

RWANDA

FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY- DECEMBER 2024



In 2024, the humanitarian landscape continued to be shaped by crises, including armed conflicts and violence, affecting some of the most vulnerable populations. East-Africa was no exception. Despite global humanitarian funding constraints, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintained its commitment to neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

One example is our support to families separated as they escape conflict and other situations of violence in the Great Lakes Region, crossing borders, including into Rwanda. In partnership with the Rwanda Red Cross Society (RRCS) and other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we help reconnect and reunify family members, ensuring their right to remain connected with their loved ones.

We could not do this work without strong partners within the Red Cross Movement. As part of our collaboration with the RRCS, we aim to strengthen its capacity to provide quality humanitarian services, as a first responder in times of crises.

International humanitarian law (IHL) is at the core of ICRC's mandate and mission. In Rwanda as well, the ICRC continued to promote awareness, understanding, and respect for IHL, working closely with national authorities, military and law enforcement institutions, diplomatic and academic circles, as well as media. The aim is to ensure the safety and dignity of people affected by armed conflicts. To this end, we supported Rwanda's efforts to integrate and implement both IHL and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) into national legal framework, and to disseminate IHL in pre-deployment sessions with troops training for their deployment abroad.

AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW



3,821 RDF, RNP, RIB and RCS officers attended pre-deployment trainings, lectures of opportunity and national and international fora on the respect of IHL and IHRL in their operations.



37 National authorities' representatives, key influential humanitarian actors, members of the Justice sector and diplomatic community participated in different sessions on ICRC mandate and its priorities in Rwanda and the region and in IHL related events.



589 Law students from **5** Rwandan Schools of Law participated in IHL related national and regional Moot Court Competitions, public lectures and Youth Dialogues (IHL dialogue conducted jointly with RRCS).



1500 IHL related books were distributed to law students as well as security and law enforcement organs and other key stakeholders.



20 Lecturers and Rwanda Red Cross Society staff attended IHL promotion events by the ICRC, including a workshop on "IHL and New Technologies".



40 Journalists, influencers, and Officers in charge of public relations in key national institutions (such as Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Rwanda Correctional Service), attended an awareness session on ICRC mandate and IHL.

120,010 People were reached and sensitized on IHL through online platforms and radio and TV talks.



Pierre Celestin Muhingabire/ICRC

The ICRC and Rwanda Defence Force (RDF) jointly organized a three-day workshop on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and New Technologies, held in Kigali in May 2024. Patrick Youssef, ICRC Regional Director for Africa (Left) and Brigadier General Ronald Rwivanga, RDF Spokesperson (with Virtual Reality Headset), officiated the workshop

RECONNECTING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY CONFLICT



26,984 Phone calls were made to help refugees and asylum seekers reconnect with separated family members.



17,470 Phone charges were provided for refugees and asylum seekers in transit centers, to help them contact their families.



2,954 Red Cross Messages containing brief family news were exchanged between separated family members in Rwanda and abroad.



153 Unaccompanied/separated children and vulnerable adults were reunited with their families in Rwanda.



229 Missing persons were found, and contact was reestablished with their families.

191 Families received cash assistance to support the reintegration process of their reunified family members.

WORKING WITH RWANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY (RRCS)



750'000 CHF Grant co-funded by the ICRC and IFRC through the National Society Investment Alliance (NSIA) was awarded to RRCS to support its sustainability plan.



300 RRCS volunteers acquired insurance as part of safer access and safety measures during humanitarian operations.



3 Refresher sessions conducted by RRCS staff to volunteers and stakeholders for safer access during humanitarian operations.



115 RRCS staff and volunteers were trained on data protection.

113 RRCS volunteers were trained in responding to the protection of family links needs in emergencies.

2 Sets of Virtual Reality equipment donated to RRCS to support the IHL Dissemination programme using digital technologies.



1 RRCS Senior Leadership member supported to attend the 2024 Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference of the RCRC Movement in Geneva, Switzerland.



1 RRCS legal advisor supported to attend the annual Legal Advisors Meeting and preparatory meeting for the 34th International Conference of the RCRC Movement in Geneva.



A donation of Personal Protective Equipment and essential household items was made to support the RRCS MPOX outbreak response and emergency response to affected households.



Pierre Celestin Muhingabire/ICRC

The winners of the National IHL Moot Court competition in Rwanda. Edmond Saye Kamei (Left), Shema Aime (Middle) and Mukunde Delphin (Right) from University of Lay Adventists of Kigali (UNILAK).

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

People know they can count on the ICRC to carry out a range of life-saving activities in conflict zones and to work closely with the communities there to understand and meet their needs. The organization's experience and expertise enables it to respond quickly and effectively, without taking sides.

The ICRC has carried out humanitarian activities in Rwanda since 1963. It established and maintained a permanent presence in Rwanda since 1990.

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International Committee of the Red Cross
 Kigali
 House No 83, KG 5 Ave – Quartier Kacyiru
 P.O. Box 735 Kigali, Rwanda.
 Tel. : +250 788 30 83 19 / +250 788 30 30 78
 E-mail: urb_mailbox@icrc.org
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Cover photo:

Cover photo: An ICRC staff helps a Congolese refugee in Rwanda send a Red Cross Message to her relatives with whom she had lost contact due to the armed conflict in DRC, a vital step in the family reunification process. **Photo credit:** P. C. Muhingabire/ICRC