.3 RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2003

Countries	Medical* (CHF)	(CHF)	Relief (Tonnes)	Total (CHF)
<b>AFRICA</b>	<b>15,716,106</b>	<b>49,675,363</b>	<b>81,318.4</b>	<b>65,391,469</b>
Angola	1,165,348	3,915,571	4,068.1	5,080,919
Burundi	615,687	93,044	33.8	708,731
Cameroon, Central African Rep., Chad	541,502	46,644	11.2	588,146
Republic of the Congo	99,453	710,387	246.1	809,840
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2,493,559	4,387,916	2,201.4	6,881,475
Côte d'Ivoire	74,973	1,206,747	848.2	1,281,720
Djibouti	34,579	95,314	30.2	129,893
Eritrea	302,608	2,000,845	2,907.3	2,303,453
Ethiopia	811,502	24,108,908	58,541.8	24,920,410
Guinea	159,937	181,536	40.7	341,473
Kenya	536,288	149,862	248.6	686,150
Liberia	2,019,862	4,070,294	1,462.4	6,090,156
Madagascar, Comoros	19,172	9,232	3.2	28,404
Nigeria	17,368	134,015	46.0	151,383
Rwanda	1,031,594	3,452,376	8,374.3	4,483,970
Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Niger	4,291	124,752	212.3	129,043
Sierra Leone	506,175	132,477	54.6	638,652
Somalia	3,248,553	3,493,504	1,001.7	6,742,057
Sudan	1,747,148	1,216,352	842.1	2,963,500
Tanzania	79,167	4,970	1.1	84,137
Uganda	40,209	16,977	23.0	57,186
Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland	167,131	123,640	120.3	290,771
<b>LATIN AMERICA &amp; THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>610,951</b>	<b>6,730,669</b>	<b>5,479.4</b>	<b>7,341,620</b>
Bolivia	71,059			71,059
Colombia	394,431	6,292,277	4,860.1	6,686,708
Haiti		1,603	0.5	1,603
Mexico	127,353	394,304	609.1	521,657
Peru	11,235	42,485	9.7	53,720
Venezuela	6,873			6,873
<b>ASIA &amp; THE PACIFIC</b>	<b>8,949,389</b>	<b>7,818,037</b>	<b>14,925.6</b>	<b>16,767,426</b>
Afghanistan	8,025,408	6,794,923	14,430.0	14,820,331
Cambodia	233,236	37,174	24.0	270,410
China	23,510			23,510
Fiji, Solomon Islands		58,340	28.7	58,340
India	202	14,752	5.0	14,954
Indonesia	50,557	180,973	72.6	231,530
Korea (DPRK)	19,648	946	0.1	20,594
Myanmar	302,798	135,793	88.2	438,591
Nepal	50,438	136,659	45.3	187,097
Pakistan	19,362	142,639	127.4	162,001
Philippines	49,855	127,438	56.4	177,293
Sri Lanka	30,875	116,524	24.2	147,399
Timor-Leste	39,033	96		39,129
Tajikistan	51,576	9,198	1.6	60,774
Thailand	45,655			45,655
Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan	7,236	62,582	22.1	69,818

Countries	Medical* (CHF)	Relief (CHF)	(Tonnes)	Total (CHF)
<b>EUROPE &amp; NORTH AMERICA</b>	<b>4,571,775</b>	<b>17,266,182</b>	<b>24,893.1</b>	<b>21,837,957</b>
Albania	24,632			24,632
Armenia	142,161	31,576	7.4	173,737
Azerbaijan	189,841	969	0.1	190,810
Croatia	6,322	4,192	0.5	10,514
Georgia	794,327	3,324,219	5,967.7	4,118,546
Macedonia	59,120	223,781	209.2	282,901
Russian Federation	2,989,771	8,952,475	8,096.3	11,942,246
Serbia and Montenegro	365,601	4,723,410	10,611.2	5,089,011
United States of America **		5,560	0.7	5,560
<b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</b>	<b>22,474,020</b>	<b>37,436,996</b>	<b>31,184.8</b>	<b>59,911,016</b>
Egypt		17,483	4.9	17,483
Iran	107,548	675,873	388.7	783,421
Iraq	21,581,585	4,818,696	4,169.3	26,400,281
Israel (including Occupied/Autonomous Territories)	460,748	31,462,366	26,341.2	31,923,114
Jordan	19,299	408,831	268.3	428,130
Lebanon	49,514	2,198	1.4	51,712
Syria	37,369			37,369
Western Sahara, Mauritania	80,990	31,057	0.5	112,047
Yemen	136,967	20,492	5.7	157,459
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>52,322,241</b>	<b>118,927,247</b>	<b>157,801.3</b>	<b>171,249,488</b>

\* MEDICAL includes medical, prosthetic/orthotic and water and sanitation items.

\*\* Detainees in Guantanamo Bay.

## 10. SPECIAL FUNDS

### 10.1 FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (in Swiss francs ,000)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,141	864
Securities	6,955	5,747
Swiss withholding tax refund	6	22
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8,102</b>	<b>6,633</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	177	21
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED RESERVE</b>		
Inalienable capital	886	886
<b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>		
<i>Inalienable capital designated by the Board</i>		
Balance brought forward	4,818	4,318
Allocation for the year	1,136	500
<i>Financial risk reserve</i>		
Balance brought forward	908	0
Allocation for the year	177	908
<i>Available funds</i>		
Balance brought forward	0	1,695
Allocation for the year/(use) during the year	0	-1,695
<i>Retained result at the end of the year</i>	0	0
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>7,039</b>	<b>5,726</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>7,925</b>	<b>6,612</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>8,102</b>	<b>6,633</b>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003			2003	2002
<b>Income</b>				
Contributions			1,039	500
Income from securities			172	156
Realized gain on securities			176	11
Unrealized gain on securities			177	0
Bank interest			10	13
Foreign exchange gain, net			4	0
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,578</b>	<b>680</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Bank charges			-30	-28
Realized loss on securities			-79	-70
Unrealized loss on securities			0	-531
Fundraising charges			-16	-11
Audit fees			-6	-6
Foreign exchange loss, net			0	-6
<b>Total</b>			<b>-131</b>	<b>-652</b>
<b>Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves</b>			<b>1,447</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Use of unrestricted reserves</b>				
Available funds			0	1,695
<b>Total</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>1,695</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>				
Inalienable capital designated by the Board			-1,136	-500
Financial risk reserve			-177	-908
<b>Total</b>			<b>-1,313</b>	<b>-1,408</b>
Allocation to the International Committee of the Red Cross			-134	0
Retained result at the beginning of the year			0	-315
<b>Retained result at the end of the year</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

## Establishment

Created on 1 May 1931; statutes and objectives revised in 2002.

## Purpose

The Foundation strives to secure long-term support for the ICRC by establishing a substantial endowment fund income most of which will be freely available to the organization.

## Administration

The Foundation Board is made up of representatives of business and political circles and the ICRC:

- ▶ one representative of the Swiss Confederation;
- ▶ between five and eleven members appointed by the ICRC.

## In 2003:

The Foundation strengthened its contacts with the private sector, in order to develop its resources in close cooperation with the ICRC.

**10.2 AUGUSTA FUND** (in Swiss francs ,000)

<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	132	127
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	0	1
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current account	0	1
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED RESERVE</b>		
Inalienable capital	100	100
<b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>		
<i>General reserve</i>	18	18
<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i>		
Balance brought forward	9	9
Allocation during the year	5 14	0 9
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>128</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	1	2
Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds	5	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Audit fees	-1	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Result for the year before attribution to the F. Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>		
Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation	-5	0
<b>Attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Result for the year after attribution to the F. Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Establishment**

In 1890, at the initiative of the ICRC, to commemorate the services rendered to the Red Cross by the German Empress Augusta, wife of Wilhelm I.

**Purpose**

Modified on several occasions. At the 21st International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Istanbul in 1969, it was decided that, pending further modification, receipts from the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. This decision was confirmed at the 22nd Conference, held in Tehran in 1973.

**Administration**

In view of the above decision, the same as for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

### 10.3 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	441	403
Augusta Fund, current account	0	1
Stock of medals	18	29
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>433</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
International Committee of the Red Cross current account	3	2
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Unrestricted reserves</b>		
<i>Capital</i>	75	75
<i>General reserve</i>		
Balance brought forward	348	343
Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves	-11	5
<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i>		
Balance brought forward	8	8
Allocation during the year	36	0
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>456</b>	<b>431</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>433</b>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>Income</b>		
Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	3	5
Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds	36	
Attribution from the Augusta fund	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Presentation of medals, printing and dispatching circulars	-13	0
Audit fees	-1	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-14</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>		
Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation	-36	0
<b>Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>-11</b>	<b>5</b>

#### Establishment

In accordance with the recommendations of the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in London, in 1907, and with the decision of the Ninth Conference held in Washington in 1912, a Fund was established by contributions from National Red Cross Societies. The regulations were revised by the 18th International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Toronto in 1952, and by the Council of Delegates, held in Budapest in 1991.

#### Purpose

The Fund's income is used to distribute a medal, called the "Florence Nightingale Medal", to honour the life and work of Florence Nightingale. The medal may be awarded to Red Cross and Red

Crescent nurses and voluntary aides for having distinguished themselves by their service to sick and wounded people in time of peace or war. The medal is awarded every two years by the ICRC on the basis of proposals made to it by the National Societies. Only 50 medals may be distributed at any one time.

#### Administration

A commission composed of five ICRC representatives, including four Committee members.

**10.4 CLARE R. BENEDICT FUND** (in Swiss francs ,000)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	1,829	1,900
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,900</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	0	64
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
RESTRICTED RESERVE		
Capital	1,633	1,633
UNRESTRICTED RESERVES		
<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i>		
Balance brought forward	180	180
Allocation during the year	2	0
<i>General reserve</i>		
Balance brought forward	23	60
Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves	-9	-37
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,836</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>1,829</b>	<b>1,900</b>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>Income</b>		
Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	15	24
Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Audit fees	-1	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>		
Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation	-2	0
<b>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</b>	<b>-23</b>	<b>-60</b>
<b>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>-37</b>

**Establishment**

1 February 1968.

**Purpose**

The Fund's income is attributed to assistance activities for the victims of armed conflicts, in accordance with Miss Benedict's wishes.

**Administration**

A commission composed of three persons appointed by the ICRC.

**10.5 MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND** (in Swiss francs ,000)

<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	4,786	4,693
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>4,786</b>	<b>4,693</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	98	256
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED RESERVE</b>		
Donors' restricted contributions	29	37
<b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>		
<b>Capital</b>		
Balance brought forward	4,234	4,304
Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves	-51	-70
Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation		
Balance brought forward	166	166
Allocation during the year	310	0
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>4,659</b>	<b>4,400</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>4,688</b>	<b>4,437</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>4,786</b>	<b>4,693</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Contributions	66	47
Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	39	63
Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds	310	
<b>Total</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Allocations	-156	-139
Audit fees	-2	-3
Other expenses	-6	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-164</b>	<b>-143</b>
<b>Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>-33</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>		
Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation	-310	0
<b>Use of restricted reserves</b>		
Use of donors' restricted contributions	10	0
<b>Allocation to restricted reserve</b>		
Donors' restricted contributions	-2	-37
<b>Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>-51</b>	<b>-70</b>

**Establishment**

The Fund was set up in accordance with the Count's will and the ICRC Assembly's decision of 19 December 1974.

**Purpose**

To assist temporary or permanent staff, such as first-aid workers, delegates and nurses, of international or national Red Cross or Red Crescent institutions who, in the course of their work or during war operations or natural disasters, have suffered injury and thereby find themselves in straitened circumstances or in reduced health.

In the event that the persons specified above should lose their lives in the course of the said humanitarian activities, payments may be made to their families.

**Administration**

A Board composed of five persons appointed by the ICRC, currently:

- ▶ two ICRC members or staff;
- ▶ one representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- ▶ one representative of the de Madre family;
- ▶ one Swiss lawyer.

**In 2003:**

The Fund's Board held two meetings: its annual one on 4 April and an extraordinary one to commemorate its 30th anniversary on 4 September; its Secretariat handled 50 files (consisting of 60 personal cases) on Movement staff from 32 countries.

**10.6 OMAR EL MUKTAR FUND** (in Swiss francs ,000)

<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	852	851
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>851</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	1	31
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
<b>RESTRICTED RESERVE</b>		
<i>Capital</i>	761	761
<b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES</b>		
<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i>		
Balance brought forward	49	49
Allocation during the year	35	0
<i>General reserve</i>		
Balance brought forward	10	28
Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves	-4	-18
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>820</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>852</b>	<b>851</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	7	11
Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds	35	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Audit fees	-1	-1
<b>Total</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>		
Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation	-35	0
<b>Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-28</b>
<b>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-18</b>

**Establishment**

Pursuant to decision No 5 of the Executive Board of 20 November 1980, adopted by the Committee in December 1980.

**Purpose**

A fund in US dollars, made up of one or several donations by the authorities of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the income of which is to be used to finance the ICRC's general assistance and protection activities.

**Administration**

A Board composed of three ICRC representatives.

**10.7 PAUL REUTER FUND** (in Swiss francs ,000)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Share of the overall capital of the special funds	564	520
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>520</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account	17	2
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Unrestricted reserves</b>		
<i>Initial capital</i>	200	200
<i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i>		
Balance brought forward	14	14
Allocation during the year	42	0
<i>General reserve</i>		
Balance brought forward	304	298
Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves	-13	6
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>547</b>	<b>518</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>520</b>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003	2003	2002
<b>Income</b>		
Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds	4	7
Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds	42	
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Award of 2003 Paul Reuter Prize	-5	
Audit fees	-1	-1
Other expenses	-11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Allocation to unrestricted reserves</b>		
Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation	-42	0
<b>Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>6</b>

**Establishment**

Pursuant to decision No. 1 of the Executive Board of 6 January 1983.

**Purpose**

The Fund's initial capital of Sfr 200,000 donated by Prof. Paul Reuter (his Balzan prize) may be augmented by gifts or bequests. The fund's purpose is to:

- ▶ use the income to encourage and promote knowledge and dissemination of international humanitarian law;
- ▶ and to that effect award a prize every two years to reward work, assist in the implementation of a project or make a publication possible.

**Administration**

- ▶ A committee composed of one member of the ICRC, who is its chairman, and two members of the ICRC staff, appointed by the Directorate;
- ▶ two persons from outside the ICRC who, with the Committee members, shall compose the Paul Reuter prize jury.

**10.8 ICRC SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED** (in Swiss francs ,000)

<b>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>		<b>2003</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,361	1,465
Securities		2,644	2,492
Accounts receivable		626	1,620
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>4,631</b>	<b>5,577</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND RESERVES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross, current account		808	1,565
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>808</b>	<b>1,565</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
<b>RESTRICTED RESERVE</b>			
<i>Donors' restricted contributions</i>			
Addis Ababa project	0		18
Ho Chi Minh project	14		137
Dhaka project	1		1
<b>Total restricted reserves</b>	<b>15</b>		<b>156</b>
<b>UNRESTRICTED RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD</b>			
<i>Initial capital</i>		1,000	1,000
<i>Financial risk reserve</i>		154	154
<i>General reserve</i>			
Balance brought forward	2,702		2,752
Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves	-48	2,654	-50
<b>Total unrestricted reserves</b>	<b>3,808</b>		<b>3,856</b>
<b>Total reserves</b>	<b>3,823</b>		<b>4,012</b>
<b>Total liabilities and reserves</b>	<b>4,631</b>		<b>5,577</b>

<b>STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003</b>								
	<b>2003</b>							<b>2002</b>
	Addis Ababa project	Ho Chi Minh project	Managua project	Dhaka project	Geneva coordination unit	General	Total	Total
<b>Operating activities</b>								
<b>Contributions received in cash</b>								
<i>Governments</i>								
Australia							0	166
Czech Republic		95					95	0
Norway	34	791	524				1,349	1,845
War victims fund/USAID	1,191						1,191	253
<i>National Societies</i>								
Germany							0	15
Liechtenstein							0	10
Monaco	15						15	22
New Zealand		40					40	3
Norway	57	16	77				150	205
<i>Private sources</i>								
CR Equipement		25					25	10
IDF							0	98
Pro-Victimis				103			103	80
Various donors			1				1	4
<b>Contributions received in services</b>								
<i>National Societies</i>								
Norway	79						79	14
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>967</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>103</b>			<b>3,048</b>	<b>2,725</b>
<b>Operating expenditure</b>								
Cash expenditure	-1,315	-1,090	-602	-103	0		-3,110	-2,764
Services expenditure	-79						-79	-14
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>-1,394</b>	<b>-1,090</b>	<b>-602</b>	<b>-103</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>-3,189</b>	<b>-2,778</b>
<b>Net result of operating activities</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-141</b>	<b>-53</b>

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2003								2002
	Addis Ababa project	Ho Chi Minh project	Managua project	Dhaka project	Geneva coordination unit	General	Total	Total
<b>Non-operating activities</b>								
<b>Financial income</b>								
Securities income						106	106	121
Bank interest						6	6	13
Gain on securities						0	0	3
Foreign exchange gain, net						0	0	0
<b>Total financial income</b>						<b>112</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Financial expenditure</b>								
Bank charges						-47	-47	-21
Loss on securities						-6	-6	0
Audit fees						-5	-5	-5
Foreign exchange loss, net						-102	-102	-161
<b>Total financial expenditure</b>						<b>-160</b>	<b>-160</b>	<b>-187</b>
<b>Net result of non-operating activities</b>						<b>-48</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-50</b>
<b>Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>-18</b>	<b>-123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-189</b>	<b>-103</b>
<b>Use of restricted reserves</b>								
Reallocation of a restricted contribution for Cambodia with the donor's agreement							0	200
Use of donors' restricted contributions for Mines appeal							0	9
Use of donors' restricted contributions for Addis Ababa project	18						18	0
Use of donors' restricted contributions for Ho Chi Minh project		123					123	0
Use of donors' restricted contributions for Dhaka project				0			0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Allocation to restricted reserves</b>								
Donors' restricted contributions								-156
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>-156</b>
<b>Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-48</b>	<b>-50</b>

### Establishment and initial objectives

1981 was declared by the United Nations "International Year for Disabled Persons". The same year, when it met in Manila, the 24th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted a resolution recommending that "a special fund be formed for the benefit of the disabled and to promote the implementation of durable projects to aid disabled persons". Pursuant to the ICRC Assembly's decision No. 2 of 19/20 October 1983 the "Special Fund for the Disabled" (SFD) was subsequently established. Its objectives were twofold:

- ▶ to help finance long-term projects for disabled persons, in particular the creation of workshops for the production of artificial limbs and orthotic appliances, and centres for rehabilitation and occupational retraining;
- ▶ to participate not only in ICRC and National Society projects, but also in those of other humanitarian bodies working in accordance with ICRC criteria.

### Legal status

In January 2001, the ICRC Assembly concerted the SFD into an independent foundation under Swiss law. The primary objectives of the "ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled" remained to a large extent unchanged, i.e. ensure the continuity of programmes of the ICRC on behalf of the war-disabled and support physical rehabilitation centres in developing countries.

Although the SFD had thus become a more independent body, its programmes continued to be drawn up in accordance with ICRC operational policies in the countries concerned. However, the statutes of the new Foundation also allowed the opening of its Board to members of other organizations and the SFD developed its own independent fundraising and financial management structure.

### Funding

In 1983, the ICRC donated an initial one million Swiss francs to set up the "Special Fund for the Disabled". Further support is since given to the SFD by various governments, a number of National Societies and by private and public sources.

## 11. COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS (in Swiss francs ,000)

	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Balance sheet</b>					
Current assets	356,810	305,284	300,932	251,866	284,430
Non-current assets	84,397	76,896	76,514	80,894	87,407
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>441,207</b>	<b>382,180</b>	<b>377,446</b>	<b>332,760</b>	<b>371,837</b>
Liabilities	-125,818	-128,308	-124,199	-126,096	-145,414
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>315,389</b>	<b>255,812</b>	<b>253,247</b>	<b>206,664</b>	<b>226,423</b>
Funds and foundations	10,630	9,293	9,320	9,324	<sup>1</sup>
Funding of current operations	39,390	48	3,334	-29,085	7,606
Unrestricted reserves designated by the Assembly	250,969	232,071	226,193	212,025	204,417
Other unrestricted reserves	14,400	14,400	14,400	14,400	14,400
<b>Total reserves (equities)</b>	<b>315,389</b>	<b>255,812</b>	<b>253,247</b>	<b>206,664</b>	<b>226,423</b>
<b>Income and expenditure statement</b>					
Contributions	895,899	788,325	829,745	837,094 <sup>2</sup>	836,734 <sup>2</sup>
Operational expenditure	-844,740	-781,703	-789,680	-880,924 <sup>2</sup>	-824,733 <sup>2</sup>
<b>Operational result</b>	<b>51,159</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>40,065</b>	<b>-43,830</b>	<b>12,001</b>
Net result of non-operational activities	8,418	-4,057	5,619	11,304	14,484
<b>Result for the year before transfers</b>	<b>59,577</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>45,684</b>	<b>-32,526</b>	<b>26,485</b>
Administrative costs	84,274	86,440	85,686	88,016	79,086
<b>Ratios</b>					
Equities in % of assets	71.5 %	66.9 %	67.1 %	62.1 %	60.9 %
Administrative costs in % of operational expenditures	10.0 %	11.1 %	10.9 %	10.0 %	9.6 %

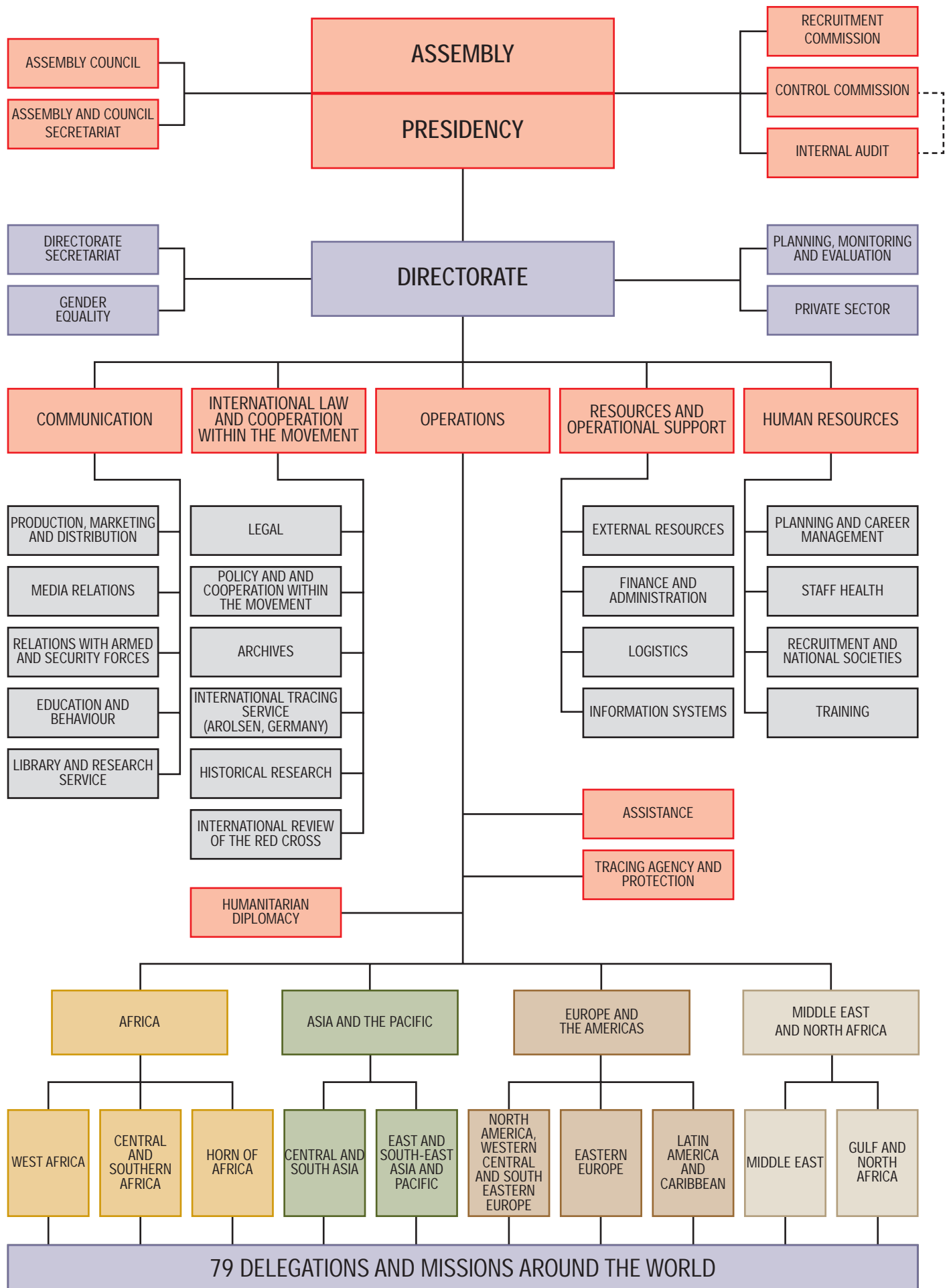
<sup>1</sup> Non-consolidated figures with funds and foundations.

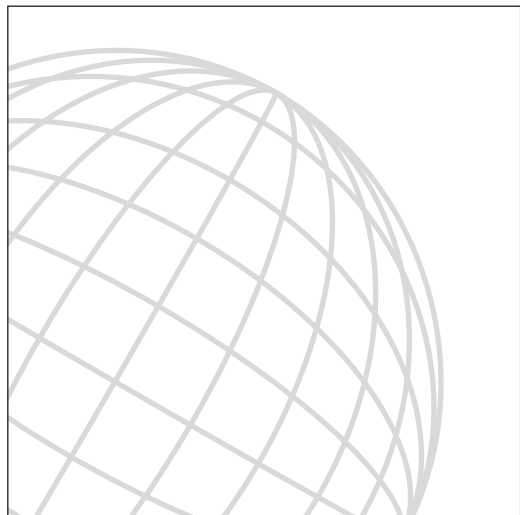
<sup>2</sup> Including CHF 755 donation in service not recorded in 1999 and 2000.

# ANNEX



# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS





# ICRC decision-making structures<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> As at 31 December 2003

## COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (2003)

### **Mr Jakob Kellenberger**

President, Ph.D. of the University of Zurich, former Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (member of the ICRC since 1999) (President since 2002)

### **Mrs Anne Petitpierre**

Vice-President, Doctor of Laws, Barrister, Professor at the University of Geneva (1987)

### **Mr Jacques Forster**

Permanent Vice-President, Doctor of Economics, Professor at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva (1988)

### **Mrs Renée Guisan**

General Secretary of the Institut de la Vie internationale, head of medico-social institutions, member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort (1986)

### **Mr Paolo Bernasconi**

Bachelor of Laws, Barrister, Professor at the Universities of St Gallen, Zurich and Milan (Bocconi), former Public Prosecutor in Lugano (1987)

### **Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny**

Doctor of Laws of Zurich University (1988)

### **Ms Susy Bruschweiler**

Nurse, former Director of the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing in Aarau, CEO S-V Service (1988)

### **Mr Jacques Moreillon**

Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Political Science, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, former Director-General at the ICRC (1988)

### **Mr Daniel Thürer**

Doctor of Laws, LL.M. (Cambridge), Professor at the University of Zurich (1991)

### **Mr Eric Roethlisberger**

Doctor of Political Science of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, permanent Vice-President of the ICRC from 1995 to 1999 (1994)

### **Mr Ernst A. Brugger**

Doctor of Natural Science, consultant for economic development issues, professor at the University of Zurich (1995)

### **Mr Jean-Roger Bonvin**

Doctor of Economics of the University of St Gallen, former President of the Development Centre of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris (1996)

### **Mr Olivier Vodoz**

Bachelor of Laws of the University of Geneva, Barrister, former President of the Conseil d'État of the Republic and Canton of Geneva (1998)

### **Mr André von Moos**

Doctor of Laws of the University of Zurich, Bachelor of Economics, SMP certificate of the Harvard Business School, former Chairman of the von Moos Group, industrialist (1998)

### **Mrs Gabrielle Nanchen**

Bachelor of Social Science of the University of Lausanne and diploma from the Lausanne School of Social Studies, former member of the Swiss National Council (1998)

### **Mr Jean de Courten**

Bachelor of Laws, former delegate and former Director of Operations at the ICRC (1998)

### **Mr Jean-Philippe Assal**

Doctor of Medicine, Professor of Medicine, head of the Division for Instruction in the Treatment of Chronic Diseases at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva (1999)

### **Mr Jean Abt**

Diplomas in agriculture and business, Lieutenant-General of the Swiss Army (Retd) (2001)

**Mr Yves Sandoz**

Doctor of Laws, Lecturer at the University of Geneva, former Director of International Humanitarian Law and Principles at the ICRC (2002)

**Honorary members:** Mr Peter Arbenz, Mr Jean-François Aubert, Mrs Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Mr Georges-André Cuendet, Mr Max Daetwyler, Mr Josef Feldmann, Mr Athos Gallino, Mr Rodolphe de Haller, Mr Henry Huguenin, Mr Pierre Keller, Mr Robert Kohler, Mr Pierre Languetin, Mr Olivier Long, Mr Marcel A. Naville, Mr Jakob Nüesch, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, Ms Francesca Pometta, Mr Alain Rossier, Mr Dietrich Schindler, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga

**ASSEMBLY**

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC. It oversees all the ICRC's activities, formulates policy, defines general objectives and institutional strategy, and approves the budget and accounts. Composed of between 15 and 25 members, it is collegial in character. Its President and two Vice-Presidents are the President and Vice-Presidents of the ICRC.

**ASSEMBLY COUNCIL**

The Assembly Council is a subsidiary body of the Assembly, to which the latter delegates certain of its powers. It prepares the Assembly's activities and takes decisions on matters within its competence, in particular strategic options relating to general policy on funding, personnel and communication. It serves as a link between the Directorate and the Assembly, to which it reports regularly. Composed of five members elected by the Assembly, it is chaired by the President of the ICRC.

**Mr Jakob Kellenberger**, President

**Mr Jacques Forster**, permanent Vice-President

**Mr Jean Abt**, member of the Committee

**Mr Jean de Courten**, member of the Committee

**Mr Jacques Moreillon**, member of the Committee

**PRESIDENCY**

The President of the ICRC assumes primary responsibility for the organization's external relations. As President of the Assembly and of the Assembly Council, he ensures that the areas of competence of these two bodies are safeguarded. He is assisted by one permanent Vice-President and one non-permanent Vice-President.

**DIRECTORATE**

The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC, responsible for applying and ensuring application of the general objectives and institutional strategy defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate is also responsible for the smooth running of the ICRC and for the efficiency of its staff as a whole.

Since 1 July 2002, the Directorate is structured in a new way. It comprises a Director-General and five departments – Operations, International Law and Cooperation within the Movement, Human Resources, Resources and Operational Support, and Communication – and the divisions belonging to them.

The objective of this new structure is to modernize the ICRC's senior management body so as to enable it to rise to the numerous challenges that it will face and to implement its future projects. This reorganization is based on the following four priorities:

- the refocusing of the Directorate of Operations and the Directorate of Law and Cooperation within the Movement on their primary missions
- recognition of the strategic nature of human resource management
- integration of operational support and the mobilization and management of financial resources
- coherence in external communication

The role of the Director-General in his new post is to set the administration's general priorities, direct the decision-making process and supervise the implementation of the decisions taken. Although some units are directly attached to the office of the Director-General, the latter does not manage specific issues; this responsibility is devolved upon the relevant departments. The Director-General is accountable to the Presidency and the Assembly as regards the Directorate's objectives and activities and the results achieved.

Up to 30 June 2003:

**Angelo Gnaedinger**

Director-General

**Pierre Krähenbühl**

Director of Operations

**François Bugnion**

Director for International Law and Cooperation within the Movement

**Jacques Stroun**

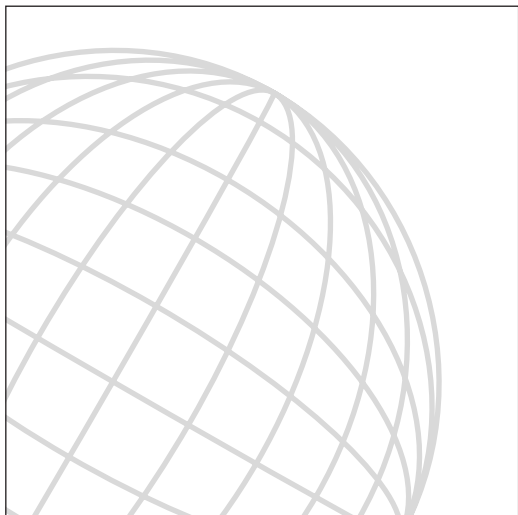
Director of Human Resources

**Doris Pfister**

Director for Resources and Operational Support

**Yves Daccord**

Communication Director



# international advisers

## ADVISERS FOR THE PERIOD 2000-2003 (5TH GROUP)

### **Major-General (retd) Dipankar BANERJEE** (India)

Executive Director of the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, a South Asian think tank located at Colombo. Held various operational and planning assignments as a combat officer of the Indian Army followed by research on national and international security issues as Deputy Director of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (New Delhi).

### **Professor Yadh BEN ACHOUR** (Tunisia)

Professor of Public Law, Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences in Tunis. Former Dean, member of the Institute of International Law. Adviser in the Saharan case (MINURSO, 1991-1992). Adviser to the Tunisian Government in the Continental Shelf case (Tunisia - Libya, 1977-1987).

### **Ms Thérèse DELPECH** (France)

Director for Strategic Studies at the Atomic Energy Commission. Senior Research Fellow at the Center for International Relations, Fondation Nationale des Sciences politiques. Former Adviser to the Prime Minister on Politico-military Matters (1995-97). Chairman of the United Nations Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters (1999).

### **Judge Richard J. GOLDSTONE** (South Africa)

Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa and Chairman of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo. From August 1994 to September 1996, he served as the chief prosecutor of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda. He heads the board of the Human Rights Institute of South Africa and is the chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

### **Ambassador Philippe KIRSCH** (Canada)

Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of Sweden; concurrently Ambassador and Agent for Canada in the Legality of Use of Force Case before the International Court of Justice.

### **Professor Pieter KOOLJMAN** (Netherlands)

Judge, International Court of Justice. Minister for Foreign Affairs (1993-94). Special Rapporteur on questions relevant to torture (1985-92).

### **Mr Anthony LAKE** (USA)

Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. Served as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (1993-1997).

### **Ms María Emma MEJÍA** (Colombia)

In 1999 took part in the negotiating commission that initiated peace talks with the FARC (Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces) and is now a Member of the Facilitator Commission with the ELN (National Liberation Army). Minister for Foreign Affairs (1996-98), Minister of Education (1995-96), Ambassador to Spain (1993-95). Presidential Security Advisor for Medellín during the drug cartel years (1990-93).

### **Major-General (retd) Felix MUJAKPERUO** (Nigeria)

ECOMOG Force Commander (1999). Chief of Operations of the Nigerian Army (1995-96). ECOMOG Chief of Staff (1993). Director of the Nigerian Legal Services (1997-91). Member of Nigerian Bar Association and of the International Society for Military Law and the Law of War.

### **General (retd) Klaus NAUMANN** (Germany)

Chairman of NATO Military Committee (1996-99). Chief of Defence Staff (Generalinspekteur der Bundeswehr) Germany (1991-96). Adviser in negotiations on German unification (1990).

### **Mr Anand PANYARACHUN** (Thailand)

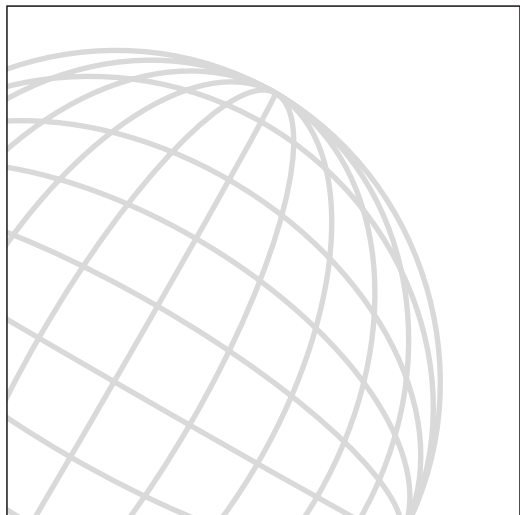
Chairman of companies. Prime Minister (1991-92). UNICEF Ambassador for Thailand (1996). Member of Advisory Group of UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Member of Advisory Council of Transparency International.

### **Mr Vladimir POZNER** (Russian Federation)

Journalist and author. President of the Academy of Russian TV and Rector of the School of TV journalism. Headed the Association against AIDS under the Soviet Fund of Charity and Health.

### **Professor Doctor WEI Yu** (China)

Teacher and researcher in the area of electronics, has contributed to the development and reform of China's higher education setting up the first Ph.D. programme of bioelectronics. Since 1993, has been Vice-Minister of Education.



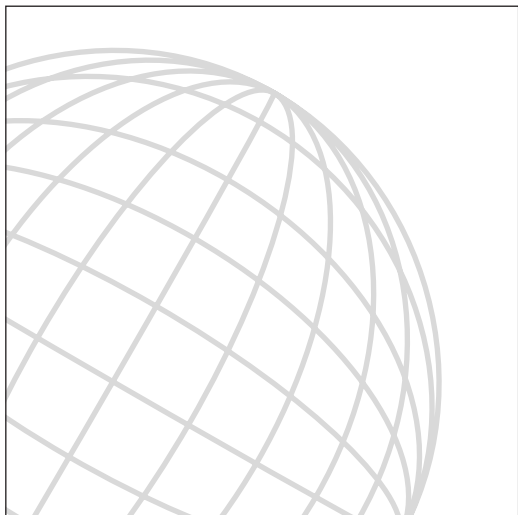
## the ICRC and the international red cross and red crescent movement

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement's components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As its founding institution, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the Movement. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies which meet the current conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC takes an active part in the Movement's statutory meetings, which it often organizes jointly with the Federation.

In accomplishing these tasks the ICRC maintains close relations with the National Societies, cooperating with them in areas of mutual interest such as preparedness for situations of armed conflict, development and ratification of and respect for the Geneva Conventions, and dissemination of humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles. It also acts as lead agency for international relief operations conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of international and non-international armed conflict, internal strife and their direct results, as well as in situations of armed conflict concomitant with natural or technological disasters.

Finally, while fully respecting the Federation's competence in the matter, the ICRC cooperates actively in the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in particular through technical and legal assistance, by supporting the National Societies' dissemination programmes and by contributing to the training of their staff in areas that fall within its mandate.



# legal bases

The work of the ICRC is based upon the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the resolutions of International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC's mission is to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflicts. It takes direct and immediate action in response to emergency situations, at the same time promoting preventive measures by developing and spreading knowledge of international humanitarian law.

It was at the prompting of the ICRC that governments adopted the initial Geneva Convention in 1864. In the years since, the ICRC, with the support of the entire Movement, has put constant pressure on governments to adapt international humanitarian law to changing circumstances, especially developments in methods and means of warfare, in order to provide more effective protection and assistance for the victims of armed conflicts.

Today almost all States are bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which, in times of armed conflict, protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces, prisoners of war and civilians.

Moreover, two Protocols additional to these Conventions were adopted in June 1977. Protocol I protects the victims of international armed conflicts, while Protocol II protects the victims of non-international armed conflicts; in particular, these Additional Protocols have codified the rules which protect the civilian population against the effects of hostilities.

More than three-quarters of all States are now bound by the Protocols.

The legal bases of any action undertaken by the ICRC may be summed up as follows:

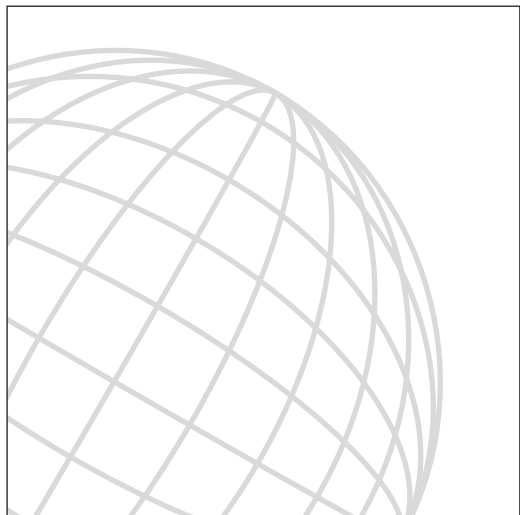
- ▶ In the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Additional Protocol I, the international community gave the ICRC a mandate in the event of international armed conflict. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also confer on the ICRC a broad right of initiative.

- ▶ In situations of armed conflict which are not international in character, the ICRC also has a right of initiative recognized by the States and enshrined in the four Geneva Conventions.
- ▶ In the event of internal disturbances and tension, and in any other situation which warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC has a right of humanitarian initiative which is recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and allows it to offer its services to a government without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State concerned.

## UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

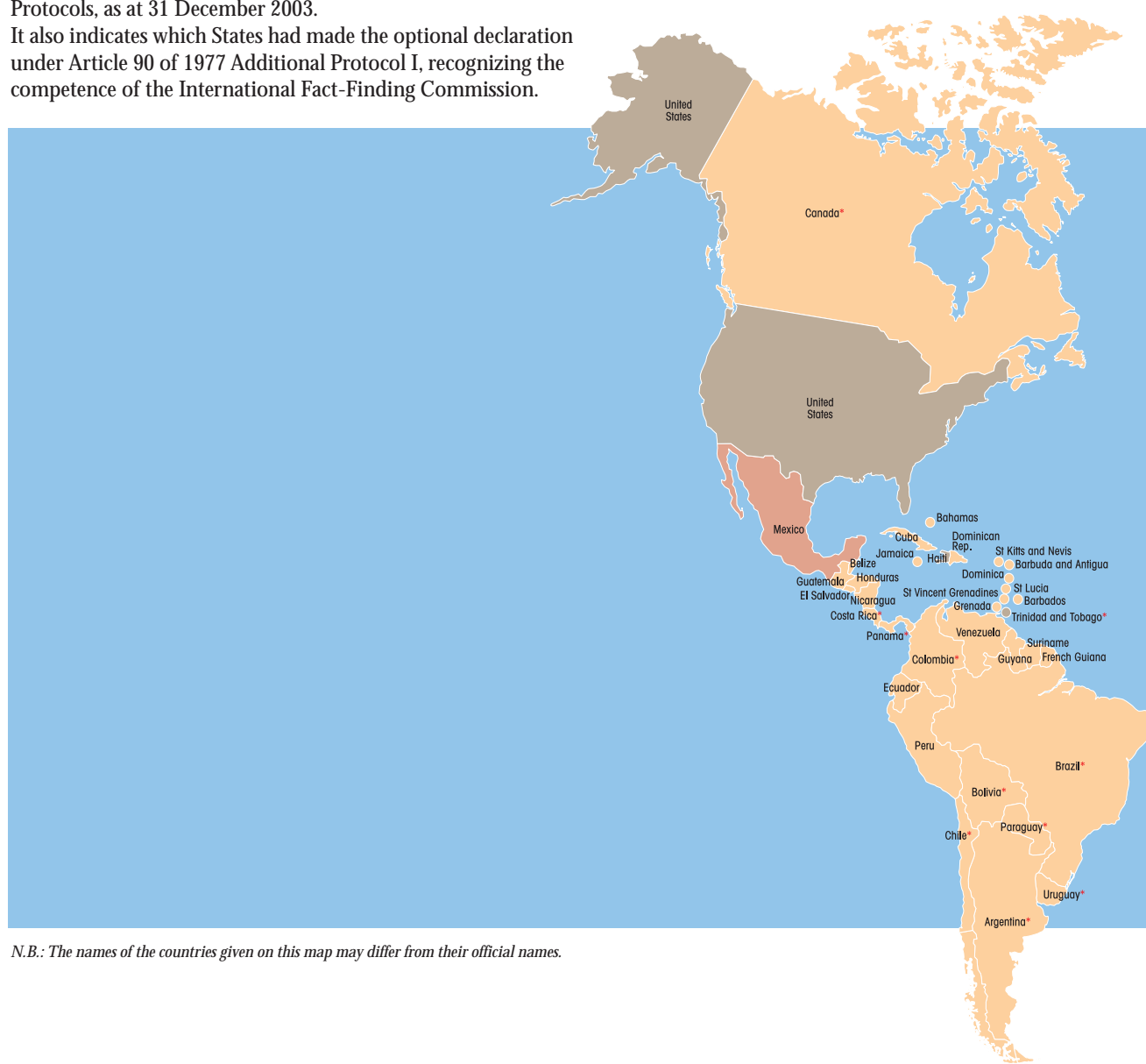
In 2003 a total of 191 States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, Timor-Leste (8 May 2003) being the most recent State to accede to the Conventions. During the year, Tonga (20 January 2003) also acceded to the two 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. This brought the number of States party to Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II to 161 and 156 respectively.

Article 90 of Additional Protocol I provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into allegations of serious violations of humanitarian law. In 2003 Tonga (20 January 2003) and Mali (9 May 2003) filed the declaration recognizing the competence of the Commission, thereby bringing the number of States which had done so to 65.





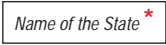
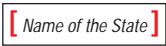


# states party to the geneva conventions and their additional protocols

This map shows which States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their 1977 Additional Protocols, as at 31 December 2003. It also indicates which States had made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I, recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.



*N.B.: The names of the countries given on this map may differ from their official names.*

	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions:	<b>191</b>
	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol I:	<b>161</b>
	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol II:	<b>156</b>
	States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to both Additional Protocols:	<b>154</b>
	States having made the declaration under Article 90 of 1997	<b>65</b>
	States not party to the Geneva Conventions and Protocols	

- 1 Netherlands\*
- 2 Luxembourg\*
- 3 Switzerland\*
- 4 Liechtenstein\*
- 5 Slovenia\*
- 6 Croatia\*
- 7 Bosnia-Herzegovina\*
- 8 Serbia and Montenegro\*
- 9 FYR of Macedonia\*



## ABBREVIATIONS

R/A/S = **Ratification**: a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference which has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States which have not signed them may at any time accede or, in the appropriate circumstances, succeed to them.

**Accession**: instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

**Succession** (declaration of): a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of the said treaties (declaration of provisional application of the treaties). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

R/D = **Reservation/Declaration**: unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

D90 = **Declaration** provided for under article 90 of Protocol I (prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission).

## DATES

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding to or succeeding to the Conventions or Protocols or accepting the competence of the Commission provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I. They thus represent neither the date on which ratification, accession, succession or acceptance of the Commission was decided upon by the State concerned nor that on which the corresponding instrument was sent.

N.B.: The dates given for succession to the Geneva Conventions by THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, JAMAICA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SENEGAL and SIERRA LEONE used to be those on which the corresponding instruments had been officially adopted. They have now been replaced by the dates on which the depositary received those instruments.

## ENTRY INTO FORCE

Except as mentioned in footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Protocols occurs six months after the date given in the present document; for States which have made a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of their accession to independence. The 1949 Geneva Conventions entered into force on 21 October 1950. The 1977 Protocols entered into force on 7 December 1978.

## NAMES OF COUNTRIES

The names of countries given in the following list may differ from the official names of States.

### UPDATE SINCE 31.12.2002

Ratifications, accessions or successions to the four Conventions:

► Timor-Leste 08.05.2003

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol I:

► Tonga 20.01.2003

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol II:

► Tonga 20.01.2003

Declaration under Article 90:

► Mali 09.05.2003

► Tonga 20.01.2003

## TOTALS

Number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: 191

Number of States Parties to the Additional Protocol I: 161

Number of States having made the declaration under Article 90: 65

Number of States Parties to the Additional Protocol II: 156

Number of States Members of the United Nations: 191

States Members of UN or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, not being Party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions: MARSHALL, NAURU.

## STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

Country	GENEVA CONVENTIONS		PROTOCOL I				PROTOCOL II	
	R/A/S	R/D	R/A/S	R/D	D90		R/A/S	R/D
Afghanistan	26.09.1956	R						
Albania	27.05.1957	R	X	16.07.1993	A		16.07.1993	A
Algeria	20.06.1960	A		16.08.1989	A	X	16.08.1989	A
	03.07.1962	A		16.08.1989	A	X	16.08.1989	A
Andorra	17.09.1993	A						
Angola	20.09.1984	A	X	20.09.1984	A	X		
Antigua and Barbuda	06.10.1986	S		06.10.1986	A		06.10.1986	A
Argentina	18.09.1956	R		26.11.1986	A	X	26.11.1986	A
Armenia	07.06.1993	A		07.06.1993	A		07.06.1993	A
Australia	14.10.1958	R	X	21.06.1991	R	X	21.06.1991	R
Austria	27.08.1953	R		13.08.1982	R	X	13.08.1982	R
Azerbaijan	01.06.1993	A						X
Bahamas	11.07.1975	S		10.04.1980	A		10.04.1980	A
Bahrain	30.11.1971	A		30.10.1986	A		30.10.1986	A
Bangladesh	04.04.1972	S		08.09.1980	A		08.09.1980	A
Barbados	10.09.1968	S	X	19.02.1990	A		19.02.1990	A
Belarus	03.08.1954	R		23.10.1989	R		23.10.1989	R
Belgium	03.09.1952	R		20.05.1986	R	X	20.05.1986	R
Belize	29.06.1984	A		29.06.1984	A		29.06.1984	A
Benin	14.12.1961	S		28.05.1986	A		28.05.1986	A
Bhutan	10.01.1991	A						
Bolivia	10.12.1976	R		08.12.1983	A		10.08.1992	08.12.1983
Bosnia-Herzegovina	31.12.1992	S		31.12.1992	S		31.12.1992	S
Botswana	29.03.1968	A		23.05.1979	A		23.05.1979	A
Brazil	29.06.1957	R		05.05.1992	A		23.11.1993	05.05.1992
Brunei Darussalam	14.10.1991	A		14.10.1991	A		14.10.1991	A
Bulgaria	22.07.1954	R		26.09.1989	R		09.05.1994	26.09.1989
Burkina Faso	07.11.1961	S		20.10.1987	R		20.10.1987	R
Burundi	27.12.1971	S		10.06.1993	A		10.06.1993	A
Cambodia	08.12.1958	A		14.01.1998	A		14.01.1998	A
Cameroon	16.09.1963	S		16.03.1984	A		16.03.1984	A
Canada	14.05.1965	R		20.11.1990	R	X	20.11.1990	R
Cape Verde	11.05.1984	A		16.03.1995	A		16.03.1995	A
Central African Republic	01.08.1966	S		17.07.1984	A		17.07.1984	A
Chad	05.08.1970	A		17.01.1997	A		17.01.1997	A
Chile	12.10.1950	R		24.04.1991	R		24.04.1991	R
China	28.12.1956	R	X	14.09.1983	A	X	14.09.1983	A
Colombia	08.11.1961	R		01.09.1993	A		17.04.1996	14.08.1995
Comoros	21.11.1985	A		21.11.1985	A		21.11.1985	A
Congo (Rep.)	04.02.1967	S		10.11.1983	A		10.11.1983	A
Congo (Dem. Rep.)	24.02.1961	S		03.06.1982	A		12.12.2002	12.12.2002
Cook Islands	11.06.2001	S		07.05.2002	A		07.05.2002	A
Costa Rica	15.10.1969	A		15.12.1983	A		02.12.1999	15.12.1983
Côte d'Ivoire	28.12.1961	S		20.09.1989	R			20.09.1989
Croatia	11.05.1992	S		11.05.1992	S		11.05.1992	S
Cuba	15.04.1954	R		25.11.1982	A			23.06.1999
Cyprus	23.05.1962	A		01.06.1979	R		14.10.2002	18.03.1996
Czech Republic	05.02.1993	S	X	05.02.1993	S		02.05.1995	05.02.1993
Denmark	27.06.1951	R		17.06.1982	R	X	17.06.1982	R
Djibouti	06.03.1978	S		08.04.1991	A		08.04.1991	A
Dominica	28.09.1981	S		25.04.1996	A		25.04.1996	A
Dominican Republic	22.01.1958	A		26.05.1994	A		26.05.1994	A
Ecuador	11.08.1954	R		10.04.1979	R		10.04.1979	R
Egypt	10.11.1952	R		09.10.1992	R	X	09.10.1992	R
El Salvador	17.06.1953	R		23.11.1978	R		23.11.1978	R
Equatorial Guinea	24.07.1986	A		24.07.1986	A		24.07.1986	A
Eritrea	14.08.2000	A						
Estonia	18.01.1993	A		18.01.1993	A		18.01.1993	A
Ethiopia	02.10.1969	R		08.04.1994	A		08.04.1994	A
Fiji	09.08.1971	S						
Finland	22.02.1955	R		07.08.1980	R	X	07.08.1980	R

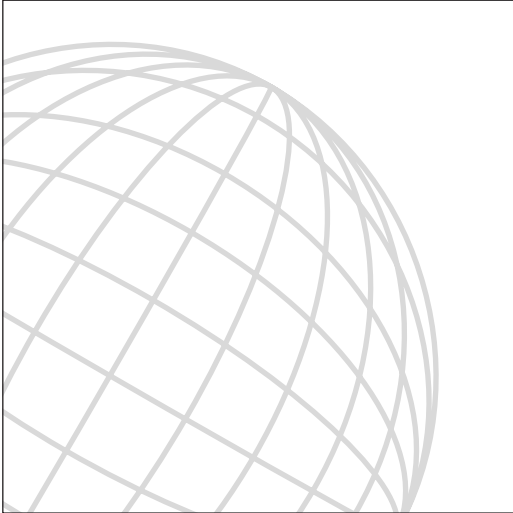
## STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)

Country	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II		
	R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D	D90	R/A/S	R/D	
France	28.06.1951	R		11.04.2001	A	X	24.02.1984	A	X
Gabon	26.02.1965	S		08.04.1980	A		08.04.1980	A	
Gambia	20.10.1966	S		12.01.1989	A		12.01.1989	A	
Georgia	14.09.1993	A		14.09.1993	A		14.09.1993	A	
Germany	03.09.1954	A	X	14.02.1991	R	X	14.02.1991	R	X
Ghana	02.08.1958	A		28.02.1978	R		28.02.1978	R	
Greece	05.06.1956	R		31.03.1989	R		04.02.1998	15.02.1993	A
Grenada	13.04.1981	S		23.09.1998	A			23.09.1998	A
Guatemala	14.05.1952	R		19.10.1987	R			19.10.1987	R
Guinea	11.07.1984	A		11.07.1984	A		20.12.1993	11.07.1984	A
Guinea-Bissau	21.02.1974	A	X	21.10.1986	A			21.10.1986	A
Guyana	22.07.1968	S		18.01.1988	A			18.01.1988	A
Haiti	11.04.1957	A							
Holy See	22.02.1951	R		21.11.1985	R	X		21.11.1985	R
Honduras	31.12.1965	A		16.02.1995	R			16.02.1995	R
Hungary	03.08.1954	R	X	12.04.1989	R		23.09.1991	12.04.1989	R
Iceland	10.08.1965	A		10.04.1987	R	X	10.04.1987	10.04.1987	R
India	09.11.1950	R							
Indonesia	30.09.1958	A							
Iran (Islamic Rep.of)	20.02.1957	R	X						
Iraq	4.02.1956	A							
Ireland	27.09.1962	R		19.05.1999	R	X	19.05.1999	19.05.1999	R
Israel	06.07.1951	R	X						
Italy	17.12.1951	R		27.02.1986	R	X	27.02.1986	27.02.1986	R
Jamaica	20.07.1964	S		29.07.1986	A			29.07.1986	A
Japan	21.04.1953	A							
Jordan	29.05.1951	A		01.05.1979	R			01.05.1979	R
Kazakhstan	05.05.1992	S		05.05.1992	S			05.05.1992	S
Kenya	20.09.1966	A		23.02.1999	A			23.02.1999	A
Kiribati	05.01.1989	S							
Korea (Dem. People's Rep.)	27.08.1957	A	X	09.03.1988	A				
Korea (Republic of)	16.08.1966	A	X	15.01.1982	R	X		15.01.1982	R
Kuwait	02.09.1967	A	X	17.01.1985	A			17.01.1985	A
Kyrgyzstan	18.09.1992	S		18.09.1992	S			18.09.1992	S
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	29.10.1956	A		18.11.1980	R		30.01.1998	18.11.1980	R
Latvia	24.12.1991	A		24.12.1991	A			24.12.1991	A
Lebanon	10.04.1951	R		23.07.1997	A			23.07.1997	A
Lesotho	20.05.1968	S		20.05.1994	A			20.05.1994	A
Liberia	29.03.1954	A		30.06.1988	A			30.06.1988	A
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	22.05.1956	A		07.06.1978	A			07.06.1978	A
Liechtenstein	21.09.1950	R		10.08.1989	R	X	10.08.1989	10.08.1989	R
Lithuania	03.10.1996	A		13.07.2000	A		13.07.2000	13.07.2000	
Luxembourg	01.07.1953	R		29.08.1989	R		12.05.1993	29.08.1989	R
Macedonia	01.09.1993	S	X	01.09.1993	S	X	01.09.1993	01.09.1993	S
Madagascar	18.07.1963	S		08.05.1992	R		27.07.1993	08.05.1992	R
Malawi	05.01.1968	A		07.10.1991	A			07.10.1991	A
Malaysia	24.08.1962	A							
Maldives	18.06.1991	A		03.09.1991	A			03.09.1991	A
Mali	24.05.1965	A		08.02.1989	A		09.05.2003	08.02.1989	A
Malta	22.08.1968	S		17.04.1989	A	X	17.04.1989	17.04.1989	A
Mauritania	30.10.1962	S		14.03.1980	A			14.03.1980	A
Mauritius	18.08.1970	S		22.03.1982	A			22.03.1982	A
Mexico	29.10.1952	R		10.03.1983	A				
Micronesia	19.09.1995	A		19.09.1995	A			19.09.1995	A
Moldova (Republic of)	24.05.1993	A		24.05.1993	A			24.05.1993	A
Monaco	05.07.1950	R		07.01.2000	A			07.01.2000	A
Mongolia	20.12.1958	A		06.12.1995	R	X	06.12.1995	06.12.1995	R
Morocco	26.07.1956	A							
Mozambique	14.03.1983	A		14.03.1983	A			12.11.2002	A
Myanmar	25.08.1992	A							
Namibia	22.08.1991	S		17.06.1994	A		21.07.1994	17.06.1994	A

	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I			PROTOCOL II			
Country	R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D		D90	R/A/S	R/D	
Nepal	07.02.1964	A								
Netherlands	03.08.1954	R		26.06.1987	R	X	26.06.1987	26.06.1987	R	
New Zealand	02.05.1959	R	X	08.02.1988	R	X	08.02.1988	08.02.1988	R	
Nicaragua	17.12.1953	R		19.07.1999	R			19.07.1999	R	
Niger	21.04.1964	S		08.06.1979	R			08.06.1979	R	
Nigeria	20.06.1961	S		10.10.1988	A			10.10.1988	A	
Norway	03.08.1951	R		14.12.1981	R		14.12.1981	14.12.1981	R	
Oman	31.01.1974	A		29.03.1984	A	X		29.03.1984	A	X
Pakistan	12.06.1951	R	X							
Palau	25.06.1996	A		25.06.1996	A			25.06.1996	A	
Panama	10.02.1956	A		18.09.1995	R		26.10.1999	18.09.1995	R	
Papua New Guinea	26.05.1976	S								
Paraguay	23.10.1961	R		30.11.1990	A		30.01.1998	30.11.1990	A	
Peru	15.02.1956	R		14.07.1989	R			14.07.1989	R	
Philippines	06.10.1952	R						11.12.1986	A	
Poland	26.11.1954	R	X	23.10.1991	R		02.10.1992	23.10.1991	R	
Portugal	14.03.1961	R	X	27.05.1992	R		01.07.1994	27.05.1992	R	
Qatar	15.10.1975	A		05.04.1988	A	X	24.09.1991			
Romania	01.06.1954	R		21.06.1990	R		31.05.1995	21.06.1990	R	
Russian Federation	10.05.1954	R	X	29.09.1989	R	X	29.09.1989	29.09.1989	R	X
Rwanda	05.05.1964	S		19.11.1984	A		08.07.1993	19.11.1984	A	
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14.02.1986	S		14.02.1986	A			14.02.1986	A	
Saint Lucia	18.09.1981	S		07.10.1982	A			07.10.1982	A	
Saint Vincent Grenadines	01.04.1981	A		08.04.1983	A			08.04.1983	A	
Samoa	23.08.1984	S		23.08.1984	A			23.08.1984	A	
San Marino	29.08.1953	A		05.04.1994	R			05.04.1994	R	
São Tomé and Príncipe	21.05.1976	A		05.07.1996	A			05.07.1996	A	
Saudi Arabia	18.05.1963	A		21.08.1987	A	X		28.11.2001	A	
Senegal	18.05.1963	S		07.05.1985	R			07.05.1985	R	
Serbia and Montenegro	16.10.2001	S		16.10.2001	S		16.10.2001	16.10.2001	S	
Seychelles	08.11.1984	A		08.11.1984	A		22.05.1992	08.11.1984	A	
Sierra Leone	10.06.1965	S		21.10.1986	A			21.10.1986	A	
Singapore	27.04.1973	A								
Slovakia	02.04.1993	S	X	02.04.1993	S		13.03.1995	02.04.1993	S	
Slovenia	26.03.1992	S		26.03.1992	S		26.03.1992	26.03.1992	S	
Solomon Islands	06.07.1981	S		19.09.1988	A			19.09.1988	A	
Somalia	12.07.1962	A								
South Africa	31.03.1952	A		21.11.1995	A			21.11.1995	A	
Spain	04.08.1952	R		21.04.1989	R	X	21.04.1989	21.04.1989	R	
Sri Lanka	28.02.1959	R								
Sudan	23.09.1957	A								
Suriname	13.10.1976	S	X	16.12.1985	A			16.12.1985	A	
Swaziland	28.06.1973	A		02.11.1995	A			02.11.1995	A	
Sweden	28.12.1953	R		31.08.1979	R	X	31.08.1979	31.08.1979	R	
Switzerland	31.03.1950	R		17.02.1982	R	X	17.02.1982	17.02.1982	R	
Syrian Arab Republic	02.11.1953	R		14.11.1983	A	X				
Tajikistan	13.01.1993	S		13.01.1993	S		10.09.1997	13.01.1993	S	
Tanzania (United Rep. of)	12.12.1962	S		15.02.1983	A			15.02.1983	A	
Thailand	29.12.1954	A								
Timor-Leste	08.05.2003	A								
Togo	06.01.1962	S		21.06.1984	R		21.11.1991	21.06.1984	R	
Tonga	13.04.1978	S		20.01.2003	A		20.01.2003	20.01.2003	A	
Trinidad and Tobago	24.09.1963	A		20.07.2001	A		20.07.2001	20.07.2001	A	
Tunisia	04.05.1957	A		09.08.1979	R			09.08.1979	R	
Turkey	10.02.1954	R								
Turkmenistan	10.04.1992	S		10.04.1992	S			10.04.1992	S	
Tuvalu	19.02.1981	S								
Uganda	18.05.1964	A		13.03.1991	A			13.03.1991	A	
Ukraine	03.08.1954	R	X	25.01.1990	R		25.01.1990	25.01.1990	R	
United Arab Emirates	10.05.1972	A		09.03.1983	A	X	06.03.1992	09.03.1983	A	X
United Kingdom	23.09.1957	R	X	28.01.1998	R	X	17.05.1999	28.01.1998	R	

**STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)**

Country	GENEVA CONVENTIONS			PROTOCOL I		D90	PROTOCOL II	
	R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D		R/A/S	R/D
Uruguay	05.03.1969	R	X	13.12.1985	A	17.07.1990	13.12.1985	A
Uzbekistan	08.10.1993	A		08.10.1993	A		08.10.1993	A
Vanuatu	27.10.1982	A		28.02.1985	A		28.02.1985	A
Venezuela	13.02.1956	R		23.07.1998	A		23.07.1998	A
Vietnam	28.06.1957	A	X	19.10.1981	R			
Yemen	16.07.1970	A	X	17.04.1990	R		17.04.1990	R
Zambia	19.10.1966	A		04.05.1995	A		04.05.1995	A
Zimbabwe	07.03.1983	A		19.10.1992	A		19.10.1992	A



# notes

**Djibouti**

Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26.01.78.

**France**

On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.

**Ghana**

Entry into force of Protocols I and II on 7.12.78.

**Namibia**

An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18.10.83. In an instrument deposited on 22.08.91, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31.03.52.

**Palestine**

On 21 June 1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council "that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 4 May 1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto".

On 13 September 1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

**Philippines**

The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 7.03.1951.

**Republic of Korea**

The Geneva Conventions entered into force on 23.09.66, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art.62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).

**Sri Lanka**

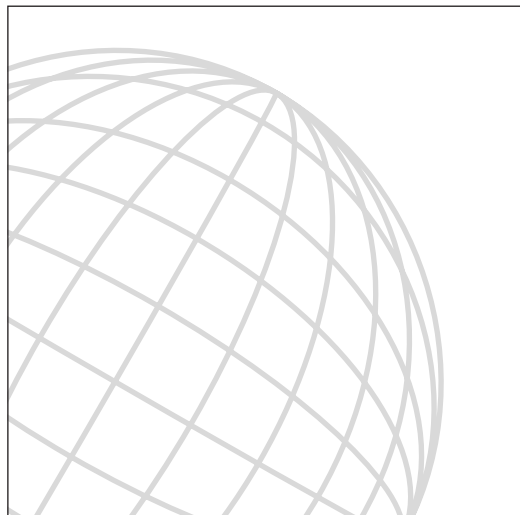
Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23 February 1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second, and Third Conventions).

**Switzerland**

Entry into force of the Geneva Conventions on 21.10.50.

**Trinidad and Tobago**

Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17.03.1963.



# glossary

A	<b>AIDS</b>	acquired immune deficiency syndrome
	<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
	<b>AU</b>	African Union
C	<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
D	<b>DOTS</b>	Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course
E	<b>ECHO</b>	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office
	<b>EU</b>	European Union
	<b>EHL</b>	"Exploring Humanitarian Law" (ICRC programme)
	<b>ERW</b>	explosive remnants of war
F	<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization
	<b>Fundamental Principles</b>	Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
G	<b>GDP</b>	gross domestic product
H	<b>HF</b>	high-frequency
	<b>HIV</b>	human immunodeficiency virus
I	<b>ICC</b>	International Criminal Court
	<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee of the Red Cross
	<b>IDPs</b>	internally displaced people
	<b>International Federation</b>	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
	<b>IHL</b>	international humanitarian law
	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
	<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
	<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
M	<b>Movement</b>	International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
	<b>MSF</b>	Médecins Sans Frontières

N	<b>NATO</b>	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
	<b>NCO</b>	non-commissioned officer
	<b>NGO</b>	non-governmental organization
O	<b>OAS</b>	Organization of American States
	<b>OAU</b>	Organization of African Unity, now known as the African Union (AU)
	<b>OCHA</b>	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
	<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
	<b>OIC</b>	Organization of the Islamic Conference
	<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
	<b>OPEC</b>	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
	<b>Ottawa Convention</b>	The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 18 September 1997 (also known as the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines)
P	<b>POWs</b>	prisoners of war
R	<b>RCMs</b>	Red Cross messages
S	<b>San Remo</b>	The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in San Remo, Italy - a non-governmental organization set up in 1970 to spread knowledge and promote the development of IHL. The institute specializes in organizing courses on IHL for military personnel from around the world.
	<b>Seville Agreement</b>	The Seville Agreement of 1997- provides a framework for effective cooperation and partnership between the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
	<b>SCF</b>	Save the Children Fund
U	<b>UEFA</b>	Union of European Football Associations
	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
	<b>UNHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
	<b>UNHCR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
V	<b>UXO</b>	Unexploded ordnance
	<b>VHF</b>	very-high-frequency
W	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization