

The ICRC's presence in Sudan has been its largest in the world for five consecutive years. In 2008, the ICRC maintained its operations despite the tense security situation in some parts of the country.

In Darfur, the ICRC continued to promote respect for civilians, reminding parties to the conflict of their obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL). It provided access to clean drinking water and health services and helped maintain and restore traditional livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of Sudanese civilians by providing seeds, tools and livestock vaccinations in rural and nomadic areas.

The organization maintained its capacity to respond to emergency situations. In cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS), it responded, among other emergencies, to intense fighting in Omdurman (Khartoum's twin city) and Abyei (central Sudan) in May and to the heavy flooding in Aweil (Southern Sudan) in mid-September.

Across Sudan, the ICRC supported 6 physical rehabilitation centers, including a newly built and equipped modern facility in Juba.

► Respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)



The ICRC holds sessions to inform communities and their leaders of its activities and the basics of IHL.

The ICRC widely promoted awareness, respect for, and implementation of IHL at all levels. It maintained its confidential dialogue with the Sudanese authorities and the different armed groups to protect civilians and prevent violations. In this regard the ICRC did the following:

- In February 2008, it signed a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF), covering 2008-2011, to help integrate IHL in their doctrine, training and operations;
- Addressed different units of the SAF, the Border Guards, and over **800** members of the Central Reserve Police (CRP) in various Darfur locations, with a specific focus on their responsibility to protect civilians during operations;
- Signed a 3-year MoU at the end of 2007- went into effect in 2008- to assist the SPLA in integrating IHL into its training curriculum, orders and doctrine;

- Organized the first IHL training for **20** SPLA officers in Juba in December 2008;
 - Held numerous communication sessions to prepare the ground for possible future protection activities with the SPLA;
 - Addressed more than **1,000** members of the Joint Integrated Units (JIU) through different sessions on the ICRC, its activities, mandate and basic principles of IHL;
 - Addressed more than **800** members of armed groups including militias and different opposition groups in
- Darfur on ICRC modalities, basic principles of IHL, and the security of humanitarian teams in the field;
 - Briefed more than **600** incoming UN observers and peacekeepers on the ICRC, its activities, mandate, humanitarian action and their obligations towards civilians under IHL;
 - Facilitated the handover of nine detainees held by armed groups in Darfur to the authorities or their families;
 - Visited **137** detainees in **12** detention places, collected **11** Red Cross Messages (RCMs) from detainees to send to their families, and delivered **32** RCMs to them;

► Re-establishing family links

The ICRC helped maintain links between families separated by conflict. RCMs, Salamat (verbal family greetings) as well as phone calls from Sudan (starting from July) have allowed news to travel between Sudan and the US detention facilities in Guantanamo, Bagram (Afghanistan) and Iraq. The ICRC also continued to facilitate contact or reunification of unaccompanied children and vulnerable people separated from their loved-ones by:

- Transmitting more than **26,000** RCMs to family members separated by the conflict, including nearly **200** to and from unaccompanied/separated children;
- Locating **153** people in Sudan at their families' request (**582** people are still being sought);
- Registering **89** unaccompanied/separated children and reuniting **49** children with their families (**53** cases of unaccompanied/separated children are still pending);
- Visiting **99** minors following the hostilities in Omdurman in May, tracing their families and enabling them to exchange RCMs with them. Later, and following a presidential amnesty, the ICRC organized the reunification of **43** minors of them with their families.



The ICRC looks for relatives of unaccompanied children with the aim of reuniting families

► Maintaining and restoring livelihoods

The ICRC assisted hundreds of thousands of farmers and nomadic herders in Darfur in preserving their economic security through agricultural, veterinary and other livelihood-support projects.

Seeds and tools

- **220,000** families (**44,000** people) received seeds, tools and food rations;
- **24,000** households (**4,800** people) benefited from small-scale livelihood interventions through the provision of tools, off-season seeds and fuel-efficient stoves.

Veterinary Services

- **145** herders were trained and equipped to provide basic veterinary services to their communities in rural areas. Nearly **8,000** livestock-owning households benefited from such services;
- **464,000** animals were vaccinated against 5 common diseases.



In remote areas of Darfur, the ICRC provides seeds and tools to help communities maintain and restore their traditional livelihood.



The ICRC coordinated with the Ministry of Animal Wealth the vaccination of hundreds of thousands of animals in remote areas, where such services are lacking.

► Providing access to clean drinking water

- **635,000** people were able to have access to clean drinking water:
 - **471,000** of those lived in rural areas;
 - **64,000** lived in urban centers;
 - **100,000** people lived in the Gereida camp for IDPs;
- **409** water points or systems in **201** locations were rehabilitated and maintained by the ICRC;
- More than **350** hand pumps were repaired;
- **27** water yards were rehabilitated.



In 2008, the ICRC provided access to clean drinking water for 635,000 people and their livestock.



The ICRC supports 6 prosthetic and rehabilitation centres across Sudan to help people walk again.



ICRC support to PHC centres contributed to maintaining children and women's health in remote areas.

► Access to health services

ICRC provided access to health care in different regions of Sudan, including primary health care, medical training, vaccinations, physical rehabilitation and assistance to hospitals.

Activities included:

- Increasing the number of ICRC-supported primary health care clinics in Darfur to **10**, up from **5** in 2007;
- **150,000** people in conflict-affected areas of Darfur had access to primary health care;
- **90,000** curative, including antenatal consultations;
- **120,149** doses of vaccines administered to children and pregnant women in the clinics and during outreach activities, including **89,536** doses of polio vaccine;
- **270** health education sessions to various health staff in the 10 clinics;
- Training **40** surgeons and doctors from Southern Sudan and Darfur on war surgery;
- Training **28** medical assistants and nurses on providing care to weapon-wounded;
- Constructing and equipping a new physical rehabilitation reference centre in Juba, Southern Sudan;
- Providing material and technical support to the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics to run its Khartoum and Nyala centers. Similar support was extended to reactivate three additional centers in Damazine, Kadugli and Kassala;
- Teaching **15** students and sponsoring **15** others to study abroad for prosthetics/orthotic diploma;
- Fitting over **3,000** patients (including **754** women and **752** children) with prostheses and orthoses at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centers in Juba, Khartoum and Nyala. More than **1,000** of those were new patients;

► ICRC's response to emergencies

In response to emergencies, the ICRC provided emergency assistance to people in various parts of Sudan.

- Supporting **4** hospitals, two of them military facilities, in Khartoum with surgical and medical supplies to treat **400** wounded people in May 2008;
- **104,611** recently displaced people (**20,473** households) all over Sudan received essential household items, including **1,870** that were distributed to more than **24,000** displaced persons in Almujlad, Kadugli and Malual Aleu. Additionally, **10,320** people of those were provided with food;
- Donating medical and surgical supplies to South Kordofan and Southern Sudan hospitals (mainly Almujlad, Bentiu, Juba Teaching Hospital and the Juba Joint Integrated Units Military Hospital) following the Abyei fighting;
- Deploying the Field Surgical Team (FST) to operate on **128** wounded civilians and fighters in Darfur, Southern Sudan, and the central region;
- Supporting a centre in Yambio to shelter **43** unaccompanied Congolese refugee children.



The highly specialized field surgical team treats persons wounded by weapons in any location in Sudan where medical care is not available.



In 2008, ICRC handed over the general food distribution in Gereida camp to WFP. It continues to provide access to healthcare, water, nutrition and sanitation.

► Gereida IDPs camp

In order to meet the essential needs of some 135,000 IDPs in Gereida, the ICRC extended its annual budget by an additional US\$ 19 millions to cover:

- Over **68,000** Primary Health Care consultations and **93,000** vaccinations to pregnant women and children at the ICRC clinic;
- Water and sanitation projects providing more than **260,000 m³** to over **100,000** IDPs, thus ensuring **70%** of the water supplies in the camp;
- Rehabilitating **5,760** of the **6,000** existing latrines and building **421** new ones;
- Regularly collecting and disposing of rubbish and solid waste;
- Providing monthly food rations and essential household items to more than **135,000** people (**27,000** IDP families);
- Treatment for malnourishment or ready-to-eat foods as a preventative measure to **22,000** children under five years.

By the end of the year, the ICRC succeeded in handing over the general food distribution to the World Food Programme (WFP) and CARE in order to concentrate its effort on rural areas.

► Cooperation with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS)

The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical resources to support its strategic partner, the Sudanese Red Crescent Society (SRCS). Aimed at strengthening the SRCS' capacities to respond to emergencies and to carry out programs or activities in partnership with the ICRC, this support included:

- Financial costs of some **60** positions at headquarters and in branches;
- Training team leaders and instructors of the "Emergency Action Teams" and supplying them with first aid equipment in South and North Darfur, South Sudan and Greater Khartoum;
- Training **75** volunteers in emergency preparedness in Aweil, Agok and Bentiu in Southern Sudan;
- Training over **1,200** staff and volunteers in first aid and stocking SRCS branches with basic supplies.

With ICRC support to the SRCS, the two partners

- Mobilized **250** volunteers and mounted an effective first-aid operation for victims of hostilities in Omdurman by administering first aid, evacuating the wounded, collecting dead bodies, helping the ICRC deliver relief goods and running the tracing and RCM services ;
- In the north-south border region, distributed relief goods to IDPs and opened new branches for the SRCS in Aweil and Warab;
- Provided **1,200** families affected by floods in Aweil, Southern Sudan, with essential household items and carried out a hygiene promotion campaign, in coordination with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- Collected and buried **87** dead bodies in Abyei in clearly marked burial sites;
- Collected and distributed over **3,000** Red Cross Messages within the country.



The ICRC supports its strategic partner, the Sudanese Red Crescent, to respond to emergencies and implement joint activities.



The Sudanese Red Crescent mobilizes volunteers to implement joint projects with the ICRC, such as waste disposal in Gereida camp.