

## ACTIVITIES IN THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA FROM JANUARY - JUNE 2014

*The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has started its activity permanently in Ethiopia during the 1977 Ethio-Somali armed conflict. Currently, it conducts its operations from the Addis Ababa head office, Mekelle sub-delegation and Shire office in Tigray. In terms of human resources, it has more than 200 employees consisting of national and international staff.*

### Highlights (from January- June 2014)

- More than **30,800** detainees in **17** federal and regional prisons were visited.
- More than **1,450** Red Cross Messages (RCMs) were collected and more than **1,550** were distributed among civilians.
- **169** tracing requests were received.
- **13,000** free phone calls were facilitated for Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, and Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- **2600** vulnerable refugees in Leitchuor camp (Gambella) benefited from the distribution (jointly with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society) of essential household items (blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen set, sleeping mats and jericans), energy saving stoves and firewood.



- More than **18,000 (3,000 HHs)** displaced civilians in Moyale, Guji and Borena benefited from emergency assistance.
- Above **85,000** people in Tigray and Afar regions bordering Eritrea, and in Benishangul-Gumuz Region, hosting Sudanese refugees, had better access to clean water and sanitation services.
- More than **2,900** persons with physical disabilities got access to free rehabilitation services.
- More than **500** members of the federal and regional police forces participated in seminars on International Human Rights Standards and humanitarian principles.

- **175** judges and prosecutors, **450** senior law and journalism students and their instructors attended dissemination sessions on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) which regulates armed conflict and provides protection to persons affected by conflict.
- More than **750** local authorities participated in dissemination sessions on basics of IHL, mandates and principles of the movement, and emblems.

## PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY

### VISITING DETAINEES

*The ICRC detention visits aim to ensure that detainees, regardless of the reason for their arrest and detention, are treated with dignity and humanity, in accordance with international norms and standards. The ICRC works with the authorities to prevent abuse and to improve both the treatment of detainees and their conditions of detention. The findings of its visits are confidential and shared only with the concerned authorities.*

In 2014, the ICRC conducted regular visits to all federal prisons and to regional prisons in Amhara, Harari, Oromia, Tigray and Afar. It also conducted a visit to Mekele Regional Police Investigation Center in Tigray. Moreover, as part of its activities in the prisons, the ICRC worked to improve access to health care for prisoners. In order to assess and help improve the health services of detainees, the ICRC medical staff participated in detention visits to federal prisons and to regional prisons in Tigray, Oromia and Amhara.

From January to June 2014, the ICRC:

- Visited more than **30,800** detainees through 17 visits to federal and regional prisons in order to help improve the conditions of detention and treatment of persons deprived of liberty.
- Helped detainees restore/maintain contacts with their families by facilitating the exchange of more than **240** Red Cross Messages (RCMs) and the transmission of 15 oral greetings known as “Selamat”.
- Enhanced the prison management skill of **23** federal and regional prison managers through the provision of a week-long relevant training, organized in cooperation with prison authorities and with the support of the UK-based International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS).
- Provided hygienic items, blankets and clothes, leisure and educational materials to more than **22,500** detainees in **12** different prisons. It also supplied basic medical equipment and consumables to two federal and three regional prison clinics.
- Assessed the design and construction of **four** new federal prisons and four other new regional prisons in Amhara and Oromia. It also offered technical advice and supplied engineering equipment to engineers of the Federal Prison Authority (FPA) in order to enhance their supervision skills on construction works with emphasis on enabling them to improve water and sanitation facilities of the new prisons.
- Engineering department, through an integrated capacity building and project implementation works undertaken on prison facilities in cooperation with prison authorities, had improved water and sanitation services as well as kitchen fuel consumption of **six** regional prisons benefiting over **11,000** detainees.

## ACTIVITIES IN FAVOUR OF CIVILIAN POPULATION

### RELIEF ASSISTANCE

*In 2014, the ICRC and the Movement partners (Ethiopian Red Cross Society, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and Swiss Red Cross Society) jointly provided support to people affected by inter-communal clashes in southern parts of Ethiopia. In addition, the Movement partners provided emergency assistance to South Sudanese refugees at entry points and in refugee camps.*



*South Sudanese refugees sheltered at Letchour Refugee Camp in Gambella Region collecting essential household items from a Red Cross distribution site, 2014.*

From January to June 2014:

In order to protect South Sudanese refugees, who are mainly women and children, from adverse effects of climate, the ICRC built five communal shelters at Pagak entry point and equipped them with essential household items.

- **2600** vulnerable refugees in Leitchuor camp (Gambella) benefited from the distribution (jointly with the Ethiopian Red Cross Society) of essential household items (blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen set, sleeping mats and jerricans). They also benefited from the distribution of energy saving stoves and firewood.
- With the objective of reducing mortality rates among the South Sudanese refugees, the ICRC, together with the ERCS, deployed two vehicles at the main entry points in Gambella Region for the timely referral of the sick, wounded and other vulnerable refugees (pregnant women and elderly people) as well as transfer of the dead bodies.
- Surgical equipment, medical supplies, and hygienic items were supplied to the Gambella hospital and two other health centres in the region to enhance their capacity to respond to increasing health care demand due to the influx of South Sudanese refugees. Medical assistance was also provided to the regional blood bank in order to make it operational.
- Some **3000** households (18,000 individuals) displaced by inter communal clashes in Moyale, Guji and Borena benefited from emergency assistance provided by the ICRC and the ERCS.
- Monitored the distribution of Emergency household items and shelter material for 500 displaced families in Negele Zone.
- **8,000** returnee households in East Hararghe benefited from the distribution of seeds (maize and sorghum) and tools to restore their livelihood.



*Returnee villagers in Mayu, Oromia Region receiving seeds and farm tools distributed by the ICRC/ERCS team to help them restore their livelihoods, 2014.*

## RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC has a global Family Network Links that operates to restore and maintain contact between dispersed family members and seeks to identify the fate of persons reported missing.

In 2014, family members dispersed by conflict, including Ethiopian and Eritrean civilians separated by the closed border, and refugees in Ethiopia and their families in their respective countries, as well as Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia and their relatives, exchanged news using the ICRC/ ERCS family links service. Special attention was given to the situation of unaccompanied minors.



*An Ethiopian woman, returnee from Saudi Arabia, makes a phone call to her family from a temporary Red Cross free call service at Bole International Airport, Addis Ababa, 2013.*

From January to June 2014, the ICRC:

- Received **169** tracing requests out of which **11** missing persons were located.
  - Helped **20** people to travel or return abroad to their home countries by providing ICRC travel documents.
  - Facilitated the delivery of school transcripts and similar documents to **12** Eritreans and Ethiopians.
- In cooperation with ERCS.

- Collected more than **1,450** RCMs and distributed more than **1,550** RCMs among civilians enabling them to restore and maintain links with their families.
- Helped Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees to exchange family news with their relatives in their respective countries and abroad through the provision of more than **4'200** free phone calls and exchange of more than **112** RCMs. It also facilitated more than 8'750 free phone calls for Ethiopian returnees from the Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Of the total, **317** of the phone calls were made by unaccompanied minors.
- Facilitated the broadcast of the names of more than **630** persons sought by Somali refugees in Ethiopia through the "Missing Persons" radio programme on the BBC Somali service.

## WATER AND HABITAT

The ICRC continued working with the authorities and rural communities to improve access to clean water and sanitation services for the people living in rural border areas that have been affected by the past conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, and in the communities hosting Sudanese refugees by building/rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities. The ICRC also supported the building/rehabilitation of water and sanitation infrastructures in the refugee camps and in the transit points in Gambella Region, where South Sudanese refugees are sheltered.



An ICRC water treatment point in Itang, Gambella Region, provides clean water to South Sudanese refugees sheltered in Kule Camp, 2014.

From January to June 2014:

- Over **85,000** people in rural areas of Tigray and Afar regions, located along the border with Eritrea, and in those areas of Benishangul-Gumuz Region, hosting Sudanese refugees, had better access to clean water and sanitation services through the maintenance/ building of hand pumps and sanitation facilities undertaken by governmental water offices with the financial, technical and material support of the ICRC. In these areas of operation, more than **16,000** people also benefited from ICRC hygiene promotion works and training.
- With the ICRC technical support, the Tigray Water Bureau improved the management of water resources through the use of the jointly developed Geographic Information System (GIS) benefiting thousands of targeted population. The ICRC also offered training on the use of GPS to **53** water resource staff in Tigray and northern Afar regions.

## PHYSICAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

*The main objective of the ICRC Physical rehabilitation Program is to promote that all Persons with Physical Disabilities (PWDs) have equal access to quality and long-term sustainable rehabilitation services. By doing so, it enables persons with physical disability to regain mobility, lead a life in dignity and play an active role in society.*

*In 2014, the ICRC continued providing financial, material and technical support to seven physical rehabilitation centers existing in Southern Nations (Arba Minch), Oromia (Assela, Menagesha), Tigray (Mekelle), Amhara (Bahr Dar and Dessie) and Dire Dawa. It also provided support for the setting up of three physical rehabilitation centers in Assosa, Gambella and Nekempte which will provide the service in western regions. These centers have already begun registering patients for offering the service soon.*



*A technician trainee building a prosthetic device at a workshop at the Black Lion specialized Hospital in Addis Ababa*

From January to June 2014:

- The service provision capacity at the seven ICRC-assisted physical rehabilitation centers was sustained through donations of imported raw materials and components. In addition, the ICRC program staff did ensure a close technical coaching in areas such as manufacturing of prosthetic and orthotic devices, physiotherapy techniques and services management procedures. As a result, more than **2,900** persons with physical disability had access to free rehabilitation services.
- With the objective of strengthening existing physical rehabilitation expertise, 15 new students and nine previous graduates continued attending a primary and advanced training in prosthetic and orthotic field of study.
- Support to federal and regional labour and social affairs authorities was maintained to help them develop and implement the desired strategies aimed at ensuring the sustainability of the physical rehabilitation services to persons with physical disability.
- Continued the delivery of wheelchairs to persons with physical disability for practicing basketball as part of its activities to facilitate their prospects for a full social inclusion through increased participation in sports.
- Promoted regional mapping of “who is doing what” on social inclusion for persons with disabilities with the purpose that assisted rehabilitation centers develop referral routines for patients that could benefit from identified socio-economical programs.

## PREVENTION/COMMUNICATION

The ICRC, in collaboration with the ERCS, continued promoting and spreading the knowledge of IHL among the various sections of society consisting of armed carriers, authorities, lawyers, academicians, civil society and media personnel.



*Law students participating at a Moot Court competition, held at Dilla University, with the support from the ICRC, Southern Ethiopia, 2014.*

From January to June 2014, the ICRC organized or co-organized IHL dissemination sessions for different targeted groups. During the reported period:

- More than **750** local authorities, including religious leaders and representatives of community-based organizations, and Red Cross volunteers from Southern Nations, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray and Oromia regions, participated in dissemination sessions, focussing mainly on the basics of IHL, mandates and principles of the movement, and humanitarian emblems, held in their respective regions.
- Some **26 Journalists** from the Tigray region also enhanced their knowledge of IHL and the protection the law provides to media professionals covering armed conflict.
- **175** judges and prosecutors from SNNP, Tigray, Amhara and Oromia regions attended IHL seminars organized by the ICRC in collaboration with regional judicial training institutions. In addition to this, **450** senior law and journalism students and their instructors from three universities enhanced their understanding of IHL and their ability to do researches on related subjects at dissemination sessions organized jointly with their respective universities' law faculties.
- **Thirty-six students from 12 universities** demonstrated their knowledge of IHL through a national moot court competition held at Dilla University with the financial and technical support of the ICRC.
- Some **500** members of federal and regional police forces mainly crime prevention/ investigation and riot control officers, members of special security forces and prison guards from Benishangul-Gumuz, Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Addis Ababa regions participated in seven separate dissemination sessions organized jointly with the respective regional police training centers. A two-day round-table discussion was also organized for 29 heads of police training centres.
- By drawing attention to ICRC press releases and website updates, journalists published news stories and gave media coverage to various events, including to the assistance provided to South Sudan refugees in Gambella and to a prison management workshop organized for federal and prison authorities.

## PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

*The aim of ICRC's cooperation with the ERCS is to strengthen the implementation of operational activities and to address jointly the needs of the identified vulnerable population.*

In 2014, the ICRC increased the financial, technical and material support it provides to the ERCS to help strengthen its capacity to restore family links between dispersed families, particularly to enable to respond to the increasing tracing needs caused by the recent South Sudanese conflict.

From January to June 2014, the ERCS:

- Provided emergency assistance to displaced people in southern parts of Ethiopia and to South Sudanese refugees at Pagak entry point and Leitchour Camp in Gambella Region (see - Relief Assistance).
- Distributed basic household items to more than **370** Ethiopians who arrived in Humera (Tigray) from Eritrea.
- Enhanced its capacity to restore family links between refugees in Ethiopia and their families abroad through the support from the ICRC and the Swedish Red Cross Society (see - Restoring Family Links).
- Offered first-aid training to **70** Red Cross volunteers and a training of trainers (ToT) to **26** health professionals.
- Organized dissemination sessions for local authorities, including religious and community leaders, and Red Cross volunteers (See- Prevention/Communication).



### The ICRC's Mission Statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the Geneva Conventions and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It directs and coordinates the international activities conducted by the Movement in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.



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