

A population in distress

Nearly two decades of conflict, poor security conditions and widespread lawlessness continue to exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Somalia. In addition, recurrent droughts and high food and fuel prices contribute to food insecurity and high malnutrition rates in many areas. Millions of Somalis continue to depend on humanitarian assistance.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

focuses on providing emergency aid to people directly affected by armed conflict, often in combination with natural disasters. In Somalia, it runs an extensive first-aid, medical and basic health-care programme to treat the wounded and sick in all parts of the country. It also carries out small-scale water and agricultural projects with a medium-term outlook, designed to restore or improve the livelihoods of communities weakened by crises. In addition, due to the recurrent droughts and ensuing food insecurity the ICRC carried out large scale food and non-food distributions as well as water-trucking activities in large parts of central and south Somalia. Many of these activities were carried out in close collaboration with the **Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)**.

The ICRC has been working in Somalia since 1977 when it responded to the crisis that arose from the war between Ethiopia and Somalia. Since 1982 it has maintained a permanent presence in Somalia, basing its delegation in Nairobi since 1994.

Treatment for war wounded

As part of its comprehensive health programme in Somalia, the ICRC supports two surgical referral hospitals in Mogadishu, namely Keysaney, run by the SRCS, and Madina. Since the beginning of the year, the two hospitals treated **3,085 casualties** of the fighting, a third of them women and children, as well as other medical emergencies. Both accept patients from all backgrounds, regardless of their clan, religion or political convictions.



Primary health care

The ICRC supports 28 SRCS clinics and 5 first aid posts in central and southern Somalia, which have carried out more than **260,490 consultations** and more than **26,972 vaccinations**. Six (6) additional temporary SRCS primary health-care clinics are supported on the outskirts of Mogadishu (Afgoye corridor and Daynile) specifically targeting the more than 350,000 displaced people that live in this area.

Emergency cholera prevention and treatment activities were executed in Kismayo, Walan Weyne and Hobyo mostly in cooperation with the SRCS.

Water projects and Livelihood projects

The ICRC mounted a large-scale operation to respond to the effects of drought following a number of severely below-average rainy seasons. This has involved trucking to almost **300'000 residents and pastoralists** and their livestock.

The ICRC also renovated and repaired **22 water supply infrastructures** to improve groundwater sources (wells and boreholes) and surface water storage facilities (private water reservoirs and rainwater catchments). These activities have helped some **95,122 people** to have continued access to water. In addition, eighteen **cash for work programs** have been benefiting 10,458 beneficiaries with cash income and lead to rehabilitation.

Along the Juba and Shabelle rivers, **25,500 families** received sandbags for the flood-prevention. The ICRC assisted **3,000 beneficiaries** through a dikes closure programme in Lower Shabelle that prevented the destruction of farms and village through flooding.

To mitigate the effects of erratic rainfall and boost self-sufficiency among the farming population along the Shabelle and Juba Rivers, the ICRC has supplied 49 one-cylinder anil or petrol pumps (1 or 2-cylinders) to **180 farms**. The ICRC launched a pilot project of farm-rehabilitation that benefited **100 farms** in Middle Shabelle.



Relief and emergency assistance

Shelter-material, essential household items like kitchen sets, mats, blankets and jerrycans, and clothes were provided to **110,000** displaced persons.

22'400 kits of vegetable seeds, 560 sprayers and leaflets on simple methods of agriculture and the safe use of pesticides enabled 135'000 beneficiaries to diversify their diet and grow cash crop. **40'000 beneficiaries** affected by crop failures received **640 tonnes** of staple seeds including sorghum, maize, cowpea and sesame and **8,640 tonnes** of food ration for seed protection. **17,000 beneficiaries** received **272 tonnes** of off-season staple seeds

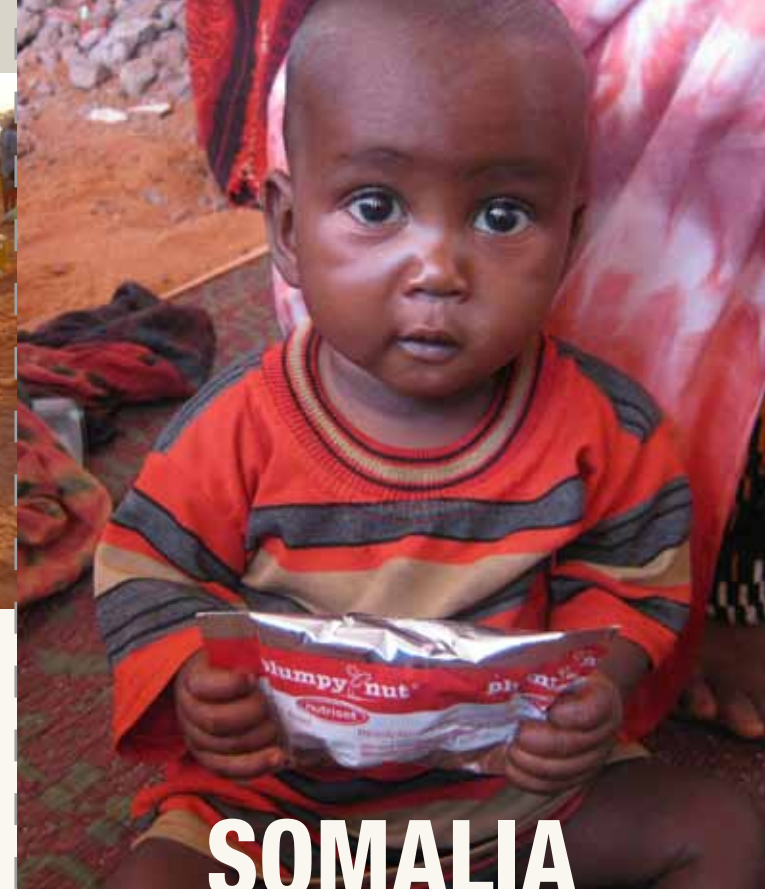
The ICRC has distributed food rations for up to 3 months to more than **60,000 drought-affected persons** in Galgaduud. In Cabudwaaq, **4,500 moderately malnourished children** received three months of supplementary food. **2,500 children** suffering severe acute malnutrition have been cured in seven **outpatient therapeutic centres**.

Tracing

Another important part of the ICRC's work is re-establishing and maintaining contacts between family members separated by conflict. Working with the Somali Red Crescent Society, the ICRC collected 5,079 Red Cross Messages, many from outside the country, and distributed more than 9,248 from January to June. 3,946 names of people sought were broadcasted by the BBC. 249 persons were located at the request of their relatives. The delegation issued 47 ICRC travel documents.

Cooperation with the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS)

The SRCS is the main operational partner of the ICRC in Somalia. Together with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC works towards strengthening the operational capacity of the SRCS, particularly in the fields of health, tracing, dissemination and disaster management. Through its network of 19 branches and 114 sub-branches scattered throughout the entire



country, the SRCS provides essential community services ranging from first aid, mother and child healthcare, disease prevention and physical rehabilitation to restoring of links between family members separated because of the conflict or general insecurity in Somalia. In co-ordination with the ICRC, the SRCS disseminates basic rules of the International Humanitarian Law to audiences from different walks of life.

Prevention

Through radio-programs and dissemination sessions in the field the ICRC tries to sensitize the Somali society about International Humanitarian law and its link to the 'Biri-ma-Geydo', the Somali traditional code of conduct. A seminar gathering 39 journalists from the 13 main radios of Mogadishu was organised to introduce ICRC's mandate and activities.



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