

UGANDA

FACTS & FIGURES

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2024



Promoting knowledge and respect of international humanitarian law (IHL) is at the core of ICRC's humanitarian work, and the focus for its activities in Uganda. In 2024, we have continued to engage with the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), working closely with the Chieftaincy of Defence Intelligence and Security (CDIS) and the Legal Training Centre to integrate IHL principles into their trainings. We have also interacted with the law faculties of several universities through national and regional moot court competitions and an IHL essay competition, besides delivering guest lectures to promote IHL teaching. We have also engaged closely with the Islamic Circles and organized a workshop on "IHL and Islam".

As part of our Protection activities, we have continued to conduct visits to detention places and engage with detention authorities to ensure a humane treatment and dignified living conditions for detainees.

We have combined our resources with the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) and continued to provide jointly Restoring Family Links services to help reconnect and reunify family members separated by armed conflicts in neighboring countries.

Our cooperation with the URCS aimed at developing and strengthening its capacity to provide quality humanitarian services, and ensuring greater coherence, coordination, and complementarity in the work of the three components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Uganda.



PROMOTING KNOWLEDGE AND RESPECT FOR IHL AND IHRL



ENGAGING WITH ARMED FORCES AND SECURITY FORCES



- **50** Senior Military officers from East African Countries at the Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka, lectured on the principles of conduct of hostilities.
- **45** officers at the Armoured Brigade in Masaka trained on conduct of hostilities and protection of civilians in armed conflicts.
- **30** officers at the UPDF Legal Training Centre, Jinja, trained on the direct participation in hostilities,
- **200** soldiers and officers at the Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Singo, briefed on the protection of civilians, before their deployment in Somalia.
- **50** officers from the UPDF Mountain Division trained on International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL) at the Division headquarters in Muhoti Barracks in Fort Portal.
- **46** officers from the Chieftaincy of Defence, Intelligence and Security (CDIS) trained on IHL principles.



ENGAGING WITH ACADEMIC CIRCLES AND ISLAMIC CIRCLES



- **4** Ugandan universities participated in the annual ICRC's IHL National Moot Competition.
- **3** law students from the Law Development Centre - Lira Campus, represented Uganda in the 2024 ICRC's All-Africa IHL Moot Competition held in Nairobi. The Uganda team was ranked 2nd among **9** participating English-speaking countries.
- **10** law students from **7** Ugandan universities participated in the ICRC IHL Essay Competition for Eastern African Universities, that focused on "the use of autonomous weapons and their challenges in the application of IHL". The winner for Uganda was from the Islamic University in Uganda.
- **2** guest lectures on IHL delivered to **2** universities: Makerere University and Uganda Christian University.
- **30** Islamic scholars, lawyers and religious leaders participated in an ICRC workshop on "IHL and Islam".
- **1** Iftar organized for **25** Islamic scholars, leaders and humanitarians.



Soldiers and officers at the Peace Support Operations Training Centre in Singo are briefed by the ICRC on the protection of civilians under IHL, before their deployment – 29.11.2024



FACILITATING DIGNIFIED TREATMENT AND LIVING CONDITIONS FOR DETAINEES



- **27** detention visits were conducted to **13** detention facilities. **341** inmates were followed individually.
- The ICRC engaged with authorities to ensure a humane treatment and dignified living conditions for detainees.
- Detainees were helped to (re)connect with their families through the exchange of **93** Red Cross Messages (letters) and **48** Salamat (oral short message). **4** prisons were supported with telecommunication material to help detainees maintain contacts with their families.
- **5** prisons received leisure and hygiene and sanitation supplies to help meet detainees' hygiene and occupational needs.



RECONNECTING FAMILIES SEPARATED BY CONFLICT, JOINTLY WITH UGANDAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (URCS)



- **12495** telephone calls facilitated by the Red Cross Restoring Family Links services, helped refugees and asylum seekers reconnect with their separated family members. Red Cross connectivity services (Wi-Fi, phone charging and calls) provided in refugee settlements were used **5022** times.
- **203** Red Cross Messages containing brief family news were exchanged between separated children and their families in Uganda and abroad.
- **207** separated children (including **3** children formerly associated with armed groups) and **42** vulnerable adults were reunited with their families in Uganda.
- **640** missing individuals were found and the contact reestablished with their family.



SUPPORTING THE UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY (URCS)



- URCS headquarter and **4** branches were provided with financial and technical support to conduct training for **811** URCS staff and volunteers in Safer Access Framework (SAF), which guarantees the protection of Red Cross personnel in the performance of their humanitarian mission.
- Contribution to human resources for **25** positions at the URCS, including **7** key positions at the headquarters, **7** branches managers and **11** positions in the Protection of Family Links program.
- **1** Movement Coordination Agreement Signed to enhance effective coordination of Red Cross activities in Uganda.
- **1** URCS Senior Management Team member supported to participate the 2024 Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Council of Delegates and the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement.
- **1** legal advisor supported to attend the annual Legal Advisors meeting and preparatory meeting for the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- **1** IHL dissemination session provided for **12** branches managers.
- **1** URCS branch supported to renovate its offices after a fire devastation.
- Contributed towards the procurement of **12** signposts and **12** flags for URCS branches.
- Provided **51** megaphones and **51** visibility jackets for community outreach activities of the dissemination teams.
- Supported the procurement and distribution of **100** Non-Food Items (NFI) kits to **100** households affected by a fire outbreak in a Kampala slums community.
- Supported the deployment of **45** Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs), **4** Restoring Family Links (RFL) volunteers and **6** Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) who provided First Aid and other emergency care to over **1,479** pilgrims during the Mamugongo Martyrs Shrine celebrations in June 2024.



The winners of the National IHL Moot Court competition and the second runners of the All Africa IHL Moot Court competition, with Justice Mike Chibita from the Supreme Court of Uganda (second right), Col Susan Mwanga, Commandant of the Legal Training Centre of UPDF (extreme left) and Jemma Armand, Legal Advisor of the ICRC (second left).

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 delegation in Uganda was established in 1972. Since 2022, the ICRC office in Kampala operates under the ICRC regional delegation covering Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

International Committee of the Red Cross
Kampala Regional Delegation
8, John Babiha Avenue, Kololo
P.O. Box 4442
Kampala, Uganda.
Tel. : +256 393 264 617/8
E-mail: urb_mailbox@icrc.org

www.icrc.org
Cover photo: Wangechi Mwieria Mathenge /ICRC
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Cover Photo

ICRC team introducing the restoring family links services to Sudanese refugees in Kiryandongo, Uganda, 2024

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