



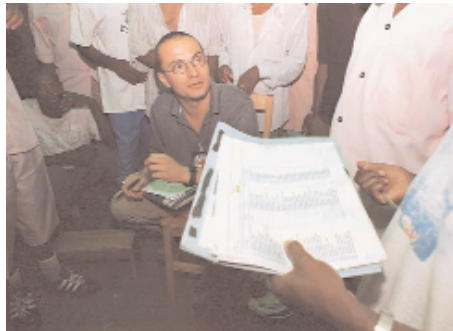
ICRC

# ICRC IN RWANDA

## IN BRIEF

March 2004

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has carried out its traditional activities in Rwanda since 1964. A continuous expatriate presence has been maintained since 1990, when a permanent delegation was established. The ICRC maintained this operational expatriate presence during the 1994 genocide. Today, its humanitarian action includes visits to places of detention, assistance to the victims of the 1994 events, reestablishment of contact between families separated by conflict, the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and cooperation with the Rwanda Red Cross Society. In its 6 offices across the country, ICRC employs 238 Rwandan and 48 expatriate staff.



*C.P. Kamembe: census of detainees. 11.09.00*  
Photo Marco Longani / CICR



*Meal in C.P. Gisovu. 04.03.03*  
Photo J. Gomez / CICR



*Repatriated child reunited with her grandmother in Gitarama. 29.10.03*  
Photo D. Gasarabwe / CICR



*Children repatriated from Brazzaville arrive in Kigali. 17.07.03*  
Photo P. Jéquier / CICR

## ACTION IN FAVOUR OF DETAINEES

### Visits to places of detention:

The ICRC is visiting on a regular basis approximately **89'000 detainees** to ensure that treatment and conditions of detention are respectful of human dignity.

During 2003, ICRC delegates carried out **296 visits in 110 detention facilities** (16 central prisons, 35 lockups, 48 police stations, 8 military remands).

Confidential reports are shared solely with the concerned authorities.

### Assistance to detainees:

The ICRC supports the prison supply programme of the Ministry of the Interior, providing **half of the food needed**. During 2003, 7'400 metric tons and 425'000 litres of cooking oil were dispensed in 16 central prisons throughout the country. With the normalization of the economic and political situation, since 2003, the ICRC has begun to progressively withdraw from providing this kind of assistance.

The ICRC also contributes towards the improvement of hygienic conditions in places of detention by rehabilitating **sanitary infrastructures**, and through the provision of adequate supplies of water. Hygienic materials are regularly distributed, such as the 325'000 cakes of soap distributed during 2003.

During 2003, the ICRC also provided **medicines and other medical materials** to 24 health centres, responsible for the care of detainees housed in district lockups and to the dispensaries located within the 16 central prisons.

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS.

### Exchange of Red Cross messages:

During 2003, 6'829 messages were collected in Rwanda: 5'868 from civilians, 632 from detainees and 329 from unaccompanied children. **7'865 messages were distributed**: 6'739 to civilians, 829 to detainees and 297 destined for unaccompanied children.

### Unaccompanied children and family reunification :

During 2003, **551 children were reunited** with their families. The ICRC repatriated to Rwanda a total of 600 children: 421 from Goma, 116 from South Kivu, 21 from Tanzania, 5 from Uganda, 11 from Burundi, 19 from Brazzaville, 3 from Zambia, 2 from Kinshasa, 1 from Angola and 1 from Malawi.



Water tap at Kigarama, Kibungo.

12.12. 2002

Photo D. Gasarabwe / CICR



Women's association Cyangugu. 07.02.03

Photo J. Gomez / CICR



IHL dissemination session at Ntendezi Cyangugu. 20.02.03

Photo P. Jequier / CICR



Handing over 235 bikes to RRC 28.10.03

Photo P. Jequier / CICR

## ASSISTANCE TO THE RWANDAN POPULATION

### Water projects:

4 water-rehabilitation projects targetting 94'000 persons were carried out during 2003: Muhanga natural springs, the rehabilitation of Gashora water network, water conveyance in Kagohe and the reinforcement of the Muhazi water-treatment plant.

3 projects for 66'000 beneficiaries are still ongoing and the feasibility studies continue for 4 other projects (for 90'000 beneficiaries).

### Micro-projects:

36 projects involving direct assistance to **agro-pastoral** associations and aimed at improving the socio-economic conditions of the most vulnerable groups were implemented during 2003. These projects targeted a total of 4'000 beneficiaries.

### Orphanage assistance:

ICRC provided **80 metric tons of food**, 2 metric tons of soap and kitchen sets to 20 orphanages.

### School assistance:

**1'900 orphaned** and economically marginalized secondary school students benefited from the payment of their school fees during the 2002-2003 school year.

## PREVENTION

### Dissemination:

The ICRC continued to support the implementation and integration of **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)** among civilian and military audiences. In 2003, 32 military instructors participated in a two-week long "train-the-trainers" event organized for Rwanda Defence Forces (RDF). ICRC also organised 12 training sessions on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) **for 1'700 RDF members** and 11 sessions for **250 national policemen**. 17 introduction sessions to IHL involving **2'200 members of the Local Defence Forces** were organised. In addition the ICRC organised 9 information sessions for 280 members of civil society: political authorities, teachers, journalists, university students, members of Human Rights associations and members of the Rwanda Red Cross.

An agreement between the ICRC and MINEDUC was signed, seeking to integrate some **concepts of IHL into citizenship education**, which remains a compulsory subject in Rwandan secondary schools.

## COOPERATION WITH THE RWANDAN RED CROSS

The ICRC is reinforcing the operational capacity of the National Red Cross Society in 3 areas: **Tracing agency** (distribution of Red Cross messages in 6 provinces and Kigali city), information activities and the **promotion of International Humanitarian Law**, establishment of 5 emergency brigades and reinforcement of strategic stocks to better **prepare a response to the consequences of armed conflict** in the region.

Rwanda Red Cross participated actively in the 28th International Red Cross and Red Crescent Conference held in Geneva in December 2003, the theme of which was "protecting human dignity" .



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