

ACTIVITIES IN THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA IN 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 Addis Ababa head office, Mekelle Sub-delegation, Shire office in Tigray. In terms of human resources, it has more than 200 employees consisting of national and international staff.

Highlights of 2014

- More than **33,000 detainees** in 18 federal and regional prisons were visited and their living conditions improved through an enhanced access to water, sanitation, health services, and the distribution of essential items.
- More than **6,200 Red Cross Messages** (RCMs) were exchanged among family members separated by conflict, situations of violence, migratory movements or other, including refugees and persons detained.
- Over **26,000 free phone calls** were facilitated for Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, and Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- **13,000 free phone calls** were facilitated for Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, and Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia and Yemen.
- **15,600 vulnerable refugees** in Leitchuor camp (Gambella) benefited from the distribution of essential household items (blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen set, sleeping mats and jerrycans), energy saving stoves and firewood.



Returnee villagers receiving seeds and farm tools distributed by the ICRC/ERCS team, 2014.

- Nearly **58,000 displaced civilians** in Oromia, SNNP, and Gambella regions benefited from emergency assistance (essential household items) and **48,000** returnees to their village in East Hararge benefited from the distribution of seeds and tools in order to restore their livelihoods.
- More than **393,000 people**, including local communities hosting refugees and refugees from Eritrea, Sudan and South Sudan, benefitted from emergency assistance and improved access to water and sanitation services.
- More than **6,000 persons with physical disabilities** got access to free rehabilitation services.
- More than **2,150 members of the federal and regional police forces** participated in seminars on International Human Rights Standards and humanitarian principles.
- **550 judges and prosecutors, 650 senior law and journalism students** and their instructors as well as **1,200 local authorities** attended dissemination sessions on International Humanitarian Law.

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 improve both the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees. The findings of its visits are confidential and shared only with the concerned authorities.



A 110 cubic-meter water reservoir and pump house built for Debre Birhan new prison, 2014.

In 2014, the ICRC:

- Visited more than **33,000 detainees** through 35 visits to six federal and 12 regional prisons as well as one police station in order to improve conditions of detention and treatment of persons deprived of liberty. The ICRC medical staff participated in detention visits to federal prisons and to most of the regional prisons to assess and help improve the health services of detainee
- Helped detainees restore/maintain contacts with their families by facilitating the exchange of more than **757 Red Cross Messages** and the transmission of **470 oral greetings**.
- Enhanced the prison management skill of **23 federal and regional prison managers** through the provision of two workshops, organized in Addis Ababa and Geneva in cooperation with prison authorities and the UK-based International Centre for Prison Studies (ICPS).
- Enabled federal prison authorities to participate in two separate conferences (African Correctional Services Association and Internal Corrections and Prisons Association) organized in Maputo and Windhoek respectively. Moreover, sponsored **two** senior prison health staff to attend a training on health in detention organized in Switzerland. In addition, **17 health staff** from six federal and three regional prisons were trained in Addis Ababa in detection and management of detainees with mental health problems.
- Provided hygienic items, blankets and clothes, leisure and educational materials to more than **32,000 detainees** in 18 different prisons. It also supplied basic medical equipment and consumables to two federal and four regional prison clinics, as well as to the federal prison hospital.
- Worked with the regional authorities on a plan on how to improve access to health services in regional prisons in Amhara, and supported the Oromia regional prison authorities to provide health care to detainees in the medical referral prison of the region.

- 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 the Federal Prison Authority in order to enhance their supervision skills on construction works so as to improve water and sanitation facilities of the new prisons.
- ICRC Engineering department, through an integrated capacity building and project implementation in prison facilities, improved water and sanitation services as well as kitchen fuel consumption of **five federal** and **12 regional** prisons benefiting over **45,000 detainees**.

ACTIVITIES IN FAVOUR OF CIVILIAN POPULATION

RELIEF ASSISTANCE

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



People affected by inter-communal clashes in Bench-Maji, Oromia Region, after receiving emergency assistance from Red Cross distribution site, 2014.

In 2014, in partnership with the ERCS:

- In order to protect South Sudanese refugees, who are mainly women and children, from adverse effects of climate, five communal shelters were built at Pagak entry point and equipped with essential household items enabling **3,000 refugees** to make a temporary stay at the shelters before they moved to refugee camps.
- **15,600 vulnerable refugees**, including pregnant and lactating women, disabled and elderly people, in Leitchuor camp (Gambella) benefited from the distribution of essential household items (blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen set, sleeping mats and jerry-cans), energy saving stoves and firewood.
- With the objective of reducing mortality rates among the South Sudanese refugees two vehicles were deployed 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 human remains. Accordingly, **300 refugees** in need of health care were transported from the main entry points and health facilities in refugee camps to referral hospitals.

- Surgical equipment, medical supplies, and hygienic items were supplied to the Gambella hospital and the Itang and Niengnieng health centers to enhance their capacity to respond to increasing health care demand due to the influx of South Sudanese refugees. Along with medical assistance, a back-up generator was installed for the regional blood bank in order to make it operational.
- **58,000 people displaced** by inter communal clashes in Oromia and SNNP regions and South Sudanese refugees in Gambella region benefited from emergency assistance.
- **48,000 returnees** to their village in East Hararge benefited from the distribution of seeds (maize and sorghum) and farm tools in order to restore their livelihoods.
- **667 Ethiopian nationals** repatriated from Eritrea received financial assistance to cover their transportation and other costs as well as hygienic items & blankets upon their arrival at Humera.
- **126 women and 74 men** (mainly families of missing persons and repatriates) engaged in various income generating activities and improved their livelihoods through the provision of technical training and loan.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC has a global Family Network Links that operates to restore and maintain contact between dispersed family members, following a conflict, other situations of violence, natural disasters or migratory movements, and seeks to identify the fate of persons reported missing by their families.

In 2014, the ICRC:

- Received nearly **180 requests** to look for missing family members and located **39**.
- Helped **20 people** to travel abroad or return to their home countries by providing ICRC travel documents.
- In cooperation with Movement partners and UNHCR, reunited **two Eritrean unaccompanied minors** with their mother in France.
- Facilitated the delivery of school transcripts and similar documents to **22 Eritreans and Ethiopians**.
- Issued a photo-tracing tool (snapshot) to facilitate the restoration of family links of **540 refugees**, including unaccompanied minors, with their families mainly in South Sudan, Uganda and Kenya.



Two Eritrean minors reuniting with their mother in France after five years of separation, 2014.

In cooperation with ERCS:

- Exchanged more than **6,200 Red Cross Messages** among family members dispersed by conflict, including Ethiopian and Eritrean civilians separated by the closed border, refugees in Ethiopia and their families in their respective countries, and Ethiopians abroad 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 or third countries through the provision of more than **17,000 free phone calls**. It also facilitated more than **9,000 free phone calls** for Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia and Yemen with their families. Of those, **688** of the phone calls were made by unaccompanied minors.
- Facilitated the broadcast of the names of **1,539 persons** sought by Somali refugees in Ethiopia through the “Missing Persons” radio program 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, in partnership with the ERCS, 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. Moreover, it supplied water to the regional hospital by deploying a water tank and renovated its water facility to help it meet its emergency and long-term water needs sustainably.

In 2014:

- Over **283,000 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 **51,000 people** also benefited from relevant training and technical support given to water committees established to operate and repair hand pumps and some **33,000 people** also improved hygiene behavior from ICRC hygiene promotion and training.



Water treatment point in Itang, Gambella Region provides clean water to South Sudan refugees sheltered in Kule Camp, 2014.

- 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 **128 water resource staff** of Tigray and Afar regions.
- In the Tigray region along the border with Eritrea, 11 boreholes fitted with hand pumps were constructed and benefitted 5,500 residents of the area.
- Over **110,000 South Sudan refugees** in Gambella region benefitted from the water supply and sanitation works in the camps and transit points. **200 latrines** were also provided.

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 ten physical rehabilitation centers (PRCs) existing in Southern Nations (Arba Minch), Oromia (Assela, Menagesha, and Nekemte), Tigray (Mekelle), Amhara (Bahr Dar and Dessie), Benishangule-Gumuz (Assosa), Dire Dawa and Gambella.



PWDs playing basketball using wheel chairs in Addis Ababa during the celebration of the International Day of Disability, 2014.

- The service provision capacity at the ten **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 **6,000 PWDs** had access to free rehabilitation services. Over **3,000** of them, namely the more economically vulnerable ones, had their food, transport and other costs, for attending rehabilitation services, also covered by the ICRC.
- Specific training to strengthen leadership, management practices was offered to managers of the physical rehabilitation centers.
- Out of the 23 people attending prosthetic and orthotic training with ICRC support, 15 successfully passed the Level 3 (i.e., bench worker level) and are continuing their training to reach Level 4 (i.e., clinical level) at Black Lion School. Seven of them graduated from the Level 5 (i.e. advanced training for upper limb orthotics/prosthetic and spinal orthotics).
- The quality of services provided under ICRC support and its impact on the beneficiaries were closely monitored throughout systematic assessments performed on beneficiaries' samplings. Aside technical and clinical issues, these assessments also looked into beneficiary's perception with regards accessibility, quality and socio-economic

impact of the services received at the assisted PRCs. More than 90% of them underlined the importance of the services received for interacting within their communities and for better coping with their disability.

- The ICRC continued the delivery of wheelchairs to PWDs for practicing basketball as part of its activities to facilitate their prospects for a full social inclusion through increased participation in sports. **24 basketball wheelchairs** were donated to the Ethiopian Basketball Federation.
- It also promoted regional mapping of “who is doing what” on social inclusion for persons with disabilities with the objective of assisting rehabilitation centers to 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.

In 2014, the ICRC organized or co-organized IHL disseminations sessions for different targeted groups. During the reported period:

- More than **2,150 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, SNNP and Addis Ababa regions participated in 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 centers**.
- **82 Journalists** from the Tigray region and **media personnel from the federal and regional police force** also enhanced their knowledge of IHL
- More than **1,200 local authorities**, including religious leaders and representatives of community-based organizations, and Red Cross volunteers from SNNP, Benishangul-Gumuz, Tigray and Oromia regions, participated in dissemination sessions, focusing mainly on the basics of IHL, mandates and principles of the Movement, and emblems.
- **550 judges and prosecutors** from SNNP, Tigray, Amhara and Oromia regions attended IHL seminars organized by the ICRC in collaboration with regional judicial training institutions.
- **650 senior law and journalism students and their instructors from seven 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. In addition to this **36** 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.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ETHIOPIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The aim of ICRC's partnership 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 financial, technical and material support to the ERCS to help strengthen its capacity to restore family links between dispersed families, particularly to enable it to respond to the increasing tracing needs caused by the recent South Sudanese conflict. The ICRC provided essential household items to ERCS to replenish its stock which enabled it to cover the needs of **15,000 people** during emergency. It also donated **one land cruiser and four motor bikes** to the ERCS to enhance its capacity of tracing activities and **a truck** to its Disaster Management Department.



The signing ceremony of ICRC-ERCS partnership agreements at the ERCS HQ, 2014.

In 2014, the ERCS:

- Provided emergency assistance to internally displaced people in Oromia and SNNP regions, and to South Sudanese refugees at Pagak entry point and Leitchour Camp in Gambella region (see - Relief Assistance).
- Enhanced its capacity to restore family links between refugees in Ethiopia and their families abroad, and Ethiopian returnees from Saudi Arabia and Yemen, through the support from the ICRC and the Swedish Red Cross Society (see - Restoring Family Links).
- Offered first-aid training to **285 ambulance attendants and volunteers** and a training of trainers (ToT) to **26 health professionals**, and two other ToTs to regional communication officers with the support from the ICRC. It also provided similar training to seven regional prisons involving 210 detainees.
- Organized seven dissemination sessions for **166 local authorities**, including religious and community leaders, and Red Cross volunteers, and dissemination review meeting for **39 core staffs** of the branches of ERCS with a support from ICRC.
- ERCS-ICRC Partnership Framework Agreement for 2015-2017 and the MoU for the implementation of activities in 2015 have been signed.



ICRC delegation
 ICRC sub-delegation
 ICRC office
 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic center
 * The ICRC delegation to the African Union

The map is for illustrative purpose only and does not express an opinion on the part of the ICRC.

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.



ICRC

ICRC Delegation in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa Head Office
 Bole Sub-city, Kebele 12/13
 P 5701
 T 011647 8300
 F 011647 8301
 E-mail: addis_abeba.add@icrc.org
www.icrc.org

Mekelle

W. Debube, Kebele 16
 T 034 440 8353
 F 034 440 4540