


ANNUAL REPORT 2004



ICRC

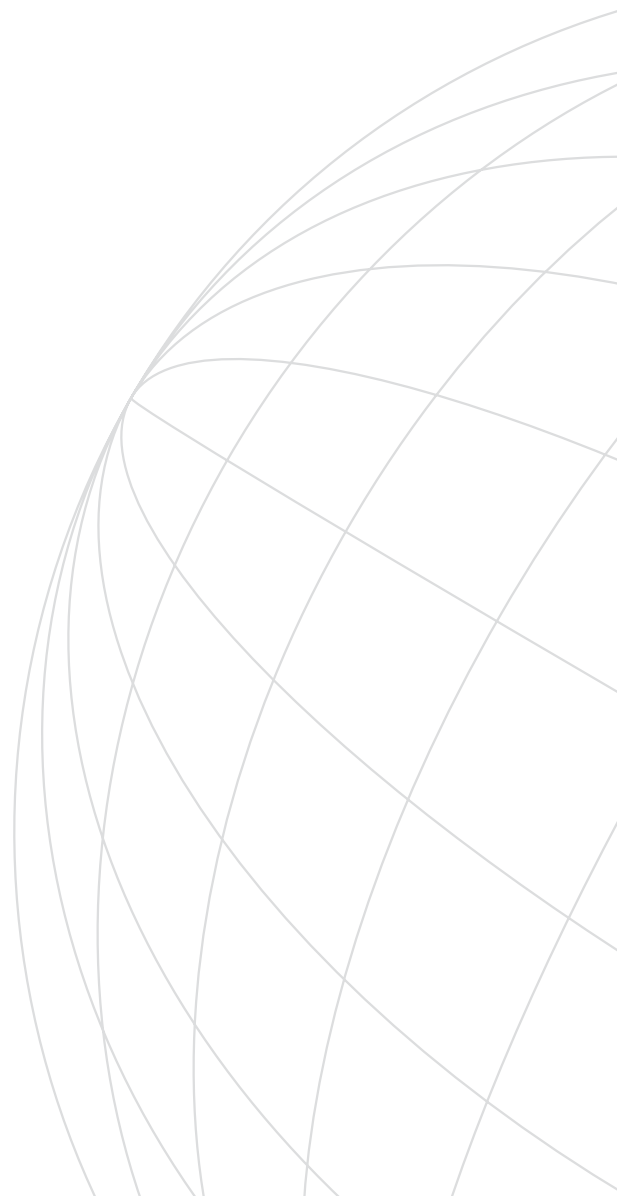


This report is primarily an account of the ICRC's work in the field and its activities to promote international humanitarian law. Mention is made of some of the negotiations entered into with a view to bringing protection and assistance to the victims of international and civil wars and internal disturbances and tension. Other negotiations are not mentioned, since the ICRC feels that any publicity would not be in the interests of the victims. Thus, this report cannot be regarded as covering all the institution's efforts worldwide to come to the aid of the victims of conflict.

Moreover, the length of the text devoted to a given country or situation is not necessarily proportional to the magnitude of the problems observed and tackled by the institution. Indeed, there are cases which are a source of grave humanitarian concern but on which the ICRC is not in a position to report because it has been denied permission to take action. By the same token, the description of operations in which the ICRC has great freedom of action takes up considerable space, regardless of the scale of the problems involved.

The maps in this report are for illustrative purposes only and do not express an opinion on the part of the ICRC.

All figures in this report are in Swiss francs (CHF).
On 31 December 2004, the average exchange rate was CHF 1.140 to USD 1, and CHF 1.515 to EUR 1.



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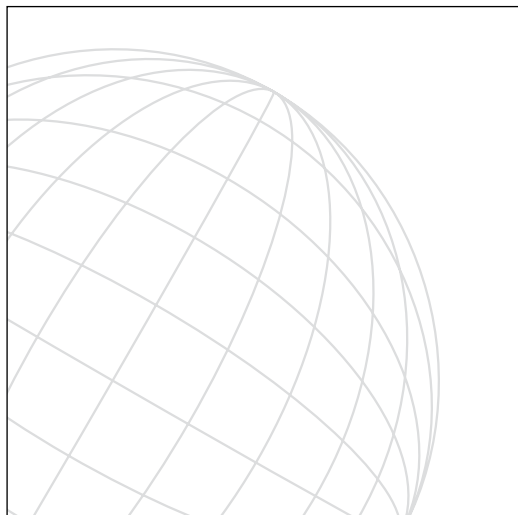


International Committee of the Red Cross
External Resources Division
19, Avenue de la Paix
CH-1202 Geneva, Switzerland
T +41 22 734 60 01 F +41 22 733 20 57
E-mail: rex.gva@icrc.org www.icrc.org



ICRC

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message from the president

Gaining access to all those in need of the ICRC's protection and assistance as a consequence of armed conflict or other situations of armed violence remained a big challenge in 2004. Nevertheless, despite a difficult security environment characterized by increased polarization and radicalization in some parts of the world, the ICRC was able to broaden its global operational platform enabling it to reach greater numbers of people in need. The organization's unambiguous commitment to independent, neutral and impartial action proved invaluable in this respect.

ICRC delegates visited more than 570,000 people deprived of their freedom in over 2,000 prisons in some 80 countries; ICRC water, sanitation and construction projects catered for the needs of around 20 million people; the ICRC supported hospitals and health-care facilities serving some 2.8 million people; it also provided essential household goods to more than 2.2 million people, food aid to 1.3 million people and assistance to another 1.1 million people in the form of sustainable food-production programmes and micro-economic initiatives.

The year was marked by the ICRC's heavy involvement in Darfur (Sudan), which constituted the biggest humanitarian crisis provoked by an armed conflict in the period under review, and by its continued operations in the difficult security environment in Iraq where particular emphasis was placed on visits to detention centres. The armed conflict in Darfur was sadly typical of the most recent and contemporary non-international armed conflicts: the low intensity of the fighting and the high intensity of the suffering endured by the civilian population as a consequence of disregard for the most basic rules and principles of international humanitarian law. The lesson learned in terms of coordination between humanitarian organizations in the Darfur context was clear and unsurprising: the only coordination of practical humanitarian value is that based on existing and available capacities and experience in the field, not on declarations of intent for positioning purposes.

The ICRC attaches great importance to solid conceptual frameworks for its activities. With this in mind, it has reviewed and further developed in 2004 its policy for assistance in field operations during armed conflicts and situations preceding or following them.

As in past years, international humanitarian law was most challenged in non-international armed conflicts. While States which are party to the Geneva Conventions do indeed bear primary responsibility for respecting and ensuring respect of this law, a stronger commitment to its provisions by non-State armed groups is a key prerequisite for the improvement of the humanitarian situation in many regions. Securing greater respect for international humanitarian law by these groups was a major concern of the ICRC in 2004 and will remain so in the years ahead. As far as the fight against terrorism is concerned, the ICRC has continued in 2004 to insist on the importance of striking the right balance between legitimate security concerns and respect for human dignity. It may still not be sufficiently understood that respect for human dignity is also a long-term investment in security. In more general terms, the following question may and perhaps should be asked: has the global environment become more favourable or more hostile towards respecting international humanitarian law and other bodies of law that protect life and dignity?

On the one hand, the environment has become more hostile because the number of armed groups that do not care about rules is on the increase; it is more hostile because of a growing tendency to dehumanize or demonize the adversary and to reduce the richness and complexity of human beings to a few features; it is also more hostile because some governments continue to find it difficult to strike the right balance between legitimate security concerns and their obligation to respect human dignity; finally, it is more hostile because expectations of reciprocity in terms of international humanitarian law (IHL) no longer constitute a major incentive.

On the other hand, the environment has become more favourable to progress in terms of respect for IHL: it is more favourable because humanitarian law has a visibility and attracts a level of attention one would not have imagined ten or fifteen years ago, with debates on Iraq, Sudan and other places helping to underline the intrinsic value of IHL; it is more favourable because the development of IHL over the last ten years has been remarkable; it is more favourable because the space for impunity is gradually narrowing, thanks to the International Criminal Court, ad hoc tribunals and national judicial processes; finally, it is more favourable today because people whose lives and dignity are under threat have more possibilities to make their voices heard than in the past.

The year 2004 was definitely a challenging one for the ICRC in terms of communication. The organization updated its communication policy in 2004. This was important, not least in the light of the unauthorized publication by others of one of its confidential reports on regular visits by its delegates to Abu Ghraib prison. Consequently, the ICRC had to make a special effort to explain the purpose, value and limits of its confidential approach in dealing with detaining and other authorities.

It was also a year of shocking but necessary memories. In 2004 the world community remembered that 60 years ago the Auschwitz extermination camp was liberated and that ten years ago the Rwanda genocide took place. We must not forget people who suffered and do whatever we can to prevent or, at least, alleviate suffering today. I made the following points at a forum on “Preventing Genocide: Threats and Responsibilities” held in Stockholm: “Genocide, like armed conflict of a certain dimension, does not erupt from one day to the next. It is the result of a combination of factors, among the most important of which are a lack of dialogue, a failure to respect others and an absence of shared values. It is difficult to anticipate the critical moment at which genocide will begin or the scale that the massacre will take on. Greater efforts must therefore be made to interpret the warning signs and respond to them appropriately. This should not be too difficult – genocide needs organizers. It is also most useful to distinguish at an early stage what comes from below and what comes from above.” Alarm bells are ringing for those who listen, not only in the most extreme case of genocide, but in all cases of systematic and serious violations of international humanitarian law.

The ICRC will continue to contribute to the development of this particular listening capacity and will stand by all women, men and children affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence, assisting and trying to protect them as efficiently and effectively as it can.

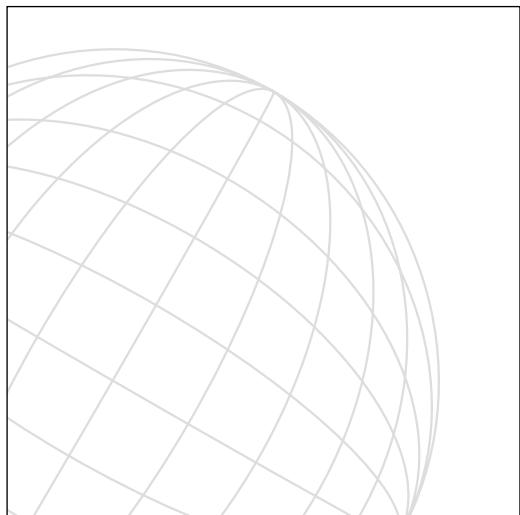


Dr Jakob Kellenberger
President



HEADQUARTERS





governing bodies

ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC, overseeing all its activities. It formulates policy, defines general objectives and institutional strategy, and approves the budget and accounts. It delegates certain of its responsibilities to the Assembly Council. Composed of between 15 and 25 members, it is collegial in character. Its president and two vice-presidents are the president and vice-presidents of the ICRC. The Assembly convenes every two months.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly Council is a subsidiary body of the Assembly, acting on its authority. It prepares the Assembly's programme of activities and takes decisions on matters within its competence, particularly concerning strategic options relating to general policy on funding, personnel and communication. It serves as a link between the Directorate and the Assembly, to which it reports regularly. Composed of five members elected by the Assembly, it is chaired by the president of the ICRC. The Assembly Council meets on a monthly basis.

PRESIDENCY

The President of the ICRC has primary responsibility for the organization's external relations. As president of the Assembly and of the Assembly Council, he ensures that the areas of competence of these two bodies are safeguarded. He is assisted by one permanent vice-president and one non-permanent vice-president.

Control Commission

The Control Commission, composed of five members of the ICRC, assists the Assembly in overseeing the work of the organization. It controls the implementation of the Assembly's decisions and ensures that the ICRC's activities are conducted efficiently. The Commission reviews the reports of external and internal auditors, and monitors implementation of the audit recommendations. It meets six to eight times per year.

Recruitment Commission

The Recruitment Commission handles matters relating to the composition of the Committee (maximum 25 members). The Commission submits proposals to the Assembly (a term used to designate the official meetings of the Committee), which co-opts new members.

Remuneration Commission

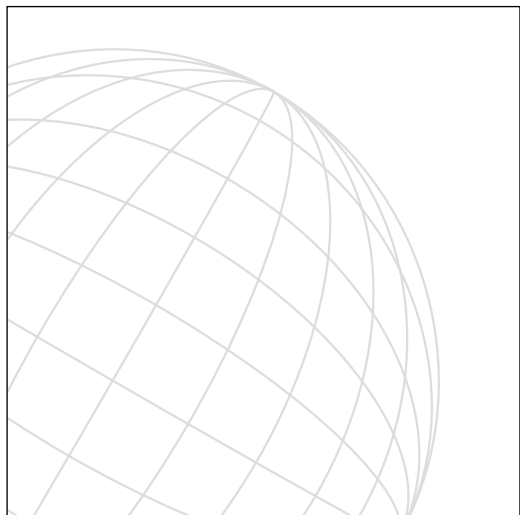
The Remuneration Commission, composed of three members of the ICRC, sets the salaries and benefits of the president, the permanent vice-president, the six directors and the head of Internal Audit.

Internal Audit

The Head of Internal Audit and four internal auditors use standard methods to strengthen internal control and improve the ICRC's performance. The Head of Internal Audit reports findings to the President and Assembly, and issues recommendations to the management.

External Audit

The Assembly re-appointed KPMG to audit the ICRC's financial statements. The external auditors report their audit opinion to the Assembly and prepare a management letter addressed to the Directorate.



directorate

In the third year of its four-year mandate, the Directorate set its sights on ensuring that the ICRC remained the benchmark organization for independent humanitarian action. To that end, it asked its staff to continue pursuing four established ICRC aims as formulated in the Programme of the Directorate. The first was to stand resolutely by the victims of armed conflict, showing respect, empathy, an ability to listen and curiosity about other people and cultures, all of which is central to its work.

Despite a challenging international environment, the ICRC remained present in the field and close to the victims in places such as Afghanistan and Iraq. The main principle underlying its security policy – acceptance of its presence and activities by the relevant stakeholders – was reaffirmed by the Directorate.

A special effort was made to gain a better understanding of how the ICRC's operational identity was perceived by local players. Various initiatives were launched worldwide to strengthen dialogue with them and enhance mutual understanding.

The second aim was to seek a comprehensive understanding of conflicts so as to be able to take the most appropriate operational decisions.

In 2004 the organization devoted more energy than ever to analysing conflicts and international relations. Political analysis, alongside detailed knowledge of specific contexts, is crucial to its understanding of the situations in which it operates. It also endeavoured to better understand the motives and behaviour of armed groups.

The third aim was to affirm the ICRC's identity through dialogue with the many organizations currently operating in the humanitarian sphere.

Through dialogue and close coordination within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC strove to ensure the effectiveness of humanitarian action as a whole. Dialogue with other humanitarian agencies continued to be a major concern. The ICRC took an active part in numerous forums discussing key issues, including the challenges of neutral and independent humanitarian action. It reaffirmed, in word and

in deed, its commitment to greater coordination within the humanitarian field.

The ICRC pursued its effort to be the foremost expert body on issues relating to international humanitarian law. Numerous initiatives helped further position that law as the prime set of rules protecting victims of armed conflict.

The fourth aim was to combine consistency, predictability and reliability with the ability to innovate and devise creative responses to new problems and events.

The restructuring of human-resources management that took place in 2004 should allow for better planning in this area and increase the ICRC's ability to respond to emergency situations. A number of measures were also taken during the year to enhance the support provided by headquarters for field operations.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT – PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The purpose of performance-management methodology is to facilitate management decisions, to enhance the process of learning from the ICRC's activities worldwide and to document performance accountability. The ICRC therefore uses this approach to improve its humanitarian services for persons adversely affected by armed conflict.

Within the context of performance management, the ICRC regularly assesses the relevance of its operational activities and scrutinizes programme effectiveness and cost efficiency.

Performance management centres on the key functions of planning, monitoring and evaluation, which enable the ICRC to:

- ▶ establish general and specific performance objectives and targets;
- ▶ link objectives to budgeting and accounting;
- ▶ identify measurable performance indicators based on agreed programme-performance frameworks (benchmarking);
- ▶ monitor performance;

- ▶ carry out independent evaluations and reviews in order to boost performance in operations, knowledge management and the process of learning from experience.

In 2004, the ICRC remained a full member of the Active Learning Network on Accountability and Performance as part of its collaboration with donors and NGOs on issues related to accountability and performance management for humanitarian activities.

Planning for Results

Planning for Results (PfR), the annual planning methodology first introduced in 1999, remained central to the ICRC's performance management in 2004. PfR was designed to identify explicit results-oriented objectives for ICRC operations, which were formulated in terms of three "dimensions": target population, programme capacity and geographic location. This planning tool has been evolving over the years as its methodology has been adapted to new emerging issues and actual field practice. Some major changes introduced for the 2005 planning cycle concern the identification of target groups for ICRC services, a more detailed progress report regarding general objectives and the introduction of a more visible link between objectives and budget, thus permitting closer monitoring of budget versus costs for operational staff.

Overall, PfR has provided a meaningful basis for the management of ICRC tasks and operations. In particular, it has offered better thematic review and trend analysis (by target group, programme, or geographic location). PfR also set the framework for the ICRC's *2005 Emergency Appeals* and *2005 Headquarters Appeal*.

Monitoring and reporting on results

To ensure that planning and operational implementation remain relevant and effective, the ICRC has encouraged the use of tools and techniques, such as operational assessments, regular monitoring and focused reviews, as a means of real-time control of performance. In 2004, the internal reporting tools were reviewed and a new framework was devised for 2005, which will make it possible to cover the needs of the different internal and external users more efficiently. To the same end, efforts were made to further increase the coherence of statistical reporting, especially that linked to assistance programmes.

Evaluating results

In accordance with its work plan, and under the direct supervision of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, the ICRC completed independent evaluations in 2004 of its:

- ▶ water and habitat programme in Rwandan prisons;
- ▶ Women and War campaign;
- ▶ health-services programme in Sudan;
- ▶ programme for restoring family links in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

The ICRC also continued to support the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Movement strategy.

In addition to these completed evaluations, new initiatives launched in 2004 were at various stages of completion at the end of the year. These included evaluations of the following ICRC programmes:

- ▶ cooperation programmes with the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society;
- ▶ programmes regarding missing persons in the Balkans.

RELATIONS WITH THE CORPORATE SECTOR

In 1999 the ICRC adopted a comprehensive strategy aimed at developing its relations with the business community. The strategy's main thrust was to establish a dialogue with the private sector on the ICRC's core activities by promoting humanitarian principles among firms active in conflict zones and other unstable areas, and by including multinational and local companies, professional associations and trade unions among the ICRC's network of contacts at the operational level. This dialogue has enabled the ICRC to better understand the role played by economic interests in conflict-prone environments.

In 2004 the ICRC held meetings at headquarters level with major multinational companies based in France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. In line with its aim of helping companies to translate commitments made under various codes of conduct into operational reality, the ICRC also developed relations with firms active in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria, and strengthened its relations with companies in the southern Caucasus, Colombia and Indonesia.

The ICRC continued to support and promote an initiative taken by governments and international organizations relating to the role of business in conflict. In particular, it encouraged adherence to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, whereby companies in the extractive and energy sectors have agreed to respect and promote respect for human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL).

The organization implemented both a general policy and specific operational guidelines based on IHL to deal with private military and security firms. In this framework, a dialogue was established with most of the main firms of this type headquartered in the United Kingdom and the United States, and with the governments of those two countries and of France.

The ICRC sought to enhance its operational capacity and overall professionalism by drawing on specific skills from the private sector, improving acquisitions procedures for goods and services, and stepping up efforts to raise funds from large corporations. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC finalized a set of guidelines on relations between private companies and the components of the Movement, setting up a suitable framework for future partnerships involving clear ethical rules.

GENDER EQUALITY

The Directorate decided to redefine the position of gender-equality officer, which became vacant during the year. As a result of internal and external consultation, the position was renamed "adviser on gender equality" and the duties associated with it were revised to include:

- ▶ assisting the Director-General and the Directorate in promoting the changes in organizational culture needed to achieve gender equality within the ICRC;
- ▶ participating in the formulation by the Directorate of all policies and measures aimed at achieving gender equality;
- ▶ examining internal management processes in relation to their compatibility with the ICRC's policy on gender equality;
- ▶ ensuring that ICRC training courses convey suitable messages on gender equality.

The position was expected to be filled in early 2005.

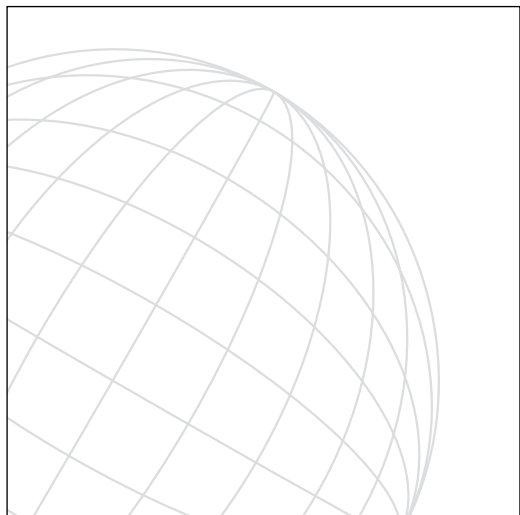
THE ICRC AND “GENÈVE HUMANITAIRE”

The “Genève Humanitaire” delegate is responsible for promoting harmonious working relations between the ICRC and the humanitarian and academic communities of Geneva and for giving the ICRC a higher local profile. The delegate likewise strives to consolidate Geneva’s image as a global centre of humanitarian action.

In response to these efforts, the Geneva Humanitarian Forum (GHF) was founded in 2003 by the ICRC, the Geneva International Academic Network (RUIG-GIAN), the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. The association is housed in the Ecogia Training Centre of the ICRC and it is funded by the ICRC and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs. The Canton and the City of Geneva also participate on an ad hoc basis.

The GHF web portal (www.genevahumanitarianforum.org) offers a platform for interaction and for exchanges of ideas on the issues and challenges facing the humanitarian community.

The portal distils information into an accessible, useful resource for humanitarian actors in Geneva and elsewhere and it provides a comprehensive range of data and analytical resources for humanitarian researchers, students and interested individuals.



operations

DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS

The Department of Operations supports, coordinates and supervises ICRC activities in the field. Its task is to ensure that action taken in the 79 ICRC delegations and missions around the world is carried out in a professional manner and follows a coherent approach, with full respect for ICRC policies, codes of ethics, priorities and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Department regularly analyses conflict-related issues, whether at the local, regional or global level, and supervises the drawing up of operational policies and strategies. It coordinates the conception, planning and budgeting of field activities, and ensures that resources are allocated among the delegations and missions effectively and in accordance with the ICRC's budgetary framework.

The Department is divided into four large geographical zones (themselves organized as regions), two operational divisions (one of which is Assistance, the other Central Tracing Agency and Protection) and two smaller units (Humanitarian Diplomacy, and Security and Stress). Those in charge of the various regions and field delegations are supported by headquarters staff with specialized knowledge and skills.

PROTECTION AND CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY

In 2004 conflicts were still raging in many parts of the world, placing a considerable burden on the ICRC to provide protection for those most in need, in accordance with its mandate.

The ICRC remained deeply concerned about the extreme polarization of the international political environment in the aftermath of 11 September 2001. Humanitarian action continued to be regarded as politically motivated in some quarters, and basic legal provisions, such as the right to physical and psychological integrity, were being called into question. As a result, the ICRC's ability to protect war victims and promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) was seriously hampered. The ICRC continued to scrutinize this changing dynamic in order to

identify its consequences and find ways of preventing or minimizing their impact on its work.

In addition, a growing number of States failed to meet their obligations towards the victims of armed conflict owing to the deterioration of government structures and, sometimes, a lack of political will. The ICRC therefore had to find ways to cover the basic needs of the various categories of people concerned.

Protection

The ICRC's protection work is aimed at ensuring respect for the rights of individuals under IHL. This means, among other things, preserving the well-being and dignity of unarmed people, particularly civilians, be they deprived of their freedom or not.

In its broadest sense, protection covers a wide range of activities, including the direct provision of services, bilateral negotiations, multilateral diplomacy, training, education and public relations. In its narrowest sense, it involves the collection of data and information, which the ICRC uses in representations made to the authorities or other people in power with a view to preventing or putting an end to violations of the law, principally IHL.

The ICRC primarily encourages the authorities, through confidential contacts, to fulfill their responsibilities and obligations under IHL. In some cases, it has to support or even take over existing infrastructure, such as hospitals or water-supply services. These efforts are effective only where the political will exists to cooperate with the ICRC and follow its recommendations.

Protecting civilians and other persons not or no longer taking a direct part in hostilities is a basic principle of IHL and customary law.

The ICRC's approach in this area is based on a great deal of preparatory work, which includes establishing a wide variety of contacts that help to create a climate of confidence and improve the organization's knowledge of the situation and its particularities. Working closely with conflict victims is another vital component of the ICRC's protection work. This implies gaining access to those who require assistance, remaining present on the ground for the duration of the conflict and collecting reliable, and first-hand

data. The ICRC also engages in direct and confidential dialogue with the authorities concerned and with anyone who can help put an end to the abuses it notes.

In many conflicts, the distinction between civilians and combatants is disregarded. Civilians are often viewed as the enemy or deliberately targeted in a bid to publicize a cause or create a climate of terror. Moreover, humanitarian organizations do not always enjoy the respect and support they need to get on with their work.

As in 2003, protection activities were heavily dependent on security conditions and on the ICRC's ability to gain access to certain regions. The organization's work was severely limited in Afghanistan, Burundi, Chechnya and Iraq, despite the existing needs there. Dialogue regarding the protection of civilians continued with the authorities and bearers of weapons in countries like Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Sudan. In Israel and in the Occupied and Autonomous Palestinian Territories, the ICRC continued to inform the authorities and armed groups of its concerns regarding the implementation of IHL, in particular in connection with the construction of the West Bank barrier and its ongoing implications.

People deprived of their freedom

All people deprived of their freedom are vulnerable in relation both to their captors and to the pressures of prison life. This vulnerability is heightened during armed conflicts and other situations of violence, in which the temptation to use excessive and illicit force is most likely to arise.

In working with detainees, the ICRC strives to prevent or put an end to cases of disappearance, torture and other forms of ill treatment, and debasing detention conditions. It also endeavours to ensure that detainees can maintain contact with their families and benefit from the legal guarantees to which they are entitled under IHL and international customary law. At the same time, the organization refrains from forming any opinion on the motives for their incarceration.

Regular visits to detention centres, carried out in accordance with defined procedures, are one of the principal means used by the ICRC to achieve its aims. During the visits, delegates hold private meetings with detainees, record their identities and check on their conditions of detention and their treatment. This enables the ICRC to monitor their situation until their release. The information gathered during the visits serves as a basis for dialogue with the authorities concerning practical problems and enables the ICRC to make recommendations.

In 2004, the ICRC had access to people deprived of their freedom in more than 70 countries, including Algeria, Colombia, Equatorial Guinea, Georgia, Haiti, Indonesia, Jordan, Liberia and Nepal. It also continued its visits to people being held by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha and the Special Court for Sierra Leone in Freetown.

As part of its work in detention centres, the ICRC provided material assistance that improved living conditions for inmates. This included the repair or installation of water-supply systems and the distribution of medical and hygiene supplies. In Rwanda, the ICRC continued to phase out its food-aid programme in prisons, which should come to an end in 2006.

As in 2003, the ICRC had to contend with an ongoing deterioration in prison infrastructure worldwide, which affected all categories of prisoners. Its aim was to provide support for below-par detention centres by reinforcing their capacity and encouraging them to implement recognized practices, but only where the authorities showed a real will to improve the situation.

In Ethiopia, Georgia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Uzbekistan, the ICRC pursued its dialogue with prison authorities in order to help them better meet their obligations towards detainees. In some countries, workshops were held in which prison staff could exchange information and ideas with experts, prison administration officials and ICRC delegates on issues such as general conditions of detention, health problems, training and work opportunities, prison registers and legal guarantees.

Within the framework of its detention-related activities, the ICRC was confronted with a number of serious issues in 2004, including the following:

- ▶ owing to security problems, visits to persons detained in Iraq did not cover the entire territory of the country or take place as regularly as the organization wished;
- ▶ uncertainty regarding the legal status of persons being held by the United States authorities at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and the judicial process applicable to them had a direct impact on the psychological health of the inmates;
- ▶ the situation of persons who were being held in connection with the so-called "war on terror" at secret locations inside and outside Afghanistan and Iraq and to whom the ICRC was denied access remained a matter of serious concern;
- ▶ in some countries, the authorities challenged the ICRC's standard visiting procedures, compelling the organization to put a temporary end to its visits. In late 2004, the ICRC was expecting a reply from the authorities of the Russian Federation to its request to resume visits, in accordance with its standard procedures, to persons detained in connection with the situation in the northern Caucasus;
- ▶ the treatment afforded to persons deprived of their freedom, especially in contexts closely related to the "war on terror," was increasingly called into question. The publication of the ICRC report on Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq put the issue of the torture of detained and interned persons at the centre of public debate;
- ▶ the direct involvement of an increasing number of States in the "war on terror" poses a direct challenge for the ICRC. It impinges on the organization's ability to act on behalf of persons affected by its consequences, and in particular on the ICRC's access to persons deprived of their freedom. Meeting this challenge requires a coherent response that takes into account local, national and regional factors and ensures that the ICRC is universally perceived and recognized as a strictly independent and neutral organization.

Restoring family links

In 2004, numerous family members remained separated by armed conflict and the increasingly massive displacement of populations. In order to perform its special task of restoring family links and strengthen its operational capacity in this area, the ICRC relied heavily on the worldwide network of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Once again, the greatest need for assistance in restoring family links and tracing missing persons was felt in Africa, in particular the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and West Africa. In the latter region, resolving the issue of children separated from

their families remained a priority ICRC concern. Such children are particularly vulnerable and it is of vital importance to re-establish contact with their families as soon as possible. This is also the case for demobilized child soldiers who, in addition to being without news of their loved ones, often encounter specific problems linked to their social re-insertion.

At the end of the year, the ICRC launched major programmes, together with the tracing services of National Societies worldwide, to respond to the needs created by the tsunami disaster in Asia. Satellite phones and a special website were made available to facilitate the exchange of news between those affected by the disaster and relatives living in other parts of their countries or abroad. Nationals from more than 104 countries were cut off from their families by the tsunami crisis.

In Iraq, Timor-Leste and other countries, the ICRC pursued its dialogue with the authorities in order to promote the establishment of mechanisms for elucidating the fate of persons unaccounted for in connection with armed conflicts or internal violence and to support their families. The ICRC also supported and/or participated in existing mechanisms in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia and elsewhere.

A programme providing for the systematic collection of ante-mortem data was launched with the National Societies of various European countries to facilitate the identification of human remains in the Balkans. Under the programme, the families of persons unaccounted for are asked to provide detailed information on their missing relatives. This should speed up the identification process of human remains and provide the families with answers about the fate of their loved ones.

In 2004, several regional information and training workshops were held, in cooperation with National Society tracing services, in Bangkok, Geneva, Guatemala City, Ottawa and Sarajevo. The workshops dealt with topics such as migration, natural disasters and cooperation within the Movement.

Throughout the year, 1,286,326 Red Cross messages were collected and delivered worldwide. In addition, the ICRC traced 4,142 people and helped reunite 2,640 people, mostly children, with their families.

Missing persons and their families

In 2002, the ICRC launched a process aimed at addressing the issue of people who go missing as a result of armed conflict or internal violence and the plight of their relatives. The aim was to review all methods of preventing persons from disappearing and to assist the families of those who do, to agree on common practices in this area and to raise the issue higher on the international agenda. The ICRC report *The Missing and their Families* summarizes the conclusions of the studies and workshops conducted during this process, which culminated in the convening of an International Conference of Governmental and Non-Governmental Experts (19–21 February 2003) that adopted by consensus various observations and recommendations.

Following up on this process, the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2–6 December 2003) adopted an *Agenda for Humanitarian Action* that addresses the issue of missing persons as one of four humanitarian concerns. The *Agenda* sets out clear objectives for States and components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to achieve from 2004 to 2007. For its part, the ICRC pledged to strengthen its

operational practices, to work with relevant authorities and organizations, notably in implementing the recommendations and best practices adopted by the two conferences, and to contribute to the strengthening of relevant international and domestic law.

In 2004, having included the recommendations and best practices in its operational instructions, the ICRC continued to reinforce its traditional activities in this field whenever necessary. Furthermore, it sought to promote best practices among all relevant actors through a plan of action to be implemented progressively over the years ahead. The plan provides for:

- ▶ promoting existing international law, developing legal guidelines for non-international armed conflicts and supporting the development of a new international instrument to effectively protect persons from enforced disappearance;
- ▶ supporting the enhancement of domestic law;
- ▶ cooperating with armed forces and regional military organizations, and facilitating contacts between them, in order to ensure, for instance, that military personnel wear some form of identification and can regularly exchange news with their families, and that human remains and information on the dead are properly handled on the battlefield;
- ▶ enhancing family news networks and their capacity to manage information;
- ▶ promoting standards regarding the proper handling of the dead for use by forensic professionals and non-professionals such as staff from humanitarian organizations;
- ▶ promoting guidelines regarding the specific needs of families and means of meeting them.

Relations with other organizations and academic institutions

In 2004 the Central Tracing Agency and Protection Division continued its cooperation with the Geneva-based University Centre for International Humanitarian Law and with the University of Geneva, which runs a master's programme focused on humanitarian action.

Dialogue was maintained at headquarters level with other humanitarian organizations, in particular regarding the protection of civilian populations. The ICRC attended several meetings and international conferences on detention issues and had ongoing contacts with agencies involved in visiting detainees, such as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and several non-governmental organizations. The purpose of these contacts was to close gaps in protection work and avoid any duplication of efforts in other areas.

ASSISTANCE DIVISION

The Assistance Division works to relieve the suffering of people affected by armed conflict, working in accordance with ICRC ethical standards and international humanitarian law. It provides strategic support and professional expertise for field operations in its three areas of activity – health, economic security and water and habitat. It also devotes considerable effort to the vital area of staff development and management.

To maintain the high quality of its services, the Assistance Division needs to develop policies and guidelines, while also helping to shape policy and strategy for the ICRC. It therefore plays an active role in debates within the International Red Cross and Red

Crescent Movement and the wider humanitarian community, and with academic institutions, professional associations and other bodies involved in analysing and developing professional standards relevant to assistance work.

Operational support

In 2004, the ICRC carried out health, economic security, and water and habitat programmes in 53 of its 79 operational and regional delegations despite increasing difficulties due to hazardous security environments. The main programmes were in Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous territories, Liberia, Sudan (the southern part of the country and Darfur), and, at the end of the year, southern Asia.

Health care

Activities in the health-care sector followed the new assistance policy that the ICRC adopted in April 2004. Some of the most noteworthy trends to have emerged as the first steps of this new policy were initiated are as follows:

- ▶ a more comprehensive approach to hospital emergency care expanded surgical activities to include medical care. For example, the ICRC deployed two teams in Darfur, providing both medical care for people who were ill and surgical care for the war-wounded;
- ▶ the ICRC devoted more attention to national hospital management structures facing humanitarian crises. Examples included a thorough hospital management review in Jalalabad hospital (650 beds) and technical assistance to the Ministry of Health in Kabul, supporting its reform of the health sector and efforts to ensure hospital sustainability;
- ▶ in the field of basic health care, the ICRC increased its vaccination capacity (holding a seminar in Nairobi) and ran vaccination programmes in conflict areas such as Darfur;
- ▶ in Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC successfully developed a pilot primary health care programme. This is currently being replicated in other parts of the country, paving the way for national health sector reforms;
- ▶ support for victims of rape is developing in Burundi, Darfur, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the ICRC helped revise the technical guidelines of the UN Fund for Population Activities.

In the core field of health in places of detention, the ICRC made a clear move from substitution to support and mobilization during 2004. Activities in this area included:

- ▶ redesigning the regional prison tuberculosis control strategy in the Caucasus, focusing on empowering the authorities, advocacy, linkage between the Ministries of Health and Justice and the mobilization of all agencies that could potentially be involved in neglected prison public health issues (ministries, bilateral donors, the Global Fund for Tuberculosis, Malaria and Aids, the UN, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement);
- ▶ mobilizing those involved in prison tuberculosis control in Kyrgyzstan;
- ▶ supporting HIV/AIDS control in prisons in Burundi and Rwanda, in partnership with the Ministries of Justice and Health, plus national NGOs;
- ▶ providing technical assistance to the Peruvian Ministries of Health and Justice in their successful efforts to access the Global Fund for Tuberculosis, Malaria and AIDS;
- ▶ creating a national fund for the physically disabled in Georgia.

In more general terms, the ICRC provided regular support to 48 hospitals around the world. These health facilities admitted 9,360 weapon-wounded patients, including 1,216 people with mine injuries, and another 82,044 surgical cases, and performed 82,487 surgical operations. They also admitted 49,851 other medical cases and provided treatment in gynaecology/obstetrics and paediatrics for 38,245 and 74,860 patients respectively. In addition, the ICRC regularly supported nine first-aid posts near combat zones.

In collaboration with partner National Societies, the ICRC ran community-based programmes in eleven countries, including Colombia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. It also regularly supported 200 health-care facilities serving an estimated 2,722,000 people in these countries. The documentation and prevention of ill treatment in places of detention required special consideration during 2004. Additional efforts were also needed regarding detention health policies, medical ethics and the prevention of torture.

In 2004, the ICRC supported 68 physical rehabilitation centres in 23 countries. The organization supplied more than 38,000 remedial appliances (17,805 prostheses and 20,915 orthotic devices), and provided 15,882 pairs of crutches and 1,676 wheelchairs. Most patients also received physiotherapy. Physical rehabilitation specialists conducted monitoring and review visits to 80% of field programmes.

The ICRC participated in mine accident prevention meetings and in August received the Brian Blatchford prize in recognition of its innovative achievements, particularly in the design and development of the polypropylene prosthetic system, which over the years has become a standard for appropriate and low-cost prosthetic services in developing countries.

Water and habitat

In 2004, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit carried out water, sanitation and construction work in 40 countries. These projects, which were implemented by 81 expatriate and 724 national engineers and technicians, catered for the needs of some 19.3 million people worldwide and cost approximately 95 million Swiss francs. Water and habitat work ranged from making water safe to drink by setting up pumps and water-treatment systems to ensuring proper sewage disposal in towns and villages affected by armed conflict. These activities also included repairing and, in some cases, building health-care facilities, rehabilitation centres to house displaced persons, and places of detention (where the ICRC carried out repairs when there were no other means of providing detainees with acceptable conditions).

ICRC engineers and technicians dealt with acute emergencies in Sudan. In Darfur, a region virtually unknown to the humanitarian community before the crisis, they addressed the most urgent shelter and water supply needs in rural areas, urban centres and camps for displaced persons. The ICRC renovated several health facilities, improving health services for the civilian population. More than one million people from the worst affected Arab and African communities in Darfur also benefited from ICRC water and habitat projects.

In southern Sudan, all existing operations related to the north/south conflict received continuous support, ranging from hospital renovation to rural water projects benefiting some 300,000 people.

In Côte d'Ivoire, despite the political turmoil towards the end of 2004, the ICRC water and habitat unit continued to support local

water boards, giving 1.5 million people access to safe drinking water in the main urban centres of the north and west.

In Iraq, where the ICRC maintained its presence despite volatile security conditions, water and habitat engineers continued to support the Iraqi water boards and the health authorities through emergency projects in water and sewage stations and health facilities serving more than 7 million people throughout the country.

The ICRC ran urban water-supply projects in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and the Republic of the Congo. Major rural water and sanitation projects continued throughout the year in Angola, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Myanmar, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka and Sudan. The ICRC supplied emergency water aid to internally displaced persons and resident populations in Afghanistan, Angola, the northern Caucasus, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Indonesia, Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories, Liberia and Sudan. The organization upgraded medical facilities at numerous locations in Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Chechnya, Guinea, Iraq, Liberia, Senegal, Somalia and Sudan. ICRC delegates visiting prisons worldwide advised on basic repair work needed to meet at least minimum hygiene standards. This mainly concerned Afghanistan, Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka.

Economic security

The ICRC's approach to economic security aims to ensure that households and communities can cover their basic material needs and can maintain or restore sustainable livelihoods. This involves initiatives ranging from emergency distributions of food and essential household items to sustainable food-production programmes and micro-economic support. Examples of the latter include the maintenance of pump irrigation systems in Somalia, trade and craft grants, support for a micro-finance institution in Serbia, small-scale community-based cash-for-work projects, and livestock management and support programmes including a destocking initiative in the Somali region of Ethiopia (buying and slaughtering healthy but weakened livestock and re-distributing the meat to needy families).

In 2004, the ICRC carried out economic security work in 34 countries. A total of 1,324,728 internally displaced people, detainees and internees and residents received food aid and 2,239,799 people were provided with essential household and hygiene items. Another 1,211,417 people benefited from sustainable food production programmes or micro-economic initiatives. Up to 85 specialized expatriate staff were involved, in addition to nearly 700 national staff.

The Economic Security Unit faced acute crises in Darfur and, at the end of the year, in southern Asia. It was able to resume work in northern Uganda after an absence of more than four years. The ICRC supplied emergency food and/or essential household items to people affected by conflict in Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Iraq, Liberia, Pakistan, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In addition, victims of the tsunami in Sri Lanka and Indonesia received essential household items at the end of December 2004. Canteen and supplementary food aid programmes continued in Abkhazia, Chechnya, Colombia, Daghestan, western Georgia, Ingushetia, the Palestinian territories, and Serbia and Montenegro. The ICRC provided food for inmates in ICRC-assisted prisons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar and Rwanda, and for patients in ICRC-assisted hospitals in Liberia and Sudan.

The ICRC operated agricultural support schemes in Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro and Somalia, and ran veterinary and livestock support programmes (vaccination and treatment against endoparasites and ectoparasites) in Afghanistan and Mexico. The organization also completed a regional livestock study in the Horn of Africa: this study is now guiding economic security work with pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, and covers animal and plant production.

Micro-economic initiatives adapted to the economic and socio-cultural environment of their beneficiaries now form an integral part of the ICRC's economic security response. The ICRC has developed and implemented such initiatives in Rwanda (for families headed by women and for victims of the genocide), the Balkans, the southern and northern Caucasus and Somalia (for internally displaced persons). Most micro-economic assistance took the form of community-based cash-for-work and cash assistance projects implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs in Serbia, opportunities for vocational training, agricultural grants or trade and craft grants and access to micro-credit.

Policies and key issues

After analysing established practice in the health, economic security, and water and habitat sectors, and in accordance with ICRC policies, the Division produced a new policy that better defines the role and place of assistance work in ICRC operations. The Assembly adopted the final document in April 2004. This policy has three major goals:

- ▶ to guide decision-making on matters related to assistance, so as to ensure a professional, coherent and integrated approach that meets the essential needs of individuals and communities affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence;
- ▶ to clarify and affirm the position of assistance work and of the Assistance Division within the ICRC, thereby helping to provide the organization with a strong identity;
- ▶ to serve as a reference framework for formulating thematic guidelines applicable to different areas of assistance.

The Assistance Policy will help the ICRC improve the way it identifies and prioritizes assistance activities and integrates them into its operations. It will emphasize the core assistance activities in which the ICRC intends to boost its expertise, and will apply wherever the ICRC operates. The challenge ahead lies in getting ICRC delegations around the world to adopt the policy and develop a sense of ownership, and in monitoring its practical application in the field.

The three units of the Assistance Division produced a number of guidelines and reference tools. These included a nutrition manual for humanitarian operations, a manual for water and habitat activities in places of detention, plus practical guidelines for health in places of detention, blood banks, antenatal care, paediatrics and anaesthesia. The Division has invested resources in achieving progress on such issues as the practical application of the assistance policy with respect to economic security programmes, the development of an ICRC policy on the use of genetically modified products (both food and seed) in humanitarian food aid programmes, and an operational framework to address HIV/AIDS. All these guidelines and protocols were developed after careful review of the existing documentation and other sources of information.

Human resources development

Throughout the year, the ICRC made a considerable effort to improve the quality and scope of training for its assistance personnel. While progress has been made in the development of appropriate forums and materials, there is no room for complacency. The Division organized specialized courses and workshops for its staff on issues such as basic health care, hospital management, emergency surgery in war-torn areas, diagnosis of water infrastructure and water engineering. It allocated substantial resources to training and contributed its expertise to on-site courses for health-care personnel working in places of detention and to 10 war-surgery seminars held around the world. In addition, eight H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) courses were organized in various parts of the world.

Contributions to the humanitarian debate

In 2004, the Division was an active participant in conferences attended by key humanitarian agencies such as specialized organizations of the United Nations, notably the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and non-governmental organizations, such as Médecins Sans Frontières, Action Contre la Faim, Oxfam, Handicap International and Physicians for Human Rights. It also maintained and developed a network of contacts with professional associations and academic institutions. The ICRC's expertise in specialized areas such as the rehabilitation of amputees, water and habitat engineering, war surgery, and health and medical ethics in prisons was frequently solicited in international conferences and workshops. Finally, the division provided specialized input for a range of academic and practitioner degree courses, including international diplomas and master's degrees in humanitarian assistance at various European universities.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The fundamental mission of the ICRC – to protect and assist the victims of armed conflict and internal violence – requires both practical action in the field and action within the framework of regional and international organizations. The ICRC constantly strives to ensure greater respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) by all parties to conflict, including States. In multinational forums it promotes knowledge, understanding and – whenever appropriate – the development of this body of law. It explains its position on issues of humanitarian concern and takes steps to facilitate its operations in the field and raise awareness of the victims' needs. Above all, it seeks to safeguard its principles of impartiality, neutrality and independence against any militarization or politicization of its humanitarian endeavour.

To this end, the ICRC develops and maintains a close relationship with a wide range of organizations, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through its headquarters staff and its delegations in New York, Brussels, Paris, Cairo, Addis Ababa and elsewhere. The ICRC's Humanitarian Diplomacy Unit acts as a focal point for relations between the organization and United Nations bodies such as the General Assembly, the Security Council and the various UN humanitarian agencies. Similarly, it maintains regular contact with regional organizations, such as the African Union, the League of Arab States, the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The ICRC also cultivates regular exchanges with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which have a considerable capacity for mobilization and advocacy.

The ICRC's regional delegations have both operational work and humanitarian diplomacy as their task. They are also active in pursuing dialogue and cooperation with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Raising issues of humanitarian concern in international forums

Throughout 2004, issues of humanitarian concern remained high on the agendas of various UN bodies and international conferences. In order to keep abreast of developments relevant to its humanitarian activities, and to promote understanding and support for its mandate and work, the ICRC attended as an observer the 59th session of the UN General Assembly and delivered statements on issues of humanitarian concern in the first, third and sixth committees. These concerned weapons, people who have gone missing as a result of armed conflict, humanitarian coordination, the status of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the advancement of women and the International Criminal Court. The ICRC played a similar role at the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights, which the organization's president addressed. Representatives also made a statement on people missing in connection with armed conflict. Close attention was paid to the various issues taken up by the UN Security Council.

In Europe, the ICRC maintained regular contact with regional organizations such as the Council of Europe and the OSCE. The relationship between the struggle against terrorism on the one hand and respect for human rights and (where applicable) IHL on the other remained a dominant feature of the contacts with these two organizations. In the course of 2004, the ICRC took part for the first time in the OSCE's (second) Annual Security Review Conference. The ICRC was also for the first time invited to

address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe's Standing Committee on the issue of missing persons in the Balkans. All through the year the ICRC established closer relations with both the Council and the OSCE in the field of education.

In 2004, the ICRC attended the Inter-Parliamentary Union assemblies in Mexico City and Geneva, where the ICRC focused on issues pertaining to mines and people missing in connection with armed conflict. The ICRC was gratified by the Union's desire to foster cooperation, in particular regarding the issue of the missing.

The ICRC attended the inaugural session of the African Parliamentary Union in Addis Ababa in March. Two months later, the ICRC and the African Union engaged in their eighth joint "brainstorming day", dealing with "strategies to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law by actors in internal armed conflicts in Africa". The meeting's proceedings were compiled into a joint publication by the ICRC and the African Union. The ICRC continued its work with the Union by attending the African Parliamentary Conference on Refugees in Africa, which was organized in association with the ICRC and with the support of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. This meeting followed up the 2002 African Parliamentary Conference on Civilians in Armed Conflict, held in Niamey.

In 2004, the ICRC pursued its aim of forging closer links with the Muslim world. Its president attended the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference member States conference in Dakar in March. The ICRC and the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Conference signed a cooperation agreement, providing the Geneva-based organization with observer status at the Conference. The ICRC was also present during the conference of Islamic Ministers of Foreign Affairs that took place in Istanbul in June 2004, and its president addressed OIC ambassadors in Geneva, mainly regarding the situation in Darfur from a humanitarian perspective.

Numerous meetings were held with various departments of the UN Secretariat to discuss issues of common concern, often related to situations in connection with which the UN and the ICRC were both active. In its constant interaction with international organizations and States, the ICRC stressed the importance of preserving neutral and independent humanitarian action and the corresponding need to keep such action distinct from political initiatives and military operations.

Enhancing cooperation and coordination between agencies

In recognition of the scale and complexity of needs arising from crises around the world and the increasing number of organizations involved in dealing with them, the ICRC stepped up its consultation and coordination with other humanitarian agencies: members of the UN system, regional organizations and NGOs. It actively participated in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which is the UN mechanism for coordinating the humanitarian activities of both UN and non-UN organizations. The ICRC's status as a standing invitee ensured its independence and neutrality within the IASC. In 2004, as in past years, the ICRC took an active part in the IASC's working groups and plenary meetings.

The ICRC's director of operations attended a special meeting organized by the IASC High Level Humanitarian Forum to discuss the future of humanitarian action. It also participated in weekly IASC information-sharing meetings both in Geneva and New York. Throughout the year, the ICRC contributed extensively to the work

undertaken by the IASC reference groups and task forces on subjects such as gender, HIV/AIDS, and contingency planning and preparedness. It also worked closely with the field missions of the newly created inter-agency Internal Displacement Division.

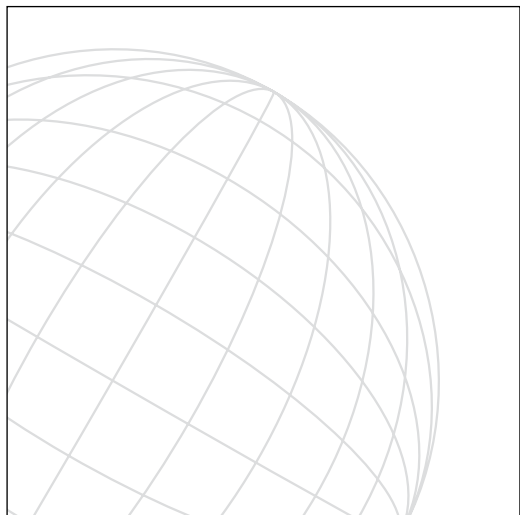
Through its delegations, the ICRC cooperated with UN field staff to develop the Common Humanitarian Action Plan. The goal was to ensure greater coordination as a means of avoiding duplication or gaps in the aid provided by humanitarian organizations.

A close link was maintained with the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group, which brings together representatives of major donor countries in Geneva to foster dialogue with humanitarian agencies. In March, the ICRC participated in the fourth annual Montreux Donor Retreat organized by this working group.

In 2004 the executive director of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the ICRC president exchanged letters intended to guide relations between the two organizations. They agreed upon a set of new documents containing five common principles of humanitarian action, 19 cooperation accords in seven areas of endeavour and a technical agreement intended to regulate the loan and transfer of food commodities between the two organizations. These documents strengthened existing dialogue, mutual understanding, coordination and complementarity between the WFP and the ICRC for the benefit of the victims of conflicts. The ICRC also had bilateral contacts with the United Nations Children's Fund, particularly regarding the protection of children caught up in armed conflict.

In addition, the ICRC continued its dialogue with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, including a high level meeting in June to consider operational cooperation between the two organizations, other aspects of humanitarian action and security. The ICRC also maintained its relationship with the International Organization for Migration and the Global Commission on International Migration.

Bilateral contacts continued with some of the larger NGOs and the ICRC both took part in the work of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and maintained a close relationship with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, within which it had observer status. A high-level meeting was held with Médecins Sans Frontières in July to discuss matters of common concern between the two organizations, including the preservation of independent humanitarian action and the threats to those engaging in that action.



international law and cooperation within the movement

POLICY AND COOPERATION WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The mission of the Division for Policy and Cooperation within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (henceforth referred to as “the Movement”) is to guide and support the ICRC as a whole to fully assume its place and responsibilities as part of the Movement in relation to its other components, for the greater benefit of the victims of conflict and internal strife. This comprises three dimensions:

- ▶ **Movement action:** the Division provides guidance and support to ICRC operations in all matters pertaining to capacity-building of National Societies in specific programme areas, operational partnerships and coordination in the field with other components;
- ▶ **Movement image and identity:** the Division ensures that the ICRC helps to strengthen the ability of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) to adhere to the Fundamental Principles and to protect their integrity, as well as strengthening the shared Movement identity and image between the ICRC and the other components;
- ▶ **Movement policy:** through the preparation and follow-up of the statutory meeting of the Movement (Council of Delegates and International Conference, involving States party to the Geneva Conventions), the Division ensures the ICRC’s input in the formulation and implementation of the resolutions and decisions.

Movement action

In situations of conflict, internal strife, and their direct results, the ICRC must assume the leadership within the Movement of the international relief effort. In such situations, the Statutes of the Movement of 1986 entrust the ICRC with the responsibility of coordinating assistance received from National Societies of other countries. This is re-confirmed by the “Seville Agreement” of 1997, which confers upon the ICRC the status of “Lead Agency”. Hence ICRC leadership of the international relief effort of the Movement in times of conflict and internal strife is an integral part of the operational identity of the institution. Such a responsibility is a major challenge. Successful leadership involves the successful mobilization of skills and resources from within the Movement

for the greater benefit of victims and vulnerable persons. Poor coordination, on the other hand, leads to duplication of effort, waste of energy and resources and, ultimately, an incoherent response to the humanitarian needs. The capacity of the ICRC to assume this responsibility must be developed accordingly in ways that are both practical and acceptable to its operational partners within the Movement. To achieve this objective, significant progress was made in 2004:

- ▶ a predictable framework of coordination of all Movement actors in ICRC-led operations has been further developed and applied in a number of contexts, notably Sudan and Liberia, and following the tsunami of late December in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. In all these contexts, memoranda of understanding (MOUs) serve as the basis for coordination and defining the roles and responsibilities of the components involved according to the specific situation (e.g., conflict, natural disasters, and other large-scale emergencies, as well as peaceful contexts);
- ▶ a system of operational instructions/guidance to National Societies on coordination-related issues has been developed to meet needs as they emerge (e.g. a special note to National Societies on the use of military logistics as a means for the transportation of relief goods to Sudan in response to the Darfur crisis);
- ▶ a predictable framework for Movement coordination of all Movement actors in ICRC-led operations (known as “Coordinated Activities”; i.e., CAs), has been developed in consultation with relevant ICRC services, the delegation in Sudan and the Federation. It will be piloted as a test case in Sudan in 2005;
- ▶ the specific services to be provided to National Societies from other countries which are involved in ICRC-led operations have been defined in consultation with the Federation, to ensure consistency and compatibility between the two Geneva institutions. This approach will be tested in 2005.

In addition to these coordination mechanisms, tools and procedures, a new approach for operational partnerships with National Societies working internationally has been developed, and will be tested on a pilot basis in 2005. This new approach establishes three types of operational partnerships between the ICRC and National Societies: (a) Integrated Partnerships (IPs), which fall within ICRC objectives, (b) Coordinated Activities (CAs, see above),

which are outside of ICRC objectives, and (c) thematic partnerships, which are designed to meet ICRC programme needs on a long-term basis.

Besides its leadership function in times of conflict and internal strife, the ICRC also has the responsibility to build the capacity of National Societies in the specific areas of its expertise which are recognized by the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the Movement. Hence in 2004, the ICRC allocated 58 million Swiss francs to help National Societies in the areas of restoring family links, spreading knowledge of and respect for international humanitarian law and the Movement's Fundamental Principles, raising mine awareness and providing health care and material relief in the event of armed conflict and internal strife.

An especially important advance linked to capacity-building was the piloting and subsequent integration of the ICRC Safer Access Framework for National Societies into the ICRC's capacity-building programmes with National Societies. This "Safer Access" approach helps to improve the ability of National Societies to operate in the event of hostilities, notably by defining the measures that need to be taken to enhance their acceptance by the conflicting parties. The Safer Access Framework should allow National Societies to better fulfil their mandate in situations of conflict and internal strife, and to strengthen their relationship as operational partners of the ICRC.

The ICRC complemented its operational interaction with National Societies with a process of strategic dialogue. This consisted of a series of consultations between senior officials of the ICRC and selected National Societies on issues of major importance for the institutions involved and for the entire Movement. These issues included the following:

- ▶ domestic positioning of National Societies in relation to existing conflicts and related problems (for example the treatment of Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib, see below);
- ▶ the challenges in today's operational environments to the neutral and independent humanitarian action which the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement aspires to;
- ▶ the integration of skills and resources of the National Societies concerned into ICRC operations.

The ICRC's aim was to apply the experience gained in these initial encounters to all other National Societies in order to meet its need of establishing true partnerships to face the challenges involved in working together as a worldwide Movement.

Movement image and identity

According to the Statutes of the Movement, another of the main responsibilities of the ICRC is to maintain the Fundamental Principles, namely humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality.

These Principles constitute the inspiration and guide for action performed by the three components of the Movement. In today's conflicts, this way of working – particularly the principles of neutrality and independence – is threatened: some actors use humanitarian assistance to further their own political or military objectives, while others reject humanitarian action altogether. Within such an environment, the ICRC's role of maintaining respect for and adherence to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement is particularly crucial. To this end, a number of actions were undertaken, as described below.

Within the framework of the Joint Statutes Commission, the ICRC and the Federation developed new tools and approaches to promote processes of revision of National Society Statutes according to the official Guidance for National Society Statutes document. This is an effective means of protecting the National Societies concerned against the risk of outside interference or instrumentalization. By the end of the year 32 National Societies had been certified by the Joint Statutes Commission as having Statutes which meet the minimum standards. Work is ongoing with the 149 remaining National Societies.

The ICRC and the Federation worked extensively with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on a "Model operational agreement between UNHCR and National Societies". This model agreement, which will serve as the framework for all subsequent operational partnerships should provide National Societies with the necessary safeguards to ensure that the UNHCR will respect the obligation of the National Societies to adhere to the Fundamental Principles at all times.

A draft study was produced on "National Society Auxiliarity in times of conflict" (in relation with political and military players). This study, which constitutes part of a wider International Federation initiative, will be submitted for approval as Movement policy at the 2005 Council of Delegates (in which the 181 National Societies, the International Federation, and the ICRC participate). The first draft has already been shared and discussed with 90 National Society representatives during the legal adviser meeting of November 2004.

To help National Societies engage with the private sector without compromising their obligation to adhere to the Fundamental Principles, the Federation and the ICRC (represented by the private sector unit of the office of the Director General) have formulated draft guidelines for relations and partnerships between the components of the Movement and the private sector. The draft will be submitted for adoption as a Movement policy at the 2005 Council of Delegates.

Another statutory responsibility of the ICRC is to cooperate with National Societies in the dissemination of the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law. In 2004, special emphasis was placed on strengthening the domestic positioning of National Societies with regard to conflict-related issues, involving the promotion of international humanitarian law and of neutral and independent humanitarian action (i.e., the Red Cross/Red Crescent way of working). As part of this effort, a survey of 33 National Societies was conducted on perceptions within their own countries about the situation in Abu Ghraib, international humanitarian law, and the role of ICRC. In response, National Societies also shared the challenges and difficulties they had faced in managing the publicity surrounding the Abu Ghraib issue in their own countries.

In response to the findings, and in order to act upon the lessons learned, the ICRC adopted a plan of action designed to strengthen the capacity of National Societies to position themselves within their own countries on conflict-related issues such as international humanitarian law and neutral and independent humanitarian action. All delegations in the field and units at headquarters were instructed to utilize the plan of action as a frame of reference for interaction with National Societies and to reflect it accordingly in their planning for 2005.

Movement policy

To ensure full and comprehensive follow-up of the decisions taken at the 2003 Council of Delegates and International Conference of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, a global plan of implementation was devised and distributed both at ICRC headquarters and to all ICRC field delegations.

Significant progress was achieved towards implementing resolution 9 of the 2003 Council of Delegates, "Promote respect for Diversity and Fight Discrimination and Intolerance". As requested by the resolution, in December 2004 the ICRC and the International Federation convened a meeting of experts from inside and outside the Movement to exchange ideas on best practices and initiatives to combat intolerance, discrimination and lack of respect for diversity. A comprehensive report on the meeting was drafted, which will be distributed to all National Societies in early 2005. It will also serve as the basis for a position paper and guidelines for the components on respect for diversity, the fight against discrimination and intolerance, and will be presented at the 2005 Council of Delegates.

Together with the International Federation and selected National Societies, work also progressed smoothly on implementation of other resolutions from the Council of Delegates, especially:

- ▶ resolution 8 "implementation of the Seville Agreement";
- ▶ resolution 7 "Strategy for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement";
- ▶ resolution 6 "National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field (cf. study mentioned above in "image and identity" section);
- ▶ resolution 4 "Biotechnology, Weapons, and Humanity";
- ▶ resolution 10 "Movement Action in favour of refugees and internally displaced persons and "Minimum elements to be included in operational agreements between movement components and their operational partners" (cf. model agreement with UNHCR mentioned above in "image and identity" section);
- ▶ resolution 11 "Explosive Remnants of War and the Movement Strategy on Landmines".

Finally, preparations for the upcoming Council of Delegates in November 2005 in Seoul, South Korea, began in earnest. The ICRC conducted two joint missions with the International Federation to meet with the Republic of Korea's National Society and the Korean authorities.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

The protection of war victims is largely dependent on respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). In accordance with the mandate conferred on it by the international community, the ICRC strives to promote compliance with IHL and contribute to its development. Both at headquarters and in the field, it encourages States to ratify the various humanitarian instruments in order to promote their universal acceptance, and to implement them. The ICRC's Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law provides States with technical advice to help them adopt the required national measures.

Throughout 2004 the ICRC continued making confidential representations to the parties to armed conflicts in cases where IHL was being violated. When new hostilities broke out, the ICRC

reminded the parties involved of their obligations under that body of law.

In order to enhance its capacity to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence, the ICRC concluded a new headquarters agreement with the Kyrgyz Republic. This brought to 75 the number of such agreements, which confers various privileges and immunities enabling the ICRC and its staff to work in an entirely independent manner. In 11 other States, the organization's privileges and immunities are established by legislation or other arrangements.

Promoting the universality of IHL

Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their 1977 Additional Protocols

In 2004 the ICRC organized and took part in numerous workshops, discussion groups, conferences and seminars, at national and regional levels, to promote the broadest possible debate on subjects relating to the ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation.

With respect to regional organizations, relations with the Caribbean Community member States and Secretariat were further developed. At the Commonwealth Senior Law Officials Meeting in October 2004, the ICRC was invited to attend the Law Ministers Meeting in Ghana in 2005, where IHL will be on the agenda. It took part in other regional meetings hosted by organizations such as the League of Arab States, the Organization of American States, the European Union, the Council of Europe and the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization. Depending on the target audience (government representatives, members of national IHL committees, legal advisers to the armed forces, etc.), the ICRC focused either on the promotion or on the implementation of IHL treaties during these meetings.

The ICRC contributed to a report issued on 8 November 2004 by the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly on the status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts, pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 57/14 of 19 November 2002.

1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court

At the request of States, the ICRC held and participated in various national and regional seminars dealing with the ratification and implementation of the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court as a permanent institution with jurisdiction over the most serious crimes of international concern. These seminars took place in various States, including Georgia, Malaysia, Mexico, Niger, the Philippines, Romania and Zambia, and were generally held under the auspices or with the support of regional organizations such as the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Organization of American States, as well as a number of non-governmental organizations worldwide.

The ICRC took part in drafting model laws for the implementation of the Rome Statute by Commonwealth countries and Arab-speaking States. It also maintained and developed contacts with NGOs such as the Coalition for the International Criminal Court, including representatives of the Court itself, as part of its coordinated efforts to promote the Rome Statute. Compatibility studies between national legislation and the Statute were either launched or completed by the ICRC in a number of Eastern European countries. Furthermore, meetings with various government

representatives provided the ICRC with an opportunity to recommend that the ratification and implementation of IHL feature prominently on their agendas.

1997 Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel landmines

Throughout 2004, in preparation for the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines, held at the end of the year, the ICRC took part in meetings on ratification and implementation issues in many regions of the world. It used these opportunities to encourage States Parties to make greater efforts to clear mines, assist mine victims and destroy stockpiles in advance of the Review Conference. Legal assistance was extended to several States Parties to help them develop national implementation measures. The ICRC held two regional meetings on the Ottawa Convention, one in West Africa together with the government of Burkina Faso, and the other in East Africa together with the government of Kenya. It also took part in several other national and regional events highlighting this issue.

1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its 2003 Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War

Action was pursued to promote universal adherence to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and, in particular, its Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War (Protocol V). First proposed by the ICRC in 2000 and adopted in November 2003, Protocol V is the first multilateral agreement to systematically address the problems caused by unexploded munitions and those abandoned after the end of a conflict. As such, it represents an important development in IHL. With the protocol open to ratification by States, the ICRC prepared materials to promote knowledge and understanding of the instrument, including an updated CCW ratification kit, a booklet containing the text of the convention and its protocols and a promotional brochure. These materials were given to governments and to all ICRC delegations and National Societies to boost the promotion of the Convention and the protocol worldwide. Participants in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York were briefed on Protocol V. Other opportunities were also taken to encourage wider adherence to the CCW and the amendment to Article 1 of the Convention extending its application to non-international armed conflicts. Following efforts by the ICRC and National Societies in many countries, the amendment, which ensures that the convention's rules will apply to all forms of armed conflict, entered into force in May 2004 after it had been ratified by 20 States. Three States (Lithuania, Sierra Leone and Sweden) also became party to Protocol V in 2004, and many other States indicated that they were considering adherence to this instrument.

Protection of cultural property in armed conflict

In conjunction with UNESCO, the ICRC organized several regional expert meetings and seminars to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. These meetings took place in Cairo, Saint Petersburg, San Salvador and Phnom Penh. National consultations were also held in Australia, Azerbaijan and Germany.

In contacts with various government representatives, the ICRC recommended ratification of or accession to the existing treaties on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, in particular the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention. By the end of 2004, 26 States had ratified or acceded to the protocol, which entered into force in 2004 after the 20th State ratified it. Throughout 2004, contacts were maintained with UNESCO and other interested bodies in order to coordinate

efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of all instruments relating to the protection of cultural property in time of armed conflict.

Promoting, explaining and developing IHL

Overview

In 2004 experts from the ICRC's legal division attended numerous conferences and seminars while continuing to provide a range of international and national organizations with expertise on a variety of IHL topics. The primary aim of these activities was to promote IHL and stress the relevance of its provisions and the specific role of the ICRC.

Whenever new legal instruments are drafted that have an impact on armed conflict, the ICRC strives to ensure that IHL is taken into account. In 2004 the organization took part in ongoing negotiations and discussions on the drafting of an instrument to protect all individuals from enforced disappearance and on the drawing up of basic principles governing reparations for victims of human rights and IHL violations. It also monitored the drafting of resolutions of particular relevance to its legal or operational concerns and delivered statements on a wide range of issues, including the rights of women and missing persons and their families. To this end, it attended the annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. During the 59th session of the UN General Assembly, the ICRC paid particular attention to legal developments such as the ongoing negotiations in the Sixth Committee on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, and the discussions on the legal protection afforded by the 1994 Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. In addition, it was actively involved in the negotiations of an FAO-hosted intergovernmental working group that led to the adoption of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security. The ICRC also continued to take part in meetings of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Terrorism, which is drafting a new European instrument on terrorism, and took part as an observer in meetings of the Council of Europe's Committee of Legal Advisers on Public International law.

In 2004 the ICRC's legal division continued its efforts to clarify the interplay of IHL and human rights law in protecting victims of violence. In an address to the annual session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, the ICRC president again stressed the role that IHL and other bodies of law play in providing an interlocking web of guarantees for individuals affected by armed conflict, and reasserted the need to improve respect for these rules.

Throughout 2004 the ICRC continued to work with other international organizations and NGOs on issues of concern to both humanitarian and human rights agencies. This involved providing legal expertise on IHL, taking part in numerous seminars and conferences and giving courses on IHL. The ICRC also continued to take part in meetings of the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee task force on humanitarian action and human rights and the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response, providing input in the drafting of guidelines on civil-military relations.

Study on customary rules of IHL

The ICRC finalized its two-volume study on customary rules of IHL, which was mandated by the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The first volume contains a list of rules found to be customary, with a short commentary on why they were so found and indications from practice, wherever available, as to their scope of application and interpretation. Where uncertainty still exists, trends in practice are outlined. This volume was submitted to experts inside and outside the ICRC as part of a wide consultation. The second volume contains a summary of practice in the area of IHL compiled over five years of research and is divided into six parts: principle of distinction; specific protection regimes; methods of warfare; weapons; treatment of civilians and persons *hors de combat*; implementation and enforcement. The entire study was due to be published in 2005 by Cambridge University Press.

Project on the reaffirmation and development of IHL

The purpose of the ICRC's project on the reaffirmation and development of IHL, launched in October 2002, is to provide a framework for internal discussions and external consultation on current and emerging issues of IHL, including the applicability of IHL to the "fight against terrorism." In 2004 a number of activities were undertaken as part of this project, some of which are briefly described below.

Direct participation in hostilities

In October 2004 the ICRC, together with the Hague-based TMC Asser Institute, held a second informal expert meeting aimed at exploring the notion of "direct participation in hostilities under IHL." The need for clarifying the status and treatment of civilians who have taken a direct part in hostilities pertains to all types of armed conflicts and has been specifically raised in the legal debates on the "fight against terrorism." The meeting's participants – distinguished IHL and military experts from all over the world – discussed a series of specific cases and general questions related to the notion of "direct participation" with a view to moving the clarification process forward in 2005. The aim of the process is to establish a basis for interpreting the concept of "direct participation in hostilities" and, possibly, to propose a generic legal definition of this concept.

Improving compliance with IHL

Despite the important successes achieved by the international community in preventive action and the repression of IHL violations, there is no doubt that better compliance with IHL during armed conflicts – i.e. fulfilment of the obligation States have to "respect and ensure respect" for IHL under common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions – remains a major challenge. In order to address this issue, the ICRC, in cooperation with other organizations, hosted five regional expert seminars in 2003 on "improving compliance with IHL." At those meetings, the ICRC was requested to conduct a study of mechanisms that may be employed to improve compliance with IHL in non-international armed conflicts, particularly by armed opposition groups. The study was initiated in 2004 and was due to be completed in 2005.

San Remo Round-table

The 28th Annual Round-table on Current Problems of International Humanitarian Law, held by the ICRC and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, in September 2004, examined what steps could be taken to strengthen measures aimed at ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and other rules protecting human dignity. The discussions, in

which more than 200 people from all over the world took part, highlighted the different but complementary roles played by governments, intergovernmental organizations, the ICRC, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and NGOs in ensuring respect for IHL and other bodies of law.

Air and missile warfare

The ICRC is an active contributor to the expert meetings on international humanitarian law and air and missile warfare sponsored by the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, which has launched an important initiative aimed at drafting a manual on air and missile warfare. The first and second of several planned meetings were held in 2004 in Switzerland and the United States.

Computer network attacks

In November 2004 the ICRC actively participated in an initial International Expert Conference on Computer Network Attacks and the Applicability of International Humanitarian Law hosted by the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the Swedish National Defence College and with support from the Ministry of Defence. The purpose of the meeting, which was convened in fulfilment of a pledge made by the Swedish government jointly with the Swedish Red Cross and the governments of Finland and Switzerland during the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in 2003, was "to initiate and support an international process of discussions and deliberations aimed at developing a shared understanding of how international humanitarian law should be applied to computer network attacks during armed conflict". The process will be continued in 2005.

National implementation of IHL

Encouraging the enactment of IHL provisions in national legislation

If IHL is to be fully respected, it is of paramount importance that States adopt domestic legislation to implement its rules, in particular those relating to the repression of war crimes and governing the use of the red cross and red crescent emblems and other distinctive signs and signals. To encourage States in their efforts, the ICRC's Advisory Service supplemented and updated its fact sheets on the following subjects: the ICRC national legislation database, penal repression, protection of the emblem and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, as well as a fact sheet introducing IHL. The Advisory Service also continued work on the national legislation database, where information on several new countries was introduced, and on the publication of a manual on national implementation.

Supporting IHL national committees

National committees responsible for the implementation of IHL include representatives of the various ministries concerned, and national bodies and specialists appointed for that purpose. Since they are an effective means of promoting respect for this law in the States where they have been set up, their establishment has always been encouraged by the ICRC, which also assists them in their work. In 2004, national committees were set up in Costa Rica, Poland, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro and the Syrian Arab Republic. By the end of the year, the United Arab Emirates was also in the process of establishing a national committee for IHL.

Providing States with legal and technical assistance

In 2004 the Advisory Service provided technical assistance for many States, including Afghanistan, Argentina, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Egypt, Iran, Lithuania, Mexico and Sudan. Japan received advice concerning the ratification of the two Additional Protocols of 1977, to which it acceded in August 2004, adopting a range of national laws and regulations implementing the Geneva Conventions within the framework of its new emergency legislation. At the same time, it accepted the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Qatar acceded to the Additional Protocol II in January 2004, and in May 2004 Burkina Faso became the 68th State to accept the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Peru received advice on the drafting of legislation relating to missing persons.

Portugal and Peru passed laws related to the repression of war crimes. Legislation protecting the emblem was adopted by Benin, Colombia, Paraguay and Uzbekistan and laws prohibiting anti-personnel mines and biological and toxin weapons were passed by Belize, Mauritius and Niger.

Collecting information on national implementation

Information on new national legislation and case law relating to IHL is collected and analysed by the ICRC's Advisory Service and published twice-yearly in the *International Review of the Red Cross*. The year 2004 also saw the publication of the 2002–2003 biennial report on national implementation of international humanitarian law, which was widely distributed along with a CD-ROM containing the full texts of IHL treaties, their status of ratification and examples of national implementation measures adopted by different States.

Weapons issues

Biotechnology, weapons and humanity

Further to its 2002 public appeal to governments, scientists and industry on "biotechnology, weapons and humanity," the ICRC pursued its efforts to promote awareness of the rules prohibiting poisoning and the deliberate spread of disease. At the same time it drew attention to the duty of all those involved in the life sciences to take practical steps to ensure that these rules were respected. In 2004 the ICRC's activities in support of the appeal focused on two main areas:

- ▶ reaching out to professionals and non-governmental organizations within the life sciences community, including the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries;
- ▶ inviting States to consider the adoption of a ministerial-level declaration reaffirming existing norms.

In May 2004 the ICRC convened a one-day round-table in London in partnership with the British Red Cross. This meeting engaged representatives of the British-based life sciences community on issues raised in the ICRC appeal and promoted greater cooperation and coordination among all those involved in this field. By year's end planning was well under way for ICRC round-tables to be held in Europe (Brussels) and two other regions of the world in 2005. The ICRC also contributed to dozens of other events bringing together scientific, industry and government actors in the life sciences. Following consultations with experts the ICRC published a set of "Principles of Practice" in December 2004 to help scientists and governments develop guidance in this area.

Although a wide range of countries recognized the potential benefits of such a declaration, they failed to agree on the timing of the

declaration and how it would fit in with the ongoing discussions being carried out within the framework of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. The ICRC also took part in open sessions of meetings of experts within the framework of that convention.

Small arms and light weapons

To enhance the protection of civilians during and after armed conflicts, the ICRC continued to promote measures aimed at achieving a long-term reduction in the availability of arms, in particular small arms and light weapons to prevent their misuse. It also supported National Societies actively involved in this issue.

The ICRC took part in a number of meetings and conferences, highlighting the devastating effects that the unregulated availability of weapons have on civilians and the urgent need to impose stricter controls. It encouraged States to include in national and international arms transfer policies and laws a requirement to assess the likelihood that those seeking to acquire weapons will respect IHL. During the 2004 review of the EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports, the ICRC proposed an amendment, which seems likely to be adopted in 2005, to strengthen the criterion relating to respect for IHL. It also urged States to increase their efforts to develop an international system of controls on arms brokers. In June 2004 the ICRC took part in the first session of negotiations on a new international instrument to ensure effective marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons.

Anti-personnel landmines

The First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines, held in Nairobi in December, marked a milestone in international efforts to end the suffering caused by these weapons. The ICRC took an active part in the Review Conference and its preparatory process. It continued to promote full application of the Convention in a manner consistent with the treaty's humanitarian objectives and to urge States to step up their implementation efforts in advance of the Review Conference. It also organized and supported a number of regional and national meetings on the Ottawa Convention, held in Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Lithuania, Romania, Tajikistan and Thailand, among other places.

As part of its worldwide communication strategy to highlight the success of the Ottawa Convention and the remaining challenges in advance of the Review Conference, the ICRC produced press and media kits including fact sheets and stories about mine victims, as well as a brochure entitled *Ending the Landmine Era*. It also organized tours for the media in mine-affected countries where it is active (Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cambodia) and continued to make its traveling exhibition on landmines available at regional meetings and events. The First Review Conference adopted a comprehensive action plan containing 70 commitments on speeding up the destruction of mine stockpiles, clearing mined lands within the deadlines stipulated by the treaty and providing long-term aid for mine survivors. The action plan recognizes the important role played by the ICRC in universalization efforts, mine action, assistance to victims and national implementation.

1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons

The ICRC took an active part in the work carried out by the government experts of States party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons to address the human costs of anti-vehicle mines and of cluster-bomb and other submunitions. The experts met for four weeks in 2004. No decisions or proposals were adopted but there was substantial discussion on a number of important issues. At their annual meeting in November, States

Parties mandated the experts to continue their work on these weapons in 2005.

ARCHIVES

On 29 April 2004, the ICRC Assembly decided to modify the *Rules governing access to the archives* of the ICRC of 1996 by shortening the protective embargo on access to its archives to a general period of 40 years and an extended period of 60 years. It is therefore now opening its 1951–1965 archives to consultation by the general public. In reducing the embargo period, the ICRC is seeking to comply with current trends regarding public access to archives and is at the same time confirming its policy of openness and transparency as defined in 1996.

An extra 500 linear metres of archives are thus being opened to the public for the first time. They cover the conflicts of the early years of the Cold War and the decolonization period, for instance: the Korean War (1950–1953), the First Indochina War (1946–1954), the Suez Conflict (1956), the Hungarian Revolution (1956), the Algerian War (1954–1962), the Independence of Congo (1960–1965), the Cuban Crisis (1962) and the civil war in Yemen (1962–1964). They can also be used for research on legal or general topics, for example the implementation of the Conventions of 1949, the revision of the statutes of the international Red Cross and the agreement with the League (1951–1952), and the International Conferences of Toronto (1952), New Delhi (1957) and Vienna (1965).

The ICRC is aware of the value of its archives for historical research and strives continuously to facilitate access to them and improve its services. During the year, the Archives Division answered some 870 requests for information on the ICRC's history and received researchers in its reading room for the equivalent of over 300 working days.

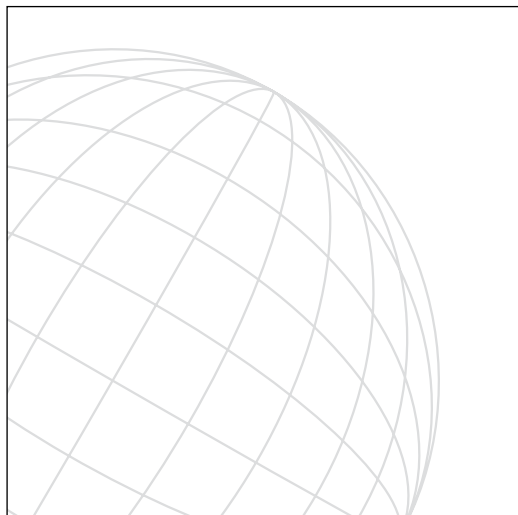
In 2004, the Archives Division handled more than 2,600 requests from victims of past armed conflicts and their next of kin for official documents such as certificates of detention and various other information. Most of the cases related to the Second World War. The remaining requests concerned the First World War or conflicts that occurred after 1950. People requesting personal data on victims of past conflicts are increasingly using the form installed on the ICRC website.

Reports on all ICRC activities, registers of official decisions and legal and operational correspondence have been stored since 1863, the year in which the ICRC was founded. In 2003, the Division created over 6,000 new files and secured 540.9 linear metres of records transferred from headquarters units and delegations. A project to enhance the ICRC's electronic records management system was adopted by the Directorate and was launched in 2004.

The legitimacy that the ICRC enjoys today owes a great deal to the organization's history. Both the mandate entrusted to the ICRC under the Geneva Conventions and the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement are deeply linked to that history, as are the ICRC's working principles.

The purpose of the organization's historical research activities is to make its background more widely known. The primary objective set for 2004 was to continue writing up the history of the ICRC for the years 1945–1965. In addition to carrying out that task, members of the historical research team attended meetings of historians and published articles in scientific reviews.

Within the ICRC, the Historical Research Unit assisted staff members carrying out research on the history of conflicts in which the organization operated. The Division as a whole replied to 1,100 internal requests placed by the ICRC's operations and legal units.



communication

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

The Communication Department's overall aim is to strengthen the ICRC's ability to carry out its activities and promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). It therefore provides the leadership, expertise and skills needed in order to:

- ▶ influence those who can help or hinder ICRC action;
- ▶ influence the behaviour and attitudes of those who decide the fate of war victims;
- ▶ manage the public image of the organization effectively;
- ▶ help the ICRC meet its obligation to account for its action to a wide cross-section of audiences.

The ICRC recognizes that communication plays a strategic role for the organization and that it is necessary to integrate this aspect into all decision-making processes and activities, both at headquarters and in the field.

Throughout 2004, the ICRC continued to centre its efforts on two main groups: bearers of weapons and civil society, particularly the media and opinion-formers. The ICRC's face-to-face and indirect contacts with these groups lie at the heart of its endeavours to foster understanding of, and respect for, the role of the organization and the rights and needs of those adversely affected by armed conflict, while at the same time sustaining the requisite public support for the ICRC's work.

The particular focus in 2004 was on communicating information about major humanitarian crises and calling for respect for the rules of law protecting victims of armed conflicts, such as those in progress in Sudan and Iraq. In addition, much attention was devoted to describing the ICRC's standard working procedures for visits to persons detained in relation to armed conflict and trying to make sure that the ICRC's independent, neutral and purely humanitarian role was understood and respected. These efforts were facilitated by a multimedia approach aimed at reaching key audiences through the expansion of the ICRC's website and the production of professional communication materials.

ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES, POLICE AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC strives to ensure not only that all levels of armed and security forces and the police know and apply IHL and international human rights law in their daily practice, but also that other bearers of weapons respect IHL and either support, or at least do not actively oppose humanitarian action.

Throughout 2004, the ICRC built up its relations with the armed forces of various countries (especially those of the United States) and with NATO forces trained for overseas deployment. In order to enhance understanding of the ICRC's role and its operational procedures among US officers, the organization introduced a comprehensive dissemination programme which was implemented by a specialized delegate posted in Washington. To the same end, closer contacts were also established with the British and French armed forces. In addition, relations were further consolidated with military academies and institutes, such as the Collège Interarmées de Défense in Paris, the United States European Command (USEUCOM) in Stuttgart, the US Marine Corps and Army Staff College, and the NATO school in Oberammergau, Germany.

In June 2004, a highly successful regional seminar on IHL, which was attended by representatives of the armed forces of some 20 Asian countries, was jointly organized by the ICRC and the Xian Political Academy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

The new interactive DVD for police forces, which was produced in 2003, has rapidly become the ICRC's main tool for teaching human rights law worldwide. Work on Spanish and Russian versions began in 2004.

In 2004, the ICRC published a booklet entitled *To serve and to protect* in five languages. It is designed as a tool for deepening law-enforcement officials' knowledge of international humanitarian law and human rights law and translating the relevant rules into operational behaviour.

The ICRC issued guidelines on civil-military relations in 2004 in an effort to establish a dialogue with the political and military circles

which formulate policy on military intervention in emergencies, and to bolster the legitimacy and acceptance of the organization and its work.

In order to further the inclusion of international human rights law in the training of police forces, the ICRC held a fifth course on IHL in Brazil for 40 Latin American police instructors.

The International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, especially its military department, continued to receive financial and technical assistance and advice. In 2004, some 150 military officers from more than 50 countries benefited from ICRC scholarships to attend nine military courses on IHL in San Remo. The 109th such course was held at the Institute during the year under review.

The ICRC also took part in over 10 international military exercises in Europe and similar events elsewhere in the world. It attended NATO exercises in Turkey and Norway ("Allied Action"), the Netherlands ("Allied Warrior") and Thailand ("Cobra Gold"). The organization's aim in so doing was to ensure that the relevant IHL principles were included in the planning of military scenarios, to spread knowledge of its mandate and activities and to take part in role-playing during the exercises.

As part of the ICRC's project on missing persons, running from 2003 to 2007, work began on the implementation of best practices such as the provision of means of identification for members of armed forces and the proper handling of human remains. A questionnaire was sent to delegations for ICRC staff responsible for relations with local armed and security forces, with a view to collecting information for the project.

The ICRC continued to assist the running and devising of IHL and human rights training programmes for armed and security forces and the police. These activities, conducted by 21 specialized ICRC delegates backed up by a multinational network of officer-instructors, raised training standards in over 100 countries.

RELATIONS WITH THE MEDIA

In 2004, the general public displayed a growing interest in the conditions of detention of people in situations of armed conflict and particularly in issues related to people held by the US and/or their allies in the "war on terror", (e.g. in Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan) and in Iraq. Topics such as the definition and legitimacy of ill-treatment, undisclosed detention, extraordinary renditions and due legal process were vigorously debated around the globe, as was the applicability of IHL and other laws and norms to persons deprived of their freedom in current armed conflicts. These issues were frequently raised against the background of a wider debate on security and stability. The ICRC was and is *willingly or not* part of this debate on account of its activities and its positions on humanitarian matters. Throughout the year, what the ICRC said and did with respect to a particular context had repercussions extending far beyond that context. On several occasions, unexpected developments compelled the ICRC to adopt a reactive approach to communications. In particular, the leakage and publication of a confidential ICRC report covering a series of ICRC visits to the Abu Ghraib detention facility in Iraq, as well as the furore created by the publication in the media of photographs depicting degrading and humiliating treatment of internees by US soldiers in Iraq, led to a heightened level of interest in ICRC activities for detainees. In this connection, its working methods

and modes of action, such as confidentiality, either met with approval or were challenged. This necessitated a shift in ICRC public communication priorities to focus more on explaining how the ICRC conducts its detention activities. It also provided an opportunity for the organization to reaffirm its confidence in the way it conducts its detention activities.

The situation in Darfur turned into a very grave security crisis generating an enormous need for humanitarian assistance. Since July 2004, after an initial phase in which it maintained low public visibility, the ICRC has repeatedly called on all parties to the armed conflict to spare civilians and it has insisted that the presence of humanitarian agencies should also be allowed in rural towns and villages (this was done, for example, through the publication of an editorial by the ICRC's president, press briefings in Geneva and the issuing of regular bulletins on Sudan).

Events in the field and the ongoing humanitarian problems in Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and the Palestinian territories, as well as those arising from the armed violence in Haiti, continued to fuel public interest in the ICRC's activities and positions. The 10th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide offered a sad but important opportunity to recall the horrors of the past in an attempt to find better ways of preventing their re-occurrence in the future.

In order to raise public awareness of the problems still caused by anti-personnel landmines and to elicit firm commitments to resolve these problems before the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, journalists' visits to Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola and Bosnia and Herzegovina were organized in cooperation with National Societies.

Relations were further improved with London-based media and institutions with a worldwide reach through the on-the-spot presence of an ICRC communications officer, while the creation of a regional communication centre in Kuala Lumpur opened up fresh possibilities for expanding working relations with the media in Asia.

The ICRC Media Relations Unit participated in a conference organized by UNESCO and in the annual meeting of the International Federation of Journalists (both of which focused on the security of journalists in conflict areas), in UN training for its peace-keeping forces and in training courses for journalists organized by the Spanish, Austrian and French Red Cross Societies. It played host to journalists from India, the Philippines, Spain, China and a number of other countries who were visiting Geneva and it organized a first encounter with Geneva-based journalists from Asian and central and eastern European media.

Audio-visual, audio and photographic material and texts on a variety of themes and activities using content gathered in the field were produced on a regular basis and distributed to the media and National Societies worldwide, as well as being posted on the ICRC's website (www.icrc.org).

DECISION-MAKERS AND OPINION-FORMERS

One of the aims of the Communication Department is to ensure that key decision-makers and opinion-formers facilitate the activities of the ICRC, because they perceive it to be a credible, independent and efficient humanitarian organization working closely with victims of armed conflict around the world, in addition to being a source of knowledge about IHL and humanitarian issues.

Another goal is to make these people aware of the significance of IHL and to encourage them to actively support its implementation. Throughout 2004, efforts were made to raise awareness and create a deeper understanding of the ICRC and its work. The ICRC's website constituted a valuable tool in this respect by providing a wealth of information on ICRC operations, IHL and other topics.

STUDENTS AND ACADEMIC CIRCLES

The ICRC endeavours to ensure that, through their studies, future decision-makers and opinion-leaders understand the practical relevance of IHL and have a thorough knowledge of its basic principles. This should encourage them to implement IHL, influence the humanitarian debate, promote the development of existing law and support the ICRC's activities.

In 2004, the ICRC continued to provide IHL training for university students and professors by organizing, financing and moderating national and regional courses and seminars. Holding regional courses on IHL for advanced and junior faculty students remained a priority. The ICRC's Education and Behaviour Unit, acting in close cooperation with field delegations, National Societies and/or universities, organized annual intensive courses on IHL for advanced students, junior lecturers and young professionals from the Arab world, French and English-speaking Africa, Europe, North America and South Asia.

It pursued action to encourage the holding of moot court competitions in IHL, since they offer students a unique opportunity, through a series of role-playing exercises, to test and build upon the theoretical knowledge they have acquired in the classroom. National or regional competitions were organized directly by the ICRC in Serbia and Montenegro, Hungary, India, Kyrgyzstan, Niger, Central Asia, Tanzania, Ukraine and in the Russian Federation. The ICRC also supported moot courts set up by independent organizations – e.g. the Jean Pictet Competition and the European Law Students Association (ELSA) Moot Court.

As part of its cooperation with its university partners, the ICRC conducted an advanced training course/workshop on "IHL in current conflicts" in conjunction with the Harvard Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research. This event was organized in order to provide an opportunity for mid-career professionals from the UN, non-governmental organizations and various diplomatic, military and academic circles to acquire and refine the skills needed to address humanitarian challenges on the basis of IHL. In Geneva it also organized the 5th "Training Seminar on IHL for University Teachers" to train a group of highly motivated law and political science professors from 21 countries. As in previous years, the ICRC provided expertise and financial or documentary support for a number of postgraduate programmes on IHL in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The organization also maintained close links with the University of Geneva's Centre for International Humanitarian Law (which helped to organize the 5th training seminar mentioned above).

Further progress was made towards adapting existing teaching tools and developing new ones to facilitate IHL instruction in universities. The French-language version of the comprehensive IHL casebook *How does law protect in war?*, published in mid-2003 under the title *Un droit dans la guerre?*, was actively promoted in the French-speaking world and a start was made on fully updating the English edition.

ICRC delegates in charge of academic programmes from all over the world met for the first time in May with a view to coordinating their activities more closely and updating ICRC policy in this area. One of the conclusions they reached was that better use should be made of the network of trained professors and teachers, who should take part not only in academic programmes, but also in those related to the implementation of IHL at the national level.

YOUTH

Exploring Humanitarian Law

In 2001 the ICRC introduced its Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) teaching module for secondary schools, in the belief that learning humanitarian norms is good preparation for responsible and informed adulthood in today's globalized world. By promoting the teaching of the humanitarian principles applicable to armed conflict and internal violence, the EHL programme also fosters social awareness among young people and an understanding of the rules that govern peaceful coexistence, in particular the respect that is due to life and human dignity, both in extreme situations and in our daily lives.

In order to make IHL an integral part of formal secondary education, the ICRC and National Societies work in close cooperation with educational authorities and national IHL committees worldwide. By the end of 2004, the EHL syllabus was available in 20 languages and had been considered for formal inclusion in the national secondary-school curricula of over 90 countries. During the year, some 33 countries tested the programme in the classroom, while teacher training in the subject was under way in eleven other countries in preparation for similar pilot tests and planning had begun in 30 other countries. The authorities of 20 additional countries undertook to begin implementation of the programme in 2005.

As a means of ensuring the programme's success, the ICRC continued to provide academic, technical and financial assistance for translation, teacher training and materials. In an effort to foster the sharing of experience and to build confidence, the organization held several regional and sub-regional meetings with educational authorities and the National Society personnel responsible for introducing the EHL programme at country level. To the same end, the ICRC organized the Pan African Education Leadership Seminar in Benoni, South Africa, in July 2004, the second global gathering on EHL. Representatives from 32 countries attended, including those from 22 member States of the African Union, as well as experts and special guests from UNESCO, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Education Development Center (EDC), Morocco, Malaysia, Serbia, Ukraine and the United States of America. The seminar was convened to discuss specific questions connected with teacher training, experimentation, evaluation and the integration of EHL in school curricula in Africa, and to make recommendations on regional and international cooperation.

A similar gathering, the Third Regional Meeting of Arab Educationists on the Implementation of EHL in Arab Education Systems, was held in Cairo, Egypt in November 2004 and was attended by representatives from 17 Arab States. The meeting was hosted by the Egyptian Ministry of Education, in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the ICRC. Its purpose was to examine progress on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the conclusion of the previous meeting, held in Amman in 2003 and to discuss the way forward in 2005.

In Europe, special attention was given to enhancing recognition of the value of EHL as a response to the European Commission's recommendations on the implementation of its "Education and Training 2010" work programme. In September 2004, the ICRC participated in a Council of Europe meeting on inter-institutional cooperation within the framework of the "2005 – European Year of Citizenship through Education" project and in December 2004 it attended the conference to launch the project. The EHL educational syllabus was presented as a means of achieving the objectives set for the coming year.

The progress achieved in 2004 attested to the educational value of EHL and its strong universal resonance with young people and their teachers. Particular needs and new challenges were noted in relation to financial assistance, training for teachers and instructors, and other forms of support. A financial contribution from the Government of the Netherlands made it possible at the end of 2004 to complete conceptual planning for a web-based platform for the EHL programme. Its purpose is to help teachers and teacher trainers in their work with the EHL modules. The platform, to be set up in 2005, is called the "EHL Virtual Campus" and it will offer interactive teacher training and preparation, a library and community-building tools.

Other programmes and initiatives

National Societies and ICRC delegations received assistance with and advice on the development of various local and regional dissemination projects.

Continuing support was provided for the textbook-based secondary-school programme on IHL in countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). It is estimated that the programme, launched in 1995, reaches over five million pupils and 180,000 teachers annually. According to an exit strategy drafted in 2003, national educational authorities are expected to take over full responsibility for the teaching of IHL by 2007. The focus in 2004 was on further anchoring IHL education in the educational practice of each country in close cooperation with the authorities, by training teacher trainers, making IHL part of national educational curricula and introducing IHL training in teacher-training institutes and pedagogical faculties. In Uzbekistan, the ICRC participated in the revision and publication of the civic manual *The Individual and Society*, for the complete 11th grade school year. A second edition of the ICRC's textbook *Per Humanitatem ad Pacem* was published in Kyrgyzstan. An evaluation of the Tajik programme was carried out and the findings are to be included in the exit strategy phase. The programme was also introduced in Chechnya. In all contexts, numerous promotional activities related to the programme were organized, such as essay and drawing contests, competitions, exhibitions and drama productions.

Special emphasis was placed on the inclusion of basic IHL education in secondary schools with so called "pre-military training" and in cadets' schools. This approach has yielded promising results, especially in the Russian Federation.

Contacts were established with the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the French and Belgium Red Cross Societies with a view to promoting an outdoor IHL training syllabus which will probably be unveiled at the European Scout Jamboree in summer 2005 in the United Kingdom and which will be made available on a CD-ROM and on the Internet.

MINE-ACTION PROGRAMMES

The aim of the ICRC's mine-action programmes is to prevent casualties and to mitigate the social and economic consequences of injuries caused by stepping on landmines or the explosive remnants of war (ERW). To achieve this aim, the ICRC draws on a wide range of skills and capacities from within the Movement, capitalizing on local National Society networks wherever possible. Activities include incident surveillance, mine-risk education and interim risk reduction through the provision of alternative water and fuel sources, safe play areas for children, and other practical measures. The ICRC also works with parties to halt the use of anti-personnel mines and to encourage cooperation in the location and clearance of contaminated areas by those responsible.

In 2004, the ICRC implemented preventive programmes in 27 countries, either directly or by providing National Societies with expert guidance, training and technical know-how. In 2004, three regional mine-action advisers were responsible for providing technical advice and backing for the planning and implementation of mine-awareness programmes (one in the Russian Federation and the northern Caucasus, one in Central Europe and the Middle East, and one in Angola and southern Africa).

In Iraq, the National Society continued its mine-risk education drive, whenever the security situation permitted, through the distribution of materials to heighten public awareness. In Afghanistan, where the ICRC has remained a key player in mine-awareness activities, the data collected on mine and ERW incidents continued to be fed into the National Mine-Action Programme, while the National Society, with ICRC support, pursued its community-based mine-risk education activities. In Angola, National Society capabilities were further developed through training and other capacity-building work.

New mine-awareness programmes were initiated in Myanmar and Nepal and sustained technical support, mainly in the form of mine-risk education, was given to the National Societies of India and Iran, which both implemented preventive programmes in 2004.

Constructive dialogue was pursued with the main international mine-action organizations such as the UN Mine Action Service, UNICEF, UNDP, international NGOs and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. The ICRC is participating in the review and updating of the International Mine Action Standards and is monitoring developments and outcomes from the Global Mine Impact Survey. In addition, it has installed and has started to use the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) mine-action software, thus improving data compatibility with other mine-action players.

RESEARCH AND METHODS OF COMMUNICATION

One of the aims of the ICRC is to ensure that its programmes effectively prevent IHL violations and influence those who decide the fate of war victims. In order to frame effective prevention strategies, the ICRC therefore collaborated with several academic institutions in a research programme to identify the key factors that condition the behaviour of civilians and combatants in armed conflicts.

In 2004, the results of this research were included in an ICRC study entitled *Roots of Behaviour in War*, published in English,

French and Spanish and placed on the ICRC website. The study examined the behaviour of combatants in armed conflicts with a view to determining whether the ICRC's preventive policies took sufficient account of the characteristics of weapon bearers to avert violations of IHL. It confirmed three hypotheses: (1) the universal acknowledgement of humanitarian principles, (2) the powerful influence on combatants of obedience to authority, group conformity and the spiral of violence that often engulfs them (3) the existence of mechanisms of moral disengagement when violations of IHL are committed. In addition, the study provided information about the impact of ICRC activities on combatants' behaviour.

The study's main lessons may be briefly summarized as follows: (1) IHL must be treated as a legal and political matter rather than as a moral one and its dissemination must focus more on norms than on their underlying values, because the idea that a combatant is morally autonomous is mistaken; (2) greater respect for IHL is possible only if weapon bearers are properly trained, if they are under strict orders as to the conduct to adopt and if effective sanctions are applied in the event of failure to obey such orders; (3) it is crucial that the ICRC be perfectly clear about its aims when it seeks to promote IHL and prevent violations: does it want to impart knowledge, modify attitudes or influence behaviour? The ICRC must draw up genuine strategies to prevent violations of IHL.

Major research institutes, academic circles, components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement as well as international and non-governmental organizations joined in this endeavour. For example, the ICRC organized an international conference on socio-psychological approaches to armed conflicts with the University of Geneva. This offered a unique opportunity to exchange ideas on humanitarian issues from this specific perspective.

Wherever possible, the lessons drawn from these initiatives were applied to the dissemination of IHL among weapon bearers in order to promote a commitment by non-State armed groups to enforce the legal norms and to encourage armed forces to issue military orders in conformity with IHL provisions and impose sanctions in the event of violations of IHL.

A plan of action has been drawn up for future years. Its focus is on maintaining a network of academic and humanitarian circles, drafting ICRC guidelines for preventive strategies and incorporating the lessons learned in the training of ICRC delegates.

NATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

National Societies have a specific responsibility to promote IHL and its underlying principles in their respective countries in general, and among their members in particular. The Movement's Statutes require the ICRC to act as a catalyst and an adviser in this respect.

The ICRC, either directly from headquarters or through its delegations, supported National Societies by providing them with publications and audio-visual products, as well as courses on IHL and advice on the development of dissemination strategies.

Growing public interest in questions regarding IHL and other humanitarian issues prompted the Movement's components to improve their activities in this area. In 2004, the ICRC thus continued working on a review of guidelines on the promotion

of IHL and the Fundamental Principles, which are intended for use by National Society leadership and communicators.

LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICE

The Library and Research Service strives to promote knowledge of the ICRC, IHL, humanitarian activities and other issues of humanitarian concern by helping users inside and outside the ICRC to find relevant information and documentation in these fields. In order to contribute to the analysis of the ICRC's activities and to the development of its strategies, the service provides comprehensive information on the contexts in which the organization operates and offers guidance on sources of information. In addition, it runs a reference desk and provides access to its collection of over 140,000 items (books, periodicals, photographs and videos) and external databases. It also cooperates with other organizations and has access on a reciprocal basis to their library and research services.

In 2004, the service responded to some 3,000 requests from National Societies, non-governmental organizations, academics, government departments and the media concerning IHL-related issues and ICRC operational activities. It also responded to enquiries about specific programmes (e.g. mine awareness, Women and War). Furthermore, the service launched a web version of its catalogue in order to improve access to its documents. In-house, the service played a greater role in providing context-specific information for delegates before their departure to the field, and in drawing their attention to services and information sources of which they could avail themselves while on mission.

The use of a systematic approach to track external trends and issues enabled the Library and Research Service to provide ICRC staff with pertinent and timely information throughout the year. It also maintained a daily press-monitoring service and alerted ICRC staff to new academic publications, reports and databases. Lastly, it developed a new platform to provide ICRC staff with accurate information and continued its reflection on how to enhance knowledge management and information flows.

MARKETING, PRODUCTION AND THE WEB

Building and maintaining credible and consistent products and an ICRC brand image were priorities for the Production, Marketing and Distribution Division in 2004. The adoption of an integrated, multimedia approach made it possible for the ICRC to respond to changing communication environments flexibly and creatively. The promotion of new corporate visual guidelines and the production of more professional, targeted products helped to improve recognition and understanding of the ICRC among key target audiences. Continued efforts were made to distribute institutional publications and videos effectively and efficiently, thereby ensuring that products reached target audiences within 5–6 days. The strengthening of the partnership with the ICRC's external stock-management partner facilitated this process. Over 2.5 million CHF worth of publications and 6,200 films (an increase of approximately 7% over 2003) were distributed to interested parties worldwide.

In 2004, the optimization of the website www.icrc.org continued with the development of new functions and the improvement of editorial content. The launch of the new Portuguese version in

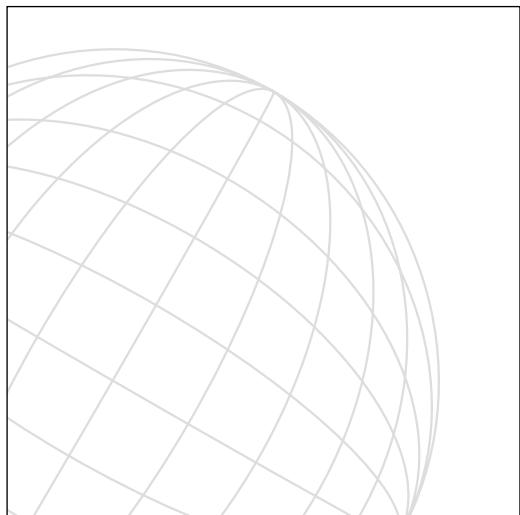
June means that www.icrc.org now exists in seven languages. The Russian website was completely remodelled to be consistent with the other sites. Efforts were also made to further decentralize responsibility for the language sites (except for the English and French versions) to locally based centres. Consultation of the website continued to rise worldwide, with a total of 470 million hits registered over the year, a 30% increase on the previous year. The peaks were in March to May, owing to events in Iraq and in December with 5.5 million page hits recorded in one month, in large part due to the Asian tsunami.

During the run-up to the EURO 2004 football competition in Portugal, the ICRC worked with the organizer, UEFA, to raise awareness of the problems faced by children in war. The campaign highlighted the need to protect children in wartime and to ensure that international humanitarian law – which addresses their needs and affords them protection – is respected. The support of four leading international referees who were committed to pointing out the importance of this issue added a valuable dimension to the campaign.

In 2004, the Auditorium-Visitors' Service received nearly 10,000 guests from a wide spectrum of audiences (e.g. universities, schools, National Societies, military, medical field, media, etc) and thus helped to raise awareness of the ICRC and its action on behalf of persons affected by armed conflict.

Multilingual communication

In keeping with the universal dimension of its independent and humanitarian role, the ICRC communicates with a wide range of actors and audiences at local, regional and international levels. In order to optimize the impact of its communication in 2004, the ICRC therefore focused on ensuring the use of the appropriate wording and language for its various target audiences worldwide. Coherent and consistent use of appropriate terminology made an important contribution to the effectiveness of the ICRC's communication.



human resources

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Human Resources Division recruits staff in response to the organization's needs and it supervises their management and career development. The crisis in Darfur, Sudan placed a considerable strain on ICRC field personnel in 2004. The rising demand for such personnel meant that 1.4 % of posts were still vacant in November 2004, compared with 0.3% in November 2003 and 0.8% in November 2002.

Meeting imminent challenges

After an in-depth analysis revealed various shortcomings in the way human-resources policy was addressing future needs and the expectations of expatriate staff, the ICRC launched "RH2006", an ambitious two-year programme designed to restructure human-resources management and to improve the ICRC's capacity to meet the challenges of a changing operational environment and the new demands made on its staff.

The programme entails:

- ▶ drawing up a grid that clearly defines each of the stages in various ICRC career paths, depending on hierarchical level (senior management staff, management staff and general/specialized staff) and type of position (general staff, specialized staff and headquarters staff);
- ▶ introducing specific management rules for each type of position and hierarchical level and defining the individual responsibilities of staff members, their managers and the human resources division;
- ▶ detailing the steps required for career advancement;
- ▶ identifying the essential skills for each hierarchical level and how to acquire them;
- ▶ providing support for managers in their supervisory role.

The new human-resources structure which will be responsible for effecting these key strategic changes was in place by the end of 2004 and therefore ready for their implementation in January 2005.

Broadening the recruitment base

The number of newly hired staff decreased slightly, from 336 in 2003 to 312 in 2004. After a relatively calm start to the period under review, which was mainly attributable to the scaling down of ICRC activities in Iraq, field-personnel needs rose again during the latter part of 2003, additional delegates and specialized staff being required above all in Sudan.

Arabic, Pashto, Farsi, Amharic and Nepali interpreters were still being sought for ICRC protection work and contacts with specialized organizations were therefore stepped up.

The total number of expatriate staff in the field ranged from 1,247 to 1,404, the average being 1,330, against 1,325 in 2003. An average of 200 National Society staff worked in ICRC field delegations and 25 locally recruited employees occupied temporary positions in delegations outside their home countries.

Staff diversity

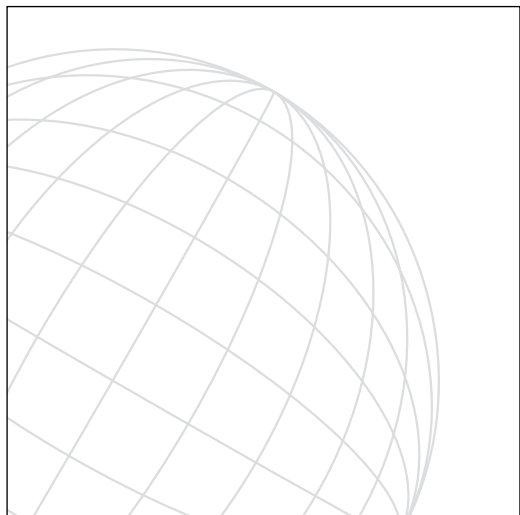
In keeping with the ICRC's policy of internationalization, the percentage of staff, not including locally recruited staff, from countries other than Switzerland rose to an average of 49% for the whole organization in 2004 – an increase over previous years. A total of 57% of field expatriates were non-Swiss, the same percentage as in 2003. In addition, 74 national staff held ICRC headquarters contracts.

The ICRC continued to boost its effectiveness by relying on locally recruited staff in its delegations throughout the world, since past experience has shown that ICRC operations clearly benefit if local staff members are given more responsibility underpinned by proper coaching and supervision.

Training

Staff training continued in 2004; in order to help 45 heads of delegation and other senior personnel to manage operations more efficiently, they were given a course which covered topics such as the operational environment, operational strategies, humanitarian mobilization, and planning and monitoring. A number of other courses were held, including:

- ▶ 19 introductory training courses, which were run at headquarters and in the field for 439 staff;
- ▶ 22 in-house courses on leadership and managing security and stress in the field, which were attended by more than 265 middle-management staff;
- ▶ courses in personnel management for 36 staff members and in communication for five staff members (these were provided by outside training companies).



resources and operational support

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

The Department of Resources and Operational Support is responsible for raising the necessary funds for the ICRC's activities, managing the organization's financial resources and providing efficient support for its field operations in the areas of logistics, administration, and information and communication technology.

The grouping of support services within one department succeeded in producing closer coordination and greater synergy, as intended, and represented a step towards a better integration of work processes, which will ensure a more coherent approach in the field of IT applications as well. Regular financial forecasts, involving many units at headquarters and in the field, contributed to more efficient management of financial risks. The ICRC's strategy was finalized in 2004 and the organization can now plan and implement its IT projects in a coherent and cost-effective way.

Further improvements in donor reporting and management information remain at the heart of efforts to ensure transparent communication with donors and efficient monitoring of the use of financial resources.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Financial management

The purpose of financial management is to provide the ICRC with reliable and cost-effective information enabling it to make sound decisions in this area.

In 2004, efforts focused on:

- ▶ upgrading the finance modules of the Enterprise Resource Planning system while optimizing data-input and data-processing performance;
- ▶ implementing an improved chart-of-accounts system enhancing the integration of logistics data;
- ▶ taking measures to speed up financial reporting to field delegations;
- ▶ improving and simplifying the cost-accounting model to be implemented in the 2006 financial year;

- ▶ streamlining the financial-control framework and methodology and related responsibilities;
- ▶ implementing the first phase (business requirements, tender and product selection, initial configuration) of a new computerized system for budget and accounts processing in the delegations. An improved budget-extension process may be included as part of this project.

Infrastructure management

The purpose of infrastructure management is to provide the necessary office space and to ensure long-term maintenance of the entire infrastructure at a reasonable cost.

Construction of a day-care centre for the children of ICRC staff and other families was completed in the summer, in conjunction with the city of Geneva. The centre was officially opened on 1 September 2004.

The first phase of a plan to upgrade structural security at headquarters was completed and work was to continue in 2005.

Delivery of information

The ongoing objective in this area is to optimize the speed of information delivery while maintaining reasonable cost levels.

In 2004 a new radio-communication tool was introduced in Geneva and in most delegations. Simultaneously, computerized information services were reviewed at headquarters and this may result in a reduction of resources allocated in this field.

FUNDING

All ICRC funding is coordinated by and channelled through the External Resources Division, which raises the funds needed by the ICRC to carry out its humanitarian activities while ensuring the organization's independent status. The ICRC seeks predictable, sustained and flexible financial support in order to meet its objectives. It guarantees that donor requirements are met appropriately.

Budgets

The initial budget appeals for 2004, launched by the ICRC in December 2003, totalled 904.5 million Swiss francs (CHF). This was lower by 34.2 million than the preceding year's overall budget. The decrease was due to the Emergency Appeals for ICRC field operations being set at CHF 754.7 million, compared with the CHF 788.8 million requested in 2003. The Headquarters Appeals remained relatively constant, with CHF 149.8 million being requested in 2004, compared with an appeal for CHF 149.9 in 2003.

In the course of the year, the initial field budget was increased by means of two budget extensions to accommodate unforeseen events and rising needs in humanitarian terms in Haiti (CHF 4.6 million in March) and in Sudan (CHF 31 million in May). The final field budget for 2004 therefore stood at CHF 790.4 million, lower by 169.4 million than the CHF 959.8 million reached in 2003.

Expenditure

Overall expenditure reached CHF 822.8 million (including overheads), 146.9 million of which was for headquarters and 675.9 million for field operations.

The implementation rate¹ for activities planned as part of the ICRC's objectives for the year was higher than in previous years, with expenditure reaching 89.6% of the overall final Emergency Appeals budget.

Contributions

A total of CHF 757.6 million was received in contributions in 2004 (excluding overheads but including assets). The overall pattern of sources for these contributions was virtually the same as in the previous year, with the proportion of support from governments at 80.1% (2003: 79.9%; 2002: 84.3%) and that of National Societies dropping further to 5.2% (2003: 6%; 2002: 7.1%). Funding received from the European Commission grew to 10.3% (2003: 8.8%; 2002: 5.1%), while contributions received from various other public and private sources decreased slightly to 4.3% (2002: 5%; 2001: 3%).

The United States remained the ICRC's largest donor. It accounted for 22.04% (CHF 166.97 million) of all contributions received and 24.09% (CHF 152 million) of the contributions received for field operations. Switzerland was the second largest donor with a contribution of CHF 92.07 million, including 69.5 million for the ICRC's headquarters budget. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) and the British Red Cross extended their partnership agreement with the ICRC to cover the period from October 2002 to September 2006. Under the partnership agreement, the DFID made a non-earmarked contribution of £17.5 million to the ICRC for the period January to December 2004, bringing the United Kingdom's total contribution to CHF 83.7 million. The European Commission became the ICRC's fourth largest donor at CHF 77.9 million and the Netherlands government became the fifth at CHF 43.89 million in non-earmarked contributions.

The ICRC's operational flexibility was enhanced by the fact that a number of governments – including those of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States – provided advance information on the level of funding and either did not earmark their contributions or earmarked them in a relatively broad fashion (mostly by region).

The ICRC's Donor Support Group (DSG) – made up of those governments contributing more than CHF 10 million annually – comprised 16 members in 2004, namely the governments of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as the European Commission. The 2004 meeting of the DSG was hosted by the Australian government.

Contributions in response to the Headquarters Appeal

A total of CHF 126.6 million was received in contributions for the headquarters budget: 119.3 million from 71 governments, 5.5 million from 71 National Societies and 1.8 million from a number of other private and public sources.

Contributions in response to the Emergency Appeals

In all, CHF 631 million was provided for ICRC field operations by 33 governments (487.8 million), the European Commission (77.9 million), 32 National Societies (33.6 million), a variety of supranational and international organizations (0.8 million) and other public and private sources (31 million) such as the Parthenon Trust, the Union of European Football Associations, Rotary International and Soroptimist International. The cash component of the donor response for field operations amounted to CHF 609.9 million (2003: 731 million; 2002: 631.8 million). The in-kind component was CHF 9.7 million (2003: 23.4 million; 2002: 19.4 million). Contributions in the form of services were equivalent to CHF 10.6 million (2003: 17.8 million; 2002: 15.6 million). Contributions in assets were worth CHF 0.8 million (2003: 1.5 million; 2002: 0.4 million).

Flexibility in funding

Even though the ICRC has been fortunate not to suffer from major cuts in funding, specific donor requirements in terms of earmarking and reporting were generally the same in 2004 as in 2003.

To meet needs effectively, it is essential that the ICRC enjoy flexibility in the use of its funds and a degree of predictability in terms of individual donor requirements, particularly in relation to earmarking and reporting. Earmarking has become more widespread in recent years, and contributions have often been accompanied by both rigorous timetables for the implementation of projects and stringently specific reporting conditions. Experience has shown that the more restrictive the earmarking policy, the more limited the ICRC's independence and operational flexibility.

In 2004, tightly earmarked cash contributions accounted for CHF 115.6 million, or 15.7% of cash contributions (compared with CHF 161.2 million, or 18.9%, in 2003).

At 31.5% (CHF 231.4 million) in 2004, the proportion of non-earmarked cash contributions ("core funding") in response to ICRC Emergency and Headquarters Appeals was higher than in 2003 (27.4%). Apart from legacy donations, the majority of these non-earmarked funds for both the Emergency Appeals and the Mine Action Special Appeal came from six governments (Belgium, Canada, France, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom) and the canton and city of Geneva.

¹ Implementation rate = field expenditure (in cash, kind and services) divided by final field budget (excluding contingency) then multiplied by 100.

Cash contributions loosely earmarked for a given region, country or programme represented about 52.8% of the total (CHF 387.5 million).

Of this amount, CHF 131.4 million represented broad, geographically earmarked funding received from the United States in particular (21.6% of total cash contributions) while CHF 25.4 million was programme-earmarked funding from the European Commission (CHF 15.4 million or 2.1% of total cash contributions) and the United Kingdom (CHF 10 million or 1.6% of total cash contributions).

In terms of earmarking by country, Sudan was the context most often specified by donors, representing 11.2% of all the contributions of this type (compared with 15.5% for the Iraq conflict in 2003).

The ICRC has drawn up guidelines to ensure greater uniformity and coherence in managing earmarked funds. These standards are designed to reduce the multiplicity of financing and reporting constraints which can stifle the organization's ability to respond effectively to general donor requirements.

Predictability in funding

The ICRC's system of funding does not rely on set (statutory) contributions. Moreover, its programmes are implemented according to need and are not contingent on the level of contributions that have been received or pledged. The organization counts on donors to come forward with the necessary funds in response to its objectives and programmes for a given year. To minimize the financial risk thus incurred, the ICRC seeks, on the one hand, to be realistic in terms of the objectives and budgets it sets and, on the other, to ensure a degree of predictability with respect to funding. Ideally, the organization needs funding commitments from donor countries spanning several years. It does in fact already have such agreements with some donors. The ICRC is aware that planning restraints on donors, and national budget and finance regulations, do not easily allow them to commit themselves over the medium term that the ICRC would prefer. Nevertheless, it will continue to seek ways of achieving its objective of commitments made over several years. Clear indications from donors, early in the year, as to the annual level of funding and the timing of its transfer would also facilitate financial planning and reduce risk.

Overall predictability of funding improved in 2004, in large part owing to arrangements made early in the year with the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States and – in the case of the headquarters budget – Switzerland. These allowed planning in terms of basic funding levels to take place early on, and favourable timing of transfers helped bring about a marked improvement in the ICRC's cash-flow situation as compared with previous years.

Diversity in the donor base

Despite strenuous efforts to broaden its donor base, the ICRC is concerned with what it perceives as a gradual narrowing of its range of main financial contributors. In view of its universal mandate and worldwide activities, the organization would like to be able to count on the broadest possible support. While the general data provided above would at first appear to indicate broad support in terms of the level and number of sources, a closer look reveals a trend of increasing reliance on the relatively few main donors that account for the bulk of the ICRC's funding.

Even though 71 governments and the European Commission contributed to the ICRC in 2004 (14 fewer governments than in 2003), the top 10 governments accounted for CHF 595 million, or 78.5% (2003: 71.2%; 2002: 76.5%), and the top five governments for CHF 464.5 million, or 61.3% (2003: 58.1%; 2002: 62.6%), of the overall total of CHF 757.6 million in contributions received. Similarly, contributions were received from 71 National Societies (2003: 72; 2002: 83), with the top 10 accounting for 82.4% (2003: 78.2%; 2002: 69.8%) and the top five for 65.7% (2003: 56%; 2002: 45.3%) of the total of CHF 39.1 million in contributions received.

As for contributions received for field operations, 33 governments and the European Commission responded to the Emergency Appeals (2003: 35; 2002: 29). Of these, the top five accounted for CHF 390.6 million, or 61.9% (2003: 56.3%; 2002: 61.4%) of the total of CHF 631 million. The top five National Society contributors accounted for CHF 22.9 million, or 68.1% (2003: 57.1%; 2002: 46.9%), of the CHF 33.6 million received from 32 National Societies in all (2003: 41; 2002: 37).

It is therefore clear that the ICRC needs to continue its efforts to obtain additional funds from government and National Society donors, while at the same time identifying and testing new budget lines among current donors.

Reporting to donors

The ICRC kept donors informed of its activities through a variety of documents and publications. In December 2003, it launched its 2004 Emergency and Headquarters Appeals, which were followed in the course of the year by two budget-extension appeals.

It reported to donors on all its field operations by means of the *Mid-term Report*, which covered field operations in the first and second quarters. The third and fourth quarters are covered by the country reports contained in the present *Annual Report*. These reports discuss progress achieved for each target population in the light of the objectives set in the *Emergency Appeals* for 2004. Financial updates were similarly provided on a quarterly basis. In September the ICRC issued its *Renewed Emergency Appeal*, which presented the overall funding situation for field operations, detailed the contributions received by that time, and covered 15 major operations for which substantial funding was still required.

Donors were further informed of the main developments in ICRC operations by means of 11 updates covering a wide range of operations, eight specifically created donor and National Society briefing notes on the Iraq, Darfur and Haiti crises, and the 2003 special report on mine action 2003.

The ICRC Donor Site, a password-protected extranet site on which all documents issued by the ICRC's External Resources Division are posted, continues to give donors immediate access to reports and other funding-related documents.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The main goal of the Information Systems Division is to align information and communication technology projects and services with the ICRC's strategic objectives in order to achieve maximum efficiency and optimize both investments and operating costs through the best possible allocation of human and financial resources.

In 2004, a three-year information technology strategy was developed and implemented. Fourteen strategic initiatives were identified targeting five main objectives. The main strategic initiatives are related to transversal applications (the "Donation to Distribution" process), and to permanent connections to the field and increased information security systems.

In June 2004, the Peoplesoft 8.4 financial software application was implemented successfully. In conjunction with the new version of Peoplesoft 8.4, a data warehouse is in preparation and will be activated in April 2005.

The Field Supply System, involving purchase-request generation, local stock management and parts distribution monitoring, was developed and implemented in more than 20 locations, as was the application for managing the logistical aspects of the ICRC's fleet of leased aircraft.

A new human resources product for the field, which covers payroll and personal/position data, was customized and expected to be implemented early in 2005.

The ICRC replaced its worldwide workstation operation system with Microsoft Windows XP between June and December 2004 and took advantage of this migration to install an active directory at headquarters, a cluster for the critical applications and a data storage area network. In addition, the new mail application for the ICRC's radio and satellite systems was installed worldwide.

The extranet framework has been developed and a new extranet donor site was created. Furthermore, an institutional intranet is under development and will be introduced in mid-2005. Work also progressed on the development of an upgraded professional mail system expected to be operational by 2006.

Russian and Chinese language versions of the ICRC website were launched in 2004.

LOGISTICS

Global scale

The ICRC runs a worldwide logistics network. With the range of services available – from airfreight to vehicle workshops – the organization is able to maintain field operations and to take rapid and effective action in emergencies. In 2004 it operated 3,400 vehicles, 300 warehouses and 15 aircraft.

During the year there were three major new logistical undertakings. In the Middle East, the ICRC partly dismantled its logistics set-up in Iran, Iraq and Kuwait, keeping an operational base in Jordan with air and ground transport and emergency stocks to support its activities in Iraq. In Sudan, a large-scale emergency-aid programme in Darfur required rapid upgrading of logistics facilities in the country and support from the logistics centre in Nairobi. In response to the tsunami crisis, the ICRC set up a new logistics base in Singapore, with the support of the Singapore Red Cross Society, to support its work in Indonesia by handling air and sea operations and kit assembly.

In order to minimize operational costs, the ICRC, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, invited new tenders worldwide for essential emergency items such as cooking sets, medical kits, heavy trucks, tarpaulins, blankets

and tents, thus ensuring high quality and delivery standards. These tenders took all possible supply sources into consideration and resulted in significant unit-price savings. During the year the ICRC maintained technical and operational links with other components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. This work has continued with further studies on the use of emergency-response logistics units.

The development of integrated logistics software was behind schedule, but a supply system and an air-operations management tool were successfully deployed in the field. Internal costing applications for transport, storage and handling enabled the ICRC to identify the total logistics costs for the movement of goods from their point of entry in the country to their final delivery to the beneficiary. A detailed database of these costs is centralized and managed in Geneva and information is available to donors upon request.

After three years of work, the new Field Logistics Manual was issued, assembling all ICRC logistics procedures and guidelines in one document.

In 2004 the ICRC had about 140 expatriate logistics experts plus drivers and convoy leaders working in some 30 relief operations backed up by more than 2,000 national staff worldwide. Half of the expatriate staff and all convoy leaders came from countries other than Switzerland. The development of specialist training in all logistics functions was completed, including a programme in the use of the new logistics tools. The level of recruitment was maintained and higher standards were applied.

Working in harmony with partners

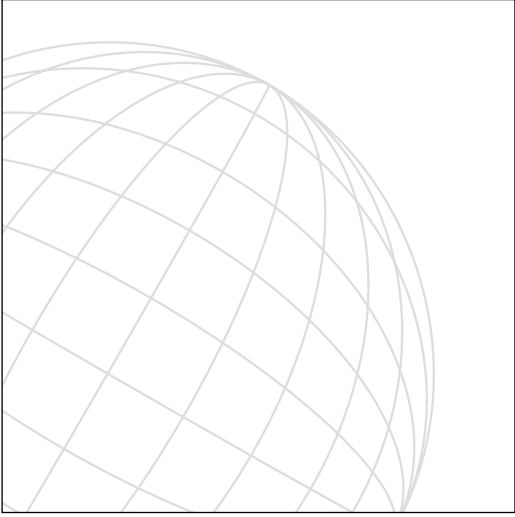
The ICRC pharmaceutical procurement policy was presented to National Society logisticians to raise their awareness of the increasing risks of supplying sub-standard or counterfeit pharmaceuticals.

The new 2004 edition of the standard emergency-item catalogue, developed in conjunction with the International Federation, became available in book form, on a CD-ROM and on the Internet. This catalogue was intended to eliminate difficulties in ensuring that items supplied for the Movement's operations meet minimum specification standards.

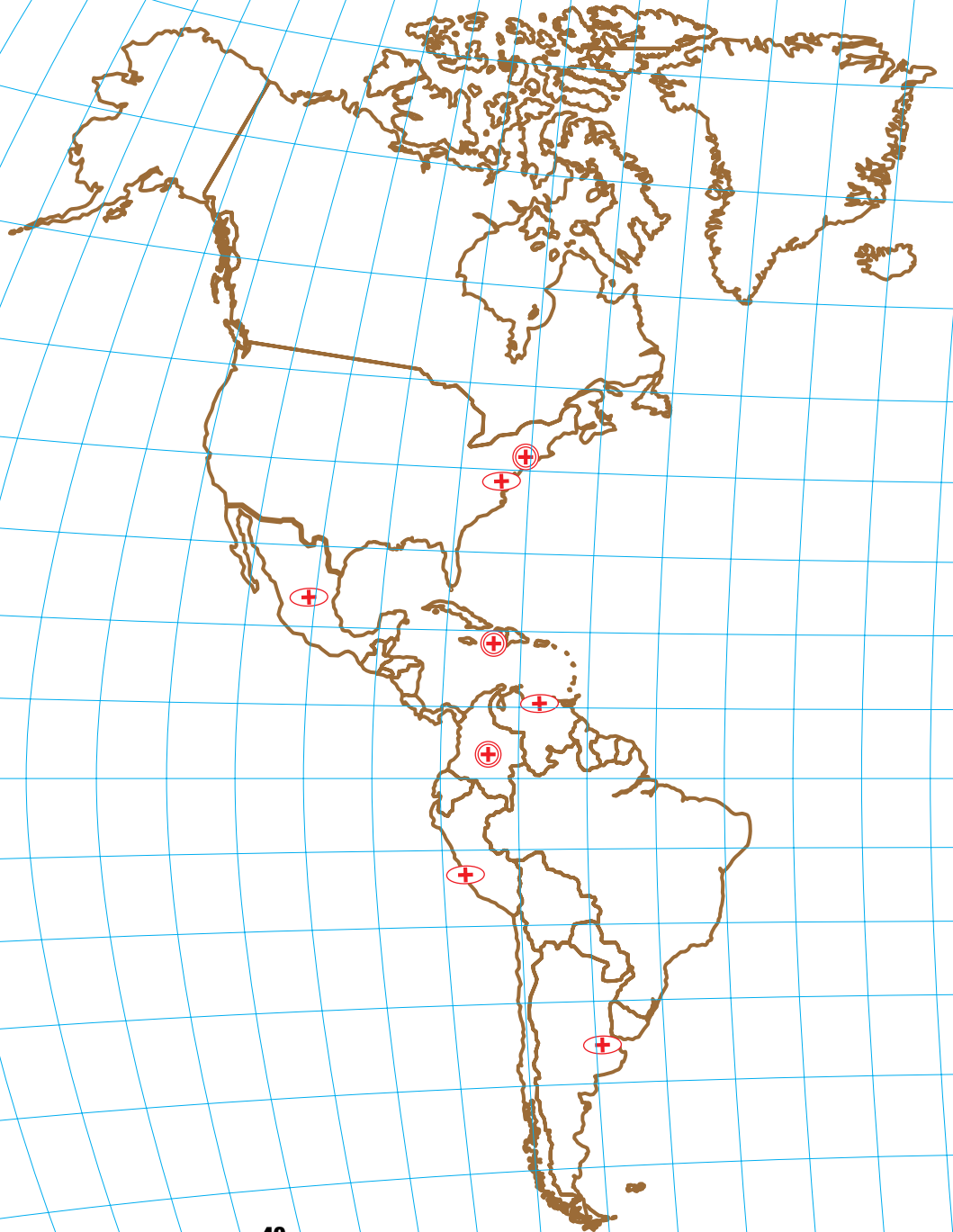
The ICRC also strengthened its working relations with various agencies in the United Nations system. In responding to the complex emergency in Darfur, all UN agencies followed the procedures set out by the UN Joint Logistics Centre. The ICRC maintained constant dialogue with the Centre on logistics issues, in particular those relating to air operations, security, fuel supplies and rates for transportation and warehousing. The advantages for both organizations were to ensure that logistics infrastructure was not unnecessarily duplicated, to maximize efficiency, and to coordinate approaches and promote information-sharing in the field and at headquarters.

OPERATIONS





the ICRC around the world



| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
|  | AFRICA |
|  | ASIA AND THE PACIFIC |
|  | EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS |
|  | MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA |



ICRC headquarters



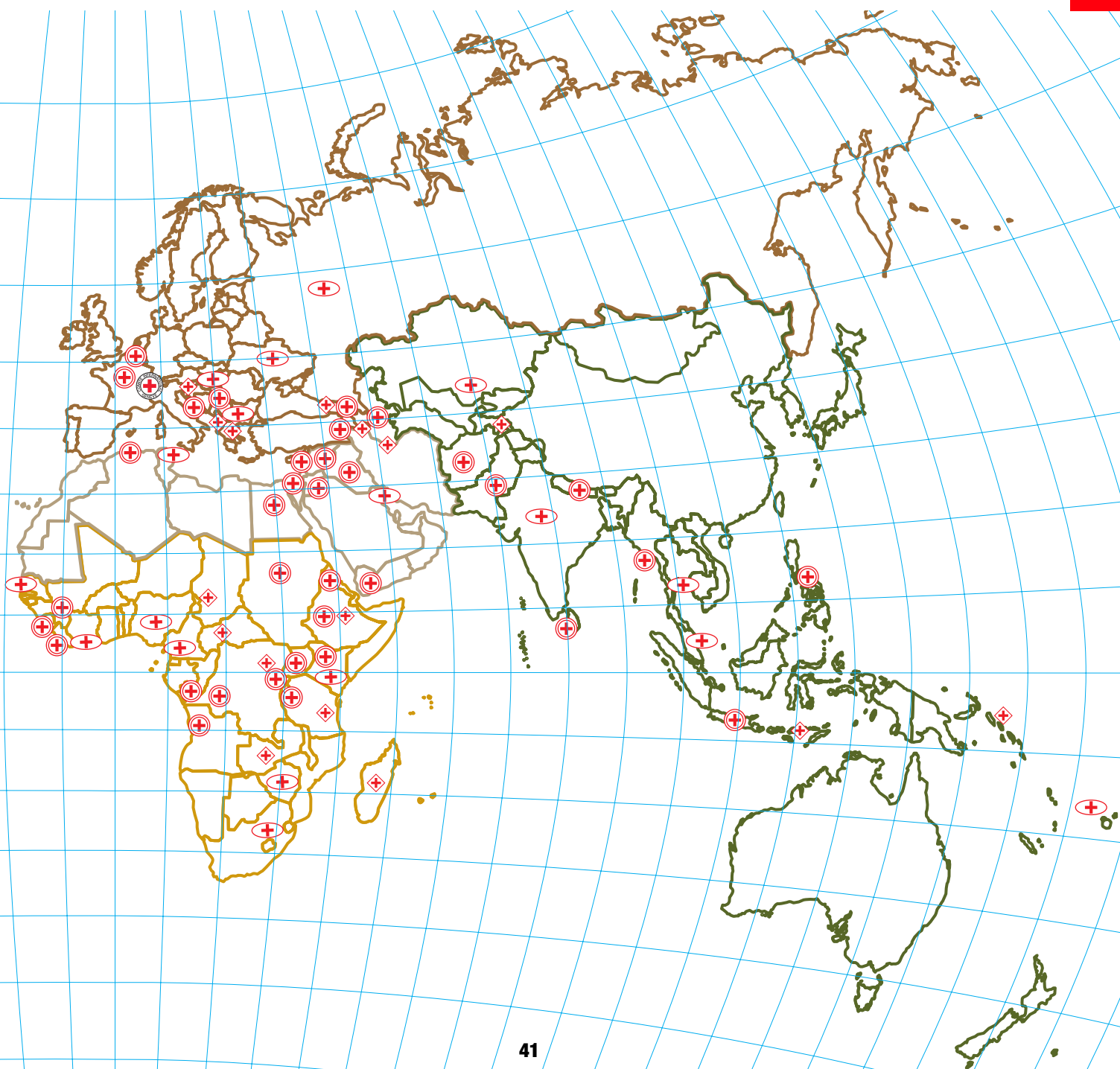
ICRC delegation

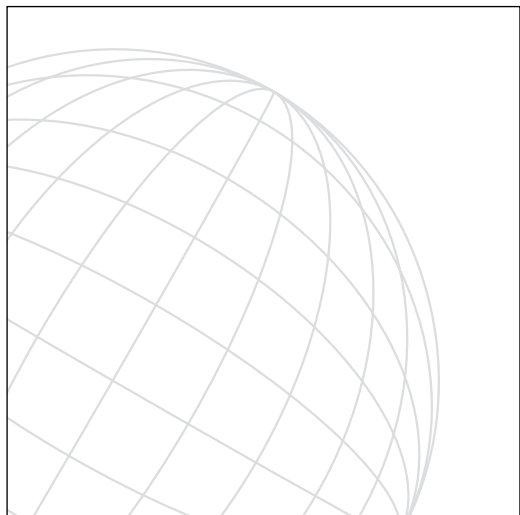


ICRC regional delegation

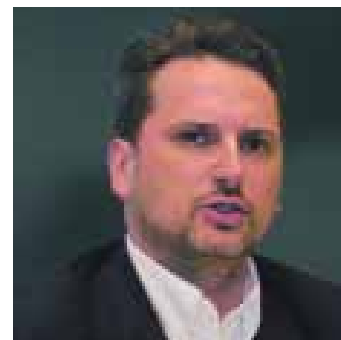


ICRC mission





operational highlights



Pierre Krähenbühl
Director of Operations

ENVIRONMENT

In 2004, the main trends in the causes or fuelling of situations of armed conflict or internal violence evolved along lines largely similar to the previous two years.

Worldwide, two central phenomena played a dominant role in influencing events. Firstly, economic growth in many countries remained highly dependent on a regular and affordable supply of critical resources, in particular in the field of energy. The issue of access to natural resources, such as oil and water, to name only two, retained the potential to generate tension or violence between or within countries or communities. The second factor was an ongoing confrontation of global dimensions – the exact contours of which remained uncertain – between a number of countries and diverse groups of non-State actors. This confrontation continued to be characterized by its near worldwide impact, its asymmetric nature and the fact that it involved no single front-line or single set of actors.

Such an environment generated further polarization and radicalization in the world. This led to feelings of fear and vulnerability, mainly among populations that suffered from deliberate acts of terror – which primarily targeted civilians – but also elsewhere. The polarization also affected other populations who felt humiliated by what they perceived as unresolved and long-standing political disputes or injustices, such as political or social exclusion or cultural alienation. The response of States to acts of terror or resistance included a range of repressive means, including torture, which became a major concern. Radical trends emerged through both words and actions. Attempts to reduce individuals or communities to a single defining character or identity were widespread, forcing people and countries to choose sides.

Along with these so-called global factors, other important elements contributed to conflict in a variety of contexts. Classic power struggles for the control of national authority and resources remained the most pervasive of these factors, which also included ethnic, identity-driven, or minority-related tensions and violence revolving around land reform and religious fault-lines.

The single largest crisis in humanitarian terms in 2004 was the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, which was generated by a range of historical, political, social and community-related factors. This confirmed what experience has often shown, namely that local factors are the main cause of conflicts, although the impact of global factors on specific conflicts cannot be underestimated. Other factors with a bearing on situations of internal violence or armed conflict include economic deprivation and social exclusion, and pandemics such as AIDS and their social consequences.

OPERATIONS

In the aftermath of a very difficult and tragic 2003, with the loss of colleagues in Afghanistan and Iraq, operational planning and conduct in 2004 were again significantly influenced by security-related considerations. The ICRC's ability to gain broad acceptance of its identity as a strictly independent, neutral and impartial organization remained critical to the pursuance of its humanitarian work.

In such a polarized world, the risk of rejection or instrumentalization remained significant for humanitarian actors. While the ICRC did not suffer attacks comparable to those of the previous year, other humanitarian organizations did lose colleagues or face kidnappings in several contexts. The ICRC continued to work on the integration of global and regional threat indicators into its context-based and decentralized management of security.

Another significant challenge was the capacity to develop dialogue with all actors with an influence on a given conflict situation. This is an intrinsic part of the ICRC's operational philosophy, and one which is vital if the organization is to live up to its responsibility to protect and assist persons affected by armed conflict and other forms of violence. Significant efforts were made to strengthen networks of contacts with State authorities, civil society and among non-State actors in many countries.

Radical trends posed additional challenges for the ICRC and international humanitarian law (IHL). The relevance of IHL to contemporary forms of armed conflict and, more critically,

respect for its provisions by the parties involved, were important issues. IHL was exposed to a variety of pressures by groups carrying out deliberate acts of violence against civilians or executing people they had kidnapped. There were also comments by States to the effect that the “global war on terror” amounts to a new form of war, to which the existing rules are not applicable.

The ICRC recognizes the importance of addressing such issues. States’ responsibility to ensure the security of their populations is uncontested; the ICRC strongly reasserted its view that States can do so while at the same time ensuring respect for human dignity and their obligations under IHL. This message was not always easy to get across in an environment marked by hostage-takings in schools and images of beheadings on television. The suffering of the families affected was immense. At the same time, the ICRC insisted that there are a set of rules and considerations of humanity that must be applied, for example to detainees, regardless of their precise legal situation.

The speed at which some of these events occurred and were reported throughout 2004 was remarkable and with it grew a heightened level of scrutiny of humanitarian action. As highlighted during the heated debate surrounding the treatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib, in Iraq, the questioning of the ICRC’s operational decision-making, its traditional confidential approach and its way of communicating publicly became issues of global attention.

AFRICA

ICRC operations were again mainly concentrated in Africa.

From early 2004 onwards, the critical needs in the Darfur region transformed the Sudan operation into the ICRC’s biggest worldwide. This operation was complex and demanding in many respects owing to the scale and impact of the violence – often deliberately targeting the civilian population – and the difficulty of assessing needs and designing appropriate responses in such a complex environment. Another constraining factor was the time required to develop contacts with all of the actors and groups involved in the conflict. In the course of the year, a structured response was built up, based on a diversified set-up and strong logistics, with programmes ranging from protection to assistance in terms of food, water and medical care.

Elsewhere in the Horn of Africa, the ICRC continued to carry out large-scale activities in Somalia and Ethiopia.

For the first time in 15 years, no open conflicts were in progress in West Africa. The situation in Liberia, where improvements were noteworthy compared to a year earlier, required major support activities and in the medical field and for populations in isolated rural communities. In Côte d’Ivoire, which remained fragile and tense despite a suspension of active hostilities, the ICRC continued to be active in the parts of the country affected by the ongoing crisis.

The ICRC pursued major operations in the Great Lakes region, notably through its work in eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo to restore family links and provide emergency assistance. Of particular note was the ICRC’s re-deployment in the north of Uganda in response to pressing needs. In several African contexts, the ICRC worked to improve its response to the consequences of sexual violence.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The ICRC’s largest operation in Asia remained Afghanistan, with activities in the field of detention, medical support and limb-fitting featuring prominently in a context that remained volatile from a security perspective. The organization also deployed major efforts in Nepal, a country which experienced an increase in instability and violence.

Detention-related activities and the development of dialogue with State and non-State actors were also important in several Central Asian States, as well as in Myanmar, India and Pakistan. During the course of the year, the ICRC began developing activities in response to communal violence in southern Thailand.

At the very end of 2004, several countries and communities in southern Asia were devastated by the tsunami that struck on 26 December. Several ICRC delegations, alongside staff of National Societies of the region, were mobilized within hours of the tragedy. This was in particular the case in Sri Lanka and Indonesia where staff responded to emergency medical, food and water needs, and tried to alleviate the anxiety of family members separated by the disaster. Before the end of the year, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched appeals for their respective and coordinated responses.

The ICRC pursued efforts to strengthen its network of contacts and to broaden its humanitarian diplomacy and communication activities in several countries of East and South-East Asia. Dialogue with China on the opening of an ICRC regional delegation in Beijing progressed along positive lines.

EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS

The situations in the northern Caucasus, Colombia and Haiti were the main areas of concern in Europe and the Americas.

The ongoing conflict in Colombia continued to affect large numbers of civilians, both displaced and resident. In response, the ICRC maintained a wide range of protection and medical activities in the country.

In Haiti, the ICRC stepped up its operations in the early part of 2004 to address needs, particularly emergency medical supplies, prompted by the increasing level of violence and conflict in several parts of the country. It also helped to reinforce the capacity of the Haitian Red Cross.

In other parts of Latin America, the ICRC engaged in several forms of preventive action, notably with armed forces and in support of National Societies, aimed at increasing knowledge of and respect for IHL.

In the Russian Federation, a range of tragic and violent events took place in 2004. The horror of Beslan was beyond description. The ICRC provided emergency support in these and other circumstances. It continued to seek unrestricted access to people detained in relation with ongoing security operations in Chechnya and elsewhere. In the latter part of the year, it decided to suspend its visits, in view of a lack of respect for some of its standard modalities. This issue was raised in formal discussions with the Russian authorities and the ICRC remained hopeful that the matter could be resolved.

ICRC visits to internees at Guantanamo Bay Naval Station continued for a third successive year. Dialogue between the United States and the ICRC was maintained on issues such as the legal status of internees, conditions of internment and treatment. The question of persons held by the United States at “undisclosed locations” was also raised by the ICRC.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

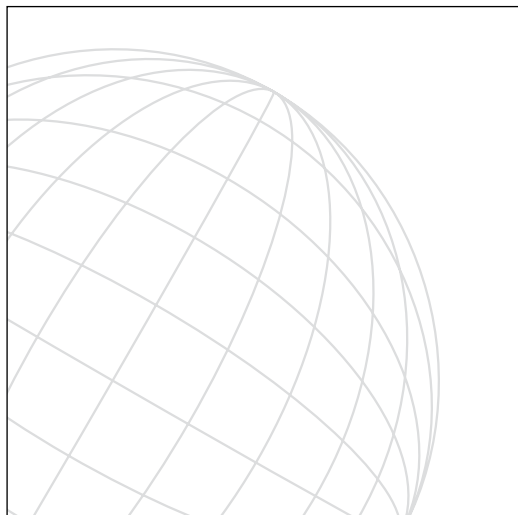
The situation in the Middle East remained largely dominated by developments in Iraq. In the aftermath of the deliberate attacks against its offices in Baghdad on 27 October 2003, the ICRC decided to maintain an operational presence in Iraq focusing on visits to detainees and providing a response to medical and water emergencies. In view of the high security risks involved, the ICRC was compelled to adopt a distinct *modus operandi* for its staff in Iraq.

The situation in Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories remained of concern throughout the year, notably as a result of the violence in Gaza, the impact of the “West Bank Barrier” and targeted attacks against civilians. The ICRC continued to visit detainees, monitor respect for IHL and carry out emergency assistance programmes. The ICRC also carried out prison visits in Algeria and in the Western Sahara.

ICRC delegations in Amman, Cairo, Kuwait and Tunis, amongst others, were active in spreading knowledge of and providing training in IHL throughout the Arab world.

NEUTRAL AND INDEPENDENT HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Throughout the year, the ICRC persevered in its endeavour to demonstrate the value of its neutral and independent humanitarian action, primarily in terms of the impact of its activities on men, women and children affected by situations of armed conflict and violence and to defend the relevance of IHL and the need to respect it.



ICRC operations in 2004: a few facts and figures

PRESENCE

The ICRC maintained a permanent presence in **79** countries throughout the world.

Its delegations were distributed as follows:

- ▶ Africa: **26**
- ▶ Asia and the Pacific: **17**
- ▶ Europe and the Americas: **25**
- ▶ Middle East and North Africa: **11**

PERSONNEL

The average number of ICRC staff in 2004 was as follows:

- ▶ Headquarters: **831**
- ▶ Field: **12,450**
(1,134 expatriates, 35 national staff on temporary international mission, 214 National Society staff, 11,067 national staff)
- ▶ Total: **13,281**

VISITS TO DETAINEES

ICRC delegates visited **571,503** detainees held in **2,435** places of detention in nearly **80** countries. Of this number, **29,076** detainees were registered and visited in 2004 for the first time. A total of **39,743** detention attestations were issued.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

The ICRC collected and distributed **1,362,358** Red Cross messages, thus enabling members of families separated as a result of conflict, disturbances or tension to exchange news.

It established the whereabouts of **6,166** people for whom tracing requests had been filed by their families.

The ICRC also helped **2,784** people to rejoin their families. It issued travel documents that enabled **9,695** people to return to their home countries or to settle in a host country.

ASSISTANCE

In 2004, **53** of the ICRC's **79** operational and regional delegations ran assistance programmes. The bulk of the work was carried out in **Afghanistan, the Caucasus, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Israel and the Occupied and Autonomous Territories, Liberia, Sudan (south and Darfur), Somalia and, at the end of the year, in Southern Asia.**

ECONOMIC SECURITY

During the year, ICRC activities to ensure economic security directly benefited households and communities in **34** countries worldwide. More than **1,324,000** internally displaced people, residents and persons deprived of their freedom received aid in the form of food, **2,239,000** in the form of essential household and hygiene items and **1,121,000** through sustainable food-production programmes or micro-economic initiatives. These included diverse response mechanisms ranging from the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation systems to small-scale community-based cash-for-work and livestock-management/support projects.

WATER AND HABITAT

In 2004, the ICRC's Water and Habitat Unit was involved in water, sanitation and construction work in **40** countries. These projects catered for the needs of some **19.4 million** people worldwide. They were implemented by a team of **81** expatriate engineers and **724** local engineers and technicians.

HEALTH-CARE SERVICES

During the year, on average, the ICRC regularly supported **48** hospitals and **200** other health-care facilities around the world. Community health programmes were implemented in **11** countries, in many cases with National Society participation. An estimated **2,722,000** people benefited from ICRC-supported health-care facilities.

More than **10,576** war-wounded were admitted to ICRC-supported hospitals in **11** countries where more than **82,487** surgical interventions were performed. The ICRC regularly supported **9** first-aid posts located near combat zones, which provided emergency treatment mainly for war-wounded.

CARE FOR THE DISABLED

The ICRC's Physical Rehabilitation Unit provided support to **68** prosthetic and orthotic centres in **36** countries, enabling patients to be rehabilitated and fitted with **17,805** prostheses and **20,915** orthoses. In addition, **1,671** wheelchairs and **16,167** pairs of crutches were distributed, most of them locally manufactured. Training of local staff was a priority, to improve sustainable services for patients.

ICRC COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In 2004, a total of **47** National Societies in countries affected by armed conflict or internal strife worked closely with the ICRC in programmes ranging from aid distribution and medical services to tracing and preventive action. Furthermore, **13** National Societies from third party countries capable of mobilizing support and taking a direct part in international relief activities were also involved in the implementation of ICRC objectives in **35** projects carried out in **12** countries.

In 2004, the ICRC spent **CHF 58 million** on programmes to strengthen National Society capacity (cooperation programmes), providing support for:

- ▶ **133** National Societies in their work to promote and spread knowledge of humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles;
- ▶ **104** National Societies in their work to restore family links;
- ▶ **89** National Societies in their preparedness for health and relief assistance during conflict;
- ▶ **20** National Societies in their community awareness programmes for mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW).

COMMUNICATION

Communicating information in relation to major humanitarian crises was a priority for the Communication Department in 2004. Communication activities were based on a multimedia approach which included the expansion of the existing ICRC website, the launch of the new Portuguese version mid-year and the re-modelling of the Russian website.

Numerous seminars on IHL were held throughout the year for armed and security forces, other weapon bearers and police forces worldwide. The ICRC participated in more than **10** military exercises in Europe and similar events elsewhere in the world. These activities were carried out by **21** specialized delegates supported by a multinational network of officer instructors.

In 2004 the Media Relations Unit in Geneva issued **74** press releases, **155** news items, **92** information bulletins, **106** briefing and information notes, and organized **8** press conferences.

The Exploring Humanitarian Law (EHL) teaching module, launched in 2001, was tested in the classrooms of some **33** countries during the year.

Throughout the year the ICRC provided advice and supported programmes related to mines and other ERW in **27** countries.

The Library and Research Service responded to some **3,000** requests from National Societies, NGOs, academics, government departments and the media. In addition, **6,118** films were distributed worldwide and more than **470 million** hits were registered on the ICRC website. The Auditorium Service received nearly **10,000** visitors.



Civilians forced by conflict to flee their surrounding villages draw water from an ICRC-built tank.

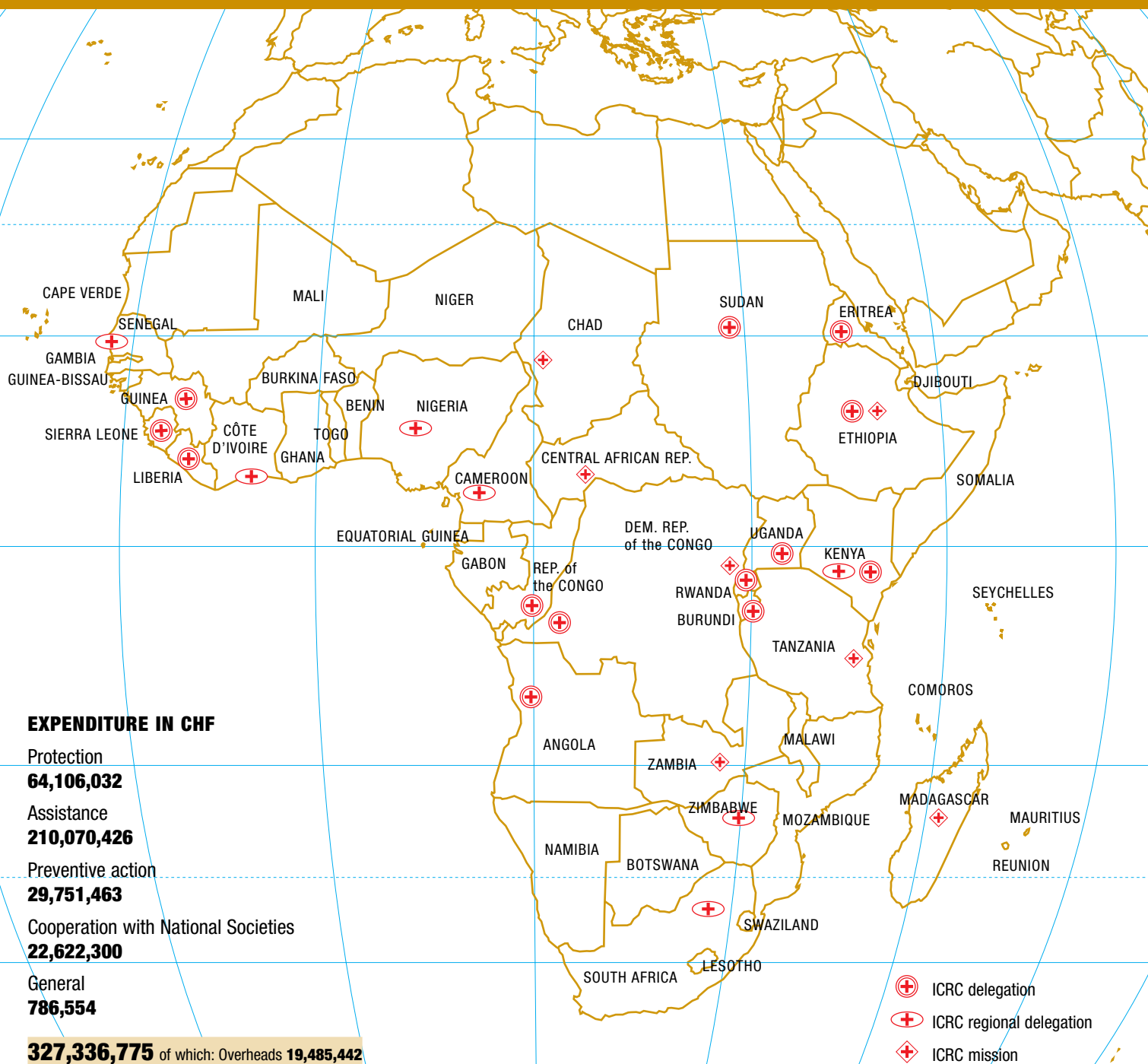
DELEGATIONS

Angola
Burundi
Congo, Democratic Republic of the
Congo, Republic of the
Eritrea
Ethiopia
African Union
Guinea
Liberia
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sudan
Uganda

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Abidjan
Abuja
Dakar
Harare
Nairobi
Pretoria
Yaoundé

AFRICA



As in the previous year, in 2004 the largest number of the world's conflicts were in Africa, ranging from localized clashes to cross-border hostilities. However, there was a major west-east shift in the intensity of conflict. Côte d'Ivoire excepted, the level of conflict declined in West Africa, with fighting ending in Sierra Leone and Liberia, and rose in the Horn of Africa. Sudan edged closer to a settlement of the north-south conflict that had raged for nearly two decades, although there was no end in sight to the crisis in the country's western state of Darfur. The region south of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly Angola and Rwanda, witnessed a gradual return to normality. Nevertheless, the potential for violence persisted in other contexts, such as in the Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Nigeria, Togo and Zimbabwe.

The African Union (AU) made significant strides in developing its internal structure and policies and in assuming a greater role in resolving the continent's conflicts. The launch of its Peace and Security Council in May in Addis Ababa was viewed as a historic event for the organization and for Africa. The AU would now need to earn credibility among belligerents as a broker in conflict resolution, the current crisis in Darfur being its acid test. The organization was sponsoring peace talks on Darfur and had a ceasefire monitoring team in the volatile region.

Undisputed as its strategic importance might be, Africa kept very much on the fringes of international politics. Many countries' efforts to cast off their economic, political and diplomatic isolation made little impact. Nevertheless, the International Monetary Fund put economic growth for Africa as a whole at 4.6% in 2004 – suggesting a relatively healthy macro-economic climate. This bright picture was partly due to increased political stability, oil and agricultural production. Yet, few Africans enjoyed any real benefits, and widespread poverty remained a key challenge. Thus, the more favourable outlook was counter-balanced by a range of impediments to durable economic development: political turmoil, corruption, poor governance and weak political structures, plundering of natural resources, the resort to arms for survival, inexistent or decrepit public services, low prices for primary goods, rising oil prices, hostile climatic conditions, the HIV/AIDS pandemic and insufficient emergency and development aid.

The ICRC significantly expanded its activities and set-up, particularly in response to the

crisis in Darfur, making Sudan its largest operation worldwide. Activities on the continent accounted for 48% of the ICRC's field expenditure, or CHF 327 million. The organization operated from its 21 delegations – 13 existing delegations, 1 new one and 7 regional delegations – plus two missions, one in Madagascar and one to the AU in Addis Ababa. Such extensive coverage enabled the ICRC to be active wherever and whenever conflicts occurred. In addition to engaging in humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC's regional delegations kept a close eye on developments in the countries they covered, especially in areas prone to political turmoil, while remaining poised to act swiftly at the first sign of any violence.

In Sudan, the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed a ceasefire agreement in December and endorsed a plan on sharing power and wealth. The signing of a comprehensive peace settlement set for January 2005 was expected to spell the end of the perennial north-south conflict. With the prospect of peace, the south saw a decrease in armed violence. The Upper Nile region, however, remained a flashpoint, with civilians coming under attack during fresh clashes between pro-government and opposition forces. Elsewhere, clan rivalries occasionally erupted into violence, and the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan armed opposition group, kept Equatoria destabilized. Infrastructure in the south was in ruins and an estimated 4 million people remained displaced.

In Darfur, the promise of peace between the north and south and increasing international pressure did nothing to halt the fighting that broke out in 2003, pitting government forces and allied militia against the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement. Access to the region by aid organizations improved following a renewable ceasefire agreement signed in April by the government and both rebel groups, but the ceasefire crumbled. Grave violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) affected the entire population. Over one-and-a-half million people were displaced and living in congested camps in Darfur and eastern Chad. Food shortages loomed in rural areas. Lawlessness spread as new armed groups formed and ethnic tensions rose.

With improved access in southern Sudan, the ICRC expanded its activities, providing emergency aid to the conflict-weary, broadening the tracing and Red Cross message

(RCM) network and intensifying efforts to reunite Sudanese children with their families. The ICRC was the sole organization to regularly visit government soldiers held by the SPLM/A. It supported the Juba Teaching Hospital and seven physical rehabilitation centres in government-controlled areas, and through its own hospital and limb-fitting centre in Kenya, continued to treat patients evacuated from southern Sudan. The ICRC consolidated its presence in Juba and Wau, handed over three health projects to partner National Societies and intensified its promotion of IHL among the regional authorities, armed forces and militias. The ICRC increased support to the Sudanese Red Crescent to boost its capacity to help vulnerable populations.

In Darfur – an environment complicated by immense needs and the logistics of working in a vast, hostile, remote region – the ICRC initially provided emergency aid to internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps around urban centres, later working throughout the state as access improved. It concentrated on assisting resident, rural, African and Arab communities cut off from aid. From July the ICRC helped distribute food to vulnerable rural populations, stepping up the assistance when food shortages proved to be more severe than initially feared. The organization upgraded five hospitals and supported nine health facilities to put medical care within the reach of the wounded and sick. It assumed the lead role in restoring contact between family members dispersed by the conflict. The ICRC frequently urged the authorities and armed groups to protect civilians and facilitate the flow of aid to them.

For Chad, the ramifications of the conflict in neighbouring Darfur were enormous. Incursions of Sudanese fighters and the arrival of an estimated 200,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad stirred up ethnic, religious and political tensions and adversely affected the economic situation.

The ICRC took the lead role in restoring contact between refugees who had fled Darfur into eastern Chad and their relatives in Sudan, in other camps in Chad or elsewhere. With the Chadian Red Cross, it extended the tracing and RCM service to all refugee camps, concentrating on protecting child refugees separated from their parents and helping reunite them with their families.

In early 2004 the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) stepped up operations against the LRA and, with Sudan's permission, continued to pursue the rebel group into

Sudan. Meanwhile, efforts to negotiate an end to the 18-year conflict continued. A ceasefire covering part of northern Uganda enabled the LRA, Acholi leaders and government officials to hold talks. Yet the conflict escalated, and the situation of IDPs proved much worse than previously thought. The United Nations (UN) estimated that the number of IDPs living in over 100 camps scattered throughout the northern and eastern provinces had risen to 1.6 million, from 400,000 two years earlier. In three Acholi districts, over 80% of the civilian population remained displaced. Extremely volatile and unpredictable security conditions severely curtailed the movements of humanitarian organizations in rural areas and hampered assistance to IDPs in camps.

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Ugandan Red Cross, prepared to resume its suspended programmes outside Kampala, concentrating on protecting and assisting civilians affected by the fighting. Assessments revealed serious problems in IDP camps: inadequate, unsafe water sources and a precarious nutritional and medical situation. By mid-2004 the organization was distributing essential household items, seeds and tools to IDPs and improving their water supply and sanitation conditions. The ICRC continued to provide the Ugandan Red Cross with essential support in its assistance activities in the north and helped ensure the coordination of the activities of its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. To support the treatment of an increasing number of war-wounded and IDPs, the ICRC continued to supply hospitals and health-care facilities with medical materials. It carried on visiting prisons in Kampala and, once it had gained access to them, to detention facilities countrywide.

Generally, West Africa progressed towards greater stability, security and normality, with the deployment of some 15,000 UN troops and civilian personnel in Liberia and 10,120 in Sierra Leone. However, in Côte d'Ivoire, two years after the armed insurrection, uncertainty lingered, and hopes of achieving peace wavered. In November a fresh outbreak of violence dealt a blow to the Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement. Government planes carrying out air raids against the rebel group, Forces Nouvelles, hit a camp belonging to the French Force Licorne. The Force Licorne responded by destroying the Ivorian air force, prompting violent, anti-French demonstrations in Abidjan. Although major confrontations between the government and the Forces

Nouvelles were averted, the country's future remained shadowed by uncertainty.

As lead agency, the ICRC continued to coordinate the activities of its partners in the Movement in response to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and had access to the entire country. ICRC activities in this context included: protecting populations threatened by conflict; monitoring detainees held by both parties; supporting facilities providing essential services such as water and health care in remote areas; and enhancing economic security for the indigent. The ICRC continued to help the Ivorian Red Cross strengthen its capacities, especially to provide emergency aid to civilians affected by conflict. It coordinated and financed the activities of Ivorian Red Cross volunteers and staff, and intensified efforts to enhance public support for the National Society. The organization carried on promoting IHL in the field, notably among the Ivorian armed forces and armed opposition groups in the country and among civil society in regions at risk.

The Somali National Reconciliation Conference, begun in Kenya in 2002 under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, made strides towards establishing the country's first functioning national government in 13 years. A 275-member transitional federal parliament was set up, led by a president and prime minister. Parliament still had to approve a cabinet and the government move from Kenya to Somalia. The political progress did little to improve Somalis' daily lives. The situation in the country remained fragile, and fighting continued. In the past 13 years, armed conflict, natural disasters and economic necessity had displaced hundreds of thousands of Somalis. Perpetual instability had eroded traditional clan support networks, and the private alternatives to State-run social services were beyond the reach of most Somalis.

The ICRC remained a key provider of emergency aid to families displaced by conflict or natural disaster. It continued implementing over 300 projects to build or upgrade drinking-water points to help crisis-weary farmers and nomads restore or improve their livelihoods and self-sufficiency. It sustained support for some 20 health posts run by the Somali Red Crescent Society and six pre-hospital care facilities in violence-prone regions. It provided funds, medical supplies and training to Keysaney and Medina hospitals in Mogadishu, which were the surgical referral units for much of the country.

Elsewhere in the Horn of Africa, the Eritrea-Ethiopia border issue remained unsettled, and the internal conflict in the Gambella region of Ethiopia could have implications for the regions along the border with Sudan. Other, low-intensity conflicts in Ethiopia showed no signs of letting up.

In Ethiopia and Eritrea, the ICRC concentrated on addressing the residual consequences of the 1998–2000 war with Eritrea and on protecting and assisting victims of internal armed violence. It monitored civilian internees in Ethiopia, and in both countries, the remaining prisoners of war, and other detainees falling within its mandate. The ICRC continued to assist in the voluntary repatriation of people of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin. In Ethiopia, it also provided prisons with medical supplies, improved their water and sanitation facilities and ran income-generating projects for their benefit. The tracing and RCM network remained available to thousands of dispersed families to communicate across the closed border between the two countries. The ICRC provided emergency aid to people affected by violence in Gambella, the only international organization able and willing to do so. In the arid, violence-prone Afar region and Somali National Regional State, the ICRC carried out medium-term, integrated assistance programmes, combining water, basic health care, veterinary and agricultural projects to help indigent farmers and nomads preserve their livelihoods and, thus, their self-sufficiency.

The situation in the Great Lakes region remained largely dictated by events in the DRC. There were still many outstanding issues in that country in relation to the transitional process: the extent of the political commitment of the various parties involved and whether the political deal matched the reality on the ground. The situation continued to normalize in western regions, while the east was unstable, plagued by insecurity and humanitarian emergencies.

Large-scale assistance programmes to provide people in the DRC with basic supplies experienced several interruptions owing to security conditions. The ICRC maintained contact with the military authorities and other armed groups to curb violations of IHL against civilians. The ICRC focused on reuniting children separated from their parents and former child soldiers with their families. Tens of thousands of people received ad hoc assistance in the form of water and sanitation and

distributions of tools to revive economic self-sufficiency, with the most vulnerable benefiting from income-generating projects. Medical and surgical programmes for the wounded and the vulnerable stayed on course.

In Burundi, the ICRC intensified efforts to remind the authorities and armed groups of their obligations to minimize the impact on the population of sporadic clashes. It continued to reunite children, including those associated with fighting forces, with their families and to enable adults to restore family links severed by conflict. The ICRC carried on working with the National Programme of Reproductive Health to improve health services delivered by existing health facilities. It also continued supporting urban and rural water boards in improving people's access to safe drinking water, and promoting economic security, notably through agricultural initiatives. The ICRC carried on supporting efforts to improve conditions in prisons and temporary places of detention, visiting detainees and working with the authorities to enhance the management of such places.

In Rwanda, where the authorities assumed increasing responsibility for the well-being of detainees, the ICRC reduced the quantities of food and basic medical supplies provided to prisons. Sustained support to the authorities and a local water board ensured that detainees had access to safe water and adequate sanitation. The ICRC continued visiting places of detention to monitor the living conditions and treatment of detainees. The tracing and RCM services enabled tens of thousands of refugees (Rwandan and Congolese), former Rwandan fighters (repatriated and demobilized) and detainees to re-establish/maintain family links. The repatriation of Rwandan children separated from their families continued.

With a confirmed end to the Angolan conflict, southern Africa remained a beacon of stability on the continent. However, the situation in Zimbabwe continued to cause concern, owing to the gradual deterioration of economic and social conditions. In Angola, the ICRC adjusted its operational set-up and strategy in response to the signing of the ceasefire in April 2002. It worked to reduce the number of RCM outposts to reflect the resettlement/return of most IDPs and the repatriation of half of the refugees. It began shifting the focus of its tracing service to reuniting children with their families. With other humanitarian actors active in the health field in Angola, the ICRC planned to end its involvement in health programmes.

In conclusion, there were no drastic changes in the environments in which the ICRC worked in 2004, with many situations, such as in the DRC, remaining static. Encouraging developments in southern and western Africa – Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone – were offset by continuing conflict in the Horn of Africa, notably in Darfur, where the ICRC concentrated the bulk of its activities. As in past years, therefore, the ICRC continued to devote considerable human and financial resources to its operations to protect and assist victims of conflict on the African continent.



angola

The ICRC has been present in Angola since 1975, from the start of the conflict that devastated the economy and left civilians dependent on humanitarian aid. Following the Luena peace agreement in April 2002, a certain degree of normality returned, although the presence of landmines and ERW remains a major problem. The ICRC, supported by the Angola Red Cross Society, operates a tracing network to enable family members still separated by the conflict to re-establish links. It also works with the National Society to reduce the impact of mines and ERW. The delegation supports the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross in developing its activities.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

7,368,482

Assistance

6,709,180

Preventive action

2,146,148

Cooperation with National Societies

842,724

General

-

► **17,066,535**

of which: Overheads **1,041,620**

PERSONNEL

35 expatriates

302 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC relayed some 50,000 RCMs between returnees and their relatives and reunited over 100 children with their families.
- The ICRC and the Angolan Red Cross worked with communities to identify areas affected by ERW, passing the information on to mine-clearance agencies and alerting civilians to the dangers.
- The ICRC supported three physical rehabilitation centres, which provided free services to amputees (mostly mine victims) and produced some 1,700 prostheses and orthoses.
- The ICRC supplied 6 health posts with supplementary medicines and medical materials; it rehabilitated the structure of one of them and built two new water points; it supported national schemes to train birth attendants and to prevent malaria.
- The ICRC built or rehabilitated 128 springs supplying water to over 130,000 returnees in the rural Planalto region and trained village water committees to maintain them.
- The ICRC encouraged the government to take tangible measures to implement the Ottawa Convention – which it had ratified in 2002 – including finalizing national legislation.

CONTEXT

In 2004, two years after the end of the 27-year conflict, dates were set for legislative and presidential elections (2006 and 2007 respectively) by the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA). The government said that before the elections took place, it would like a new constitution and electoral law approved by the National Assembly and a national census carried out. The opposition was keen to have a law on TV and radio coverage modified.

The former armed opposition, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), struggled to transform itself into a political opposition party. Meanwhile, its demobilized fighters were awaiting reintegration into society and financial support. Former members of the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA), by contrast, were not demobilized as agreed under the Luena Accord.

In the disputed enclave of Cabinda, the government maintained a heavy military presence (since 2002), to flush out and prevent sporadic attacks by the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave (FLEC). Several arrests took place of civilians seen as sympathetic to the separatists.

Much of the country's economic growth was linked to increased oil production and the high price of oil. There was little investment in livestock farming, agriculture or manufacturing. As major donors began cutting back contributions to relief operations, Angola failed to gain their support for significant development assistance,

falling short of their requirements for economic reform and financial transparency.

Some 52,000 Angolan refugees were voluntarily repatriated by UNHCR to transit camps in Angola. Over a quarter of a million refugees had returned to Angola since the end of the conflict in 2002, while an estimated 170,000 were still in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia, Namibia, Republic of the Congo, Botswana and South Africa. Conditions in Angola were difficult for both returnees and residents. Provincial water departments and health posts/hospitals had limited means to cover needs. Only a small portion of the government's budget was allocated to social services.

Angola remained the country in Africa worst affected by mines. A number of national and international organizations had conducted mine-clearance activities over the previous ten years, but large areas remained contaminated. In 2004 the government's National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance to Mine Victims (CNIDAH), with the support of the United Nations Development Programme, drafted demining plans, which it intended to submit to donors in 2005. Despite underlining its willingness to meet the deadlines for demining and destruction of its stockpiles under the terms of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, the government had yet to finalize national legislation implementing the Convention.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued its family-links programme for Angolan returnees, particularly for children separated from their parents. In 2004 the number of Red Cross messages (RCMs) relayed and families reunited remained significant but lower than in previous years, as more people returned home or resettled.

The ICRC worked with the Angolan Red Cross to restructure the tracing network and make it more efficient. It also advised the National Society on how to reform its internal processes and improve its operational capacity generally.

As part of its protection work, the ICRC continued to ensure that the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Cabinda complied with international standards. It visited places of detention and recommended improvements where necessary. The RCM service was made available to detainees visited.

Mine-risk education was a key priority. With the help of the Angolan Red Cross, the ICRC conducted a number of mine-awareness sessions for returnees. It also gathered information from villagers on the location of mines and passed it on to the authorities and demining organizations, encouraging them to clear or mark the areas.

The ICRC, which for several decades (on and off depending on the conflict) had helped to improve water supply in Angola, continued to rehabilitate or construct spring catchments in rural areas. It provided health posts with medicines and medical materials and trained Ministry of Health staff, but began phasing out this support.

To promote international humanitarian law (IHL), the ICRC extended its network of contacts among the relevant government ministries to ensure that all the major IHL treaties were adopted and implemented (in particular the Ottawa Convention). It held regular exchanges with the president's legal adviser, relations with whom were established following years of patient negotiation.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

The ICRC maintained regular contacts with the civilian authorities in Cabinda to discuss the humanitarian situation in the enclave and to familiarize them with the ICRC and its mandate. It also held information

sessions for the local inhabitants and gathered allegations of ill-treatment of civilians by weapon bearers. It urged the authorities to ensure respect for civilians.

The ICRC and the Angolan Red Cross identified areas where mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) posed a danger to returnees and residents. They submitted the information to the CNIDAH to be included in a national action plan and began mine-risk activities for civilians in the worst-affected areas, such as Bié and Benguela.

Restoring family links

The ICRC and the Angolan Red Cross relayed tens of thousands of RCMs during the year, mostly for returnees wishing to maintain family links. They restructured the tracing network to reflect changing needs and to avoid dangerous areas, leading to the closure of some posts.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration (MINARS), the ICRC and the Angolan Red Cross monitored the welfare of children separated from their parents, reuniting them with their families wherever possible. Cases of children in areas where posts were being closed were dealt with as a priority. The ICRC and the National Society also traced the relatives of vulnerable adults – the elderly or disabled, widows or abandoned women – left in the vicinity of UNITA quartering areas or in former transit camps for internally displaced people (IDPs).

As part of its tracing activities, the ICRC compiled and distributed the third edition of the *Gazette* listing some 13,000 people being sought by their relatives. Radio stations in several provinces were encouraged to broadcast regularly the names on the list. A fourth edition of the *Gazette* was in progress.

- 47,295 RCMs collected and 52,232 delivered
- 214 new cases of children separated from their parents registered, including 2 former child soldiers
- 107 children, including 1 child soldier, reunited with their families; each child given a kit consisting of clothing, hygiene items, a blanket and one-month's food ration
- 397 tracing cases involving children, including 9 demobilized child soldiers, pending
- 19 vulnerable women registered; 4 vulnerable women reunited with their families within Angola and 2 repatriated to Namibia

- 6,795 tracing requests received for publication in the *Gazette*, 312 cases resolved; 18,115 cases pending

Protecting foreign ex-fighters

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of some 400 former Congolese and Rwandan fighters (and some 300 of their dependants) who were awaiting repatriation. It sought to elicit a decision on their fate from the authorities and to prevent them from being expelled along with other foreigners suspected of exploiting Angola's resources. At the end of the year there was no change in the situation, although 18 of the fighters had left the country of their own accord.

Improving water and habitat

The ICRC continued to rehabilitate or construct spring catchments and handed some over to the local authorities. At the same time it carried out an assessment to find an organization capable of taking over the maintenance of all the springs it had built or rehabilitated since 2000 and trained village water committees to maintain them.

As a temporary measure, the ICRC built a clean-water system and latrines at Huambo transit centre for some 10,000 Angolan returnees based there from September to December. The system was dismantled after their departure and the centre closed.

- 128 springs constructed or rehabilitated in Bié and Huambo provinces
- 132,600 returnees provided with access to clean water in their villages of origin
- water stocks maintained to cover the needs of 3,000 people in the event of an emergency
- 327,000 litres of clean water provided to returnees at a transit centre in Huambo

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Activities for detainees

The ICRC continued to monitor the living conditions and treatment of security detainees in Cabinda, urging the authorities to make improvements where necessary. It also offered its RCM service to the detainees.

- 6 visits to 2 places of detention carried out
- 5 detainees registered and visited for the first time in Cabinda
- 6 detainees in total being individually monitored at the end of the year

WOUNDED AND SICK

Supporting primary health care

The ICRC continued to support six health posts, providing them with supplementary medical supplies and regular supervision (including on-the-spot training) until the end of December. To ensure a smooth handover of this programme, the ICRC made a last donation of medicines and medical materials to cover the first few months of 2005. The ICRC received assurances from the Ministry of Health that it would cover these provisions in future. Other humanitarian organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières Spain and an Italian non-governmental organization, Intersos, arranged to supervise the posts in 2005.

In 2004 the ICRC made some ad hoc donations of medical supplies to Lubango referral hospital and the paediatric ward of Huambo hospital, but did not provide the regular assistance of previous years. After rehabilitating the structure of the Catholic mission health post (serving 3,000 people) and building new water points at the mission and the Colui health post, the ICRC handed over responsibility for these projects to the authorities.

In close collaboration with the Huila provincial health department, the ICRC distributed impregnated mosquito nets to hundreds of families who had a pregnant woman or child of less than five years old (the most vulnerable groups) in their midst. Whilst distributing the nets, it provided the families with information on malaria prevention.

Along with UNICEF, the ICRC assisted the Ministry of Health in Huila province in carrying out a national measles immunization campaign. It also supported the ministry in training traditional birth attendants in safe child delivery.

- ▶ 6 health posts (covering 52,000 people in Huila province) provided with medicines and medical materials; three-month ad hoc supplies provided to 2 hospitals
- ▶ 1 of these health posts (Catholic mission in Missao) rehabilitated; two new wells with hand pumps constructed at the mission and Colui health post (rehabilitated by the ICRC in 2003)
- ▶ 4,500 families in Dongo commune (Huila) given impregnated mosquito nets

- ▶ logistical support (transport of measles vaccines and vaccinators) provided to the Expanded Programme on Immunization
- ▶ 30 traditional birth attendants in Galangue commune (Kuvango municipality) given six days' training and a medicine kit to assist in child delivery

Assisting amputees and other disabled people

The ICRC continued to support three physical rehabilitation centres. Working closely with the National Programme for Rehabilitation, it provided technical assistance, equipment and on-the-job prosthetics and management training, supplemented staff salaries and reimbursed patients' transport costs. It screened potential beneficiaries at the transit centre in Huambo and flew in amputees from Cabinda and Uige. In December it withdrew its aircraft used for this purpose, informing the authorities that alternative transport arrangements would need to be made for amputees in future.

- ▶ 1,627 prostheses delivered, including 1,229 for mine victims
- ▶ 474 new patients fitted with prostheses
- ▶ 125 orthoses delivered, 81 new patients fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 249 wheelchairs and 6,159 crutches (units) delivered
- ▶ 4 technicians sponsored to attend training courses
- ▶ in 24 years, 29,527 prostheses provided for amputees (65% for mine victims)

AUTHORITIES

Promoting accession to IHL treaties, dissemination

With the political establishment focused on the upcoming elections and the drafting of a new constitution, little attention was paid to the ratification of IHL treaties. The ICRC was nonetheless granted regular meetings with the president's legal adviser to discuss this and other issues. It also held various information sessions for government representatives at the start of the year and sponsored two officials to attend a pan-African IHL seminar in Pretoria.

The ICRC set particular store by the adoption by Angola of national legislation implementing the Ottawa Convention. The government sent a low-level delegation to the Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World (see *Nairobi*). However, it did express

willingness to meet its obligations under the treaty within the given timeframe.

The ICRC held regular information sessions on IHL for community, political and religious leaders, traditional authorities, teachers and NGOs in various provinces.

- ▶ 3,415 community and political leaders, traditional authorities, religious leaders, health authorities, teachers and NGO representatives attended dissemination sessions
- ▶ some 4,900 members of the public took part in dissemination sessions

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL among the armed forces/police

During the year the minister of defence expressed interest in ICRC proposals to integrate IHL into military instruction, although no formal directive was issued.

The ICRC held information sessions on IHL/human rights standards and humanitarian principles for the armed and police forces throughout the year.

- ▶ 4,198 officers and troops attended IHL dissemination sessions
- ▶ 135 FAA instructors attended IHL dissemination sessions
- ▶ 1,034 members of the police force attended sessions on IHL/human rights standards

CIVIL SOCIETY

Reaching the general public

To elicit support for its activities, the ICRC nurtured its contacts with the various media organizations. It regularly sent out press releases and newsletters and gave interviews when requested. The media in turn often referred to the ICRC and its activities and broadcast information on mines or lists of missing persons.

The ICRC supported a proposal made by the British Red Cross to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) to film stories on tracing activities for a fundraising appeal. The programmes shown in the United Kingdom prompted a good response, and all funds raised were channelled into the ICRC's Angola Emergency Appeal. BBC Radio Four, a UK-based news and current affairs station, also produced a 30-minute programme on tracing activities in Angola.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Developing the capacity of the National Society

With the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC held meetings with the Angolan Red Cross on the reform of its internal processes and the creation of provincial assemblies. It also provided guidance on the level of financial support that the provincial assemblies could expect from the ICRC and the International Federation. The transport costs of branch representatives attending training or assembly meetings were covered.

The ICRC provided staff training to strengthen the operational capacities of the National Society. Training for the Huambo branch in particular enabled it to carry out relief programmes in February in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP).

In conjunction with the Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross, the ICRC constructed one washing facility and two water sources in the district of Cantagalo and installed a water source and fountain in Mé-Zochi.

Restoring family links

The ICRC provided 10 Angolan Red Cross provincial branches with equipment and tools to enable them to work more independently and to enhance tracing activities. As a result, there was a general improvement in the way the National Society processed tracing cases, followed up on children separated from their parents and supported the ICRC's efforts to reunite families.

The ICRC worked with the Angolan Red Cross to restructure the tracing network and increase its efficiency. By the end of the year 46 posts were closed – mainly owing to access problems caused by mines but also to lower demand for the service – and others were reinforced at transit centres, at other key gathering points and at Red Cross offices. The ICRC trained provincial tracing coordinators, particularly in the Safer Access approach (see *glossary*), and set up selection processes to improve the recruitment of staff and follow-up of tracing activities.

Developing mine-action capacity

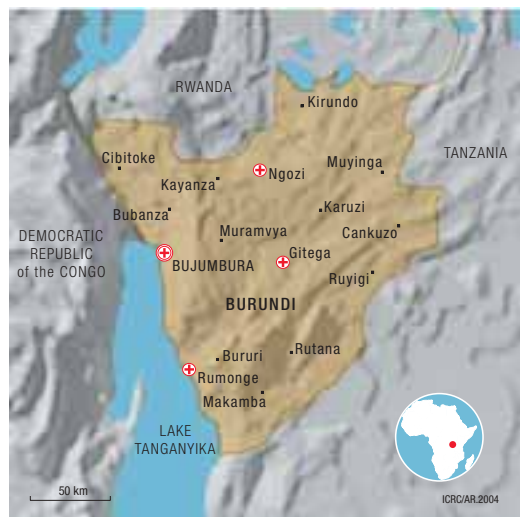
During the year dozens of people were killed or injured by mines. Most of them had been collecting fruit or farming, or were children tampering with ERW. Red Cross volunteers made dozens of visits to the affected communities to gather information on incidents and to promote the

precautions to be taken. The information gathered was passed on to the CNIDAH to be incorporated into its national mine-action plan.

The ICRC sponsored an Angolan Red Cross national coordinator to participate in the annual ICRC mine action workshop in Sweden in June to increase the National Society's understanding of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's approach to mine action. An ICRC delegate went to Lusaka (Zambia) and Kinshasa (DRC) to strengthen the coordination of mine action activities in the region for Angolan refugees.

During the year the delegation held a series of mine-risk education seminars for the benefit of dozens of Angolan Red Cross volunteers in the provinces of Benguela and Bié. This included a three-day train-the-trainer workshop in October for provincial branches to help them build teams of mine-action instructors who could train volunteers in affected villages and additional Red Cross volunteers (according to needs). In November and December 38 Red Cross volunteers were given training in processing mine-incident forms.

- 400 communities visited by volunteers in areas affected by mines, and nearly 1,000 sessions on the dangers of mines held for some 16,000 people
- some 14,000 children attended Angolan Red Cross theatre performances, dances and puppet shows on the dangers of mines
- 30 seasonal calendars produced for use as tools for discussion on mine-related issues in affected communities and to help them identify people at risk; 30 maze games printed for children illustrating behaviour that could endanger them
- car stickers produced and distributed in support of a CNIDAH campaign to reduce road-related mine incidents



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation

burundi

The ICRC has been monitoring the situation in Burundi since 1962 and intervening on an ad hoc basis. Since 1999 it has been continuously present in the country. Current activities focus on protecting people deprived of their freedom and helping civilians to overcome the worst consequences of conflict. The ICRC supports a project in northern Bujumbura aimed at providing care for women victims of sexual violence, restores family links for children separated from their parents and conducts programmes to improve people's access to water and sanitation and to boost their income. It also supports health facilities providing medical care for thousands of civilians and detainees.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,795,398

Assistance

7,088,622

Preventive action

918,082

Cooperation with National Societies

180,261

General

38,130

► **10,020,493**

of which: Overheads **611,579**

PERSONNEL

22 expatriates

108 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- Working with the national health authorities, the ICRC kept up its involvement in a project providing medical and psychological care for victims of sexual violence.
- The ICRC continued to reunite children in refugee camps with their families and offered its RCM service to demobilized child soldiers.
- The ICRC worked with the water boards on eight water projects in urban and rural locations to ensure tens of thousands of people had access to clean water and sanitation.
- In selected rural areas, the ICRC provided some 13,000 families with quality seed to increase agricultural production and initiated three projects to rehabilitate public services.
- The ICRC visited some 11,000 detainees and worked with the detaining authorities to improve water supply and health care in prisons.
- The ICRC supplied 6 hospitals with medicines and materials to treat surgical emergencies (including the war-wounded, women needing caesareans, and HIV/AIDS patients).

CONTEXT

The security situation in Burundi was relatively stable in 2004, apart from continued resistance to the peace process by the Forces for National Liberation (FNL), which launched sporadic attacks on government forces and their allies, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD). Though considerably weakened, the FNL still showed it was capable of derailing peace efforts, claiming responsibility for the massacre of some 160 Banyamulenge refugees in Gatumba in August. Only concerted diplomatic efforts prevented the incident from plunging the whole volatile region back into chaos.

The main task for the country remained the implementation of the 2000 Arusha Accord and subsequent agreements ahead of democratic elections in 2005. In this the government faced an uphill battle, with repeated delays in the schedule. The process of disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating armed groups and the Burundian armed forces began but was slow to get off the ground. More encouragingly, over 600 child soldiers were demobilized, 27 political parties registered for the elections and a voter list was compiled. Laws also came into effect establishing new integrated armed and police forces.

In the countryside, particularly in Bujumbura Rural, civilians continued to suffer violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) at the hands of armed groups, who regularly resorted to looting, pillage and rape. Communities in Citiboke province

were also subject to incursions by the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) from neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). International organizations repeatedly called on the leaders to curb the violations committed by their forces, although it was not possible to establish contact with the FNL or the FDLR. Violence or the fear of violence prompted several thousand civilians to flee to camps in Rwanda and Tanzania in October, although the situation eventually calmed and many returned alongside 90,000 Burundian refugees repatriated by UNHCR.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC supported health facilities serving people affected by armed conflict, including victims of sexual violence. Given the poverty and instability in many parts of Burundi, it supplied several hospitals with medicines and materials to treat the wounded and paid the costs of civilians unable to afford medical care. It worked with the rural and urban water boards to rehabilitate a number of installations providing clean drinking water for thousands of families.

The ICRC reunited a number of children with their families. This was a particular issue in 2004 given the various displacements following outbursts of violence between armed groups, but also as the situation calmed and tens of thousands of refugees were repatriated. The ICRC also reunited Burundian child soldiers in the DRC with their families in Burundi.

Lifting the restrictions it had placed on its activities following a serious security incident in 1996, the ICRC expanded its scope beyond urban areas and initiated several projects in the rural areas of north and central Burundi to increase agricultural production and boost incomes.

The ICRC continued to monitor security detainees in all places of detention in Burundi. Where necessary, it boosted the capacity of the detaining authorities to provide adequate health care and sanitation for all detainees. It regularly reminded the authorities of the need for them to take over responsibility for ensuring adequate conditions for detainees.

Throughout the year the ICRC worked to promote respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), among a variety of audiences. These ranged from the armed forces and police to the authorities and the media, secondary schools and universities. It also supported the dissemination efforts of the National Society.

CIVILIANS

Ensuring access to care for victims of sexual violence

The ICRC maintained its involvement in a project that it had started two years earlier in northern Bujumbura to improve the level of care available to victims of sexual violence and to raise awareness of their plight. Working with the National Programme of Reproductive Health (NPRH), it helped find and train traditional birthing atten-

dants (TBA) to provide midwifery services to women in their communities. The attendants were asked to identify victims of sexual violence and to refer them to centres providing suitable medical and psychological care, such as a private women's clinic supported by Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium, the Prince Regent Charles Hospital, the Centre Hospitalo-Universitaire de Kamenge or certain health centres in the northern districts of Bujumbura. The ICRC supplied these facilities with medical materials or training and encouraged them to disseminate information on HIV/AIDS. Destitute patients received free surgery and care.

The ICRC helped a team of experts from the NPRH draft a national training manual on medical management, psychological support, legal advice and community-based support for victims of sexual violence. UNICEF and the UN Population Fund also provided input. In August the ICRC helped train 28 instructors to teach health-care workers how to follow the recommendations of the manual, soon to be distributed around the country.

To elicit support from the community for the victims, the ICRC held information sessions on the prevalence of rape and the difficulties and stigma often suffered by the victims.

- 60 TBA trained and monitored
- 140 people in positions of influence (including TBA) trained to take on a role in their community to combat sexual violence
- 1,155 women benefited from the presence of TBA when giving birth (of these 868 women gave birth at home, 143 were referred to a health centre, 144 women were referred to hospital (42 for caesarean sections) to which the ICRC supplied surgical kits).

Reuniting children with their families

The ICRC continued to restore family links for children in refugee camps in Burundi, registering new arrivals and offering them the tracing service to locate their families. It also worked in refugee camps in Tanzania, reuniting many of the Burundian children registered there with their families in Burundi.

The delegation continued to handle tracing for and repatriation of Burundian child soldiers in the DRC, reuniting some 22 of them with their families. In Burundi itself, responsibility for child soldiers lay with the Structure Nationale pour la Démobilisation des Enfants and UNICEF. The ICRC made

its tracing service available to the child soldiers and urged the authorities to make reunification with their families a priority. By the end of the year 600 child soldiers had been demobilized and the majority reunited with their families.

- 5 children separated from their parents in Burundi registered and 2 reunited with their families; 16 cases pending
- 55 Burundian children in Tanzania separated from their parents registered and 85 reunited with their families; 302 cases pending
- 91 Congolese and Rwandan refugee children separated from their parents registered and 23 reunited with their families; 77 cases pending
- 20 Burundian child soldiers in the DRC registered and 22 reunited with their families; 8 cases pending
- 2,427 RCMs delivered and 1,977 collected

Ensuring clean water for residents and IDPs

The ICRC had two projects under way in the urban centres of Kayanza (25,000 residents) and Rumonge (40,000 residents) aimed at improving water supply. In conjunction with the national urban water board (REGIDESO), it constructed new metallic and reinforced concrete reservoirs (completed in Kayanza, almost completed in Rumonge), drilled two deep boreholes in Rumonge and continued work on other sections of the networks. In Rumonge, the ICRC operated a temporary water-treatment unit for internally displaced people (IDPs) and the resident population. The system supplied some 6,000 people with at least 15 litres of water a day.

In 2004 the ICRC established a partnership with the National Office for Hydraulics and Rural Energy to improve water supply for communities and IDPs in rural areas. During the year it rehabilitated several water sources (completed in Busiga, ongoing in Mwumba, Ryansoro and Showe) and was developing marshland (Mwumba and Buraza). The ICRC set up training programmes to teach local committees how to maintain the rehabilitated systems.

- 500,500 people in urban areas and IDP sites provided with access to clean water
- 320,000 people in rural areas and IDP sites (Kayanza, Ngozi and Gitega provinces) provided with access to clean water

Economic assistance to residents and IDPs

Following assessments, the ICRC singled out three communes in three rural

provinces where there were pressing needs. From mid-year onwards, working with local associations, it initiated four types of projects to boost household incomes in Buraza (Gitega), Gahombo (Kayanza) and Mwumba (Ngozi). The projects aimed to: multiply seeds and improve the quantity and quality of seeds; rehabilitate marshlands and make the use of agricultural land possible all year round; repair mills for grinding cereals; and distribute seeds, (along with food to prevent people from eating the seeds), to especially vulnerable individuals.

- ▶ 149 families provided with seeds and one month's food ration through local associations, as part of seed-multiplication projects
- ▶ 3 mills, each to be managed by a local association, purchased and the buildings rehabilitated
- ▶ 1,511 families, owning a piece of land in 2 rehabilitated marshlands, provided with seeds and one month's food ration
- ▶ 900 families identified as the most vulnerable and/or who had had a very poor harvest, received seeds and one month's food ration

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Ensuring minimum standards of detention

Throughout the year the ICRC monitored conditions in all of Burundi's 11 civilian prisons and 61 temporary places of detention, as well as in several military camps. During its visits it encouraged the Direction Générale des Affaires Pénitentiaires (DGAP) to develop its capacity to provide water and health care to the detainees and stressed the need for separate quarters for minors. At the end of the year the ICRC presented an oral report on its findings to the judicial service and the *gendarmérie*.

- ▶ 227 visits conducted in 72 places of detention
- ▶ 239 security detainees newly registered
- ▶ 11,087 detainees (including 2,937 in temporary places of detention) benefited from ICRC programmes

Improving hygiene for detainees

The ICRC rehabilitated several water and sanitation facilities to improve hygiene conditions in the prisons. Working with the DGAP, it supplied the places of detention with cleaning materials and trained staff to maintain the facilities and carry out pest control. It also provided detainees with personal hygiene products.

- ▶ rehabilitation work on the waste-water and sanitation systems/septic tanks completed at Muramvya and Bubanza prisons and Kirundu police station
- ▶ work on improving water supplies (Rumonge) and rehabilitating the kitchens (Bururi and Rutana) begun
- ▶ detainees trained in plumbing and electrical maintenance in Muramvya and Bubanza prisons
- ▶ 7 prisons and 25 temporary detention centres provided with cleaning materials
- ▶ 11,520 detainees provided with blankets, soap, jerrycans, and buckets for hygiene purposes

Health care for detainees

The ICRC worked with the prison authorities to ensure that detainees had access to medical care and, where necessary, encouraged the transfer of sick detainees to hospital. Along with the provincial health authorities, it made sure that every prison had a functioning dispensary stocked with basic medicines and that all detainees received a regular supply of soap. In Bubanza prison, it piloted a project to hand over full responsibility for the management of medical supplies to the DGAP.

In the three largest prisons (Gitega, Ngozi and Mpimba), the ICRC supported the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA) in offering anonymous HIV screening, counselling and treatment for opportunistic infections. In line with its plans to integrate the project into the national HIV/AIDS programme, the ICRC ceased this support at the end of the year.

In prisons with less than 350 inmates, the ICRC encouraged the authorities to allow screening in hospitals or health centres and to promote awareness of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and their prevention (condom use and abstinence).

In March the national HIV/AIDS programme gained access to anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs thanks to support from the Global Fund. A number of detainees in Gitega, Mpimba and Ngozi prisons were listed for ARV therapy in the HIV/AIDS units of their local ICRC-assisted hospitals.

- ▶ 6 prison dispensaries supplied monthly with essential drugs and medical materials, and the quality of health care for detainees monitored
- ▶ 50 detainees put on the list for ARV therapy

WOUNDED AND SICK

Care of the war-wounded

The ICRC provided six hospitals with monthly supplies of medicines and materials to treat people wounded in sporadic clashes. Following the attack on the Gatumba refugee camp in August, it provided supplementary surgical assistance in coordination with other actors/organizations. It also delivered surgical kits to two clinics/hospitals treating some 70 wounded.

Access to basic medical care for the destitute and HIV/AIDS sufferers

An ICRC assessment in the rural provinces of Gitega, Ngozi and Kayanza showed that half the population could not afford public health care because of the cost-sharing system in place. As a result, the ICRC sponsored a voucher system in hospitals it was assisting to enable the destitute to receive emergency surgery and/or basic treatment for HIV/AIDS (opportunistic infections or sexually transmitted diseases). It also topped up the SWAA's medical supplies and continued to advise the authorities on ways to improve health care.

- ▶ 6 hospitals provided with medicines and materials to treat the war-wounded, perform caesarean sections and offer emergency surgery and/or basic treatment for HIV/AIDS to the destitute
- ▶ 5 hospitals/6 prison dispensaries supplied with the new malaria treatment protocol (combined artesunate therapy), while the ICRC maintained stocks of perfusions and quinine for the most serious cases
- ▶ SWAA supplied with medicines to supplement those already received from the national health authority, to enable it to care for more than 800 people living with HIV/AIDS in Gitega and Ngozi (the ICRC withdrew this assistance at the end of the year)

AUTHORITIES

Ratification/implementation of IHL treaties

The ICRC stepped up its efforts to promote IHL and ensure acceptance of the organization and its activities among national, provincial and local authorities.

In February the ICRC took part in a workshop on anti-personnel landmines in Bujumbura organized by the National Centre for the Prevention of Conflicts and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. On this and other occasions the

ICRC reminded the government of its obligations as a signatory to the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

The ICRC also promoted the demobilization of child soldiers, distributing documentation and other communication materials to demobilization sites in three provinces at the request of the commission charged with disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former fighters.

Ensuring respect for IHL among ONUB/AU forces

The ICRC fostered contacts with the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), which incorporated forces from the African Union's African Mission in Burundi (AMIB), and reminded them of the applicability of IHL to peace-keeping missions. In October it held an information session on its "To serve and to protect" course for members of ONUB's police force.

The ICRC also held numerous information sessions for members of the government, provincial and local authorities and representatives of international organizations.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Integration of IHL into the training and doctrine of the armed forces

At the end of the year a law came into effect on the creation of a new national army – the National Defence Forces (NDF) – which was to include former members of armed opposition movements and the Burundian armed forces. Ahead of this, the ICRC held talks with the integrated general staff of the NDF on a plan of action for IHL training for the new force. The minister of national defence established a working group, consisting of five officers whom the ICRC had previously sponsored to attend the IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, to draft a programme for the full integration of IHL into the training of the new army.

- senior army officer sponsored to attend an advanced IHL course at the San Remo Institute
- 130 senior and mid-ranking officers of the armed forces attended ICRC information sessions

Knowledge of and respect for the ICRC among police forces

In December a law came into effect creating a new national police force, composed of the five existing police services and the *gendarmerie*. Ahead of this, the ICRC held information sessions for the police to explain the ICRC's role and mandate and to introduce them to international human rights standards and humanitarian principles. Also in December the ICRC held a first meeting with the integrated police command to discuss further training for the force on the ICRC and its mandate.

Officers of the judicial police took part in information sessions to highlight the ICRC's protection and detention-related activities. In addition, 20 staff officers of the integrated police force attended a seminar on the ICRC's "To serve and to protect" course in October.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL and the ICRC among the media

The ICRC fostered relations with the media to promote a better understanding of its role and mandate. Among its activities that received good press coverage were its support to and funding of the SWAA, the provision of medical supplies to hospitals, the rehabilitation of water and sanitation facilities and the restoration of family links.

Following the attack in Gatumba, the ICRC issued a press statement to local and international media condemning the massacre of Banyamulenge refugees in the camp.

Teaching of IHL in secondary schools

The ICRC helped monitor the quality of teaching in secondary schools of its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, which was included in the national curriculum for the 2004–05 academic year. The previous year, it had trained 339 teachers in the programme and provided each one with an education pack.

In 2004 the ICRC sponsored two representatives of the education authorities to attend its second Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law (see *Pretoria*). It also sent an adviser from the research department of the Bureau d'Etude des Programmes de l'Enseignement Secondaire with expertise in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to Rwanda to help with teacher training.

The ICRC presented the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme at a workshop on citizenship education jointly organized by the General Office of Pedagogy and UNESCO and supported by the Association to Promote Education and Training Abroad. It also held talks with the private Belgian school in Bujumbura and with the Ministry of Artisanal Crafts, Vocational Training and Literacy on integrating the programme into their curricula.

- teaching of Exploring Humanitarian Law made compulsory for 340 secondary schools with 27,000 pupils
- pedagogical support provided for civic education teachers in 18 schools teaching the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

Promoting IHL at university level

Five private universities in Burundi had already made IHL an obligatory subject for law students. In 2004 the ICRC encouraged the University of Burundi, the country's only public university, to make its optional IHL course compulsory. It also helped increase the amount of research material available in the universities by donating IHL libraries.

Information sessions on IHL were held for hundreds of students at the Universities of Ngozi and Lumière in Bujumbura.

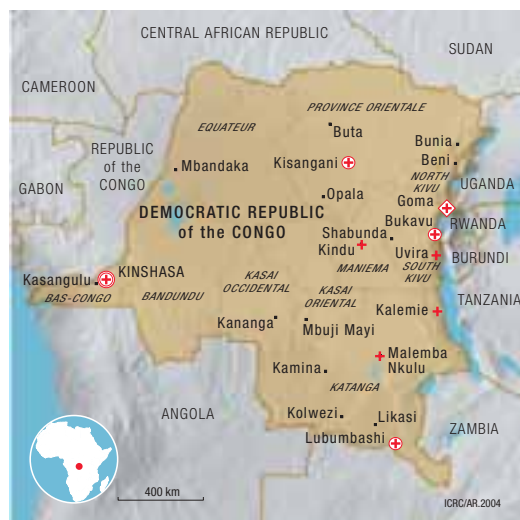
NATIONAL SOCIETY

Restructuring of the National Society

Discussions continued within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement on the best means of supporting changes to the structure of the Burundi Red Cross Society. In August the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement with the National Society which formalized the level of technical and financial support it would receive to pursue restructuring. The ICRC held four workshops for the National Society aimed at helping the restructuring of the provincial branches.

Support for dissemination efforts

The ICRC provided the Burundian Red Cross with the means to organize activities to disseminate information on the Movement's Fundamental Principles. It also paid three months' salary of a new national branch development coordinator and financed activities for the media to promote Red Cross membership.



democratic republic of the Congo

The ICRC opened a delegation in Zaire, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in 1978. It focuses on providing assistance to vulnerable groups affected by armed conflict and armed violence. This includes ensuring that displaced people and residents have the means to survive and to become self-sufficient and that the authorities are able to provide adequate health care for the war-wounded and the civilian population. The ICRC conducts protection activities for people deprived of their freedom, and works to restore contact between dispersed family members, including, where possible, reuniting children with their families. It also supports the development of the National Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

8,025,755

Assistance

19,433,163

Preventive action

2,398,928

Cooperation with National Societies

2,327,063

General

-

► **32,184,908**

of which: Overheads **1,964,337**

PERSONNEL

53 expatriates

501 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ Working with the DRC Red Cross, the ICRC facilitated the delivery of nearly a quarter of a million RCMs; it also reunited 907 children and 441 former child soldiers with their families.
- ▶ The ICRC worked with national water boards on 27 water projects to provide millions of people with access to clean water.
- ▶ Through distributions of essential household items, seeds and hoes and through support to local associations, the ICRC enhanced the coping mechanisms of up to 60,000 families.
- ▶ The ICRC visited 80 places of detention and, where necessary, helped the detaining authorities provide health care, sanitation and food for the detainees.
- ▶ The ICRC assisted 5 hospitals, 3 physical rehabilitation centres and several health-care centres and began a health and hygiene education programme.
- ▶ The ICRC encouraged the DRC to accede to the major IHL treaties and urged the armed forces to implement a directive on integrating IHL into training.

CONTEXT

Efforts by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2004 to move towards its first democratic elections in four decades were marred by outbreaks of violence that threatened to scupper the fragile and difficult transition process (effectively begun in July 2003). These included two failed coup d'états in Kinshasa, and murderous attacks on civilian and military targets by disaffected factions of former militia groups opposed to the transition process (particularly in North and South Kivu). Tensions rose in December over renewed incursions by Rwanda into eastern DRC in pursuit of Interahamwe militia groups and members of the former Rwandan army held responsible for genocide in Rwanda in 1994. These incidents highlighted the problems facing the power-sharing government in consolidating peace and reunifying a nation torn apart for five years by various interest groups.

Only intense international diplomacy managed to ease the tensions and prevent wholesale conflict from recurring in the DRC and the Great Lakes region. To bolster peace-keeping efforts, the United Nations Mission in the DRC (MONUC) contingent was increased by about one-third to 16,700 troops in October. The transitional government made headway in setting the preconditions for elections in 2005, building a new national army, demobilizing child soldiers, adopting a new law on nationality and drafting a new constitution. Challenges ahead included disarming, demobilizing and reintegrating former fighters into civilian life or the new army, introducing an amnesty and

electoral law, holding a census and adopting the new constitution.

Life for the general population remained tough. The movement of armed forces or groups invariably led to violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) – looting, rape and the burning of villages – particularly in the eastern provinces. Investment in general was slow to materialize, and although the government was able to improve some infrastructure and social services, it could only do so on a limited scale. Many residents and hundreds of thousands of displaced people remained reliant on aid organizations to meet their most basic needs. The threat of epidemics and starvation that had killed hundreds of thousands between 1997 and 2003 was contained but not eliminated.

ICRC ACTION

As part of its protection efforts, the ICRC continued to alert the transitional government in Kinshasa to violations of IHL committed against civilians. It also encouraged the authorities to push ahead with the demobilization of child soldiers. When such children were demobilized, the ICRC used its tracing network to reunite them with their families.

Working with the DRC Red Cross, the ICRC ensured the delivery of nearly quarter of a million Red Cross messages (RCMs) between members of dispersed families.

Given the destruction or deterioration of public water infrastructure, the ICRC worked closely with the national water board to improve the water supply for millions of people. Four major urban water projects and several medium-sized urban and rural projects were completed or almost completed in 2004.

To improve economic security for the resident population, including returnees and long-term displaced people, in eastern DRC, the ICRC continued to distribute essential household items and agricultural and fishing materials to tens of thousands of families. It also initiated micro-projects to boost the quality and quantity of local seed production.

The ICRC provided five hospitals in eastern DRC with medicines and medical materials to treat emergency patients, although at the end of the year – after six years – it was able to discontinue some of this assistance. It supplied raw materials to physical rehabilitation centres producing artificial limbs and orthopaedic devices and reimbursed the care of war amputees. It also started developing an approach to addressing the medical and psychological needs of victims of sexual violence. This programme was scheduled to begin in early 2005.

The delegation continued to visit places of detention to monitor security detainees individually and to ensure that the conditions and treatment of detainees in general met internationally recognized standards. However, in contrast to the large-scale activity of previous years, its assistance to detainees was limited to the ad hoc supply of medicines and medical materials, the occasional upgrading of prison infrastructure and the distribution of food rations only in certain prisons.

The ICRC encouraged the DRC to accede to all IHL treaties and worked to ensure that officers in the armed forces and the leaders of other armed groups had a thorough understanding of IHL so that they could integrate the subject into training for the ranks.

The ICRC supported the National Society in developing its capacity to respond to the needs of the population in terms of assistance and restoring family links and to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

CIVILIANS

Protecting the civilian population

In certain parts of the country, many people, including humanitarian workers, suffered harassment by arms bearers. The ICRC continued to monitor and document such incidents and to make representations to the parties concerned when appropriate. In the eastern provinces, where the central authority was not in control, the ICRC continued to urge the local authorities to ensure arms bearers behaved with restraint towards civilians.

Restoring family links

There was still significant demand for the RCM service. The ICRC trained tracing coordinators from the DRC Red Cross and donated office equipment and vehicles to the National Society.

Registering children separated from their parents and reuniting them with their families was another important activity. It included transporting children across the country, bringing others back to the DRC from places such as Tanzania and Zambia, and repatriating Rwandan and Burundian children.

The ICRC also helped reunite former child soldiers with their families. It attended coordination meetings with CONADER – the newly established national commission in charge of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration – and organizations such as UNICEF and MONUC to ensure that these processes went smoothly and that child soldiers were properly reintegrated.

- 283,261 RCMs collected and 222,309 RCMs delivered
- 1,372 children separated from their families (including 423 child soldiers) registered

- 907 children and 441 child soldiers reunited with their families
- 794 cases of children separated from their families and 269 cases of child soldiers pending
- 1,025 new tracing requests opened; 721 tracing requests resolved; 794 tracing requests pending

Ensuring safe water for residents

From 1997 the ICRC worked on major projects with the water authorities to ensure the population had access to clean water.

In 2004, working with the national urban water board (REGIDESO), the ICRC completed a four-year project in Kinshasa to rehabilitate the Ndjili water-treatment plant, including repairing eight major pumping units and supplying six booster stations. In the eastern city of Goma, it fitted a new main pipeline, installed two transformer stations with the national electricity board SNEL and almost finished the building of two new reservoirs.

The rehabilitation of the entire water-distribution network in the city of Malemba N’Kulu (Katanga) neared completion. In Moba (Katanga), the ICRC rehabilitated the water-treatment plant, constructed a new reservoir and was in the process of replacing several kilometres of pipeline, while in Kindu (Maniema), it started major rehabilitation work on the water-treatment plant.

Medium-sized projects on urban water systems were carried out in Bukavu, Kalemie, Kisangani, Punia, Ubundu and Walikale. Towards the end of the year the ICRC initiated a training programme for REGIDESO engineers to help them maintain the electromechanical equipment. It also handed over management of the supply of chemicals to six REGIDESO treatment plants.

In conjunction with the national rural water board (SNHR), the ICRC drilled 12 boreholes and rehabilitated 42 to act as safe rural water points for an estimated population of 40,000 in the flatlands of wider Malemba N’Kulu. In the hillier provinces of North and South Kivu, it built or rehabilitated four gravity-fed water systems for a number of different villages.

The ICRC also conducted a partial rehabilitation of Lemera hospital, including repairing the hydro power plant supplying electricity to the hospital, and revamped the water systems of a further eight health centres in South Kivu and Province Orientale.

- ▶ 4 major urban water projects completed or nearly completed
- ▶ 17 smaller water-supply projects undertaken in urban and rural areas
- ▶ 4–6 million people in Kinshasa and 1 million people elsewhere in the country benefited from improved access to clean water

Enhancing basic health care

In partnership with the local authorities, the ICRC launched an integrated health and hygiene education programme in Malemba N’Kulu and Kabala to help control diseases, particularly cholera and malaria. The programme included initiatives to promote impregnated mosquito nets, clean water, latrines and waste management.

The ICRC also boosted the performance of health centres in South and North Kivu, Province Orientale and Equateur by supplying them with basic medicines and medical materials and providing regular supervision and on-the-job training for staff. At the end of the year the ICRC started handing over support to health centres in Province Orientale and Equateur to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) oriented towards development. It planned to withdraw completely from this activity by February 2005.

The ICRC started to develop a programme to address the medical and psychological needs of victims of sexual violence, which was scheduled to begin in early 2005.

- ▶ 15 health centres assisted
- ▶ 4 health centres rehabilitated

Providing economic support

The ICRC continued to monitor the economic situation of residents and displaced people in the regions that had been or still were affected by violence and, where necessary, took action to reinforce coping mechanisms.

Displaced people who had fled fighting in North Kivu to the border area with South Kivu were provided with food, household essentials, seeds and hoes. Residents in the conflict-affected regions of North and South Kivu and parts of Katanga, Province Orientale and Maniema also received food, household items, seeds, tools and fishing materials. Food rations were distributed mainly to ensure that the beneficiaries of assistance did not eat the seeds they received or in some cases in response to an emergency after a displacement.

In order to boost the local economy, the ICRC supported local associations through various projects aimed at improving seed production, fish farming and chicken breeding and vaccination.

- ▶ 55,427 families (277,135 people) given blankets, kitchen sets, soap, jerrycans or buckets, clothing, hoes, tarpaulins and mats
- ▶ 8,725 families (43,625 people) given a one-off food ration
- ▶ 55,136 families (275,680 people) individuals or members of an association provided with quality seeds, tools, fishing materials or better breeds of chicken

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Ensuring decent conditions for detainees

ICRC delegates visited some 80 places of detention to check on the living conditions and treatment of inmates and spoke individually with security detainees. Where necessary, it reminded the authorities of their obligation to respect detainees’ judicial guarantees.

Most detainees were held in prisons in Kinshasa (Kinshasa penitentiary and re-education centre) and Katanga (Buluo, Kassapa, Kamina and Kalemie), although others were held in temporary places of detention and military camps. If they lacked sufficient food, medical care or clean water, or if access to certain places of detention was denied, the ICRC would inform the authorities orally or in writing.

Where urgently needed, the ICRC would provide assistance. It made ad hoc distributions of high-energy food in Bukavu to prevent the deaths of severely malnourished detainees. It also provided daily food rations to 250 detainees in Kinshasa and 180 detainees in Buluo, while in Kassapa prison 550 detainees received supplementary food rations during pre-harvest periods. Furthermore, it provided prison dispensaries with regular supplies of medicines and medical materials.

The ICRC conducted ad hoc rehabilitation work on water-supply, sanitation and/or kitchen facilities in prisons. Having completed numerous projects over the last 12 years, it made sure that these were being properly maintained. At the same time it carried out structural work on kitchens and

sanitation facilities in a number of prisons, in conjunction with the authorities.

- ▶ 202 visits made to 80 places of detention
- ▶ 6,371 detainees visited, of whom 808 security detainees individually followed up
- ▶ 443 detainees registered
- ▶ in 4 prisons, ad hoc rehabilitation and maintenance work to water-supply, sanitation and/or kitchen facilities carried out
- ▶ 1,020 detainees received food rations (either daily for a year or for a total of six months) consisting of maize, beans, oil, salt and sugar
- ▶ 3,570 detainees received 1 blanket a year and 0.5 kg of soap a month
- ▶ 500 detainees received seeds, tools or ingredients to make bread (sugar, salt, oil, yeast, wheat)

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC continued to assist five hospitals in eastern DRC treating medical and surgical emergencies, including war-wounded patients. The support consisted of regular supplies of medicines, medical and hygiene materials and basic equipment, as well as staff supervision and monitoring the quality of care. Twice in the year an ICRC surgeon conducted a month-long training session for local surgeons on operating techniques for war injuries. Following fighting in northern Katanga, it occasionally airlifted the war-wounded to Lubumbashi hospital. By the end of the year it had stopped support to Kalemie hospital, as it was receiving fewer war-wounded patients and was managing its own supply line.

The ICRC maintained contact with the civilian and military health authorities and kept reserve medical stocks to treat up to 600 war-wounded patients. It almost finished rehabilitation work on the operating theatre and two medical wards of the main referral hospital in Lemera. However, it abandoned rehabilitation plans for Malemba N’Kulu referral hospital, given its limited number of war-wounded patients.

The ICRC continued to reimburse centres fitting patients disabled by conflict with artificial limbs or orthopaedic devices or offering related services. Centres thus assisted were the Kalembe Lembe Orthopaedic Centre and the Centre for the Re-education of the Physically Handicapped, both in Kinshasa, and the St Jean-Baptiste Hospital in Mbuji-Mayi.

- 5 hospitals treating 264 war-wounded assisted
- 350 surgical operations performed on average a month at ICRC-assisted hospitals
- 14 health centres assisted
- 378 patients (including 81 victims of mines and other explosive remnants of war) fitted with prostheses or orthoses in 3 ICRC-assisted centres
- 7 wheelchairs and 341 pairs of crutches delivered to patients

AUTHORITIES

Promoting adherence to IHL treaties

The ICRC continued to urge the authorities to accede to all IHL treaties and in particular the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. It held a seminar in November on the obligations of signatories to the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It also encouraged the DRC authorities to adopt a new law to protect the red cross emblem.

Raising awareness of the ICRC's mandate

The ICRC continued to hold information sessions for national and local authorities throughout the country to familiarize them with the ICRC's role and mandate and to remind them of the need to respect IHL. It maintained regular contact with MONUC to clarify the two organizations' respective fields of action. It also regularly briefed representatives of OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP on IHL and the protection of civilians in times of conflict. At each opportunity, printed matter on IHL, the ICRC and its mandate was distributed.

- about 2,000 representatives of national, local and para-state authorities briefed on the ICRC and IHL

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL among weapon bearers

The ICRC pursued efforts to ensure that IHL was properly integrated into the training of the new Congolese armed forces, building on the momentum set by a directive to this effect issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Throughout the year the ICRC conducted information sessions for army officers, members of the presidential guard and police officers. It also gave presentations on

IHL to former members of the Mai Mai (local defence militias), Congolese Armed Forces and Congolese National Army who had taken up positions in government. At all these sessions it urged respect for the emblem and the ICRC's working methods, particularly its principle of non-discrimination. Delegates also handed out numerous explanatory leaflets or copies of the *Soldier's Handbook* in Lingala, Swahili and French for distribution among the troops.

- 1,444 officers, 1,200 troops, 180 presidential guards, 294 Mai Mai and 400 police and security officers briefed on IHL

CIVIL SOCIETY

Ensuring access to victims

The ICRC frequently used the radio to broadcast messages on its mandate and activities, so that the public would not confuse the ICRC with more than 30 other humanitarian agencies operating in the country, and stressed the differences between its own role and that of MONUC. It sent out press releases on its activities and produced brochures, videos and photos for use by journalists, some of whom were invited to accompany delegates on assistance missions. In addition, it produced a quarterly fact sheet and newsletters on major ICRC projects, which were distributed to the media and the general public.

The ICRC reinforced its contacts among traditional authorities, tribal institutions, academic circles and other key sectors of civil society across the country, informing them of ICRC activities for vulnerable populations affected by the conflict.

- 7 dissemination sessions held for about 400 third-level students in North and South Kivu
- 14 dissemination sessions conducted for professional associations and public officials in Katanga, Kisangani, Kinshasa, North and South Kivu and Maniema (750 participants)
- 25 briefings organized for human rights NGOs and youth and women's associations (880 participants)

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Supporting capacity building

The ICRC organized regular meetings with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the National Society and other National Societies working in the DRC to share information and coordinate support for the DRC Red Cross. It helped the DRC Red Cross's central committee hold an extraordinary meeting to solve management problems.

To support the development of the provincial committees, the ICRC accompanied the heads of the DRC Red Cross on their visits to the branches. It helped fund training seminars for provincial committees and provided logistical support for their assemblies.

Restoring family links

To ensure that the RCM network functioned efficiently, the ICRC organized yearly training for coordinators and volunteers in restoring family links. It also donated motorbikes and office equipment and financed monthly stipends. The network consisted of 238 RCM posts run by 13 provincial coordinators and 426 volunteers. A national coordinator supervised the posts and visited them on a quarterly basis.

Supporting micro-projects

The ICRC financed 30 National Society micro-projects for vulnerable people, covering aspects such as public latrines, safe water points, hygiene, agriculture and fishing. It also gave priority to training National Society staff to enable them to manage the projects efficiently.

Conflict preparedness and response

The ICRC helped train first-aid trainers, who organized refresher courses for provincial trainers, who in turn instructed team leaders and volunteers throughout the 11 provinces. It also supplied National Society branches with materials and equipment to carry out emergency activities and funded rehabilitation work on provincial offices.

- ▶ 107 provincial trainers, 800 team leaders and 3,850 volunteers trained
- ▶ first-aid kits, rescue materials (blankets, shovels, tarpaulins, boots), 5 motorcycles, 20 bicycles with repair kits and 8 dug-out canoes in total supplied to National Society branches

Raising awareness of IHL and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

The ICRC provided funding and logistical support to enable the DRC Red Cross to organize training events for disseminators throughout the country. The disseminators were responsible for keeping the local civil authorities and the civilian population informed about IHL and the Movement. The ICRC helped pay for the printing of 10,000 copies of the quarterly gazette *Echo de la Croix-Rouge*, which was widely distributed.

To mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), the ICRC financed commemorative events held by the DRC Red Cross's provincial and district committees. It also supported the National Society's efforts to submit a draft emblem law to the DRC National Assembly.

- ▶ 9 training events held for 180 IHL disseminators



republic of the Congo

The ICRC has been operating in the Republic of the Congo since 1994, first as part of the Kinshasa regional delegation and from 1998 onwards as a separate delegation. Through regular dialogue with the authorities, the ICRC aims to improve respect for civilians and detainees and to ensure that basic human rights and other international standards are maintained in the treatment of detainees. The delegation promotes the formal inclusion of IHL in the instruction of the armed forces, police and *gendarmerie*, and spreads knowledge of IHL among all armed groups. The ICRC provides displaced people, returnees and residents affected by the conflict with essential household items and agricultural assistance. It improves water, sanitation and health facilities and raises hygiene awareness. It also restores contact between relatives separated by conflict, reuniting children with their families where possible.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,425,031

Assistance

6,013,798

Preventive action

1,574,157

Cooperation with National Societies

149,599

General

10,235

► **9,172,819**

of which: Overheads **558,818**

PERSONNEL

15 expatriates

117 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC improved drinking-water supply and sanitary conditions for some 95,000 people and provided essential household items, seeds and tools to 64,900 people.
- It rehabilitated 8 integrated health centres in the Pool region and provided them with medical assistance to ensure adequate care for residents in the aftermath of the conflict.
- The ICRC visited 2,370 detainees to monitor their living conditions and treatment.
- It reunited 9 children with their families and delivered some 4,300 RCMs for civilians seeking to maintain contact with their families.
- The government was encouraged to accede to and implement IHL treaties; during the year it ratified the ICC Statute and adopted national legislation implementing the Ottawa Convention; parliament also discussed a law on the red cross emblem.
- The ICRC supported the armed forces, police and *gendarmerie* in their efforts to integrate IHL or human rights standards and humanitarian principles into their training programmes.

CONTEXT

In 2004 the situation in the Republic of the Congo remained at a stalemate – neither peace nor war. The ceasefire agreement of March 2003 between the government and the National Resistance Council (NRC) held, with both sides making the effort to avoid an outbreak of fighting. However, the process to disarm and integrate the Ninja militia fighters into the army or civilian life did not get under way, nor did the political process to integrate their leader, Pasteur Ntumi, and his close associates in the NRC into the government.

An uneasy peace prevailed in the Pool region, with armed fighters from both sides co-existing pending progress on a political level. There were various acts of banditry, including the looting of merchandise on trains, although both sides did clamp down on the actions of their forces to try and improve security. However, in the last two months of the year, the security situation deteriorated again in the countryside and around the towns of Kinkala and Mindouli.

The uncertainty made it difficult for thousands of former internally displaced people (IDPs), who had returned to their homes amid a climate of relative stability in Pool, to resume normal life. Weapon bearers were still present in the areas where they lived, hindering activities such as farming and trade, and checkpoints remained in operation in the region. Most of the population continued to be heavily dependent on outside aid to keep dilapidated social services running.

While the IDP camps in the capital had been dismantled, many refugees were scattered throughout the major cities and towns, including Brazzaville and Pointe-Noire, or were living in camps and villages along the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Some 60,000 refugees had come from the DRC, while a further 6,000 were from Rwanda and other African countries, including Sierra Leone, Liberia and Angola.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC urged the authorities and NRC leaders to prevent harassment of and acts of violence against the civilian population by members of the security forces and the Ninja militias. It continued operating its Red Cross message (RCM) service for refugees to enable them to maintain ties with their families back home. Most of the IDPs had resettled and had no further need of the service. The tracing network remained, however, a key means of locating the relatives of children separated from their families.

The ICRC remained one of the few humanitarian organizations carrying out assistance activities on a large scale in Pool. It continued its water-supply rehabilitation programme, started in 1998, to provide tens of thousands of residents, long-term displaced people and returnees with access to safe drinking water. It rehabilitated eight health centres and gave them the supplies necessary to offer free health care. It provided essential household items, seeds and tools to tens of thousands of people and developed a programme to multiply cassava plants resistant to the mosaic virus.

ICRC delegates continued to visit detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions. They held extensive information sessions on international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights standards and humanitarian principles for the armed forces, police and Ninja militias and supported the integration of these concepts into the training of the armed and security forces.

The ICRC worked with the government to promote the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. During the year the government ratified the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and adopted national legislation implementing the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. The National Assembly also discussed a law to protect the red cross emblem.

CIVILIANS

Ensuring protection of civilians

In general, the security problems faced by civilians in Pool increased in 2004. There was a rise in acts of looting, pillage and rape, while checkpoints were often an opportunity for armed groups to practise extortion, given the traffic of merchandise. The ICRC urged the Ministry of Defence and Pasteur Ntumi's representatives to instil restraint

among forces loyal to them in their dealings with the civilian population.

Restoring family links

The use of the RCM service fell significantly during the year owing to a decrease in demand. The service was mostly used by Rwandan and Congolese refugees seeking to maintain contact with their families in their home countries; very few RCMs were distributed in Pool or areas covered by the Dolisie office.

With the support of the Episcopal Commission for Migrants and Refugees, the ICRC continued to operate its tracing service for children separated from their families both in Brazzaville and in other regions. As part of these efforts, it registered children separated from their families and living in refugee communities in the north of the country and followed up on active tracing cases concerning minors.

- ▶ 9 children reunited with their families
- ▶ 23 children separated from their families registered
- ▶ 46 cases of children separated from their families pending
- ▶ 4,300 RCMs delivered and 2,526 collected
- ▶ 38 tracing requests received and 30 cases pending, 29 people sought by their relatives located

Ensuring safe drinking water, sanitation and basic hygiene

The ICRC's water unit worked with the urban and rural water boards, the Société Nationale de Distribution d'Eau (SNDE) and the Direction de l'Hydraulique et de l'Assainissement (DHA), to improve the drinking-water supply for the population without access to clean water. It also worked closely with the ICRC's health, economic security, protection and cooperation units to ensure activities were mutually supportive and that the basic needs of the population were met.

The majority of the ICRC's water projects were conducted in the Pool region. They ranged from upgrading latrines or spring-catchment systems in hospitals, integrated health centres and a school in Kinkala to maintaining springs, pumps and wells in the districts of Kindamba, Mindouli and Kinkala. It also finished the second stage of a large water-network project in Mindouli.

Outside Pool, the ICRC rehabilitated rain-water-collection systems and hand pumps for wells in the departments of Lékoumou and Bouenza. In cooperation with the SNDE

in Mossendjo (Niari), it started the rehabilitation of a water-treatment plant (to benefit 23,000 people) and a dyke. In Plateaux and Cuvette in the north, it worked with the DHA on a pilot project to repair hand pumps installed on 100 deep wells.

The ICRC launched an education programme in mid-2004 to improve hygiene and sanitation practices and the maintenance of water sources and pumps. In the departments of Bouenza, Lékoumou and Niari, it also organized information sessions for the public and helped set up local water committees; information leaflets were widely distributed.

To ensure that earlier projects were being maintained, the ICRC delivered water-analysis equipment to rehabilitated water-treatment plants in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Dolisie, Nkayi, Madingou and Owando and trained SNDE agents to check the water quality.

- ▶ 2,000 people provided with access to latrines
- ▶ 76 rural clean-water points constructed or rehabilitated (deep well with hand pump, spring catchment or gravity system)
- ▶ 4 rainwater-catchment systems repaired or constructed
- ▶ 8 health centres in Pool rehabilitated
- ▶ 90,000 residents and 3,000 IDPs provided with access to clean water
- ▶ emergency supplies of equipment and chemicals maintained in Brazzaville

Improving the economic situation of conflict-affected civilians

The ICRC kept up a programme started in late 2003 to assist families living in Pool. Families in the districts of Kimba, Kindamba, Kinkala, Mindouli and Vinza received essential household items and other assistance with which to generate an income. The programme was due to be completed in February 2005.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agricultural Organization, the ICRC initiated a project to help farmers in Kindamba, Kinkala, Lékana and Mindouli produce cassava plants resistant to the mosaic virus. The ICRC supervised the project and transported cassava cuttings from the multiplication fields to the plantations. One of the aims of the project was to supply the Ministry of Agriculture with 40,000 cuttings of the mosaic-resistant variety of cassava so it could continue to multiply them and perpetuate the production process.

- 64,900 individuals provided with kitchen sets, buckets, hoes, machetes, vegetable-seed kits, items of clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, mats, soap, lengths of cloth for use as sarongs, and booklets containing agricultural advice
- 4 plantations planted with cassava cuttings to benefit some 4,500 families
- 600 people involved in the development of the cassava project given hoes, machetes, axes, shovels, files, forks, rakes, wheelbarrows, split peas and rice

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Monitoring conditions of detention

In line with an agreement signed in 1999 granting it access to all places of detention in the Republic of the Congo (including prisons, police stations/posts and special unit centres), the ICRC assessed the treatment and living conditions of detainees. Where necessary, it urged the detaining authorities to make improvements. It also submitted a report to the authorities on visits carried out to police stations and posts in Brazzaville in 2002 and 2003.

Following the reactivation of the country's criminal justice system and the reopening of abandoned prison facilities, the ICRC met the minister of justice in March to discuss the capacity of places of detention. It continued agricultural projects (initiated in September 2003) in places of detention to ensure detainees had access to more nutritious food. It also continued to conduct ad hoc repairs to sanitation facilities wherever the authorities were unable to do so themselves.

- 127 visits carried out to 52 places of detention
- 2,370 detainees (mostly in prisons in Brazzaville, Dolisie and Pointe-Noire) visited
- sanitation projects undertaken for the benefit of numerous detainees

WOUNDED AND SICK

Basic health care for civilians in Pool

With the health infrastructure now in place, the ICRC was able to support eight health centres in Pool, supplying them with medicines, medical materials, weekly supervision and on-the-spot training and monitoring to ensure that civilians received basic preventive and curative health care. It also rehabilitated the centres in collaboration with the local authorities. Malaria, diarrhoea, respiratory infections, sexually transmitted

diseases and dermatosis were the main health problems encountered in the region.

The ICRC facilitated the establishment of health committees to ensure community participation in the management of the health centres. It provided financial and technical support for the training of committee members. It also gave logistical support to the Expanded Programme on Immunization so that children and pregnant women could be vaccinated at the centres, and organized outreach immunization campaigns to combat diseases such as measles and polio.

To ensure that former fighters and other war-wounded patients received medical care, the ICRC provided ad hoc medical supplies to the Central Military Hospital in Brazzaville. It also maintained emergency medical stocks to cover the needs of up to 10,000 newly displaced people for a period of three months.

- 8 integrated health centres in Pool renovated (Kimba, Kibouendi, Kinkasa, Kinkembo, Madzia, Massembou-Loubaki, Matoumbou, Missafou) and supplied them with medicines and medical materials
- 5 days of training organized for about 30 members of health committees in Kinkala

AUTHORITIES

Accession to and implementation of IHL instruments

During the year, the government formally acceded to the ICC Statute and deposited its instruments with the UN Secretary-General in May. It also took steps to implement some of the treaties to which it was already party, for example, adopting national legislation for the Ottawa treaty.

A key event in the year was a discussion in the National Assembly on a law to protect the red cross emblem that had been put forward by the Congolese Red Cross Society (CRCS). The ICRC encouraged the government to accede to other major IHL instruments such as the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, while it also submitted further comments on the draft Code of Military Justice.

Awareness of and support for the ICRC

To keep the authorities informed of its activities and IHL, the ICRC held information sessions for leading parliamentarians and

government officials, including members of the Comité de Suivi pour la Paix et la Reconstruction du Congo, the High Commission for Civic Instruction and Moral Education (HCICEM) and local prefectures, and distributed a quarterly newsletter detailing its activities and giving information on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and IHL. It also maintained contacts with local civilian and military authorities.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Integration of IHL or human rights standards into military and police training

Since 2002, following an order from the chief of general staff, the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) had included IHL in their training programmes, even though a formal decree had not yet been adopted. The major training centres at Makola, Moulendé, Loutété and the military academies had incorporated IHL into their programmes, and the ICRC was often invited to give presentations to armed forces personnel. By the end of 2004 almost 40% of all FAC personnel had received some form of training in IHL.

At the request of the national police force and the command of the specialized units (COMUS), the ICRC held a number of sessions on international human rights standards and humanitarian principles, the ICRC and its mandate for police officers in Brazzaville, Lékoumou, Niari, Pointe-Noire and Pool. It also held sessions at the *gendarmérie* school and the anti-crime brigade in Pointe-Noire.

- over 3,400 members of the armed forces, including senior and junior officers and those at the academies, attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- over 4,300 members of the police and *gendarmérie* took part in sessions on IHL/human rights and the ICRC
- communication equipment (projector, screen, videos, films and other support materials) supplied for the instruction of COMUS police officers

Promoting IHL and the ICRC among former opposition militias

The ICRC conducted information sessions on IHL for some 420 former Ninja fighters in the districts of Kindamba, Kinkala and Mindouli.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Informing the media and the general public

The delegation maintained contacts with journalists and distributed documentation to keep them informed of its activities. It was regularly quoted in the press and received coverage of its assistance activities, its family-links programme and its IHL seminars for the political and legal establishment (particularly university lecturers). It also held presentations on its mandate and activities for people who had directly benefited from its assistance programmes in Pool and elsewhere in the country.

Promoting humanitarian principles in schools and universities

The HCICEM and the National Institute for Pedagogical Research and Action entered into a partnership and presented the ICRC with a draft of a pilot project for introducing the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in civic instruction in primary, secondary and technical schools. Two representatives, one from each institution, participated in the Pan-African Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa in July (see *Pretoria*).

To promote IHL at university level, the ICRC fostered contacts with various academic bodies. It held IHL seminars for professors and students at the faculty of law of the Université de Brazzaville and the National School for Administration and Magistracy (ENAM) where IHL was being taught as an optional course for fourth-year students of international law. The HCICEM said it wanted IHL to be taught in all three of the country's universities.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

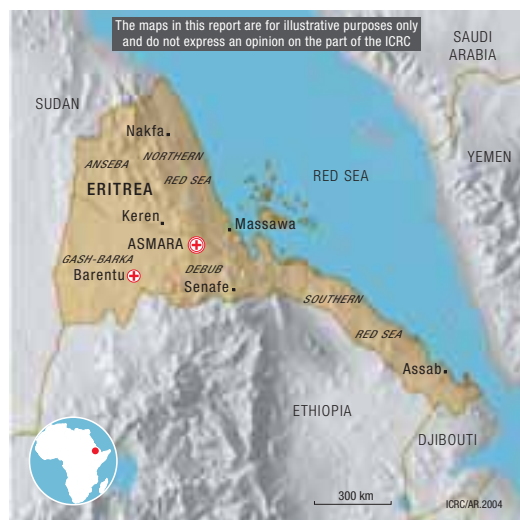
Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The ICRC supported the Congolese Red Cross in reinforcing its capacity to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles. It sponsored the National Society's activities marking World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), many of which highlighted efforts to combat HIV/AIDS. The ICRC provided the Dolisie branch with a vehicle for the occasion and contributed money for food, drinks and the hire of a venue. In Kindamba, representatives of the military and administrative authorities and 100 other dignitaries attended a presentation on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and IHL.

The ICRC supported the National Society in promoting the adoption of a law on the red cross emblem, including the submission of a draft law to the National Assembly for discussion. It worked with the Red Cross branches to disseminate IHL and inform the public of the need to respect the emblem and provided each branch with a mini IHL library. It also organized training in IHL and the Movement for volunteers.

Operational cooperation

The Congolese Red Cross continued to work with the ICRC in Pool, participating in the distribution of assistance (see *Civilians*) and providing training in basic hygiene through its local committees. These joint efforts were also designed to enhance the National Society's visibility. The ICRC provided the local committees of Kinkala and Mindouli with materials for sanitation/hygiene-promotion activities.



eritrea

The ICRC opened a delegation in Eritrea in August 1998 following the outbreak of war between Ethiopia and Eritrea and is responding to the needs remaining from the two-year international armed conflict. Its priorities are to protect and assist the population displaced, detained or otherwise affected by the conflict, ensuring compliance with IHL regarding any remaining persons protected by the Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions. The ICRC also supports the development of the Eritrean Red Cross.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,599,217

Assistance

3,731,661

Preventive action

476,589

Cooperation with National Societies

708,245

General

13,572

► **6,529,285**

of which: Overheads **398,501**

PERSONNEL

16 expatriates

71 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC was the main organization providing water, shelter and essential household items to some 60,000 IDPs in 22 camps.
- To make up for a lack of wood and prevent further deforestation, the ICRC installed 1,500 fuel-saving ovens in IDP camps.
- In former war zones, the ICRC stepped up its programme to improve access to water, delivered seed to over 46,000 returnees whose crops had failed, and rebuilt homes for returning families.
- The ICRC assisted in the voluntary repatriation of 798 civilians of Eritrean or Ethiopian origin and, together with the Eritrean Red Cross, increased the efficiency of the tracing and RCM network (some 23,600 messages relayed between relatives across the closed border).
- The ICRC regularly visited detainees of Ethiopian origin, including prisoners of war who had declined repatriation, and held IHL briefings for personnel in prisons and police stations.
- The Eritrean armed forces agreed in principle to integrate IHL into their training.

CONTEXT

The physical mapping out of the new border between Eritrea and Ethiopia remained on hold for the second consecutive year. As a result, more than 60,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were still living in camps in or near the UN-patrolled buffer zone (Temporary Security Zone or TSZ), the majority of them unable to return home until the border issue was settled. Villagers in former war zones also faced economic hardship. Farmland and pasture were mine-infested, infrastructure damaged by the war, and cross-border trade suspended. Owing to poor rainfall, Eritrea's crop production was below average in 2002 and 2003 and almost two million people – over half the population – received international food aid during 2004. Rains were erratic in 2004 and the prospects for the harvest were again poor.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to focus on addressing the needs of people still affected by the 1998–2000 war with Ethiopia.

ICRC delegates regularly visited the remaining few prisoners of war (POWs) of Ethiopian origin who had declined repatriation in 2002 in order to monitor their situation until a permanent solution was found regarding their status. It also followed up any other individual cases of POWs with the Eritrean authorities, as required by the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC pursued its efforts to ensure that the rights of civilians of Ethiopian origin living in Eritrea, including detainees, were respected regarding their living conditions and repatriation, in accordance with humanitarian norms and, where applicable, provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. It visited detainees and, for the first time, gave briefings on international humanitarian law (IHL) to personnel in prisons and police stations countrywide. The ICRC continued to assist in the voluntary repatriation of people of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin. The tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) services enabled tens of thousands of relatives separated as a result of the war to communicate across the closed border. The ICRC and the Eritrean Red Cross restructured the services, and the flow of messages increased. At their request, vulnerable people were reunited with their families across the border.

The ICRC was the main organization providing more than 60,000 IDPs in 22 camps with shelter, water and essential household items. It also installed 1,500 fuel-saving ovens in camps in regions where wood was scarce because of years of foraging by IDPs.

To assist resident communities in former war zones, the ICRC stepped up its programme to build or upgrade water systems, working closely with the State water authorities. It also distributed seeds ahead of the planting season to around 46,000 returnees whose crops had failed and was rebuilding war-damaged homes for families returning to their villages.

The Eritrean armed forces agreed in principle to integrate IHL into their training curricula. As support, the ICRC trained 30 military IHL instructors. It also maintained its other programmes to promote IHL, targeting the authorities, the UN

Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and opinion-leaders in civil society.

The ICRC gave the Eritrean Red Cross substantial support in developing its capacities to run the tracing and RCM network, respond to emergencies, carry out mine-action activities and disseminate IHL.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

The ICRC maintained regular contact with civilians in the border area, as well as with the authorities, armed forces and UNMEE. It collected and documented allegations of violations of international law committed against civilians and where necessary made confidential representations to the parties involved in order to prevent further abuses.

Restoring contact between relatives

The Eritrea-Ethiopia border was still closed, and telecommunications and postal services were not yet functioning between the two countries. The tracing and RCM network was the only means of communication for thousands of relatives separated by the border. The ICRC and the Eritrean Red Cross restructured the network (see *National Society*). As a result, the flow of cross-border messages increased. The ICRC also reunited vulnerable people, such as children, the elderly, sick or destitute, with relatives across the border who could care for them.

Repatriating civilians

The ICRC, with local Red Cross support, assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia, organizing transport and providing basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp. It also helped those who were being repatriated to contact their families and retrieved and forwarded their official documents, mainly education certificates, so that they could continue their studies or apply for work.

- ▶ 11,910 RCMs delivered in Eritrea and 11,724 collected
- ▶ under the Eritrea-Ethiopia family reunification programme, 63 people, including 53 children, reunited with relatives in Eritrea and 47, including 35 children, with relatives in Ethiopia
- ▶ 174 civilians voluntarily repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 624 from Eritrea to Ethiopia
- ▶ 44 people whose families had filed tracing requests located in Eritrea and 22 in Ethiopia

- ▶ 18 official documents forwarded from Eritrea and 93 from Ethiopia

Key aid for IDPs

The ICRC was the main organization providing water, shelter materials and essential household items to some 60,000 IDPs living in 22 camps in or near the TSZ in the Debub, Gash Barka and Southern Red Sea regions, while the World Food Programme (WFP) and Eritrean authorities provided food. Most of the IDPs, around 85% of whom were women and children, had been in the camps since the war broke out over six years previously and could not return home until the border issue was resolved, mines cleared and infrastructure rebuilt. The ICRC maintained and upgraded water systems in the camps, replaced weather-beaten tents and other forms of shelter, distributed jerrycans, kitchenware and soap, and supplied blankets in highland areas and insecticide-treated mosquito nets to families with young children.

Having installed 1,900 new fuel-saving ovens in four camps in 2003, the ICRC phased out its temporary kerosene distributions in the camps in early 2004. During 2004 it built another 1,500 of the ovens in five camps in Debub and Gash Barka. The ovens, which burned up to 50% less wood, helped to slow down deforestation around the camps and saved the women and girls time and energy otherwise spent foraging for increasingly scarce wood. The project was carried out with the Eritrean Women's Association and the Ministries of Agriculture and Energy.

- ▶ water-supply systems maintained/upgraded for some 60,000 IDPs in 22 camps
- ▶ some 63,000 IDPs received a combination of 17,801 water containers, 20,547 tarpaulins, 6 tents, 742,436 bars (200 g) of soap, 3,042 mosquito nets, 9,470 litres of kerosene, 37,310 blankets and 18 kitchen sets
- ▶ 1,500 fuel-saving ovens installed in 5 IDP camps

Assisting residents and returnees

Less than 50% of people in rural areas of Eritrea had access to clean water, while ICRC monitoring of dams and wells in the TSZ showed that groundwater levels were dropping. In cooperation with the water authorities, the ICRC decided to step up its programme to improve access to water in the war-torn Senafe region of Debub, mainly by drilling new boreholes and building

water-storage facilities in 2004 and 2005. Work started in June but was hampered by the fuel shortages in Eritrea, lack of construction materials and rising cost of goods. Despite the problems, the ICRC, with the participation of the communities, drilled two boreholes, built two solar-powered water-distribution networks and a large reservoir, rehabilitated village wells and hand pumps and was upgrading water systems in the towns of Mai Dima and Senafe.

An evaluation of the six health centres the ICRC had rehabilitated in Debub and Gash Barka since the cessation of hostilities in 2000 found that, in general, the centres were being underused and some needed repair work. With Ministry of Health approval, the ICRC therefore shelved plans to rebuild the Serha health centre and instead upgraded the water and sanitation systems in the six centres (Antore, Awgato and Forto in Debub and Shambiko, Shilao and Tokombia in Gash Barka).

In May, just ahead of the planting season, the ICRC distributed 290 tonnes of seed to 9,122 families who had returned to their villages in former war zones (60 tonnes to 2,950 families in Gash Barka and 230 tonnes to 6,172 families in Debub). The beneficiaries were among some 20,000 families who had received ICRC seed and food rations early in 2003 following the 2002 drought, but were hit again by erratic rainfall and were thus not able to set aside enough seed for planting in 2004. The distribution was coordinated with the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and the WFP.

The ICRC completed a project begun in 2003 to rebuild 97 war-damaged homes belonging to returning families, most headed by women, in four villages in the Senafe region of Debub. It was rebuilding another 200 dwellings in three other villages for IDPs in camps who wanted to return home but lacked housing.

As part of a pilot project started in September 2003, the ICRC continued to pay some 200 resident families in Adi Kesh (Gash Barka) to produce palm mats that were distributed free of charge to IDPs in Adi Kesh and Dembedoran camps. The project provided residents with income and IDPs with shelter material that was more culturally acceptable than tents, and helped foster relations between the two communities.

- 30 water projects completed or ongoing, benefiting some 105,000 residents and returnees in the TSZ

- water and sanitation systems upgraded in 6 health centres
- 46,328 drought-affected returnees received 290 tonnes of seed
- 238 homes rebuilt/being rebuilt for returnees
- in an income-generating project, some 1,000 residents produced over 12,000 palm mats for around 15,000 IDPs in 2 camps

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Prisoners of war

In August 2002 Eritrea released the last POWs of Ethiopian origin regularly visited by the ICRC, and the majority were repatriated under ICRC auspices. In accordance with the Third Geneva Convention, the ICRC regularly visited the remaining few POWs, who had declined repatriation, in order to monitor their situation until a permanent solution was found to their status. It also continued to follow up with the authorities other pending, presumed or alleged cases of POWs.

Visiting civilian detainees

The ICRC visited detainees of Ethiopian origin in detention facilities countrywide, mainly prisons and police stations, to ensure that their rights were being respected in accordance with international humanitarian norms. After the visits, it reported its findings, in confidence, to the authorities. During visits, the ICRC distributed items such as clothing, cleaning agents, buckets and brushes, as needed, and relayed RCMs between the detainees and their families. For the first time, the ICRC also held briefings for prison guards and police officers on the basic principles of IHL and the rationale and standard procedures for ICRC detention activities.

- 326 detainees of Ethiopian origin, including POWs, visited in 42 places of detention during 89 visits
- 48 former detainees of Ethiopian origin repatriated under ICRC auspices
- 248 RCMs distributed to detainees and 384 collected for forwarding to relatives
- 31 certificates of detention issued to former detainees

AUTHORITIES

Promoting IHL implementation

In a positive development, on 6 August Eritrea acceded to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

During the year, the ICRC continued to encourage the Eritrean authorities to officially recognize the Tigrinya translation of the Geneva Conventions, provided by the ICRC in 2003, as a step towards incorporating the Conventions' provisions into national law. Eritrea acceded to the Conventions in 2000.

The ICRC also discussed a variety of issues with the national and regional authorities related to protecting and assisting civilians affected by armed conflict. It gave a presentation on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities to 30 officials of the Eritrean Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, the government body that coordinated aid.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Integrating IHL into military training

The Eritrean armed forces agreed in principle to integrate IHL into their training programme. The decision followed a series of meetings and a round-table between the ICRC and officials from the Ministry of Defence, the head of the Sawa military academy and high-ranking officers. To support the integration process, the ICRC conducted a 10-day course for 30 military IHL instructors and a week-long introductory course on IHL for three senior officers. It also produced Tigrinya translations of the ICRC's *Essentials of the law of war* and *Behaviour in combat* for use as teaching tools.

IHL for UN peace-keepers

On 15 September the UN Security Council renewed UNMEE's mandate, authorizing the peace-keepers to patrol the TSZ for another six months. The ICRC regularly met senior UNMEE officials to discuss humanitarian issues and gave presentations on IHL during induction courses for newly arrived UNMEE staff officers and battalions.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising public awareness of IHL

To draw the attention of opinion-leaders and the general public to humanitarian concerns and IHL, the ICRC:

- ▶ kept the national and international media informed of its activities through press releases, quarterly written updates and briefings;
- ▶ donated books and audio-visual material on IHL and the ICRC to Asmara's public libraries;
- ▶ gave presentations on IHL at Asmara University to law, journalism and communications students;
- ▶ distributed Tigrinya versions of its *ICRC in action* leaflet and *Battle of the villages* comic book;
- ▶ met a leader of Eritrea's Muslim community to discuss the ICRC's mandate, activities and level of acceptance of the organization and red cross emblem among Muslims.

Coordinating humanitarian efforts

The ICRC coordinated its activities with UN agencies and other international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Eritrea, as well as with the diplomatic community in Asmara. To strengthen this exchange, the ICRC joined the inter-agency information officers' forum, whose members included UNMEE, UN agencies, the European Union and NGOs such as CARE International, Catholic Relief Services, the International Rescue Committee and OXFAM. It gave a presentation on its activities to forum members and contributed articles to the fortnightly OCHA-run *Humanitarian Update*, which was distributed to the authorities, the international community and civil society.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Eritrean Red Cross assisted the ICRC in distributing aid, delivering RCMs and repatriating civilians. The ICRC provided the Red Cross with funds, supplies, training and technical expertise to strengthen its capacities to respond to emergencies, run the tracing and RCM network and disseminate IHL. On the basis of assessments of the capacity of the Eritrean Red Cross carried out jointly, ICRC support focused on developing knowledge and skills and standardizing procedures for assessing needs and implementing and reporting on programmes.

Restoring family links

The ICRC and the Eritrean Red Cross restructured the tracing and RCM network to make it more efficient and accessible. Some 120 volunteers were trained and became the key contacts in their communities for people seeking information on sending or receiving RCMs. The ICRC financed the salaries of eight headquarters and branch tracing staff, donated 10 bicycles for tracing volunteers to use in the field and, with the Red Cross, was producing new tracing guidelines.

Responding to emergencies

An ICRC consultant spent three months working with the Eritrean Red Cross on upgrading its countrywide ambulance service and making it self-supporting. A new ambulance-management manual was completed and sent to branches, and the ICRC donated three new ambulances, bringing the fleet to 15. It also financed the running costs of the service and salaries for 18 drivers, while the consultant and an Eritrean Red Cross representative visited all the ambulance sites, soliciting municipal support for the fleet.

To strengthen the Red Cross relief programme, the ICRC produced a draft emergency-response manual and provided the six regional and two new branches (Dekemhare in Debub and Akordat in Gash Barka) with tents, tarpaulins, stretchers, first-aid kits and jerrycans. It helped organize a five-day course on relief management and first aid for 17 Red Cross action team volunteers in the two new branches and a basic first-aid course for 170 volunteers of the Asmara branch. With ICRC support, the Southern Red Sea branch installed a solar-powered water system for the 1,800 people in the village of Ayumen.

Promoting IHL and the Movement

To assist the Eritrean Red Cross in promoting IHL and the role and Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC provided copies of the dissemination manual, translated into Tigrinya, for the headquarters and six regional branches. It also helped organize a seven-day train-the-trainer dissemination course for 25 Red Cross members, five of whom then trained some 120 Red Cross action team volunteers countrywide as disseminators. New communication tools were developed to use during talks, and quarterly newsletters on Red Cross activities were distributed to stakeholders. With ICRC support, the Eritrean Red Cross also staged a three-day event in Asmara to mark World Red Cross

and Red Crescent Day (8 May) and had an information tent at the Youth Festival in Sawa (23–29 July) and a pavilion that attracted some 23,500 visitors at the nine-day Eritrea Festival in August in Asmara.

Mine action

With ICRC support, the Eritrean Red Cross ran a small-scale mine-action project, launched in 2003 in coordination with the Eritrea Demining Authority (EDA). Volunteers collected and forwarded data on mine injuries to the EDA and UNMEE's Mine Action Coordination Centre and held mine-risk education sessions for communities in contaminated areas. The ICRC, the Eritrean Red Cross and the EDA organized a week-long training course for 11 new volunteers.



ethiopia

The ICRC has been continuously present in Ethiopia since 1977. It focuses on meeting the needs of people detained, displaced or otherwise affected by the 1998–2000 war with Eritrea or internal violence, needs which are often aggravated by adverse climatic conditions. The ICRC provides emergency aid, as well as medium-term assistance through water, health, agricultural and veterinary projects to preserve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities. It supports physical rehabilitation services for war amputees and other disabled people, restores family links, promotes IHL within the government and armed forces and supports the Ethiopian Red Cross Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

5,458,661

Assistance

15,076,960

Preventive action

2,535,333

Cooperation with National Societies

1,397,927

General

115,608

► **24,584,489**

of which: Overheads **1,338,971**

PERSONNEL

67 expatriates

332 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- To help communities in violence-prone regions preserve their livelihoods, the ICRC treated thousands of animals against disease and delivered seed in the drought-hit SNRS, and launched a five-year assistance programme in southern Afar.
- The ICRC was the only international organization able to get staff and relief goods into Gambella for victims of the violence.
- The ICRC monitored the individual cases of 2,900 detainees in some 250 detention facilities countrywide and worked with the authorities on developing an internationally funded prison-reform programme.
- 5 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres delivered over 4,000 prosthetic/orthotic appliances, 25% of them for mine victims.
- 798 civilians were voluntarily repatriated to Ethiopia or Eritrea under ICRC auspices; some 24,000 RCMs were delivered in Ethiopia; and the tracing and RCM services were extended to Sudanese refugee camps.
- With ICRC support, the armed forces incorporated IHL into their training.

CONTEXT

The physical mapping out of the new border between Eritrea and Ethiopia remained on hold for the second consecutive year.

Several million Ethiopians remained chronically dependent on food aid. Hundreds of thousands more faced food shortages as a prolonged drought in the east and south killed crops and dried up wells. The rains finally arrived in October in most parts of the country, raising prospects for a good harvest in January.

The more remote areas of Ethiopia remained prone to internal tensions, usually springing from a mix of ethnic and political grievances. Armed opposition groups continued to operate in Oromia and the Somali National Regional State (SNRS), and a referendum in October on border changes between the two regions heightened tensions. Oromia was also unsettled by a wave of student demonstrations earlier in the year. In Gambella, the violence that broke out in late 2003 continued sporadically. Clashes also occurred in Afar, disrupting lives but rarely claiming civilian casualties.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi announced that a general election would go ahead as planned in May 2005 and invited international observers to monitor the process.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC monitored violence-prone regions and stood ready to provide emergency aid. It opened a sub-delegation in Gambella and was the only international organization able to get relief goods into the region for victims of the violence.

In the SNRS, the ICRC ran medium-term integrated assistance programmes (a combination of water, health, agricultural and veterinary projects) to help vulnerable farmers and nomads preserve their livelihoods and avoid dependence on aid. The prolonged drought in parts of the SNRS required emergency action. The ICRC treated hundreds of thousands of weakened animals against disease, provided seed to farmers and, for the first time, used destocking (buying and slaughtering healthy but weakened livestock and distributing the meat to needy families). In southern Afar (zone 3) – another area prone to drought and clashes – the ICRC launched an integrated assistance programme focusing on improving access to water and basic health care. Smaller assistance projects, mainly to improve water points, were ongoing in the drought-stricken eastern Hararghe region.

The ICRC visited prisons and police stations countrywide, following up the individual cases of some 2,900 detainees and providing the authorities with confidential feedback on detention conditions. It improved water and sanitation facilities in prisons, conducted workshops for prison personnel on detention standards and worked closely with government officials and the new Federal Prison Commission on developing an internationally funded prison-reform programme.

In relation to the 1998–2000 war between Eritrea and Ethiopia, the ICRC followed up any remaining cases of POWs with the authorities, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. It assisted in the voluntary repatriation of civilians to Eritrea and Ethiopia. It also ran the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service, which was the sole means of cross-border communication for thousands of dispersed families, and reunited vulnerable people with relatives across the closed border. In the war-damaged region of Tigray, the ICRC rebuilt a town water system and health centre and rehabilitated rural water points. To treat war amputees and other disabled people, the ICRC supported five physical rehabilitation centres.

The ICRC extended the tracing and RCM network to Sudanese refugees in camps in western Ethiopia. The priority was to restore contact between child refugees and their parents.

Programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) remained a cornerstone of ICRC operations in Ethiopia. With ICRC support, the armed forces incorporated IHL into their training, Addis Ababa University began an IHL course for law students, and plans progressed to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools.

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society received substantial ICRC support to reinforce its ambulance service and tracing, assistance, communication and mine-action programmes and to strengthen the capacities of its headquarters and branches in regions prone to disturbances.

CIVILIANS

Emergency aid for victims of armed violence

To aid victims of the clashes in Gambella in the first half of 2004, the ICRC sent in staff and relief goods to the remote region. Together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, it evacuated the wounded, delivered medical supplies to hospitals and clinics and distributed shelter materials and essential household items to some 25,000 victims of the violence. Towards the end of the year the ICRC provided medical supplies to Mieso health clinic (Shinile zone, SNRS) to treat people displaced by ethnic clashes over border changes between the SNRS and Oromia.

Preserving livelihoods in the SNRS

In the SNRS, the ICRC continued to run medium-term, integrated assistance programmes designed to help vulnerable nomads and farmers preserve their livelihoods and avoid dependence on aid.

In August the ICRC handed over its health project, initiated in 1997, to the Ministry of Health and the communities involved. The project trained 33 village women to provide basic health care and hygiene education in the Afder zone, which had no medical facilities. Prior to the handover, the ICRC held refresher courses for the women. It also discussed with the women and village elders the new system of receiving medical supplies from four government health clinics instead of the ICRC, and provided

the clinics with a six-month supply of drugs and training in stock management.

The ICRC ran a variety of projects to help farmers manage their water resources more efficiently and so increase agricultural yields. The main beneficiaries were cooperatives farming the fertile land along the Shebele river in the Gode, Afder and Fik zones. The ICRC repaired or upgraded water catchments, mainly *berkad* (traditional sub-surface reservoirs), which fed irrigation pumps, and dug or repaired wells and *berkad* to provide clean water for farmers, nomads and their livestock. It also ran food-for-work projects: 17 cooperatives received oil and tools in return for their labour in rehabilitating dams, dykes and irrigation channels that regulated crop irrigation and prevented soil erosion and flooding during heavy seasonal rains. Some 40 cooperatives received 11,000 fruit and neem saplings. The trees would provide an extra source of food or income, cut down on soil erosion and protect crops, and the ground neem seeds could be spread as a natural and free crop pesticide.

The ICRC carried out two, large-scale emergency actions in parts of the SNRS where a prolonged drought was threatening the livelihoods of thousands of nomads and farmers. To prevent more livestock from dying, it provided the drugs and trained and supervised local veterinary assistants, who treated some 350,000 animals between February and March and 450,000 between September and October in the Gode, Degah Bur and Fik zones. The health and productivity of the animals improved immediately. During the first action, the ICRC, in a pilot project, used destocking for the first time in Ethiopia: it bought and slaughtered 463 weakened but healthy cattle and sheep and distributed the meat to 11,646 displaced people (around 2,000 families). The technique provided much-needed income for livestock owners and food for IDPs. The ICRC also distributed seeds in the Degah Bur zone to farmers whose crops had failed (some 7,000 families in the first action and 6,200 in the second).

Launching integrated aid projects in Afar

Working with the authorities, the ICRC launched a five-year integrated assistance programme in Boromodaitu district in southern Afar (zone 3). It had identified the need for assistance in this district during its drought-relief operation in 2003. Ethnic tensions in the district had sharpened over scarce water and pasture, health services were limited (two posts for 44,000 people)

and no other international organization was working there.

The ICRC, the Afar Pastoralist Development Association and the Ministry of Health co-organized a three-month literacy course followed by a three-month medical course to train 12 community health workers and 11 traditional birth attendants. When the 23 participants graduated in October, the ICRC provided them with medical starter kits and they began working in seven of Boromodaitu's 15 sub-districts. To ensure the project was sustainable, the communities agreed that patients would pay for their treatment and the fees would be used to cover incentives for the workers and to purchase medical supplies from Health Ministry clinics at prices acceptable to the communities and the ICRC. The ICRC also set up and trained committees in all seven sub-districts to support and monitor the project and provide health education. To promote hygiene, the ICRC and communities together produced posters adapted to the local culture.

The ICRC initiated small-scale projects in Boromodaitu district to improve agricultural techniques and diversify sources of food and income. It provided two women's cooperatives with seeds, saplings, tools and training to start vegetable gardens and orchards and was helping a farming cooperative along the Awash river to modernize its irrigation methods. It was also working with a local research centre and communities on projects to regenerate natural grasses and increase fodder production.

To improve access to clean water, the ICRC dug wells, but the water was often too saline to drink. As an alternative, the organization designed a cheap and simple filter that households used to purify river or other surface water.

Restoring livelihoods in Tigray

In war-damaged northern Tigray, the ICRC, in cooperation with the authorities, rebuilt the health-care centre in Fazi and the town water-supply system in Zalambessa. With the new facility up and running, the ICRC stopped trucking in water to Zalambessa in June, a service that it had provided daily since September 2003 for some 12,000 people who had returned to the town since the cessation of hostilities. Some 20 smaller projects to construct or upgrade water points and systems were completed in the Gulumekeda and Erob districts of Tigray.

The ICRC organized three-month sewing courses for 40 women who had returned to

Tigray from Eritrea and were supporting their families, and gave them sewing machines and materials so they could generate an income.

Improving access to water for 2003 drought victims

During its 2003 emergency drought-relief action, the ICRC identified inadequate water and sanitation facilities as a main factor contributing to the beneficiaries' chronic poverty and vulnerability. The ICRC therefore initiated projects to improve these facilities in the Gursum and Babile districts of eastern Hararge, a region of Oromia still suffering from drought. With community participation, the ICRC dug or repaired wells and equipped them with hand pumps, constructed water catchments, built latrines and formed and trained local committees to maintain the facilities and promote hygiene.

- 25,428 people received essential household items
- 293,245 people benefited from agricultural, veterinary and food-for-work projects
- 62 water or habitat projects completed or ongoing, benefiting some 195,000 people, including 52,000 IDPs

Repatriation

The ICRC, with the support of the National Society, assisted in the voluntary repatriation of people of Eritrean and Ethiopian origin, providing transport and basic supplies for the trip and short stay in a transit camp. It also helped them contact their families and retrieved and forwarded their official documents, mainly education certificates, so that they could continue their studies or apply for work. The ICRC monitored the living conditions of Eritrean nationals still in Ethiopia and covered the medical fees of vulnerable people registered for repatriation.

Restoring family links

Thousands of people in Ethiopia and Eritrea continued to rely on the tracing and RCM services to communicate with their relatives across the closed border. When requested, the ICRC reunited children and elderly, sick or destitute people with relatives across the border who could care for them.

The tracing and RCM services were also used in Ethiopia by refugees and by families dispersed by internal violence. The ICRC, together with the Ethiopian Red Cross, extended the RCM network to four of the five Sudanese refugee camps in western Ethiopia (Bonga, Fugnido and Dima in

Gambella and Sherkole in Benishangul-Gumuz). The priority was to restore contact between child refugees and their parents. By year's end, the ICRC had located, interviewed and registered 456 such children and was working on 661 requests to trace their relatives. This programme was coordinated with UNHCR, child-protection agencies and the Ethiopian Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs.

For relatives separated by the 1998–2000 Eritrea-Ethiopia conflict:

- 174 civilians voluntarily repatriated from Ethiopia to Eritrea and 624 from Eritrea to Ethiopia;
- 63 people, including 53 children, reunited with relatives in Eritrea and 47, including 35 children, with relatives in Ethiopia;
- 15,469 RCMs delivered in Ethiopia and 20,741 collected for delivery in Eritrea;
- 18 documents forwarded from Eritrea to Ethiopia and 93 from Ethiopia to Eritrea.

For refugees and dispersed Ethiopian families:

- 8,462 RCMs delivered;
- 456 children separated from their parents registered.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In November 2002 the Ethiopian authorities released the last POWs and civilian internees of Eritrean origin regularly visited by the ICRC, and the majority were repatriated under ICRC auspices. The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the authorities concerning individual cases pending, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC visited detention facilities countrywide, mainly prisons and police stations, to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees held in connection with the change of government in 1991 or on grounds of State security. It reported its findings, in confidence, to the authorities.

The ICRC offered the RCM service to prison inmates so they could communicate with their families. To maintain basic health standards, it built or repaired prison water and sanitation systems and separate accommodation areas for women, provided medical treatment and distributed medical and hygiene supplies. In Tigray, the ICRC helped the 10 prisons in the region set up systems to record detainees' medical

histories and manage medical stocks. In other new initiatives, it began replacing wood-burning cookers in prison kitchens with cheaper and more environmentally friendly kerosene stoves and assisted 18 prisons in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State (SNNPRS) in growing fruit trees to increase inmates' vitamin intake.

- ▶ 71,659 detainees visited (including 1,191 newly registered and 2,972 followed up individually) in 248 places of detention during 417 visits
- ▶ 654 detention certificates issued
- ▶ 1,291 RCMs distributed to detainees and 1,638 collected for distribution to relatives
- ▶ water, sanitation and habitat projects completed in 27 prisons, benefiting some 20,000 detainees

Supporting prison reform

The Ethiopian government, with international donor support, was reforming its judicial and penal systems. To support this process, the ICRC arranged for three representatives of Ethiopia's Ministry of Federal Affairs and new Federal Prison Commission to visit prisons and the training centre for prison staff in Switzerland. Under ICRC auspices, an expert from the Swiss centre then visited Ethiopia and discussed with the authorities the new training curriculum for prison personnel. In October in Addis Ababa, the ICRC and Penal Reform International organized a round-table to discuss alternatives to prison sentences, such as community work, to tackle overcrowding in detention facilities. Participants included specialists from Uganda, Kenya and Switzerland and representatives of Ethiopia's government, judiciary, prisons and police. At the authorities' request, the ICRC also commented on draft prison-reform documents. In addition, it held a series of one- to four-day workshops on detention standards and judicial guarantees. These were attended by the head of the Federal Prison Commission, the directors of the six federal prisons, personnel working in prisons in Tigray, Benishangul-Gumuz and Oromia and recruits at the federal training centre for prison staff.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating disabled people

The ICRC marked its 25th year of supporting physical rehabilitation services in Ethiopia. It continued to support five centres (the main Addis Ababa Prosthetic/Orthotic Centre and Arba Minch, Dessie, Harar and Mekele

centres), providing training, materials and funds, including covering the cost of fitting war-disabled patients, while phasing out its cooperation with the Alert Hospital, the Cheshire Polio Centre and the Tibebe-Micili centre, all in Addis Ababa. With the agreement of the centres it was assisting, the ICRC switched from making monthly monitoring visits to spending at least three months at each centre to supervise the work and provide on-the-job training. It also held formal workshops to upgrade staff skills. Three ICRC specialists continued to teach Ethiopia's first prosthetics/orthotics diploma course. The 21 students were scheduled to graduate from the two-and-half-year programme, funded by the World Bank, in January 2005. The ICRC also sponsored seven Ethiopian technicians on one- to three-year courses at the Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists in Tanzania.

With World Bank funding, Ethiopia built five new prosthetic/orthotic centres in 2004, and plans progressed to establish a national physical rehabilitation research centre. The ICRC therefore decided to gradually reduce its funding for the sector in 2005, while reinforcing its training programme, and discussed this with the authorities.

- ▶ 8 physical rehabilitation centres supported
- ▶ 1,776 prostheses (948 for mine victims), 2,316 orthoses (39 for mine victims), 80 wheelchairs and 4,777 crutches delivered
- ▶ 916 new patients fitted with prostheses and 1,132 with orthoses

In accordance with its mandate and in cooperation with the Addis Ababa centre run by Ethiopia's Labour and Social Affairs' Ministry, the ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) continued to provide substantial support to ensure the continuity of former ICRC prosthetic/orthotic centres for the war disabled and other rehabilitation facilities, mainly in Africa (see the *SFD Annual Report* on www.icrc.org).

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC welcomed Ethiopia's ratification on 20 November of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

During the year the ICRC maintained a dialogue with the federal authorities on the need to ratify IHL treaties and incorporate their provisions into national law. The

ICRC and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a two-day session on this theme for members of the federal parliament. With ICRC input, the final draft of Ethiopia's new criminal code retained provisions concerning the repression of war crimes and protection of the red cross emblem. The ICRC also gave introductory talks on IHL and the ICRC to local government officials countrywide.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces incorporate IHL

With ICRC support since 1991, the Ethiopian armed forces incorporated IHL into their training programmes in 2004, using their own instructors. At a five-day workshop, the ICRC and 21 officers drafted five IHL curricula for all ranks of the armed and security forces.

Another milestone was the one-day ICRC workshop for 32 officers and legal advisers of the Ministry of Defence on the subject of people reported missing in times of conflict. The Ministry later expressed an interest in producing identification tags for soldiers. The ICRC also conducted its first workshop for female army officers, a one-day session on the ICRC's Women and War study for 31 participants.

In the field, the ICRC continued to train commanding officers to teach IHL to their units. It also gave introductory presentations on IHL to armed forces personnel countrywide.

- ▶ 304 commanding officers of field units trained as IHL instructors
- ▶ some 2,000 military personnel attended IHL presentations, including peacekeepers leaving for Burundi and Liberia
- ▶ some 8,500 IHL booklets, plus first-aid manuals and bandages, distributed to armed forces personnel in the field
- ▶ IHL extracts published regularly in the armed forces newspaper

Police

With ICRC support since 1994, the Federal Police College introduced international human rights law and humanitarian principles into its curricula in 2003. In 2004 the ICRC conducted a three-week course to train 30 police instructors to teach these subjects at the college and regional training centres. It also helped the police produce a standard training manual and draw up a plan to assess the force's operational implementation of human rights law and

humanitarian principles. In the field, the ICRC continued to hold two-day introductory workshops for federal, regional and municipal police personnel, including, for the first time, female police.

- 30 police instructors trained to teach international human rights law and humanitarian principles
- some 850 police attended two-day workshops on international human rights law and humanitarian principles
- the Federal Police College received a standard training manual and DVDs

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL through the media

In 2004 the ICRC:

- conducted a course for 26 journalists in Tigray on IHL and the role of the journalist during armed conflict;
- with the African Union and UNESCO, organized an IHL workshop in Addis Ababa for 40 journalists and information officers of African embassies;
- signed an agreement with Ethiopia's Mass Media Training Institute to introduce IHL in its journalism curriculum.

IHL course launched for law students

Addis Ababa University signed an agreement with the ICRC to introduce a 28-hour elective course on IHL for fourth-year law students; classes started in April. Under ICRC sponsorship, a law lecturer attended an IHL course in Geneva – he was expected to take over the university course in 2005 – and a team of three university law students won second prize at the international IHL moot-court competition in Tanzania (see *Nairobi*).

IHL in secondary schools

In 2002 the ICRC initiated a project to introduce its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in state secondary schools throughout Ethiopia. In 2004 it evaluated the programme in Harar's six schools (introduced in 2003) and was analysing the lessons learned before introducing it in Tigray and Amhara (teachers in these states were trained in the programme in 2003). At the same time the ICRC conducted courses and workshops on the programme for education officials, heads of schools and teachers in the SNNPRS, the SNRS and Benishangul-Gumuz; the authorities in all these states had signed agreements to pilot the programme. The

ICRC also assisted the regions in translating and culturally adapting the programme and sponsored the heads of the Harar and Tigray boards of education to attend the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

- 560 teachers trained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- 1,500 copies of the Exploring Humanitarian Law education pack in Tigrinya distributed

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Ethiopian Red Cross Society and the ICRC worked together to facilitate repatriations, distribute emergency aid, run the tracing and RCM network and promote IHL. The ICRC continued to provide the National Society with substantial support – funds, training, relief goods, equipment and expertise – to develop these activities and strengthen the capacities of the headquarters and branches in regions affected by internal disturbances or former armed conflict.

Capacity building

The ICRC, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partner National Societies active in Ethiopia contributed to assessments of the reporting systems and human-resources policies of the Ethiopian Red Cross. As part of this process, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross held, for the first time, a week-long workshop to review and plan the National Society's activities.

Restoring family links

An evaluation of the tracing and RCM network, carried out jointly in July by the Ethiopian Red Cross and the ICRC, showed the need for more management and skills training. A plan of action was agreed, and in December the ICRC helped organize three tracing workshops for some 80 National Society staff members from branches countrywide. During the year ICRC teams worked in the field with Ethiopian Red Cross tracing staff and gave on-the-job training to branch volunteers.

Emergency and assistance programmes

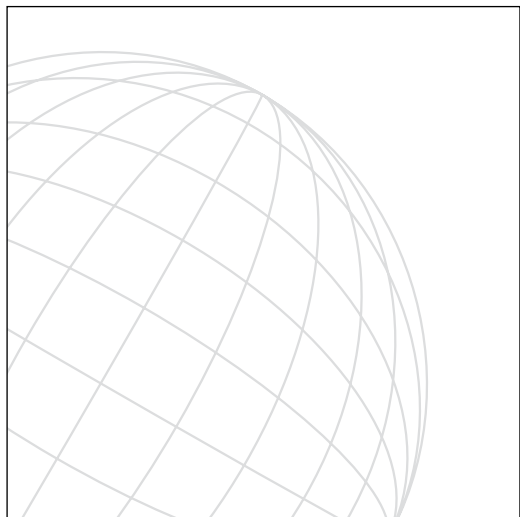
An ICRC delegate spent three months working with the National Society on upgrading the ambulance service and making it self-supporting. The ICRC paid for six new ambulances and radio-communication equipment and helped organize training

for ambulance drivers and attendants. Most branches were following the management guidelines agreed in 2002, and many municipalities had renewed their funding for the service, although the fleet was not yet self-supporting. With ICRC support, the National Society revised the promotional brochure given to potential donors.

The ICRC provided Red Cross branches with relief goods for families displaced by clashes in Gambella and the SNRS and organized a training day on disaster management and the Safer Access (see *Glossary*) approach for 23 participants from 11 branches. It also supported various Red Cross projects assisting communities affected by former conflicts. A project in Adigrat, Tigray, for example, was helping some 250 street children return to school or earn a living. Other projects included an HIV/AIDS-awareness and home-care programme for demobilized soldiers and vocational training for mine victims and women who had returned to Tigray from Eritrea and were supporting their families.

Promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC focused on supporting more branches to give talks in their communities on IHL, Red Cross activities and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It helped organize a three-day refresher course for 36 disseminators from 31 branches and four regional offices and assisted in developing new presentation and training tools, many of them modelled on examples from the Kenyan Red Cross. The ICRC also sponsored a National Society staff member to take part in the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).



icrc mission to the african union

The aim of the ICRC's permanent mission to the African Union (AU) is to gain a broad insight into African politics and issues of humanitarian concern and to build strong relations with African governments, intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. To this end, the ICRC endeavours to work with the AU and its member States to draw attention to problems requiring humanitarian action, to promote greater recognition and much wider implementation of IHL throughout Africa and to raise awareness of the ICRC's role and activities, especially those on the African continent.

The ICRC gained official observer status at the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1992 under a cooperation agreement, and this has continued under the AU. In 1993 the ICRC opened a permanent mission to the OAU in Addis Ababa.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

see Ethiopia

PERSONNEL

see Ethiopia

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ With ICRC support, the AU convened an expert conference on mines in preparation for the Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World.
- ▶ The ICRC's vice-president had high-level discussions with AU dignitaries on humanitarian concerns and the promotion of IHL in Africa.
- ▶ The ICRC and the AU hosted a "brainstorming day" for members of the AU and international organizations on "Strategies to ensure compliance with IHL by actors in internal armed conflicts in Africa".
- ▶ The ICRC attended meetings of the AU and other pan-African and regional bodies to highlight problems requiring humanitarian action and to promote the integration of IHL into African policy.
- ▶ The ICRC had regular contact with UN agencies and international and African NGOs working on the continent to ensure a coordinated approach to humanitarian diplomacy.
- ▶ The ICRC reinforced its internal network to ensure that its delegations in Africa provided the AU with rapid and pertinent feedback on humanitarian concerns and ICRC activities.

CONTEXT

The African Union (AU) took significant strides in 2004 in developing its internal structure and policies and assumed a more prominent role in conflict resolution on the African continent.

The launching of the AU's Peace and Security Council in May in Addis Ababa was viewed as an historic event for the organization and for Africa. One of the Council's most pressing challenges was the crisis in Darfur (see *Sudan*). The AU assumed the role of mediator, hosting peace talks on Darfur in Abuja, Nigeria, and placed a ceasefire monitoring team and some 1,400 peace-keepers in the region. In September the AU appointed a special representative for the promotion of the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The AU was also considering sending in peace-keepers to help secure Somalia, as requested in October by the president of Somalia's new transitional federal government.

In March the AU inaugurated another of its key bodies, the Pretoria-based Pan-African Parliament, which was to act as an advisory body for AU heads of State, and in October it opened an African research centre in Algeria aimed at combating terrorism on the continent. With the Parliament and the Peace and Security Council in place, the AU had established six of its main bodies, the others being the Commission (chairman, vice-chairman and eight commissioners), Assembly (AU heads of State and government), Executive Council (AU foreign affairs ministers) and the Permanent Representatives

Committee (AU-accredited ambassadors). The main bodies still to be created were the African Court of Justice, Specialized Technical Committees (of which there were to be seven) and Financial Institutions, comprising three pan-African banks.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC was represented at the AU by a full-time head of mission and a deputy.

Throughout the year the ICRC met members of the AU Commission and other staff to discuss humanitarian concerns and ICRC operations in Africa and to ensure that international humanitarian law (IHL) was on the agenda of relevant AU meetings. Of note in 2004, the ICRC's vice-president had meetings in Addis Ababa in May with the AU Commission's permanent chairman and other AU dignitaries to discuss ways of strengthening cooperation to promote IHL in Africa. In November the ICRC met the newly appointed AU special representative for the promotion of the protection of civilians in armed conflicts, just before her official visit to Sudan. The organization also had discussions with the new AU commissioner for human resources, science and technology and offered to organize IHL training for AU personnel, including sponsoring staff to take part in courses abroad.

Mines and the Ottawa Convention

To prepare for the Nairobi Summit for a Mine-Free World (the first Review Conference of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines) in November, the AU, with ICRC support, convened the second Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines, held in Addis Ababa on 15–17 September. The ICRC helped prepare the programme, was a keynote speaker and gave separate presentations on assistance for mine victims and the legal aspects of incorporating the provisions of the Ottawa Convention into national law. The need to work closely with the ICRC and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in both these areas was noted in the Common African Position on Anti-Personnel Landmines adopted by the conference. African countries presented this document at the Nairobi Summit.

ICRC and AU co-host IHL sessions

The ICRC and AU organized their eighth joint “brainstorming day” on 11 May in Addis Ababa, dealing with “Strategies to ensure compliance with IHL by actors in internal armed conflicts in Africa”. The ICRC's vice-president and the AU commissioner for political affairs were among the speakers who addressed the 70 AU-accredited ambassadors and members of international organizations present. The participants agreed on a number of recommendations, including incorporating, with ICRC support, IHL into national law,

military training and education curricula. The meeting's proceedings were compiled into a joint ICRC-AU publication. In follow-up meetings with ambassadors, the ICRC was also encouraged to reinforce its cooperation with the AU's Permanent Representatives Committee and its Peace and Security Council and to foster contacts with the AU special representative for the promotion of the protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

In another joint initiative, the ICRC, the AU and UNESCO held a seminar on IHL in Addis Ababa for journalists, attended by some 40 media representatives and information officers of African embassies. The participants discussed IHL in relation to journalists covering armed conflicts and the media's role in raising public awareness of IHL.

Promoting IHL at AU meetings

The ICRC attended AU meetings to highlight problems requiring humanitarian action, to promote the integration of IHL into African policy and member States' national legislation and to encourage the AU to draw on the ICRC's expertise in matters pertaining to that body of law.

The ICRC was a regular observer at meetings of the Bureau of the AU Commission on Refugees and the AU Coordinating Committee on Assistance and Protection to Refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The Commission restated its commitment to include the promotion of IHL in its humanitarian programmes, and the ICRC advised the Commission's chairman on technical matters related to the establishment of a protocol on the protection of IDPs.

The ICRC made a number of presentations at AU meetings on the protection afforded by IHL to families during armed conflict and the importance of ratifying and implementing the relevant IHL treaties. It expressed its particular concern about the plight of children separated from their families and the use of child soldiers and explained its programmes to restore contact between family members dispersed by armed conflict and to introduce IHL into secondary-school curricula. The ICRC's input was reflected in the framework documents agreed at the March meetings in Addis Ababa of the AU Experts Group on the Family and the AU Experts Group on the Policy Framework on Migration in Africa, as well as at May's International Policy Conference on the African Child and the Family, held in Addis Ababa, and at meetings

of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, held in May in Addis Ababa and November in Nairobi, Kenya. During a visit to ICRC headquarters in Geneva, the AU commissioner for social affairs and the ICRC president discussed the issue of child soldiers and how the two organizations could work together to address the problem.

The ICRC also drew attention to IHL at AU meetings on crime prevention. During discussions on the “war on terrorism” at the African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in March in Addis Ababa, it urged that IHL and international human rights law be reflected in any measures adopted by States. At December's AU Ministerial Conference on Drug Control, held in Grand Bay, Mauritius, the ICRC was part of a panel that led a discussion on the role of IHL, as well as the detrimental impact of drug use and trafficking during armed conflict.

The ICRC actively promoted IHL at the Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, Gambia in May and Dakar, Senegal in November, and at the NGO Forums that preceded both meetings. The sessions focused on the humanitarian situation and application of international law in various conflicts in Africa. The ICRC underlined the application of IHL in these contexts and explained its mandate and activities.

African Parliamentary Union

The ICRC reaffirmed its support to help the African Parliamentary Union (APU) follow up its Niamey Declaration issued in 2002. The declaration formally committed the Union to ensuring that, with ICRC assistance, its member States acceded to IHL treaties and incorporated their provisions into national legislation. The ICRC attended the African Parliamentary Conference on refugees, co-organized by the APU, UNHCR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union in June in Cotonou, Benin. The conference reviewed progress made on the Niamey Declaration's pledges and adopted the Cotonou Declaration, which restated this commitment. At the APU's Annual Conference in Algiers, Algeria in November, the ICRC again offered to help the Union set up a mechanism to review the status of IHL implementation in member States.

Africa's regional economic communities

The ICRC also reinforced its contacts with Africa's regional economic communities, which were being integrated into the AU structure. The ICRC's AU Mission made an official visit to the headquarters of the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Djibouti and also met the coordinator of IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism centre in Addis Ababa to discuss shared concerns and future cooperation.

Coordinating humanitarian diplomacy

To maximize the impact of humanitarian diplomacy, the ICRC coordinated its work with that of UN agencies and international and African non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that had AU observer status or were working in Africa. The ICRC organized a meeting in November of AU-accredited international organizations, at their request, to discuss respective mandates and roles and how best to use that expertise in coordinating humanitarian diplomacy within the AU's growing structure. At two meetings of African NGOs held in December in Addis Ababa – an international symposium on building the capacity and resources of African NGOs, organized by the AU and Africa Humanitarian Action, and a conference on the role of African civil society organizations in implementing international human rights law, organized by the AU and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights – the ICRC stressed how important and useful it was for NGOs to be familiar with IHL and offered its support and expertise. The ICRC also took part, together with a number of international and African NGOs, in an international think-tank conference on "African Conflicts: management, resolution and post-conflict recovery and development", convened in November in Addis Ababa by the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa.



guinea

The ICRC has been extensively involved in protection activities in Guinea since 2002, particularly restoring family links, visiting detainees and advising the penal authorities. At the same time, it promotes IHL among the armed and security forces, political authorities, the media and the public. It cooperates with the Red Cross Society of Guinea with the aim of strengthening its capacities to respond to emergencies, to restore family links and to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles. The ICRC has worked in Guinea since 1970, initially through its regional delegations in Yaoundé and Abidjan. Its operational delegation was opened in Conakry in 2001.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

3,797,697

Assistance

3,067,260

Preventive action

1,141,747

Cooperation with National Societies

1,278,084

General

2,157

► **9,286,946**

of which: Overheads **558,141**

PERSONNEL

28 expatriates

144 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC registered hundreds of children separated from their parents in refugee camps and communities in Guinea; it monitored their welfare, as well as that of other vulnerable people, and on request reunited more than 1,000 children with family members in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- The ICRC collected more than 11,000 RCMs from refugees in Guinea and delivered a similar number.
- The organization improved sanitation/ access to water for 300,000 people.
- The ICRC made 210 visits to some 70 prisons, followed up more than 2,900 detainees individually, improved sanitation/access to water for 1,200 inmates and administered a therapeutic feeding programme for 250 detainees.

CONTEXT

In February–March 2004, following his re-election the previous December, President Lansana Conté substantially reshuffled the cabinet. One of the new appointees, Prime Minister François Fall, resigned shortly afterwards and was replaced at the end of the year by Cellou Diallo, a long-serving member of President Conté's government.

The economic situation continued to deteriorate, with inflation hovering between 20% and 30% and basic public services such as electricity and water all but absent. In 2004 the escalating prices of basic commodities such as rice, the staple food, led to looting and unrest in the capital Conakry.

In Guinée Forestière, inter-ethnic rivalries, the proliferation of all types of weapons and the presence of fighters, including members of Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), remained a volatile mix. Twice in early 2004 tensions between the Guerzé and Konianké communities erupted into violence. In one incident, a personal dispute degenerated rapidly into intercommunal clashes during which two people were killed and 230 taken temporarily into custody. Civilians in this region were still the most disadvantaged in terms of access to water, health care and education.

Owing to the unpredictable situation in Côte d'Ivoire, its south-eastern neighbour, Guinea remained under the constant threat of a fresh influx of refugees and returnees. The situation in Liberia, however, had improved since

mid-2003, especially after the deployment of UN troops in Lofa County.

Relations between Sierra Leone and Guinea were almost back to normal. However, their dispute over the Yenga territory dragged on. This narrow strip of land on the Sierra Leonean side of the border, controlled by the Guinean armed forces since 1998 at the request of the then Sierra Leonean government, had been a sore point between the two countries but had never attracted public attention. However, in 2004 concerns arose over the security of civilians in the area.

ICRC ACTION

Because of the unstable situation along the border with Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC maintained a heightened presence in Guinea and remained poised to respond to any developments in the humanitarian situation. The ICRC's tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service helped restore family links for both newly arrived and established refugees, with priority given to reuniting children with their families. To respond to the needs of the resident population, the ICRC continued its water and sanitation programme in villages and areas where substantial numbers of Guineans had returned. The ICRC also pursued its other core programmes in Guinea, notably visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and living conditions.

Building on its well-established IHL programmes in Guinea, the ICRC worked with the Guinean authorities and armed and security forces to encourage IHL implementation, both nationally and regionally.

The ICRC maintained its status as lead agency for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's action in Guinea, working in coordination with the Red Cross Society of Guinea and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The National Society grappled with uncertainty over future support and funding for some of its programmes.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians and restoring family links

The past conflict in Liberia and the ongoing one in Côte d'Ivoire displaced hundreds of thousands of people, dispersing families across the region. In 2004 the ICRC registered children separated from their parents and living in refugee camps, continuously monitored their welfare and reunited Sierra Leonean, Liberian and Ivorian children with their families in their home countries. With the resumption of UNHCR's repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees, the ICRC helped screen them to ensure an optimal follow-up of children separated from their families. The organization often took direct charge of such children in transit camps, to offer them protection or material assistance prior to their reunification with their families. It regularly referred the children, both in and outside refugee camps, to organizations providing medical services (such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Federation).

In late 2004 the ICRC conducted a survey of children separated from their families and living in camps to assess the psychological and social impact of their predicament. The survey's findings were to be shared with other stakeholders, such as UNHCR, to help develop appropriate assistance and protection programmes. Logistic and human resource constraints, however, made it difficult for the ICRC to reach this and other vulnerable groups living outside refugee camps. In order to identify such children, who outside the confines of the camps were largely forced to fend for themselves, the ICRC enhanced its working relations with the International Rescue Committee.

- ▶ 1,235 children separated from their parents, including 451 registered in 2004, monitored, along with other vulnerable people in refugee camps and communities
- ▶ 1,032 children reunited with family members in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea
- ▶ 960 children separated from their parents still being monitored at end 2004
- ▶ 1,460 tracing requests received from relatives seeking to locate children

Throughout 2004 the ICRC enabled refugees living in camps to establish and/or maintain contact with their families in Guinea or elsewhere through the RCM network. While the network remained the preferred tool in the sub-region for locating the families of children separated from their parents, posters were increasingly used to the same end. The ICRC also trained tracing officers to ensure timely and optimal assistance to children.

- ▶ 11,393 RCMs collected and 11,247 delivered

Improving civilians' living conditions and access to clean water

Ongoing ICRC efforts ensured that civilians in troubled areas of Guinée Forestière had access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. An ICRC survey revealed that although the majority of returnees and refugees had left their host villages in the south-eastern border region, long-term isolation and limited benefit from international and national water-supply programmes had left the host communities prone to water-borne diseases. The ICRC therefore began gathering information from certain organizations on their programmes

in order to determine where and how it could act effectively.

- ▶ 250,000 people in and around Nzérékoré benefited from access to improved water supply and sanitation following repairs to Yalenzou water-treatment plant
- ▶ 30 boreholes constructed in rural villages of Guinée Forestière, providing 25,000 residents with access to clean water
- ▶ 60 fountains in disadvantaged urban areas of Guéckédou and Macenta completed
- ▶ 30 Red Cross volunteers trained in hygiene education

A mobile laboratory donated by the ICRC to Guinea's national water board (SEG) was used regularly in six major cities of Guinée Forestière to test the quality of the water. To ensure efficient functioning of the pumping stations in Nzérékoré, the ICRC developed a project, together with SEG, involving the repair of the stations' equipment, civil engineering work and the training of SEG personnel. Preparations got under way for the project to begin, including the acquisition of all the necessary materials.

Other ICRC activities included the installation of a generator for a water-pumping station, repairs to water reservoirs and the training of senior SEG engineers.

The ICRC pre-positioned an emergency water-supply kit to serve 5,000 people each in Nzérékoré and Kissidougou, ready to respond in the event of emergencies concerning water and sanitation.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC stepped up visits to all civilian prisons to monitor detention conditions and the treatment of inmates. The quality of information gathered during visits improved greatly. The organization made representations to the prison authorities and continued to seek greater access to security detainees.

The ICRC registered six Ivorian fighters who had entered Guinea seeking asylum and were being held by the *gendarmérie* pending clarification of their status. In discussing their status with the authorities, the ICRC reiterated the need to respect the principle of *non-refoulement*.

Enhanced follow-up by the authorities of detention issues led to a slight improvement in the prison conditions in some of the major and temporary places of detention. Nevertheless, conditions remained worrying in most places of detention, the food situation worsened and malnutrition increased. The incidence of beriberi and severe malnutrition varied from one detention facility to the next. The ICRC met the relevant ministries to help find a solution, implemented a therapeutic feeding programme in three prisons for around 250 inmates and proposed to extend similar, ad hoc assistance to other prisons. In October the organization supported MSF in bringing under control cholera and dysentery epidemics which claimed a number of lives in a Conakry prison.

- 2,961 detainees followed up, 71 of them newly registered
- 210 visits carried out in 69 prisons
- 387 RCMs between detainees and family members collected and 289 delivered
- 1,200 inmates in 5 prisons benefited from water-supply and sanitation facilities built or repaired by the ICRC

WOUNDED AND SICK

Although there were no wounded people seeking treatment at ICRC-supported health facilities, the organization maintained sufficient emergency stocks to provide medical and surgical treatment for 1,000 people. In early 2004 assistance was distributed on an ad hoc basis to six hospitals in Conakry and its environs.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC held regular meetings with the national and local authorities to keep them abreast of its activities and provide them with information on IHL and the Movement. A play illustrating National Society/ICRC activities was put on during information sessions for community and religious leaders.

- 1,600 government officials, including National Assembly members, attended information sessions

The ICRC began establishing contact with opposition leaders to explain its role and activities in Guinea and the role, activities and Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Through regular field visits, the ICRC maintained contact with the Guinean army and participated in training and information activities aimed at enhancing knowledge of IHL and ICRC operations in Guinea. The organization worked closely with military academies and instructors, providing them with technical support and documents for use in IHL training.

Some 2,000 volunteers recruited by the Guinean armed forces in 2000–01 were integrated into the forces and received basic IHL training. The ICRC began preparations to train 4,000 more volunteers. It also initiated IHL information sessions for recruits at the Kissidougou military training centre.

The ICRC continued its dialogue with the authorities to resolve difficulties holding back systematic integration of IHL into military training and started a programme to support IHL instructors in their respective units. It also sponsored a military IHL trainer to attend a course at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

Workshops and information sessions on IHL/human rights law were organized for anti-crime brigades and other police/security forces across the country. Participants expressed a keen interest in continuing to have regular workshops on these topics. During the workshops, organized in cooperation with the government's Human Rights and IHL Bureau, the ICRC gave presentations on its mandate and activities. Elsewhere, the National Police School included IHL/human rights law training in an eight-month refresher course for about 350 police officers.

- 2 train-the-trainer courses held for army officers in Kissidougou
- IHL sessions held for more than 700 officers, non-commissioned officers, army volunteers and *gendarmes*
- IHL sessions held for 350 demobilized fighters in Kissidougou
- 450 members of police and security forces briefed on IHL/human rights law

CIVIL SOCIETY

A play put on by the ICRC depicting Red Cross activities, notably tracing, continued to enjoy great success throughout the country and was watched by hundreds of people. The performances were widely covered by

radio in two local languages and French. Other events which elicited media interest were: an itinerant exhibition comprising 31 photographs portraying major ICRC activities in Guinea; the inauguration of 30 water points in Guinée Forestière; and workshops on IHL and human rights law organized for the armed and police forces.

In the Nzérékoré region, the ICRC used its water projects as a forum for information sessions on its mandate and activities, the Fundamental Principles and IHL. The sessions, organized in villages benefiting from recently installed water points, reached hundreds of people, including local military personnel, civil society and traditional leaders and young people. During a workshop organized by the Bishop of Nzérékoré for 137 Catholic youth representatives, the ICRC gave presentations on its mandate and activities, and the red cross emblem.

Through presentations on its specific mandate and role in the country, the ICRC maintained contacts with local non-governmental organizations, notably the Mano River Women's Peace Network, youth groups and former army volunteers, and established contacts with religious leaders.

During meetings aimed at facilitating coordination between international organizations working in similar fields, the ICRC presented its activities and working methods.

The ICRC gave a presentation for students of the University of Conakry on Red Cross relief for refugees and displaced people, and renewed ties with two universities with a view to reviving IHL studies there.

- 2 IHL libraries set up in 2 universities and IHL documentation donated to 1 university
- information sessions on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities conducted for 26 students of the Balandou College in Kankan

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Helping civilians restore family links

Through training and other assistance, the ICRC continued to support the tracing activities carried out regionally, nationally and locally by the Red Cross Society of Guinea. In late 2004 the ICRC and the National Society assessed their joint tracing and RCM activities with the aim of improving the service and management methods.

- ▶ 400 Red Cross tracing staff and volunteers trained/retrained in tracing techniques
- ▶ a meeting on the RCM service held for 80 presidents and heads of tracing units in 7 localities
- ▶ office equipment and bicycles provided for 42 local Red Cross committees for use in national and regional tracing activities

Assistance programmes

The ICRC and the Guinean Red Cross began to revise the National Society's contingency plan to determine whether it was still feasible to deploy 21 emergency-response teams in areas at risk of violence.

To strengthen the National Society's emergency-response capacities, the ICRC conducted first-aid training for 136 volunteers in conflict-prone border regions and areas at risk of industrial accidents. Meanwhile, the National Society organized first-aid courses for managerial staff at the Shell oil company and a conference on the same topic for 60 staff of Guinea's telecommunications company. The courses generated income for local committees to fund various projects, such as the construction of their headquarters, for which the ICRC also extended financial and technical support. To promote similar partnerships with the private sector, the National Society maintained contacts with companies interested in offering first-aid courses to their staff.

The ICRC trained 30 Red Cross volunteers to carry out the hygiene-education component of the ICRC's water and sanitation programme. The aim was to raise the local population's awareness of the proper use and maintenance of newly built water-supply and sanitation facilities.

- ▶ first-aid training conducted for 26 new Red Cross trainers and 270 volunteers
- ▶ a first-aid competition organized for 150 first-aid workers
- ▶ 6 Red Cross emergency-response units assessed
- ▶ 463 people repatriated from Angola given shelter by the Guinean Red Cross
- ▶ 10 VHF radios and a Land Cruiser donated to the National Society
- ▶ local Red Cross branches supported in creating committees on rural water-management and hygiene

Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

To support the Red Cross school project, the ICRC trained teachers and lecturers

from schools and teacher-training colleges. The training focused on the Red Cross, its activities, Fundamental Principles and IHL. Elsewhere, activities to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) included awareness sessions on HIV/AIDS and a play on the work of the ICRC.

The Red Cross Society of Guinea held a series of sessions to promote IHL and Red Cross activities. The participants included political and local leaders, who commended the ICRC for the assistance it had provided in 2000–01 to people displaced by rebel attacks in Guéckédou and its environs.

- ▶ 52 new heads of district information/dissemination departments trained
- ▶ 200 primary- and secondary-school teachers trained
- ▶ 1,000 copies of the National Society's newsletter produced
- ▶ a writing course conducted for 10 members of the newsletter's editorial board

Round-tables, initiated by the ICRC as a means of revitalizing local Red Cross committees, enhanced relations between the committees and the National Society's headquarters. Three branches received land from their local authorities for the construction of their headquarters, for which the branches also contributed substantial quantities of building materials (sand, bricks, etc.).

During a training seminar for new heads of district information/dissemination departments, the Red Cross Society of Guinea devoted half a day to the importance of dissemination in fundraising for the National Society and for each of its committee's activities.



✚ ICRC delegation ✚ ICRC sub-delegation

liberia

Following the spread of intense fighting early in 2003, the ICRC stepped up its operations in Liberia. Despite the peace agreement concluded in August 2003, needs remain great, as more areas become accessible and people return home to their destroyed villages. The ICRC's assistance and protection activities benefit returnees (former IDPs and refugees), residents, the wounded and sick, detainees, and children separated from their families. The ICRC supports the Liberia National Red Cross Society and promotes IHL among armed forces present in Liberia. The ICRC has worked in Liberia since 1970, initially through its regional delegations in Yaoundé and Abidjan. Its operational delegation was opened in Monrovia in 1990.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

5,877,090

Assistance

19,288,278

Preventive action

632,486

Cooperation with National Societies

1,219,486

General

15,431

► **27,032,770**

of which: Overheads **1,625,880**

PERSONNEL

43 expatriates

222 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC surgical team at the John F. Kennedy Memorial Hospital performed some 1,500 operations; with ICRC support, the hospital treated 11,800 outpatients and 3,986 inpatients, including 3,068 requiring surgery.
- Together with the Liberian Red Cross, the ICRC operated the RCM service to enable refugees and IDPs to communicate with their families; it reunited over 1,000 children with their families in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- The ICRC built or repaired water-supply and sanitation facilities for IDPs and residents in Grand Gedeh, Lofa, Bong, River Cess, River Gee, Montserrado and Nimba counties and in Monrovia.
- ICRC delegates made nearly 70 visits to about 20 places of detention and saw some 600 detainees.
- The ICRC distributed essential household items and shelter materials to some 280,000 IDPs and vulnerable residents, and seeds, tools and fertilizer to over 190,000 people.

CONTEXT

By the end of 2004 the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) had fully deployed, and 15,000 troops were patrolling accessible parts of the country. International civilian police began training the new 1,900-strong Liberian police force.

Interfactional fighting subsided (although internal power struggles persisted), and tens of thousands of ex-fighters came forward for demobilization. By the end of the year over 101,000 ex-fighters had passed through demobilization centres, handing in some 30,000 weapons. However, only about 11,000 children associated with fighting forces entered the reintegration programme, far below initial estimates.

Among the legacies of the years of conflict were 350,000 Liberian refugees in neighbouring countries, 260,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps and thousands of dispersed families. Some 80% of the population lived on less than a dollar a day, infrastructure and urban and rural water and sanitation systems remained in ruins or were non-existent, and primary and secondary health-care systems were unable to meet basic needs.

The National Transitional Government of Liberia, led by Gyude Bryant, steered the country towards elections, scheduled for October 2005.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC remained a major player within the humanitarian community in Liberia, stepping up its operations throughout the country, entering previously inaccessible regions and increasing its presence in troubled areas such as Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties.

As lead agency for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Liberia, and as agreed in 2003 with Movement partners, the ICRC continued to coordinate the Movement's action in the country. ICRC activities focused on: medical care for the war-wounded, mainly by maintaining the John F. Kennedy (JFK) Memorial Hospital's capacity to provide medical and surgical care; protection of detainees; assistance to IDPs and residents; programmes carried out in cooperation with the Liberia National Red Cross Society to help people, particularly children, separated from their families restore contact with their loved ones; and consolidation of the National Society's capacities to assist vulnerable populations, promote international humanitarian law (IHL) and restore family links. A network of contacts was also maintained among all actors in Liberia to improve understanding of and respect for IHL and the mandate and working methods of the ICRC and its Movement partners.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians from the effects of conflict

The ICRC maintained its presence in all regions of Liberia, increased it in troubled areas and continued to develop its network of contacts among former armed opposition groups, the civilian authorities, an increasing number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UNMIL officials. Regular dialogue with UNMIL's various contingents and military observers helped keep the spotlight on the protection needs of civilians.

In rural areas where the ICRC was still very active, its good relations with former commanders helped it gain access to children still associated with fighting forces, whom it was able to register and follow up.

- ▶ 669 children separated from their families registered

The ICRC monitored the situation of IDPs and refugees in camps in Margibi, Montserrado and Bong counties and of returnees transferred by UNHCR or going

back spontaneously to their communities or resettlement camps. It highlighted the protection concerns of these population groups in its dealings with former armed opposition groups, the civilian authorities, NGOs and UNMIL officials.

Enabling civilians to re-establish/maintain contact with their families

The Liberian Red Cross received continuous support from the ICRC in sustaining a Red Cross message (RCM) network throughout the country. The support included the provision of booths, bicycles, motorcycles and stationery. The ICRC also assisted the National Society in streamlining the network to improve monitoring and management.

- ▶ 74,246 RCMs collected and 41,881 delivered

While the focus of the ICRC's tracing effort was on Liberian children in neighbouring countries, the organization continued to reunite Liberian children separated from their families within Liberia. Some children had been put back in touch with their families only to be separated afresh by the conflict in Liberia in 2003. Various meetings between the ICRC and the authorities in neighbouring countries paid off, with Guinea, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire reaffirming that they would not oppose the repatriation of their young nationals previously involved in fighting in Liberia. Accordingly, the ICRC intensified efforts to reunite non-Liberian children with their families and to monitor their reintegration. Factors such as deteriorating security conditions in Côte d'Ivoire temporarily hampered the repatriation process.

As the only organization involved in tracing and family reunification in Sanniquellie and Zwedru, the ICRC reunited some 100 children formerly associated with fighting forces with their families in southern Nimba.

- ▶ 1,032 children, including those formerly associated with fighting forces, reunited with their families: 37 in Côte d'Ivoire, 379 in Guinea, 189 in Sierra Leone and 427 in Liberia
- ▶ 460 Liberian and foreign children awaiting reunification with their families registered

Poster campaigns comprising some 500 photographs of children remained part of the countrywide effort to reunite children with their families. Radio programmes helped raise awareness of tracing activities. Booklets with photographs and lists of names of the relatives sought were distrib-

uted to community leaders and ICRC contacts to encourage families searching for their children to approach the Red Cross. The campaigns were backed up by the distribution of video and radio dramas highlighting the issue of children separated from their parents.

Relations between the ICRC and the various child-protection agencies remained constructive. The ICRC participated in coordination meetings with agencies such as UNICEF, Save the Children Fund and the International Rescue Committee to map out cooperation procedures on a variety of issues and to strengthen the regional network for the protection of children separated from their parents. Children previously associated with fighting forces who were singled out for family reunification in neighbouring countries were referred to the ICRC, which continued to register and repatriate them, and to lobby their governments and child-protection agencies active in their home areas to help them reintegrate into society.

Assisting residents, returnees and IDPs

Distributions of essential household items to resident and returning populations in Gbarpolu, River Cess, Nimba, River Gee and Lofa counties and to orphanages and other institutions sheltering vulnerable people were carried out in late 2004. Contrary to expectations, other humanitarian agencies did not fully take over assistance to IDPs in camps. Consequently, the ICRC provided support longer than initially planned.

- ▶ 280,000 IDP/returnee/resident households and beneficiaries in institutions received sleeping mats, clothing, kitchen sets, soap, blankets, buckets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets

Agricultural projects

The bulk of the ICRC's agricultural assistance was allocated to some 190,000 residents and returnees, primarily in Grand Gedeh, Lofa and Gbarpolu counties, who received rice, bean and vegetable seeds and farm implements to help them regain self-sufficiency.

A number of small-scale projects were carried out to help IDPs, returnees and vulnerable residents achieve economic security. Rice-seed multiplication projects were initiated in two counties. Market-gardening projects were implemented in Bong, Grand Gedeh, Zwedru and Montserrado counties, where several communities, women's associations and children

previously associated with fighting forces received tools, seeds and training in gardening. Preliminary evaluations showed that beneficiaries successfully developed skills in growing vegetables and increased their yields. The beneficiaries also received tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, buckets, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, clothes, jerrycans and fertilizer.

Improving access to water and sanitation

The ICRC provided IDPs living in camps in Montserrado and newly accessible areas and residents of Monrovia and seven counties with access to clean water and adequate sanitation facilities. This was achieved by building water points and permanent latrines and repairing wells and hand pumps. In cooperation with the Liberian Red Cross, the ICRC maintained facilities in the camps and ensured proper waste disposal. It also undertook minor road repairs on the Voinjama and Zwedru access routes to sustain assistance programmes in these areas during the rainy season.

- 20 new wells, 100 multi-pit latrines and 60 bathhouses constructed in 5 IDP camps for 60,000 beneficiaries; all previously built facilities in the camps maintained and sessions on hygiene conducted for IDPs
- 240 wells and 150 pit latrines constructed and/or repaired for use by approximately 140,000 residents/returnees in 7 counties
- 3 health posts and the Voinjama clinic in Lofa County repaired

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

The ICRC carried on negotiating access to all detainees. Broader access to detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice enabled the ICRC to step up its efforts to assess the treatment and living conditions in major detention facilities. Following visits to detainees, including a large number arrested in relation to riots in Monrovia and Kakata, the organization informed the authorities concerned of its findings, particularly with regard to vulnerable cases.

- 608 detainees visited
- 87 RCMs collected/delivered

The ICRC maintained strong working relations with UNMIL, as exemplified by the setting up of a system to notify the ICRC on a weekly basis of individuals arrested by UNMIL.

The ICRC held high-level discussions with the Sierra Leonean and Liberian authorities regarding the planned repatriation of Liberian internees held in Sierra Leone. It played a pivotal role in drawing up the IHL framework to guide the drafting of an agreement between the two countries on procedures for the repatriation. The ICRC monitored the issue closely with the national authorities and UNMIL. The objective was to ensure that both governments proceeded with the repatriation of the interned Liberian ex-fighters and that the repatriation process was consistent with their rights.

Assisting detainees

The ICRC maintained regular material assistance to detainees in all prisons visited and trucked water for detainees held at the Liberian National Police headquarters. In 2004 it constructed four wells in prisons, repaired the kitchen in Monrovia Central Prison, installed and repaired water pumps in two prisons and carried out an assessment in one of the prisons, ahead of the launch of a small-scale water and sanitation project. The organization began exploring sustainable solutions to the problems encountered in detention places and encouraged the authorities to assume greater responsibility for the detainees' well-being.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Assistance to JFK Memorial Hospital

The ICRC withdrew its expatriate surgical team from the JFK Memorial Hospital in late June but continued its support to the trauma and surgical department in the form of medical materials, food for patients and staff incentives. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also offered surgical care in Monrovia, as did private hospitals, which increased surgical services for paying patients. The ICRC's concern was primarily for vulnerable, often displaced people unable to afford surgery. Because there was no longer a demand for war surgery, the JFK Hospital's trauma and surgical department dealt mainly with road-accident victims and chronic infections caused by old war injuries. In the absence of a referral system for secondary health care, the ICRC, in cooperation with MSF and UNMIL, evacuated patients from various parts of the country to hospitals in Monrovia.

- 11,800 outpatients treated, including 889 war-wounded
- 3,986 inpatients treated, including 1,914 war-wounded
- 3,068 surgical interventions performed, including 305 on war-wounded

Support to other health facilities

The ICRC-supported Stephen A. Tolbert Memorial Hospital in Buchanan continued to provide comprehensive primary and secondary health-care services for the resident and IDP populations in Grand Bassa and for patients referred to it from elsewhere in the south-eastern part of Liberia. Its capacity was increased to 30 beds to cater for rising demand. Nevertheless, difficulties such as lack of electricity limited its surgical services. In Bomi County, the ICRC phased out its support to the Tubmanburg hospital in late 2004.

- 2,500–3,000 outpatient consultations on average a month; 85–100 inpatient consultations a month

Lofa County was the focus of ICRC efforts to improve civilians' access to health care. Working with other organizations, the ICRC participated in a measles/yellow fever vaccination campaign in the area. It continued to rehabilitate health facilities, handed over its health activities in Kolahun and Foya districts to MSF and phased out those in Zorzor, where the Curran Lutheran Services revived health-care activities.

The construction of a new health centre for Voinjama town on the site of a hospital destroyed during earlier conflicts neared completion in late 2004. Meanwhile, another site was used temporarily (July–December) to ensure uninterrupted health care was available while construction advanced. Dugomai clinic opened in July and Vezela clinic in September, following repairs and other assistance to make them operational. The rehabilitation of the Bondi Selma clinic got under way. The ICRC also assessed the needs of clinics and hospitals, including four in Grand Kru County.

- 3 wells/water-supply systems repaired/constructed at a hospital and interim care centres run by other organizations; incinerators and dustbins provided for clinics in 2 counties
- 9,500 consultations carried out at the temporary site in Voinjama, 1,200 at the Vezela clinic and 1,500 at the Dugomai clinic

AUTHORITIES

Through regular meetings, the ICRC maintained good working relations with the national authorities, UN agencies and diplomatic representations.

In addition to its existing contacts with officials in the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Justice and Defence and other relevant ministries, the ICRC developed new contacts, notably within the Ministry of Defence, to pave the way for the promotion of IHL in Liberia's newly created army.

The ICRC organized sessions on its mandate and activities and IHL, attended by representatives of the local authorities in Ganta, Zwedru and Harper.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As the restructuring of the Liberian army was still in its early stages, the ICRC concentrated its efforts to promote IHL on UNMIL, with which it enjoyed fruitful cooperation. UNMIL included IHL in its standard briefings for military observers and trainers. During the briefings, the ICRC highlighted the 1999 UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on observance of IHL by United Nations forces and raised awareness of its mandate and activities. These briefings were an excellent opportunity to interact with officers from a broad range of countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Namibia.

- IHL sessions organized for 620 officers/military observers from various UNMIL contingents

Previous ICRC efforts to promote IHL among the police force bore fruit in that the police academy in Monrovia incorporated humanitarian principles into the training curriculum for recruits. Each class of 30 recruits was given a lesson on the Red Cross, the ICRC's mandate and protection activities, the emblem and aspects of IHL applicable to police functions.

The ICRC pursued a dialogue with a number of people linked to the various political factions and used every opportunity to explain its mandate, working methods and activities. Whenever possible, the Liberian Red Cross participated in dissemination sessions organized by the ICRC and attended by ex-fighters and civilians in areas held by the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) and Liberians United for Democracy and Reconciliation (LURD).

CIVIL SOCIETY

To ensure the public was informed of IHL and Red Cross activities in Liberia, the ICRC consolidated its network of media contacts and produced and distributed communication materials, including press releases. Humanitarian activities that caught the local and international media's attention included: a poster campaign launched in December to help search for the families of some 500 Liberian children; tracing in general; agricultural assistance programmes for IDPs and resident populations; the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World; and assistance to detainees. A film entitled *Help us find our parents*, portraying a Liberian woman who traced her lost daughter with the help of an ICRC poster, was produced and shown in video clubs throughout the country to promote ICRC tracing activities and the poster campaign.

The ICRC attended workshops organized by NGOs and UN agencies, during which it gave presentations on its work. Documentation on the ICRC and IHL was widely distributed during such meetings. In July the ICRC held a workshop on its activities and IHL for Liberian human rights NGOs.

Contacts were established with the University of Liberia and its professor of international law with a view to introducing the teaching of IHL at the university.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

As lead agency for the Movement in Liberia, the ICRC organized regular coordination meetings with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Liberian Red Cross and other Movement partners to share information on operational cooperation and the constantly changing security situation in the country. With the support of the International Federation and the ICRC, the Liberian Red Cross developed election guidelines for its chapters and held its 45th General Assembly. The ICRC provided the National Society with technical support to accelerate the drafting of a law on the emblem.

Restoring family links

The Liberian Red Cross worked alongside the ICRC to carry out tracing activities, including photo campaigns to facilitate the task of reuniting children with their families. Job descriptions for the National Society's tracing coordinator at headquarters and tracing officers and volunteers at branch level were drawn up. In addition to assisting the Liberian Red Cross in its plan-

ning activities, conducting training and assessing its tracing capacities, the ICRC supported the National Society's efforts to adapt the Sierra Leone Red Cross Society's tracing handbook for use in Liberia.

- some 60 Liberian Red Cross tracing posts established/revived

Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The ICRC assisted the National Society in reorienting its dissemination sessions towards its own volunteers and members. It helped the Liberian Red Cross to organize three sessions of the football game Respect the Rules, as well as street theatre and a presentation of traditional song and dance in Monrovia. The ICRC introduced the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) in all training it organized or supported. Workshops and information sessions were also organized for Liberian Red Cross staff/volunteers on IHL, the emblem, the Fundamental Principles and the mandates of the ICRC, the International Federation and the National Society.

- production of the Liberian Red Cross newsletter supported

Assistance

The ICRC supplied the Liberian Red Cross with essential household items and agricultural materials for distribution to IDPs and resident populations. It also provided financial and logistical support for the National Society to undertake several field missions, including assessments following the eruption of violence in Monrovia in October, which resulted in timely assistance to civilians. The ICRC carried out water and sanitation projects jointly with the National Society and gave it logistical support and guidance in preparing and implementing training courses.

- monthly salaries/incentives provided for Liberian Red Cross staff/volunteers
- motorbikes/vehicles donated, insured and maintained
- communications equipment, including HF and VHF radio base stations and radio handsets, financed first-aid workshops organized for emergency-response teams in Red Cross chapters countrywide



rwanda

The ICRC opened a delegation in Rwanda in 1990, prior to which it had covered the country from its regional delegation in Kinshasa. In Rwanda, the ICRC visits detainees held in civilian prisons, military facilities and district *cachots* (lock-ups), helps reunite children with the families from whom they were separated during the exodus of 1994 or the mass repatriations in 1996–97, assists vulnerable genocide survivors and victims of the 1990–94 internal conflict (predominantly widows and orphans) and rehabilitates water-supply systems. It also supports the Rwandan Red Cross in developing its activities.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

3,442,163

Assistance

11,660,960

Preventive action

988,099

Cooperation with National Societies

434,537

General

37,261

► **16,563,021**

of which: Overheads **1,010,889**

PERSONNEL

35 expatriates

229 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC visited 90 places of detention, monitoring over 74,000 detainees to ensure their conditions of detention met minimum standards.
- In cooperation with the National Society, the ICRC delivered 8,743 RCMs and reunited 115 children with their families.
- The ICRC paid the school fees of some 1,400 children.
- The ICRC supplied 30% of food needs in prisons and 70% of medicines to prison dispensaries (quantities were reduced from the previous year as part of a strategy to encourage the detaining authorities to fulfil their obligations).
- Repairs to or construction of water supply and sanitation systems provided nearly 190,000 people (civilians and detainees) with access to clean water and sanitation.
- The ICRC made significant progress in integrating IHL and international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into army and/or police training; it helped draft a second teaching guide for schools integrating concepts from the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

CONTEXT

In 2004, ten years after the genocide in Rwanda, the government moved ahead with a reform of the legal system designed to advance the dual processes of reconciliation and justice. A new penal procedure code was adopted to simplify and ultimately speed up trials, while the government appointed and trained new magistrates/judges and public prosecutors across the country. A new law on the *gacaca* system was introduced in the hope that these traditional courts would relieve the ordinary courts of much of the burden of trying some 86,000 detainees mainly charged with genocide-related offences. The courts started compiling lists of the accused and categorizing the detainees. By the end of the year, however, no case had yet been heard by a *gacaca* court, owing to delays caused by the reform of the judicial system. As part of the new penal procedure code, measures to protect minors were introduced, such as the appointment of special staff to cater to their needs and the issuing of a decree ordering separate quarters for minors in prison.

The government marked the 10th anniversary of the genocide in April with a call for less “divisionism” within the country. Later in the year it released a report stating that genocidal tendencies and “divisionism” were still prevalent. Moreover, it declared on several occasions that armed opposition groups based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) were a threat to security in Rwanda. It made frequent calls for their disarmament and arrested suspected infiltrators whom it accused of sympathizing with the armed groups. Tensions between

Rwanda and the DRC were also strained by various armed incidents that occurred close to their common border. The two governments established a joint verification system to improve border controls and monitoring.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to provide complementary food, hygiene materials and medical supplies for tens of thousands of detainees and to upgrade prison infrastructure where necessary. The level of assistance was nonetheless reduced during the year to encourage the detaining authorities to take on more of these responsibilities themselves. The ICRC initiated or completed eight water-supply and sanitation projects for some 190,000 civilians and detainees.

The Red Cross message (RCM) and tracing network continued to operate, enabling large numbers of Rwandans to locate and restore contact with their families. In 2004, in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross, the ICRC reunited 115 children with their families. Through women's associations, it supported micro-projects to help destitute women achieve self-sufficiency, although it planned to phase out its support in March 2005. It also paid the school fees of hundreds of orphans or destitute children.

The ICRC made significant progress in ensuring that instruction in international humanitarian law (IHL) was included in the training of the armed forces. After more than four years of negotiations, it was able to hold a major training seminar for high-level military personnel. It also held its first training session on international human rights standards and humanitarian principles for senior police officers.

With the ICRC's help, the Ministry of Education drafted a second teaching guide for upper secondary schools integrating concepts from the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The ICRC also continued to promote the teaching of IHL in academic institutions.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

With many people still without contact with their families as a result of the conflict and genocide, the ICRC continued to offer its RCM service to Rwandan refugees and ex-fighters, including child soldiers undergoing demobilization.

The ICRC continued to repatriate dozens of children, mostly from the provinces of North and South Kivu in the DRC. Many of them, and others previously repatriated, were reunited with their families. The national Demobilization Commission handled the

reunification of child soldiers with their families, after the ICRC had located the relatives.

To ensure the welfare of children whose families could not be traced, the ICRC encouraged the Ministry of Gender and the Promotion of the Family to monitor the minors in reception centres and foster homes. In December it provided certain centres caring for children with basic supplies.

- ▶ 7,849 RCMs collected and 8,743 delivered in cooperation with the Rwandan Red Cross
- ▶ 133 children repatriated by the ICRC
- ▶ 115 children reunited with their families by the ICRC
- ▶ 83 demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families by the Demobilization Commission, based on information supplied by the ICRC
- ▶ 737 cases of children separated from their parents still being actively pursued
- ▶ 20 orphanages and reception centres received food (rice, beans, oil, salt) and soap for 3,806 children
- ▶ since 1994 a total of 81,541 children registered and 70,660 reunited with their families with the help of the ICRC and other organizations

Assisting children and women

In order to ensure children orphaned by conflict or the genocide received an education, the ICRC continued to pay their school fees. A government decision to put off the start of the new school year to January 2005 meant that the ICRC paid a one-off supplementary fee for its pupils for the last quarter.

To bolster the economic security of widowed or destitute women, the ICRC provided women's associations with training, follow-up support and goods such as goats, seeds, tools and fertilizer.

- ▶ 1,399 orphans or destitute secondary-school children in 281 schools had their school fees paid; 482 pupils had their exam fees paid
- ▶ 24 agricultural micro-projects for 777 beneficiaries supported by the ICRC (benefiting 3,885 people indirectly), including 19 projects initiated in 2004
- ▶ 64 follow-up visits made to monitor the micro-projects
- ▶ 460 goats distributed

Improving access to water for residents

Ten years after it first started water projects in Rwanda, the ICRC continued to rehabilitate or build water systems in partnership with the government, the local water boards and the communities to ensure adequate supplies of clean water for the population.

In 2004 water projects were under way in Nyarukombe-Nsinda (48,000 residents and detainees), Remera (43,200 beneficiaries), Nyanza (18,300 beneficiaries) and Gitarama (9,000 beneficiaries). In Gikongoro province, the ICRC had nearly completed a project with the Mudasmwa district authorities and water committee to rehabilitate or construct 28 springs (8,600 beneficiaries). It completed a project to build a 12-km water network for the rural town of Mushubi (11,000 beneficiaries).

In Kabarondo (Kibungo), the ICRC decided to participate in a project to build a 12-km extension to a water network (15,000 beneficiaries). In Karaba (Gikongoro), it invited engineering companies to bid for contracts to rehabilitate six water sources and build a new catchment (14,000 beneficiaries). In Gihogwe (Kigali Ngali), preparations began on constructing reservoirs, sewage systems and water fountains (20,100 beneficiaries).

The ICRC continued to support the water committees set up to manage completed projects in Gashora, Kagohe, Mushubi, Mudasmwa and Nyanza.

- ▶ 47 public tap-stands installed or repaired
- ▶ 83 spring catchments constructed or repaired
- ▶ 187,200 people (civilians and detainees) provided with access to safe water

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Protecting detainees

The ICRC continued to monitor conditions in 90 places of detention, looking specifically at the treatment of detainees, their living conditions, nutritional status, health, access to medical care and length of time spent awaiting trial. It encouraged the authorities to undertake improvements where necessary and made its RCM service available for detainees to maintain contact with their families.

- ▶ 74,179 detainees (suspected of participating in the genocide or needing individual monitoring) visited

- 308 visits made to 17 central prisons, 42 visits to 17 municipal *cachots*, 85 visits to police stations/posts and 34 visits to military prisons and detention sites
- 725 RCMs between detainees and their families collected and 700 delivered

Ensuring detainees' access to medical care

The ICRC accompanied health workers on their visits to prisons to monitor conditions. It collected and analysed epidemiological data, suggested procedures to enable staff to respond quickly to outbreaks of disease and recommended the hospitalization of sick detainees. It also supplied 70% of the medicines needed in a dozen prisons, a decrease from 100% the previous year.

Also during the year, the ICRC extended an AIDS prison project in Nsinda to four other prisons (Gitarama, Rilima, Gisovu and Kibungu), in conjunction with the Society for Women and AIDS in Africa (SWAA). On the invitation of the National Council on HIV/AIDS, it participated regularly in strategy meetings aimed at countering not only the spread of HIV but also other infectious diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and tuberculosis.

- 12 prisons provided with 70% of the medicines and medical materials needed; district dispensaries close to 10 *cachots* received ad hoc supplies of medicines and medical supplies
- World AIDS Day in December marked in four prisons where the SWAA/ICRC had AIDS projects in progress

Rehabilitating prison infrastructure

The ICRC maintained its commitment to rehabilitate prison infrastructure, such as water supply and storage, kitchens, latrines and living quarters for minors. It shared the costs of this work with the prison administration and encouraged the detainees to maintain the facilities.

In conjunction with the Ministry of the Interior, the ICRC built separate blocks for minors in Kigali and Cyangugu prisons. The government released funding in December for structural improvements to Butare, Gikongoro and Cyangugu prisons.

- 35 ovens and accessories supplied to 7 prisons (Cyangugu, Gitarama, Kigali, Nsinda, Nyanza, Remera, Ruhengeri)
- 8 kits for plumbing, brickwork, upkeep of ovens and infrastructure delivered to prisons

- 2 separate blocks for minors being constructed in 2 prisons (separate blocks already constructed with ICRC help in 5 other prisons)

Access to clean water for detainees

Water supply in the prisons was often poor owing to a lack of infrastructure and resources, a large prison population and frequent power cuts. The ICRC had various water-supply and sanitation projects under way in Nsinda, Remera, Butare, Ruhengeri, Gitarama and Kibungu prisons, including a biogas (sustainable energy project) in Gitarama.

- 63,000 detainees provided with access to clean water through upgrading of existing water systems
- 2 septic tanks and 120 latrines built or rehabilitated, 1 biogas system installed in conjunction with the authorities

Adequate hygiene and sanitation for detainees

After the first quarter the ICRC stopped supplying hygiene materials (chlorine and soap) and adopted a monitoring and advisory role. It also began training the penitentiary authorities to maintain hygiene standards.

- 85,604 detainees regularly provided with soap, 2,759 sanitary towels distributed to women
- 65 prison staff trained in hygiene management

Monitoring nutrition in prisons

In 2004 the ICRC handed over responsibility for providing food for inmates in five central prisons – Gisenyi, Ruhengeri, Cyangugu, Miyove (Byumba) and Kibungu – to the authorities. However, it continued to provide 70% of all detainees with half their food needs. The ICRC checked on detainees' nutritional status and alerted the authorities to any problems identified. It continued to support prison agricultural projects.

- 59,919 detainees (around 70%) in the central prisons supplied with 50% of their food requirements, amounting to 30% of all food needs for the total detainee population in Rwanda
- 382 minors provided with books and pens for education organized in the prisons
- 600 detainees in 3 prisons given seeds and farming tools to create fields for cultivation

WOUNDED AND SICK

First-aid courses

From January to April the ICRC held first-aid courses for staff of the military hospital to ensure that it could cope with any sudden influx of war-wounded. The courses were geared to training of trainers.

- 51 staff members given 12 weeks of first-aid training at the military hospital in Kanombe
- emergency medical supplies past their expiry dates replaced

AUTHORITIES

Promoting IHL treaties and their implementation

The ICRC encouraged the government to adopt national implementation measures for IHL treaties to which Rwanda was party. During the year it pursued a dialogue with the Ministry of Defence on the implementation of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and measures related to missing persons. It also promoted the ratification and implementation of other IHL treaties, such as the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols. In early December Prime Minister Bernard Makuza attended the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL in army training

The ICRC organized a seminar in July for high-ranking officers (brigadiers to majors) to further promote the integration of IHL into the Rwandan Defence Force's (RDF) doctrine and training. The seminar was attended by the general chief of staff and the minister of defence, as well as senior representatives of law faculties, the State prosecutor's office and the Ministry of Justice.

During the year the ICRC was also consulted by the RDF on issues relating to army medical services and identity tags for soldiers. It organized IHL events for a cross-section of RDF officers and members of the local defence forces, and held information sessions for contingents leaving to join the African Union's peace-support operations in Darfur, Sudan.

The ICRC worked with the army to publish regular articles on IHL and the role of the ICRC in the RDF's bi-monthly publication *Ingabo*.

- ▶ 36 senior army officers and politicians took part in a joint ICRC-RDF seminar on IHL
- ▶ 1,708 RDF personnel attended information sessions on IHL and the ICRC
- ▶ 776 members of local defence forces attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC

Promoting human rights standards/humanitarian principles in police training

The ICRC held a workshop for a dozen senior officers in August on integrating IHL and international human rights standards and humanitarian principles into police training. The same month it held a session for 37 warders from Gisovu prison, which included information on its protection/detention-related activities.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting the ICRC's image

The ICRC held two workshops on IHL for 55 journalists in 2004. This helped promote coverage of ICRC activities such as family reunifications and enabled it to explain its policy of gradually withdrawing its food support to the prisons.

Promoting Exploring Humanitarian Law in secondary schools

As agreed in August 2002, the Ministry of Education continued to incorporate the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the six-year civic education curriculum for secondary-school pupils. The body drawing up the curriculum, the National Centre for Development of the Programme (NCDP), produced a second teaching guide for upper secondary education. The ICRC funded four training seminars for 148 teacher-trainers, headmasters and civic education teachers. It paid for a representative of the Burundian Ministry of Education to come to Rwanda to share experiences and help train the Rwandan authorities/teachers in the programme. It also financed the participation of an NCDP representative in its second Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

Promoting IHL in universities

At the ICRC's instigation, the faculty of law of the National University of Rwanda made

it obligatory for all law students to follow its 30-hour course on IHL. The ICRC also encouraged the Free University of Kigali and the Université Laïque Adventiste de Kigali to make their IHL courses obligatory for law students. It established contacts with the faculty of political science and administration and the school of journalism at the National University and with the new Catholic University of Kabgayi (Gitarama) to promote the inclusion of IHL courses in their curricula.

As part of efforts to support higher-education institutions, the ICRC sponsored a representative of the National University to take part in a round-table in Nairobi bringing together universities in the region committed to promoting IHL. It also donated IHL reference books to the National and Free universities and opened its library in Kigali to students doing research. The ICRC sponsored a team of three students to participate in the IHL moot-court competition in Arusha.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Rwanda Red Cross and the ICRC formed committees in four provinces – Butare, Byumba, Kibuye and Ruhengeri – to provide services in the event of an emergency. They also worked on plans for RCM posts in Kigali city, Byumba and Gikongoro and developed communication activities across the country.

Boosting the capacity of the Red Cross

The ICRC held regular meetings with the Rwandan Red Cross to look at ways of enhancing its humanitarian activities. It organized exchanges with other partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the German and Spanish Red Cross Societies (present in Rwanda) and the Belgian, British and Norwegian Red Cross Societies (funding programmes in Rwanda).

Ensuring a rapid response to crises

The ICRC participated in several training sessions for Rwandan Red Cross emergency teams. The basis of the training was to prepare the branches, particularly in border areas, to deal with an influx of refugees. For example, in May and September the teams were in a position to assist refugees fleeing the DRC and Burundi, in cooperation with UNHCR, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Ministry of Local Government,

Community Development and Social Affairs.

The ICRC encouraged the National Society to participate in planning meetings with other partners to harmonize response efforts. It also encouraged it to include the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) in all its training sessions.

Restoring family links

The ICRC helped organize an evaluation of tracing activities to improve efficiency of the service, particularly as the National Society formed part of an international network. It trained volunteers as the RCM network was extended to the provinces of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi.

Promoting IHL and the Movement

The ICRC and the National Society jointly organized meetings to monitor and assess the progress of dissemination activities. During the year Red Cross staff approached both the military and the media to discuss IHL principles. The ICRC paid for a Red Cross representative to attend the annual meeting of National Society legal advisers and IHL experts in Geneva. It assisted in the production of dissemination materials, such as a promotional video on the National Society's activities.



ICRC delegation ICRC sub-delegation

sierra leone

Since the end of the conflict in January 2002, the ICRC has adapted its operations in Sierra Leone. Its protection priorities are to: register and follow up Liberian children separated from their families; restore contact between family members dispersed by the conflict; reunite Sierra Leonean children with their families; and visit people deprived of their freedom. While the ICRC continues its housing, water and sanitation projects for vulnerable civilians in remote communities in the eastern part of the country, other types of emergency aid have all but ceased. The ICRC has maintained a continuous presence in Sierra Leone since 1991. It co-operates with the Sierra Leonean Red Cross in tracing, the promotion of IHL and emergency preparedness. It also supports the National Society's Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation programme, which helps children affected by conflict to reintegrate into their communities.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

3,410,351

Assistance

952,847

Preventive action

770,971

Cooperation with National Societies

1,181,382

General

-

► **6,315,550**

of which: Overheads **385,456**

PERSONNEL

15 expatriates

121 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- 189 children registered in Sierra Leone were reunited with their families in Guinea and Liberia.
- 96 Sierra Leonean children, mostly registered in Guinea, were reunited with their families in Sierra Leone.
- 7,109 RCMs were collected and 3,882 delivered in cooperation with the Sierra Leonean Red Cross.
- Housing conditions were improved for over 100 destitute households headed by women. Water-supply and sanitation systems were improved in 27 villages.
- Sierra Leone ratified the CCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention, and its cabinet approved 11 other IHL treaties for ratification.
- The ICRC assisted the National Society in rebuilding its branches and training its staff in tracing and communication activities. It also participated in the Movement's cooperation mechanisms in place in Sierra Leone.

CONTEXT

In 2004 Sierra Leone enjoyed its third consecutive year of peace. The political and security situation remained generally stable, aided by the continued presence of troops of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and international support to local civil and military structures. Significantly, the UN Security Council reversed its earlier decision to withdraw gradually all UN forces from the country by the end of 2004. Instead, it passed a resolution to retain a residual force to oversee security and stability at least until late 2005.

In June the UN-backed Special Court for Sierra Leone began the trials of individuals charged with war crimes, crimes against humanity and other violations of international humanitarian law (IHL). The 13 indicted included Charles Taylor, former president of Liberia, Johnny Paul Koroma, former head of the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, and Chief Sam Hinga Norman, interior minister at the time of his arrest.

The dispute between Sierra Leone and Guinea over the Yenga territory remained unresolved. This narrow strip of land on the Sierra Leonean side of the border, controlled by the Guinean armed forces since 1998 at the request of the then Sierra Leonean government, had been a bone of contention between the two countries but had remained out of the public eye. In 2004 concerns were raised about the security of civilians in the area. Towards the end of the year the two countries signed a memorandum of

understanding stipulating that the disputed territory belonged to Sierra Leone.

The deployment of a United Nations (UN) peace-keeping force along the Sierra Leone-Liberia border set off a wave of activity in the area, as some Liberian refugees in Sierra Leone returned home to gauge the situation. Some of them remained in Liberia, while others moved back and forth. Reductions in food rations in the refugee camps prompted a number of Liberian children separated from their families to leave the camps in search of jobs in mining areas or elsewhere or to return on their own to Liberia.

The security situation in Sierra Leone remained relatively stable, although isolated incidents were reported, such as cases of violence in refugee camps.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to focus on areas in which it remained a reference: activities for detainees, the protection of civilians and the reunification of children with their families. It also coordinated the restoration of family links in Sierra Leone and throughout the sub-region.

Through its tracing service, the ICRC sought to ensure that children separated from their parents and living mostly in refugee camps in Guinea were reunited with their families in Sierra Leone. Similarly, the ICRC identified and assisted Liberian refugee children in Sierra Leone requiring reunification with their parents in Liberia.

The ICRC pursued efforts to improve basic living conditions for households headed by women, and access to clean drinking water and proper sanitation in several remote areas in the east.

The ICRC carried on working with its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to strengthen the Sierra Leonean Red Cross and to help it develop sustainable community-based activities.

The UN, its mission and its agencies, such as UNHCR and UNICEF, were among the large number of international organizations operating in Sierra Leone. The ICRC maintained regular contact with these agencies and with numerous international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), among them Save the Children and the International Rescue Committee. The general trend in the country was away from emergency relief towards development activities, such as micro-credit schemes and community-based programmes.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation of civilians in the sensitive border districts of Kailahun, Pujehun and Kono. It regularly visited Yenga, in Kailahun, where a territorial dispute between Guinea and Sierra Leone, combined with the presence of military personnel, had reportedly undermined civilians' welfare and security. In Kono, where diamond-mining companies had hired private security companies, the ICRC took steps to ensure they were aware of their obligation to respect the physical integrity and dignity of civilians.

Regular participation in meetings of the various organizations concerned with human rights issues enabled the ICRC to raise their awareness of IHL in general and child protection in particular.

There was a flurry of activity in border regions as some Liberian refugees went back to Liberia to assess the prospects of returning to their homes and farms. The ICRC closely monitored the situation of Liberian refugees in Kailahun and Pujehun, particularly that of children separated from their families. In camps, the situation had deteriorated, notably for children formerly associated with fighting forces. The cessation of supplementary food rations had compelled some of them to leave the camps in search of employment. ICRC tracing teams visited mining areas where some of the children were employed to determine their needs in terms of protection and assistance.

Through regular contacts with UN and child-protection agencies, the ICRC raised its concerns about the welfare of refugee children separated from their families and shared with them its observations from the follow-up of such children. It also provided the children with material assistance to prevent them from resorting to methods of coping with their difficulties that could be detrimental to their well-being.

Restoring family links

The past conflict in Liberia drove tens of thousands of Liberians, including many children, to seek refuge in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire. Some Sierra Leoneans also remained in neighbouring countries.

Through regular meetings and workshops, the ICRC coordinated tracing activities with the Sierra Leonean Red Cross and helped it improve the services provided by its nationwide Red Cross message (RCM) network. The network enabled children and adults separated from their families to re-establish contact with them in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and elsewhere. The ICRC frequently visited border communities and refugee camps with the National Society and provided technical, logistic, material and other assistance in carrying out its activities. ICRC tracing work involved processing tracing requests received from other National Societies.

The ICRC registered children separated from their families and reunited them with their relatives in Sierra Leone and Liberia. Among the children benefiting from tracing and family reunification services were

Liberian children associated with former Liberian fighting forces who had sought refuge in Sierra Leone. The ICRC kept a close eye on children reunited with their families and provided them with the protection and support necessary for effective reintegration.

The intermittent repatriation, by UNHCR, of Sierra Leonean refugees included children in foster care who were separated from their families. The ICRC ensured that, where possible, those children repatriated were reunited with their families in Sierra Leone. ICRC follow-up of the children continued, regardless of who had facilitated their repatriation and whether or not they had been reunited with their families.

The ICRC's cooperation with traditional and community leaders, particularly in border areas, boosted tracing efforts, such as the registration of children separated from their families.

The ICRC and the National Societies of the West African sub-region conducted wide-ranging poster campaigns and placed radio announcements to locate the parents of children separated from their families. The campaigns served to raise awareness among all civilians of tracing services, prompting the ICRC to extend its tracing criteria within Sierra Leone to cover not only children separated from their families but adults as well.

- ▶ 7,109 RCMs, including 1,905 from children separated from their families, collected and 3,882 delivered for civilians, including refugees
- ▶ 181 children, including 22 associated with fighting forces, registered
- ▶ 189 children, including 62 associated with fighting forces, reunited with their families
- ▶ 378 children reunited with their families in Sierra Leone followed up

Improving civilians' living conditions

The project to improve housing for vulnerable households headed by women in two remote locations in Kailahun district was completed, with 100 houses constructed for 600 beneficiaries. The ICRC's contribution involved providing locally unavailable materials, such as nails and corrugated-iron sheets for roofing, and technical support to local carpenters. The communities helped by building the houses for the women.

In September the ICRC completed its water and sanitation programme in 27 villages in

Kailahun district. By the end of the year the 10 wells (in 10 villages) and 300 latrines (in 14 villages) planned for 2004 were completed and in use.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC visited prisons to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees held in connection with the past conflict or for security reasons, and began visiting juvenile detention centres. Through meetings with the minister for internal affairs and other government representatives, the ICRC continued to reiterate the need to ensure that the treatment of prisoners and their conditions of detention complied with IHL and international standards and that their judicial guarantees were safeguarded. Reports on these visits, with recommendations for improvements, were submitted to the detaining authorities. Although detainees were allowed family visits and telephone contact with relatives, their need for the RCM service remained significant, particularly for up-country or distant destinations.

In support of efforts to improve detention conditions, the ICRC supplied medicines and carried out repairs to showers and latrines.

The ICRC made monthly visits to a large group of Liberian soldiers held at the Mape and Mafanta internment camps. Through bimonthly discussions with the Internment Task Force, it advised the authorities on their obligation to ensure that the treatment of internees and their conditions of detention were consistent with IHL and international standards. Throughout the year the organization lobbied the government, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies to hasten the repatriation of the internees to Liberia now that the conflict there had ended. By the end of 2004 plans to repatriate them were at an advanced stage.

- 1,535 detainees visited, including those held by the Special Court and 10 minors, during 37 visits to 10 places of detention
- 56 detainees/internees received family visits with ICRC support
- 2,071 RCMs collected from detainees/internees and 1,579 delivered

- clothes, blankets and sleeping mats distributed to internees; water and sanitation facilities in internment camps maintained

AUTHORITIES

ICRC efforts to promote IHL in Sierra Leone bore fruit, namely with the ratification of 8 IHL treaties: the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention and the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), including the 2001 Amendment to the Convention and the five Protocols. Sierra Leone had signed nearly all the major IHL treaties. Through discussions with the relevant authorities, the ICRC learned that the implementation of these treaties lagged behind primarily because of lack of financial and human resources.

The ICRC held bilateral meetings with various international organizations, including the UN and its agencies, and regularly attended other meetings at which they were present. The organization was invited to participate in briefings organized by the UNAMSIL headquarters for its senior staff, and provided them with documentation on IHL and the ICRC and its activities.

The ICRC used regular meetings with representatives of key ministries (interior, finance and agriculture), to keep the authorities informed of its operations in Sierra Leone. Through its tracing activities in the field, it kept the local authorities abreast of its programmes. It also organized or participated in workshops or information sessions on IHL and the ICRC for local and national leaders. One of the workshops developed model legislation to facilitate the drafting of a law on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, which received the support of the relevant ministries and was submitted to the cabinet for approval.

- 5 workshops held for 130 local and national officials
- 1 information session held for community leaders in Kailahun

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to support the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces (RSLAF) in further integrating IHL into their training. It gave advice on the development of an IHL instructor's manual and provided materials for use in the training of recruits. It participated in briefings and IHL courses organized by an RSLAF officer

previously trained at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy, and approached instructors in the field to encourage them to organize IHL courses at unit level.

The ICRC participated regularly in briefings of incoming UNAMSIL contingents to raise their awareness of the organization's mandate and activities and to draw their attention to the 1999 UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on observance by UN forces of IHL. These briefings were an opportunity to interact with officers from a broad range of countries.

- 1 RSLAF officer sponsored on a course at the IIHL in San Remo
- IHL library donated to the Armed Forces Education Centre in Freetown

CIVIL SOCIETY

Overall, the ICRC enjoyed fruitful relations with the media, with which it worked to draw the public's attention to humanitarian issues and Red Cross activities in Sierra Leone. A campaign, Protect Children in War, launched by the ICRC and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), was an excellent opportunity to turn the spotlight on humanitarian issues. Three UEFA referees who were roving ambassadors for the campaign visited the country. The campaign and the high point of the visit – a football game officiated by the referees in a camp for Liberian refugees – were widely covered by the media. The media, including Radio UNAMSIL, also assisted the ICRC by running campaigns to trace family members sought by children in refugee camps in Guinea. To relay information on the Fundamental Principles and ICRC and Red Cross activities, the ICRC and the National Society relied increasingly on radio programmes and workshops for journalists.

A working group, comprising representatives of the ICRC, the Sierra Leonean Red Cross and the National Curriculum Development and Research Centre and three teachers, was set up to gain a better understanding of the Sierra Leonean school system, to assess the existing curriculum and to define a strategy for the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools. The working group met twice, identified suitable subjects in the secondary-school curriculum, analysed stakeholders and made recommendations on the way forward. In October the ICRC discussed with the minister for education,

science and technology the possibility of integrating some of the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules into subjects already in the school curriculum. Members of the National Society and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology attended the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in July in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

Contacts were consolidated with the departments of international public law and mass communication at Fourah Bay College. The ICRC conducted an information session on its mandate and activities and IHL for the college's students and lecturers and paid for the head of the mass communication department to attend the 4th All Africa Course on IHL in Pretoria, South Africa, in November. Together with the Sierra Leonean Red Cross, the ICRC gave a presentation on its mandate and activities and IHL at the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology for staff and students. Students doing research on IHL, the ICRC's mandate and role or more specific topics such as children in war received support in the form of briefings and documentation.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC supported the National Society in conducting tracing activities and running its RCM network. It organized meetings attended by heads of the tracing departments of the Sierra Leonean and Liberian Red Cross Societies so that they could exchange experiences on tracing and improve their cooperation in collecting and delivering RCMs.

The ICRC continued to support the Sierra Leonean Red Cross in running a transit centre in Kenema accommodating children awaiting reunification with their families. In addition, the organization supported the Child Advocacy and Rehabilitation Programme through which the National Society addressed the needs of communities and of children traumatized by war, providing the children with training and skills.

ICRC-supported community-based programmes run by the National Society in the Bo and Moyamba districts progressed. The construction of wells and latrines in 10 communities affected by the conflict was completed and the building of an income-generating guesthouse for the Kenema Red Cross branch advanced.

The Sierra Leonean Red Cross resumed, through ICRC support, its previously suspended national radio programme, *Red Cross na Salone* (Red Cross in Sierra Leone). The programme reached a wide audience, particularly in the countryside, and provided a perfect opportunity for the National Society to raise public awareness of its activities. The ICRC continued supporting the National Society in its other efforts throughout the country to enhance knowledge of the Fundamental Principles and the Movement and to advocate respect for the red cross emblem. The campaign, Protect Children in War, was implemented in all branches.



⊕ (ICRC delegation in Nairobi) ⊕ Somali Red Crescent/ICRC hospital

somalia

The ICRC has maintained a presence in Somalia since 1982, basing its delegation in Nairobi since 1994. It focuses on providing people with emergency aid to alleviate the direct effects of conflict, which are often compounded by natural disasters, and runs an extensive medical and first-aid programme to treat the wounded and sick. It also carries out agricultural and water projects with a medium-term outlook, designed to restore or improve the livelihoods of vulnerable farmers and nomads. It supports and works closely with the Somali Red Crescent Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

182,667

Assistance

21,322,324

Preventive action

360,399

Cooperation with National Societies

993,268

General

17,106

► **22,875,764**

of which: Overheads **1,383,216**

PERSONNEL

14 expatriates

27 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC was the main provider of emergency aid in central and southern Somalia; it distributed relief goods to more than 200,000 people displaced by conflict and trucked in water for 342,000 people and their livestock hit by drought.
- The ICRC supported 2 surgical hospitals and 28 medical or first-aid facilities; hospital budgets were streamlined, while maintaining quality of care.
- Some 190 ICRC community projects designed to boost food production and income benefited over 300,000 vulnerable people.
- The ICRC built or repaired over 100 water points for nomads and farmers; during the drought, ICRC-rehabilitated boreholes were often the only water points functioning, enabling thousands of pastoralists and their livestock to survive.
- The ICRC's new "FamilyLinks" website gave Somalis uprooted by conflict another means of restoring contact with loved ones.
- The Somali Red Crescent received substantial ICRC support in assisting victims of conflict and natural disaster.

CONTEXT

The Somali National Reconciliation Conference, begun in Kenya in October 2002 under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, achieved a series of breakthroughs in 2004 towards establishing the country's first functioning national government in 13 years. By the end of the year a 275-member, clan-based transitional federal parliament was in place, led by a president and prime minister. Parliament still had to approve a cabinet and the government move from Kenya to Somalia.

Meanwhile, the political progress had little beneficial impact on Somalis' daily lives. Despite the ceasefire signed by conference delegates in October 2002, fighting continued, triggered by political disputes, competition for control of property or income-generating infrastructure, or clan rivalries over water and pasture. The clashes tended to be short-lived and localized, but occasionally claimed a high number of casualties. Since the collapse of the State in 1991, a combination of armed conflict, natural disasters and economic necessity had displaced hundreds of thousands of Somalis. Long-term instability had eroded traditional clan support networks, and few Somalis could afford the private alternatives to State-run social services. A drought in northern and central Somalia threatened the livelihoods of almost a million pastoralists. The rains arrived in October, but many farmers and nomads faced a struggle to survive until the harvest reached the markets in April 2005.

ICRC ACTION

With no significant change in the level of violence in Somalia, the ICRC maintained its role as a key provider of emergency aid in southern and central regions – the part of the country worst affected by fighting. More than 200,000 people displaced by conflict received, as needed, essential household items, seeds, tools and building materials. The ICRC also trucked in a month's supply of water to help some 57,000 pastoralist families (around 342,000 people) and their livestock survive the drought in northern and central regions.

The ICRC improved access to treatment for the war-wounded and sick in conflict-affected areas. It supported two surgical referral hospitals, five "pre-hospital" care centres (compared with three in 2003), 18 health posts and five cholera-treatment centres. Hospital budgets were streamlined, while maintaining the quality of care.

Some 300 short- to medium-term ICRC projects, mainly to rehabilitate community irrigation systems and vital water points, were completed, helping vulnerable farmers and nomads preserve their threatened livelihoods.

The ICRC launched its Somali "FamilyLinks" website. This, along with the traditional tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) services and the ICRC-supported Missing Persons radio programme broadcast by the BBC Somali service, enabled thousands of Somalis dispersed by conflict to restore contact.

The ICRC maintained a substantial level of financial, material and technical support to help the Somali Red Crescent Society meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities.

The ICRC's operational set-up for Somalia, introduced some 10 years ago, again allowed it to work effectively and safely in a difficult environment. The ICRC had no permanent structures or marked vehicles in Somalia and kept the number of staff to a minimum. Expatriate staff were based in Nairobi and made short but regular field trips to Somalia to oversee programme strategy and management. ICRC Somali staff were responsible for security, logistics, programme implementation and liaison with the Somali Red Crescent, and thus had more responsibility and autonomy than their ICRC counterparts in other countries.

To ensure effective coordination of humanitarian activities, the ICRC maintained its

observer status on the Nairobi-based Somali Aid Coordination Body, comprising donors, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and had regular meetings with its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

CIVILIANS

Providing emergency aid

Armed violence and tensions drove tens of thousands of families from their homes, mainly in central and southern Somalia. Some displaced people found casual labour in urban centres or were supported by their clan, but many faced destitution. The ICRC provided the worst-off displaced families with essential household items (tarpaulins, clothing, jerrycans, blankets and kitchenware). Those with access to arable land received seeds for planting and farm implements. Families able to return to their villages were given materials to help rebuild their homes.

Following several poor rainy seasons in Nugal, Mudug and Galgudud, livestock were dying, food and water prices were up by 20% and pastoralists were selling their assets at low prices to survive. Many of the 75,000 pastoralist households in the area (some 110,000 sq km) had migrated with their weakened animals to distant grazing grounds in search of water and found themselves isolated. An ICRC field assessment in September showed that families had lost between 20% and 70% of their herds. In response, between mid-September and mid-October when the rains arrived, the organization trucked in some 25 million litres of water for around 57,000 households in over 250 remote locations. The water was drawn from 80 local boreholes, most of them rehabilitated by the ICRC in the past five years. The ICRC was also preparing to distribute food in early 2005 to some 10,000 of the worst-off families to tide them over until the harvest reached the markets in April.

- ▶ 207,400 IDPs (27,655 families) received essential household items
- ▶ 82,120 IDPs (10,950 families) received seeds and farming implements
- ▶ 82,950 IDPs (11,060 families) returning home received construction materials
- ▶ some 25 million litres of water delivered to 342,000 pastoralists and their livestock

Boosting crop production and income

Some 80% of Somalis relied on their own crops and livestock to feed themselves; many were close to exhausting their resources. Agricultural production had halved since the collapse of the State in 1991, and ongoing instability had eroded clan networks and other traditional means of coping with hardship. The ICRC ran some 190 projects with a medium-term outlook, designed to help weakened communities restore or preserve their livelihoods and thus be in a better position to weather another crisis. The majority of projects were in central and southern Somalia – the regions most affected by violence and natural disasters – focusing on the fertile agricultural hub around the Juba and Shebele rivers.

One-off community intervention projects (CIPs) were completed in 109 communities, the majority in central Somalia, the Juba valley and Gedo. A CIP lasted on average 19 days and paid cash to needy members of the community – in total 7,755 workers – in return for their labour in rehabilitating vital community infrastructure, usually a rain-water catchment or irrigation channel. The aim was to provide struggling communities with both a short-term economic injection and a facility that aided long-term productivity. Several of the communities were hosting displaced families. Communities helped design the CIPs and received training and tools to maintain the refurbished facilities. An assessment of CIPs completed in 2003 showed that the beneficiaries spent 60% of the cash on food and 40% on essential farming and household items.

In Lower Shabele along the Shebele river, ICRC gravity irrigation projects rehabilitated 45 sluice gates so that around 7,800 farming families could regulate the irrigation of their crops and prevent their homes and 10,000 hectares of fields from being flooded during heavy seasonal rains. In April and October, before the rainy seasons started, the ICRC also distributed empty sandbags – in total some 220,000 – to 110 farming communities around the Juba and Shebele rivers to use as protection against flooding.

In Hiran and Middle Shabele, the ICRC installed powerful irrigation pumps to boost crop production in six communities (1,880 families) that had practised rain-fed agriculture. The communities contributed to the pump irrigation projects (PIPs) by helping to dig or repair irrigation channels. The ICRC gave smaller, one-cylinder

irrigation pumps to 22 communities in Middle and Lower Juba, enabling around 440 families to plant more staple and cash crops. It also set up trial plots in all PIP communities in Hiran (22 since the project was launched in 1997) to demonstrate to farmers the advantages of using powder from the seeds of the neem tree as a free and environmentally friendly pesticide.

To cover crop failure triggered mainly by drought or flash floods, the ICRC provided around 19,500 resident families on small farms in central and southern Somalia with enough seed of staple crops (10 to 15 kg per family) for each to sow about 1.5 hectares. An evaluation of the ICRC's 2003 distribution showed that the seeds had helped families survive without having to sell their assets and had been shared by the community, which strengthened the social-support network. The ICRC also delivered vegetable seeds to some 26,000 farming families in Puntland and central and southern Somalia to grow as an alternative source of food or income. The beneficiaries faced long-term food insecurity but had access to a permanent water supply.

Poorer families fished to supplement their diet or income, especially during a drought or other hardship, but many could not afford new nets and hooks. The ICRC distributed 6,000 sets of fishing gear to farming and nomadic families along the Juba and Shebele rivers and the coastlines of Mudug, Middle Shabele and Lower Juba.

The tree nursery set up by the ICRC in December 2002 in Janale, Lower Shabele, was handed over to the community at the start of 2004, with over 3,000 fruit and neem saplings ready for sale. The project was designed to boost and vary local sources of food and income.

- 182 community water/irrigation projects benefited over 80,000 people
- 146,250 people received staple-crop seeds
- 195,000 people received vegetable seeds
- 45,000 people received fishing kits

Providing clean water

Competition for water was a common source of tension between clans. Only a fraction of Somalis in rural areas had access to clean water, and in the absence of a functioning government most communities lacked the resources to maintain existing water points. The ICRC continued to construct or repair wells, boreholes, *berkad* (traditional sub-surface reservoirs) and rainwater catchments throughout central and southern Somalia

so that farming and nomadic families and their livestock had access to clean water within a reasonable distance. Where feasible, communities helped finance the drilling of boreholes. Boreholes rehabilitated by the ICRC in past years were often the only water points functioning during the drought in northern and central regions, enabling nomads and their animals to survive.

- work completed/ongoing to build or repair 15 boreholes, 72 wells, 14 community *berkad* and 10 rainwater catchments
- 8,000 bags of cement (50 kg each) distributed to repair *berkad*

Restoring family links

Thousands of Somalis uprooted by conflict used the tracing and RCM services, provided by the ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent, to find and communicate with family members in Somalia and abroad. As part of these services, the names of people sought by their relatives were read out on the ICRC-supported Missing Persons radio programme, a 15-minute show broadcast six times a week by the BBC Somali service. By late 2004 Somalis worldwide could also click on the new "FamilyLinks" website at www.icrc.org and read the names of people sought through the radio programme or tracing requests registered by the National Society.

- 10,235 RCMs delivered and 5,235 collected
- 6,290 names of people sought broadcast by the BBC
- 29 people located whose families filed tracing requests
- ICRC Somali "FamilyLinks" website launched (457 names registered)

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC supported two surgical hospitals in Mogadishu, which served as the main referral units for war-wounded patients from a large part of the country, five "pre-hospital" care clinics and 18 health posts covering most of central and southern Somalia. To react rapidly to clashes in remote regions, it positioned first-aid supplies in potential hot spots, which were distributed to local clinics and community leaders to treat any casualties who could not be evacuated immediately.

Supporting surgical hospitals

The ICRC provided funds, training and medical and surgical supplies and equipment to Keysaney Hospital (110 beds) in north

Mogadishu, run by the Somali Red Crescent, and Medina Hospital (65 beds) in south Mogadishu. Following assessments and with the agreement of both hospitals, the ICRC reduced its provision of pharmaceuticals to a level comparable to other ICRC-supported hospitals in Africa and decreased Keysaney's budget to encourage more cost-recovery initiatives and bring it in line with Medina. The ICRC also organized a conference in Mogadishu on various aspects of surgery, attended by 26 medical staff from hospitals in the capital and the towns of Baidoa and Marka.

- 2 surgical hospitals supported
- 4,364 patients, including 2,043 war-wounded, 3 of them mine victims, treated
- 4,306 operations performed
- 6,993 outpatient consultations given
- renovations at both hospitals, including rehabilitation of the water systems, and general building maintenance supported

Expanding first aid

To improve access to treatment in central and southern regions affected by conflict, the ICRC assessed existing medical facilities to identify those that, with support, could become "pre-hospital" care centres (PHCCs) – facilities that administered first aid and could also stabilize patients needing emergency surgery and transfer them to a referral hospital. The ICRC provided five such centres with medical supplies and equipment (Baidoa Hospital in Bay region, Brawa Hospital in Lower Shabele, Mudug Regional Hospital in Galkayo and Somali Red Crescent-run health posts in Dusamareb in Galgudud and Jilib in Lower Shabele). The health posts became PHCCs in June, after the ICRC had carried out minor renovations and organized staff training. Mudug Hospital suffered internal problems. Following discussions with the management, the Puntland authorities and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)-Holland, which was also supporting the facility, the ICRC ended its cooperation with the hospital in August.

The ICRC covered the running costs of 18 primary-health-care posts run by the Somali Red Crescent and provided them with dressing materials to be used mainly for war-wounded patients. The posts offered free first aid and curative care to a total of some 190,000 residents and internally displaced people (IDPs) in remote, violence-prone areas of central and southern Somalia. As a temporary measure, two of the posts had been closed since May, owing to security constraints.

- ▶ 5 ICRC-supported PHCCs treated 5,343* patients for injuries, including 386* war-wounded
- ▶ 18 ICRC-supported primary-health-care posts gave 133,295* first-aid related consultations

* Figures may be incomplete or not verified owing to security constraints.

Fighting cholera

Between April and June – the high-risk period for cholera outbreaks – the ICRC supported four Somali Red Crescent-run centres in south Mogadishu and one in north Mogadishu dispensing oral rehydration salts to patients dehydrated by diarrhoea. The centres transferred severely dehydrated patients to two cholera-treatment centres in the capital run by Action contre la Faim and MSF-Spain. To stem the spread of cholera, the ICRC, UNICEF and NGOs together chlorinated 326 wells in Mogadishu.

- ▶ 1,588 patients treated at 5 ICRC-supported oral-rehydration centres

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Given the insecurity during 2004, the ICRC could not implement any structured programme to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among the many armed groups in Somalia. In Somaliland, the ICRC held a three-day course on IHL in December for 20 staff officers – the first such course in two years. The commander and head of training expressed interest in developing an IHL programme.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC stepped up its promotion of IHL among Somalia's very active civil society, which ran schools and other infrastructure in the absence of a functioning government. It forged new contacts with key opinion-makers, particularly education administrators, women's groups and radio stations, which were wide-reaching, popular and had a powerful impact on public opinion. A highlight was an ICRC presentation on IHL during a workshop for 13 participants from various media groups, organized by HornAfrik, a Mogadishu-based radio station. The ICRC began developing new communication materials, including an illustrated textbook for secondary schools and universities linking Somali customary law to the Geneva Conventions.

In 2004 the ICRC:

- ▶ held IHL workshops/presentations for media representatives, a women's group and students from 6 education institutes;
- ▶ produced new promotional material on IHL (DVDs, fact sheets, content on the ICRC website, diaries and greeting cards);
- ▶ worked on a school textbook and comic book on IHL.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Somali Red Crescent Society was the ICRC's main partner in the medical field, played a key role in running the tracing and RCM services, gave first-aid courses and helped promote IHL and the role and Fundamental Principles of the Movement, particularly in areas inaccessible to the ICRC. To ensure the National Society had a stable structure and the necessary skills and tools, the ICRC organized training, provided materials and equipment and covered the salaries and expenses of core staff and the running costs of infrastructure (headquarters, two offices and 19 branches).

In May the Somali Red Crescent held its first general meeting in four years, co-financed by the ICRC, International Federation and Norwegian Red Cross. The participants agreed to uphold the unity of the Somali Red Crescent and adopted a five-year development plan and volunteer-management guidelines. The ICRC, International Federation, Somali Red Crescent and partner National Societies active in Somalia also met regularly to coordinate their activities and support for the National Society.

Restoring family links and promoting IHL

To help the Somali Red Crescent run its tracing and RCM network and dissemination programme, the ICRC:

- ▶ conducted the annual three-day workshop on tracing and dissemination, attended by 38 branch secretaries and officers;
- ▶ participated in 3 regional tracing/dissemination sessions for branch officers and volunteers in Puntland, Hiran and Gedo;
- ▶ had regular working sessions with the tracing coordinators in Mogadishu and Hargeisa to standardize procedures and analyse the workload;
- ▶ financially supported the National Society's cholera-awareness campaign in Mogadishu, reaching some 500,000 people;

- ▶ helped produce and distribute newsletters on the National Society's activities and promotional calendars to stakeholders and the general public;
- ▶ provided the National Society with 100 videos, as well as booklets and comic books on Red Crescent activities and IHL.

Emergency preparedness and response

To boost the Somali Red Crescent's capacity to both teach and administer first aid, the ICRC:

- ▶ provided teaching tools and materials for first-aid courses for the public;
- ▶ had the first-aid manual reprinted and distributed to all branches;
- ▶ organized the production and distribution to branches of 250 first-aid kits and 200 shoulder bags (provided by the Kenyan Red Cross), as well as flags and stickers.



sudan

The ICRC opened an office in Khartoum in 1978 in response to the Ethiopian conflict. In 1984 it initiated operations in connection with the conflict between government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in southern Sudan. In 2004 the ICRC substantially reinforced its operations in response to the conflict in the Darfur region. The organization protects and assists people affected by armed conflict. It distributes relief, helps to preserve livelihoods, assists medical and limb-fitting facilities, visits security detainees, restores family links, promotes compliance with IHL and supports the development of the Sudanese Red Crescent.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

10,705,771

Assistance

75,601,265

Preventive action

3,971,350

Cooperation with National Societies

2,657,228

General

61,583

► **92,997,196**

of which: Overheads **5,411,662**

PERSONNEL

137 expatriates

924 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- To respond to the Darfur crisis, the ICRC significantly increased its operations and appealed for an additional CHF 31 million, making Sudan the ICRC's largest operation.
- In a difficult environment, the ICRC was able to work throughout most of Darfur. With the Sudanese Red Crescent, it delivered food to 400,000 people and relief goods to 525,000, and improved access to water for 480,000.
- The ICRC president made 2 official visits to Sudan, calling on the authorities and armed groups to protect civilians in Darfur and halt IHL violations.
- The ICRC supported 7 hospitals and 9 limb-fitting facilities.
- The ICRC visited people held by the SPLM/A and was officially asked, as a neutral intermediary, to facilitate any release of detainees held in connection with the north-south and Darfur conflicts.
- To prepare for a transition to peace in the south, the ICRC reinforced its presence there, extended the family-links service and handed over health projects to partner National Societies.
- The ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Federation and Sudanese Red Crescent on coordinating and supporting Movement activities.

CONTEXT

On 31 December 2004, following sustained international diplomacy, Sudan's government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed a permanent ceasefire agreement and endorsed a detailed plan on sharing power and wealth. This was expected to lead to the signing of a comprehensive peace settlement in early January, ending over two decades of north-south conflict. As the talks progressed, incidents of armed violence decreased in the south. The Upper Nile, however, remained a flashpoint, with civilians coming under attack during renewed fighting between pro-government and opposition forces. Elsewhere, clan rivalries occasionally erupted into violence, and Equatoria remained destabilized by the presence of the Lord's Resistance Army, a Ugandan opposition group. Infrastructure in the south was in ruins and an estimated four million people were still displaced.

In the western Sudanese region of Darfur, increasing international pressure failed to halt the fighting that broke out in early 2003, pitting government forces and allied militia against the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). Access to the region by aid organizations improved following a renewable ceasefire agreement signed on 8 April by the government and both opposition groups, but the ceasefire did not hold. Serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) affected the whole population. More than one-and-a-half million people were displaced

and living in crowded camps in Darfur and eastern Chad.

Food shortages loomed in rural areas. Towards the end of the year lawlessness spread as new armed groups formed and ethnic tensions rose. Communities were living in constant fear for their safety. After the death of four of its staff members in two separate incidents – an anti-tank mine explosion and an armed attack – Save the Children UK pulled out of Darfur in December.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC remained focused on protecting and assisting victims of armed conflict, while preparing for any transition to peace and development in the south.

Darfur

To respond to the crisis in Darfur, the ICRC significantly increased its activities and expanded its set-up, making Sudan its largest operation worldwide. It deployed an additional 100 expatriate and 650 national staff, opened 8 sub-delegations and offices in Darfur, and on 27 May launched an appeal for an additional CHF 31 million to finance its action. The ICRC met most of the objectives set in the appeal, while operating in an environment made difficult by the immense scale of needs combined with the logistics of working in a vast, remote and harsh terrain amid ongoing conflict.

Initially the ICRC provided emergency aid (water, shelter, essential household items and medical care) to internally displaced people (IDPs) in camps around urban centres. From May more organizations arrived in Darfur, most of them working in the camps. Given its strict neutrality and independence and solid contacts established with all parties to the conflict, the ICRC was able to work throughout most of Darfur. It therefore focused increasingly on remote rural areas, assisting resident communities of both African and Arab extraction that had received no aid. Without help, many of the beneficiaries would most likely have been forced to join the crowded camps for IDPs, move in with relatives in towns or cross into Chad to avoid destitution. From late July the ICRC distributed food to the worst-off rural populations, in coordination with the World Food Programme (WFP). When assessments showed that food shortages were worse than expected, it stepped up food aid. To assist in the treatment of the wounded and sick, the ICRC upgraded five hospitals and supported nine health facilities. It also took the lead role in restoring contact between family members separated by the conflict, extending the tracing and Red Cross Messages (RCM) network to Darfur and the Sudanese refugee camps in eastern Chad. The ICRC appealed frequently to the authorities and all armed groups to protect civilians and ensure aid could reach them, in accordance with IHL. During two official visits to Sudan, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger reinforced this message.

Southern Sudan

As access improved in southern Sudan, the ICRC extended its activities. It provided emergency aid to people directly affected by conflict, reopening an office in Malakal for that purpose, and expanded the tracing and RCM network, stepping up efforts to reunite Sudanese children and their parents. The ICRC was the only organization that regularly visited government soldiers held by the SPLM/A. It supported Juba Teaching Hospital and seven physical rehabilitation centres in government-controlled areas, while the ICRC's own hospital and limb-fitting centre in Lokichokio in neighbouring Kenya continued to treat patients evacuated from southern Sudan. In anticipation of a transition to peace and reconstruction, the ICRC reinforced its presence in Juba and Wau, handed over three health projects to partner National Societies and stepped up its promotion of IHL among regional authorities, armed forces and militia.

The Sudanese Red Crescent, as the ICRC's main partner in the field, received increased support to boost its capacity to help vulnerable populations, particularly in Darfur.

A large number of partner Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies started working in Sudan, most of them in Darfur. The ICRC and Sudanese Red Crescent facilitated coordination within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to maximize resources and the impact of activities. The ICRC also coordinated closely with UN agencies and the growing number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) active in Sudan.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians in Darfur

The ICRC remained deeply concerned about the serious violations of IHL in Darfur. It made frequent appeals to the authorities, the military and all other armed groups to spare civilians, their property and public infrastructure from attack and to ensure that people could move freely, in compliance with IHL. The ICRC stressed that persistent insecurity was preventing aid from reaching conflict victims and IDPs from returning home. ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger made two official visits to Sudan, meeting the authorities in Khartoum and touring Darfur to reinforce these messages. In the field, ICRC delegates monitored the treatment of civilians, documented allegations of IHL violations and made representations to the parties involved in order to stop

further abuses. It also monitored any follow-up action by the parties.

With the agreement of all parties, the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary during the release on 26 March of a Chinese engineer and on 18 September of eight Sudanese civilians, all held by the SLM/A.

Providing emergency aid in Darfur

In a short period, more than one-and-a-half million people were driven from their homes in Darfur. Thousands at a time took refuge in camps around the provincial capitals (El Fasher, Nyala and Geneina) and other towns. The ICRC, together with the Sudanese Red Crescent, provided emergency aid in the camps (water, shelter, essential household items – blankets, jerrycans, clothing, kitchenware, soap and mosquito netting – and medical care).

Following the April ceasefire, many more aid organizations arrived in Darfur, most of them working in the urban IDP camps. Because of its strict neutrality and solid contacts established with all parties to the conflict, the ICRC was able to work throughout most of Darfur. It continued, therefore, to monitor conditions and maintain water systems in the camps and towns, but from May focused on rural areas, assisting communities that had received no aid. The aim was to prevent more residents from migrating to towns, overcrowded urban IDP camps or eastern Chad to avoid destitution. Initially ICRC teams assessed the needs in more remote government- and opposition-controlled areas, while making quick-impact repairs to water systems and distributing essential household items to people of African and Arab extraction alike who had returned to their damaged villages or were still hiding near their homes.

From mid-July the ICRC began distributing food to the worst-off rural communities. Most villagers had planted, on average, less than one-third of their crops owing to a combination of poor rains, looted livestock, damaged fields, displacement and people's fear of going out to their fields. The ICRC estimated that food stocks would run out in many rural areas by April 2005. Towards the end of the year, in coordination with WFP, it began to shift from one-off distributions that stabilized communities to providing regular food rations to vulnerable residents in remote areas.

WFP supplied the bulk of food aid in IDP camps. However, the ICRC provided food to some 35,000 people in Gereida camp

(South Darfur), set up in July, because it was the only organization able to do so.

- 8,500 tonnes of food delivered to 283,000 rural residents and 117,000 IDPs in 237 locations
- 525,000 people (336,000 IDPs in 11 camps and 189,000 residents in 109 locations) received essential household items
- water systems and points set up/ repaired/upgraded, providing 2 million litres of water daily to more than 480,000 people (150,000 IDPs in 5 camps and 330,000 residents in 44 locations)
- the layout of 3 camps organized, accommodating some 90,000 IDPs

Delivering emergency aid in the south

In southern Sudan, the ICRC provided emergency assistance, mainly essential household items and water, to civilians affected by clan violence or clashes between government and opposition forces. Following renewed fighting in the Upper Nile, the ICRC reopened its office in Malakal, where many people had sought refuge. It distributed relief goods to IDPs and residents in the area and began building a water-treatment plant for the town hospital.

- 39,500 people received essential household items
- 10,450 residents and IDPs received fishing gear to boost their source of food/income

Providing health care in Darfur

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, set up or rehabilitated nine basic health-care units in Darfur. The majority of facilities offered curative and mother-and-child care, vaccinations and hygiene education and were located mainly in rural regions of North, South and West Darfur where the conflict had interrupted or severely weakened health services. In some cases, if the local health facility had collapsed, people would have had to cross dangerous front lines to get treatment. The ICRC's two main health projects in 2004 were in Gereida IDP camp (South Darfur), supported by the Australian and British Red Cross Societies, and in Seleia (West Darfur), supported by the Canadian Red Cross.

The ICRC also carried out vaccination campaigns in remote or dangerous regions inaccessible to the health authorities. For example, following a measles outbreak in October in the Jebel Marah region (north of Zalingie in West Darfur), the ICRC

vaccinated some 16,000 children in government- and opposition-controlled areas; UNICEF and the Ministry of Health provided the vaccines and other medical supplies.

- 9 basic health units set up/supported, serving a catchment population of some 190,000 residents and IDPs
- from September, ICRC-supported health units gave 20,000 curative and 1,100 antenatal consultations, and referred 185 patients to hospital
- 40,000 immunization doses administered; 17,537 children immunized against polio

Transition in the south: handover of health projects

The ICRC supported 16 primary-health-care facilities in the south, which served some 235,000 people in five regions (Juba, Raja and Wau in government-controlled areas and Chelkou and Yirol in opposition-controlled areas). Most of the facilities offered curative, antenatal and mother-and-child care, vaccinations and health education. This community-based programme, launched in 1998, aimed to improve public health by rebuilding health and water services undermined by years of conflict and neglect. During the year the ICRC focused on building local skills. It involved the communities and health authorities more in planning and implementing activities, organized in-service and formal training for health workers and introduced performance-related staff incentives, standard treatment guidelines and a health-information network. Given the rising international interest in funding reconstruction in southern Sudan, the ICRC handed over its Wau, Raja and Juba projects during the year to the Danish, German and Netherlands Red Cross Societies, respectively.

The ICRC also helped communities maintain water points and promote hygiene. In Yirol, with ICRC materials and expertise, the water board managed 62 water points serving some 100,000 people, families built new latrines, and 10 schools taught their pupils good hygiene practices.

- 16 primary-health-care facilities supported, including 12 handed over to partner National Societies
- 105,262 curative and 10,000 antenatal consultations given
- 54,709 immunization doses administered; 12,835 children immunized against polio
- 2,250 health-education sessions held

Restoring family links

Around 200 ICRC and Sudanese Red Crescent staff and volunteers relayed more than 69,000 RCMs between family members separated by conflict. Most messages travelled across north-south front lines or between Sudan and refugee camps in neighbouring countries.

As access improved, the tracing and RCM network was expanded within southern Sudan. The flow of messages increased, and the ICRC stepped up efforts to re-establish contact between children and their parents and, where possible, reunite them. With government and SPLM/A permission, the ICRC escorted a total of 86 people, most of them children, across front lines and reunited them with their families – the biggest programme of this type in years.

The ICRC took the lead role in restoring contact between relatives separated by the conflict in Darfur. This was challenging in a region the size of France, where more than one-and-a-half million people had been displaced, many of them several times, and scattered over 100 locations in Darfur and eastern Chad. The existing tracing and RCM network was extended to Darfur. Tracing requests from parents and children who had become separated took priority. The ICRC also set up a directory listing people looking for relatives and posted it in key locations in Darfur and the Sudanese refugee camps in eastern Chad. (For details of the network in the refugee camps, see *Yaoundé*.)

- 35,636 RCMs delivered in Sudan
- 86 people, 55 of them children, reunited with their families
- 332 Sudanese children separated from their parents registered in Sudan, 1,102 in Kenya, 599 in Ethiopia and 107 in Chad
- 199 people whose families filed tracing requests located
- 2,509 tracing requests, including 797 related to children, registered

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC pursued its mandate to visit all detainees held in Sudan in connection with armed conflict. It was the only organization that regularly visited government soldiers detained by the SPLM/A. It monitored the detainees' treatment and living conditions and reported its findings, in confidence, to the authorities. During visits to detention facilities, the ICRC offered the RCM service to inmates so they could communicate with

their families and distributed medical supplies and hygiene and recreational items to contribute to detainees' health and welfare.

In Darfur, the ICRC visited a small number of detainees held by opposition groups and, at the request of both parties, acted as a neutral intermediary during the release of 11 government soldiers held by the SLM/A.

Both the security protocol signed by the government, SLM/A and JEM in Abuja on 9 November and the permanent ceasefire agreement signed by the government and SPLM/A on 31 December in Kenya cited the ICRC's involvement, as a neutral intermediary, during any release of detainees held in connection with internal armed conflict. In December the SLM/A and JEM signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC on the principles and practicalities of such a release.

- ▶ 511 detainees (including 18 newly registered) seen individually in 14 detention facilities during 18 visits
- ▶ 2,222 RCMs distributed to detainees

WOUNDED AND SICK

Supporting hospitals in Darfur

The ICRC, in coordination with Médecins Sans Frontières and the World Health Organization, upgraded five key hospitals in Darfur – El Fasher and Kutum in North Darfur, Zalingie in West Darfur and Nyala and Gereida in South Darfur – providing medical supplies, equipment and training and carrying out building repairs and renovation. In all five towns, the influx of displaced people had significantly increased the population served by the hospitals. From June the ICRC focused its support on Kutum and Zalingie hospitals, in line with its strategy of concentrating on rural areas where few other organizations were active. Seven-person ICRC teams, comprising surgeons, doctors, nurses and administrators, worked alongside local staff; by mid-July both hospitals were functioning as referral units for a catchment population of some 200,000 residents and IDPs. ICRC personnel also made field trips to remote government- and opposition-controlled areas, administering first aid, distributing dressing materials and medicine and, where possible, evacuating patients to hospital.

- ▶ 5 hospitals repaired and upgraded, serving a catchment population of some 650,000 residents and IDPs
- ▶ from August, 2 ICRC-supported rural hospitals treated 1,182 medical inpatients and 418 obstetric/

gynaecological patients, performed 744 surgical operations, including 85 related to war wounds, and gave 21,715 outpatient consultations

- ▶ over 100 war-wounded treated in the field and, where possible, evacuated to hospital

Treating the war-wounded in southern Sudan

To support the treatment of medical emergencies in southern Sudan, the ICRC continued to provide Juba Teaching Hospital (government run with 500 beds) with staff, supplies, equipment, training, food for personnel and patients and building maintenance and renovations, while running its own Lopiding Hospital (600 beds) in Lokichokio in neighbouring Kenya, which treated patients evacuated from southern Sudan.

Because of the lack of qualified staff, ICRC surgeons still performed most operations at Juba Teaching Hospital. At the same time, local skills continued to improve as a result of ICRC-supported in-hospital training programmes for staff and medical and nursing students. Lopiding Hospital also trained around 20 Sudanese medical personnel, who then returned to work in southern Sudan. After lengthy discussions, the ICRC, the Ministry of Health and the Juba Teaching Hospital signed an agreement in November defining each party's roles and responsibilities in improving patient care and administration.

- ▶ 2 hospitals supported
- ▶ 3,897 medical inpatients and 3,425 obstetric/gynaecological patients treated
- ▶ 6,231 surgical operations, including 824 related to war wounds, performed
- ▶ 21,180 outpatient consultations given

Rehabilitating amputees

The ICRC provided raw materials, components and staff training to Sudan's two physical rehabilitation centres – the Khartoum centre run by the National Authority for Prosthetics and Orthotics (NAPO) and the Juba Workshop – and ran its own limb-fitting centre in Lokichokio, Kenya, which treated patients evacuated from southern Sudan. It also covered the costs of fitting war amputees in Khartoum, including their transfer from Wau and Malakal in southern Sudan and from Darfur. With ICRC support, NAPO opened five satellite workshops – Dongola, Ed-Damazin, Kadugli and Nyala in 2004 and Kassala in 2003.

To address the lack of skilled Sudanese staff in this sector, NAPO and the ICRC

developed Sudan's first internationally recognized diploma course in prosthetics and orthotics. The three-year study programme was scheduled to start in January 2005 with 12 students. The ICRC also held courses to upgrade the skills of NAPO technicians, sponsored four to study at the Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists and trained students from a new workshop opened by Medical Care Development International in the opposition-controlled town of Rumbek.

- ▶ 9 physical rehabilitation centres and smaller workshops supported
- ▶ 1,391 prostheses (including 162 for mine victims), 1,394 orthoses and 1,358 pairs of crutches delivered for Sudanese patients
- ▶ 509 new patients fitted with prostheses and 581 with orthoses

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC frequently urged the authorities to step up measures in Darfur to protect civilians from attack and to improve the security situation so aid could reach conflict victims. ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger reinforced this message during his official visits to Sudan in March and November.

With improved access in southern Sudan, the ICRC spent more time in the field promoting IHL among regional authorities. Discussions included the application of IHL to events that would follow a peace accord, such as the return of IDPs and the formation of new armed forces.

Sudan's interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL, set up in 2003 by presidential decree, continued to benefit from ICRC input on technical and legal matters. The ICRC held a presentation for committee members on the incorporation of IHL into national law. It also equipped the committee's premises and sponsored a member to attend an international conference in Pakistan on Islamic law and IHL (see *Pakistan*).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

National security forces approve IHL programme

The Sudanese national security forces signed an agreement on 5 June to launch a training programme on IHL and international human rights law. This marked another milestone in the ICRC's programme to promote these subjects within the armed

forces – the army had integrated IHL into its training in 2002, using its own ICRC-trained instructors. The ICRC was in regular contact with the armed forces training department, gave lectures on IHL at the Military Academy and held its first combined introductory and advanced IHL course for air force personnel. In the field, improved access in the south meant the ICRC gave more presentations and workshops on IHL and international human rights law to military, security and police forces stationed in conflict-affected areas.

In Darfur, ICRC staff seized every opportunity to give ad hoc briefings on IHL and international human rights law to armed, security and police forces. As its mandate became better known, it organized comprehensive presentations on IHL, such as a three-day workshop in El Fasher for high-ranking army officers. The ICRC also conducted sessions on IHL and the ICRC for newly arrived African Union troops.

Other bearers of weapons

The SPLM/A taught IHL at its main training centre, the Institute for Strategic Studies, but had not yet integrated the subject into all its training programmes. As support, the ICRC trained 30 SPLA officers as IHL instructors. It also conducted courses on IHL at the centre, gave the centre an IHL reference library and held presentations on IHL, often combined with first-aid training, for SPLM/A members in the field.

On the basis of a 2003 agreement with the Sudanese authorities, the ICRC continued to give IHL presentations to pro-government militia in the south, including, for the first time, members of the South Sudan Unity Movement and South Sudan Independence Movement.

In relation to the conflict in Darfur, the ICRC conducted ad hoc briefings in Sudan and abroad on IHL and the ICRC for members of government-allied militia and the opposition JEM, SLM/A and National Reform and Development Movement.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising public awareness of IHL

The ICRC increased its contacts with the media. This generated widespread coverage, and so raised public awareness, of the plight of conflict victims and relevance of IHL, particularly in Darfur. In southern Sudan, the ICRC stepped up its promotion of IHL among opinion-makers, such as Islamic leaders and local chiefs, who would play

key roles in a transition to peace and reconstruction.

In 2004 the ICRC:

- gave IHL presentations for opinion-makers in Darfur, including clerics, village, nomad and IDP leaders, women's groups and medical personnel;
- widely distributed a new leaflet, in Arabic and English, targeting people in Darfur encountering IHL and the ICRC for the first time;
- held a two-day IHL workshop in Khartoum for 20 Sudanese journalists;
- gave an IHL briefing in El Fasher at a workshop on internal displacement, attended by regional authorities and international organizations active in North Darfur, and organized by Sudan's Humanitarian Aid Commission, UNICEF, UNHCR, the International Rescue Committee and OCHA;
- in southern Sudan, organized a tour of a Sudanese art exhibition to Wau, Juba, Yei and Rumbek entitled "Protecting human dignity during conflict".

Promoting IHL among educators

In November 2002, with ICRC support, a group of Sudanese law faculty deans, lawyers and professors formed an IHL Network. The Network's long-term goal was to introduce a standard IHL course in all relevant university curricula.

The IHL Network and the ICRC:

- produced a standard IHL course which was integrated into the undergraduate international law degrees at 4 universities (Khartoum, Ezhehar, Rabat and Shendi);
- conducted a two-day workshop on teaching IHL for 30 Network members and law-faculty heads;
- held an IHL essay competition for university students;
- conducted IHL lectures at 4 universities for some 2,000 students and staff.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, the ICRC:

- sponsored a ministry official to take part in the pan-African seminar in South Africa on the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme (see *Pretoria*);
- conducted a week-long seminar on teaching IHL in an Islamic context, attended by 70 education officials and secondary-school teachers.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Sudanese Red Crescent faced the considerable challenges of responding to the needs in Darfur and preparing for a likely transition to peace and reconstruction in the south.

Strengthening the Red Crescent in Darfur

The Sudanese Red Crescent was the ICRC's main partner in Darfur. The National Society assessed needs, distributed relief goods, registered IDPs and helped to run water and health projects and the tracing and RCM network. The ICRC provided the Red Crescent with funds, vehicles, relief goods, other materials and equipment, and logistic back-up to carry out these activities. As more Red Crescent staff and volunteers were recruited to work in Darfur, the ICRC organized continuous training in first aid, tracing, relief management, project reporting/evaluation, the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) and communication (promoting IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles).

Reinforcing the Red Crescent other in conflict-affected areas

The ICRC covered the running costs and provided materials and training to help branches in conflict-affected regions relay RCMs, prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote IHL, the Red Crescent's work and the Movement's Fundamental Principles. A main achievement was the extension of the tracing and RCM network to previously inaccessible areas. More National Society tracing volunteers were recruited and trained, and refresher courses held in priority branches. The ICRC and Red Crescent also agreed on a framework document for the tracing network, defining objectives and respective roles and responsibilities.

Movement coordination

With the active encouragement and support of the ICRC, a large number of partner Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies were working in Sudan, many of them contributing to the humanitarian response in Darfur. To ensure effective coordination, the ICRC, Sudanese Red Crescent and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies signed a memorandum of understanding in February defining their roles and responsibilities in Sudan, including the support of partner National Societies, many of whom subsequently signed the agreement. A Movement coordination office was set up at the Sudanese Red Crescent headquarters, and partners attended weekly meetings.



uganda

The ICRC has been active in Uganda since 1979. Following the killing of six ICRC staff members in April 2001 in north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ICRC suspended the activities of its sub-delegations in Uganda. It maintained a reduced expatriate presence in Kampala, concentrating on support to the Uganda Red Cross Society. In response to the escalating needs in northern and eastern Uganda, the ICRC has gradually resumed field activities, focusing on protecting and assisting people affected by internal armed conflict. Meanwhile, it continues to seek further clarification of the killings of its staff from the Ugandan authorities. The ICRC carries out its activities in Uganda in close cooperation with the National Society and other organizations.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,000,204

Assistance

5,150,869

Preventive action

646,845

Cooperation with National Societies

1,024,960

General

8,757

► **7,831,635**

of which: Overheads **477,987**

PERSONNEL

10 expatriates

79 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- In March the ICRC conducted assessments of the medical, water, sanitation and economic situation in districts affected by conflict: Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Soroti and Kaberamaido. Thereafter it launched activities to respond to the needs identified in Kitgum, Gulu and Pader.
- The ICRC continued visiting security detainees held in prisons in Kampala and, following negotiations with the authorities, extended visits to detention places throughout Uganda.
- The ICRC donated medical supplies to health-care facilities in the north and north-east and distributed household items to 202,820 people, vegetable seeds and farming implements to 97,370 people, and soap, sugar and salt to around 18,050 people every 6 weeks.
- The Ugandan Red Cross received crucial support from the ICRC for its conflict preparedness and response, particularly activities in aid of families affected by the escalating armed violence in the north.

CONTEXT

In early 2004 the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), which had launched Operation Iron Fist in 2002 and had since, with Sudan's permission, pursued the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) into Sudan, stepped up its operations against the armed opposition group.

The Amnesty Commission continued to oversee implementation of the Amnesty Act, which became law in 2000. Of the 13,855 ex-fighters who were granted amnesty under the Act, the Commission said it had so far resettled 5,929. Former LRA commanders and fighters were reintegrated into society or absorbed by the UPDF. This and other developments encouraged preparations for the possible return and/or resettlement of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the eastern part of the country.

Meanwhile, efforts to negotiate an end to the 18-year conflict continued. A ceasefire covering a region of northern Uganda was reached and culminated in meetings between the LRA, Acholi leaders and government officials.

On the domestic political scene, attention was otherwise turned to the legislative and presidential elections due to take place in 2006. Ugandan political circles remained divided as to how and whether the constitution should be amended to allow for a third term for President Yoweri Museveni, as well as on the formal structure the multi-party system should take.

At the end of 2004 the number of IDPs living in over 100 camps scattered throughout the northern and eastern provinces had, according to the United Nations (UN), risen to 1.6 million, from 400,000 two years earlier. In three Acholi districts, over 80% of the civilian population remained displaced. Extremely volatile and unpredictable security conditions in these provinces severely curtailed the movements of humanitarian organizations in rural areas and the provision of assistance to IDPs in camps.

In Uganda itself, IDP camps were often the targets of attacks by the LRA and other armed groups. Such attacks in early 2004 resulted in the abduction, indiscriminate killing or wounding of hundreds of IDPs and the plundering of their supplies. LRA losses were countered by forcible recruitment, including that of many children. Owing to this precarious situation, IDPs living in camps suffered from a range of health problems and could not safely engage in trade, agriculture, hunting or gathering resources such as firewood or local wild food.

Diseases such as diarrhoea, respiratory illnesses, malaria and skin infections were prevalent in the camps, and outbreaks of cholera and dysentery remained a constant threat. Another major health concern was HIV/AIDS: in Gulu and Kitgum camps, the HIV-infection rate was over twice the national average.

ICRC ACTION

With the conflict escalating and the needs of IDPs in northern Uganda increasing, the ICRC prepared in the early part of the year to gradually resume its suspended programmes outside Kampala, focusing on protecting and assisting people affected by the fighting. The resumption of its activities was planned in close cooperation with the Ugandan Red Cross and other organizations active in Uganda.

In the first half of the year, ICRC teams carried out missions to the north and east to assess the needs in several IDP camps. The assessments revealed serious problems in the camps, such as inadequate and unsuitable water supplies (and a resulting lack of hygiene) and a precarious nutritional and medical situation. The second half of the year was devoted to meeting these needs: providing essential household items, seeds, tools and rations of soap, sugar and salt to improve the IDPs' economic situation and carrying out water-supply and sanitation projects in the camps.

The ICRC continued to provide the Ugandan Red Cross with essential support in its assistance activities in the north and helped put in place mechanisms for the coordination of the activities of the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Uganda.

To support the treatment of an increasing number of war-wounded and sick IDPs, the ICRC continued to supply hospitals and health-care facilities in the north with medical materials. It carried on visiting prisons in Kampala run by the Uganda Prison Service and engaged in a dialogue with the authorities to gain access to detention facilities countrywide, with gradual success.

CIVILIANS

Since 1987, when the armed conflict between the LRA and the UPDF began, over 20,000 children, mainly aged between 10 and 15, had reportedly been abducted by armed groups. Although the incidence of abductions decreased in 2004, the phenomenon persisted and most of the abducted children remained unaccounted for. Abducted children who later escaped or were rescued required assistance in reintegrating into normal life.

The ICRC sought to enhance the collection of information on abductions and to get a

better picture of the magnitude of the problem in order to determine how best to protect and assist the children concerned. The UPDF notified the ICRC of the arrival of formerly abducted children in Kitgum, which enabled the organization to monitor them until their transfer to reception centres. Urging the parties to the conflict to respect the rights of all children remained a priority for the ICRC. As part of its activities, the ICRC registered and interviewed children who had escaped or been rescued from their abductors and were yet to be reunited with their families.

In pursuit of its tracing activities, the ICRC, together with the Ugandan Red Cross, conducted fact-finding missions in the South Western and West Nile regions. It focused its efforts on re-establishing contact between refugees and their families.

- 43 children separated from their families registered
- 44 tracing requests opened, 10 cases resolved
- 9 travel documents issued

Improving the living conditions of IDPs

Assessment missions were carried out to identify IDP camps where needs were most pressing and to set priorities in responding to them. The ICRC gained access to all the IDP camps in Gulu and nearly all those in Kitgum. It distributed essential household items to displaced families, vegetable seeds and tools to those with access to land, and rations of soap, sugar and salt to the most vulnerable. IDPs who had lost their possessions in outbreaks of fire received essential household items. The assistance was designed as a complete and integrated approach to benefit the various social groups within a camp, making it easier for families to carry out basic domestic tasks such as collecting water or cooking and generally improving their economic situation.

- 25 IDP camps in Gulu and Kitgum assisted
- household items (blankets, soap, kitchen utensils, buckets, etc.) distributed to 40,564 households (202,820 people); vegetable seeds and farming implements distributed to 19,474 households (97,370 people); rations of soap, sugar and salt distributed every 6 weeks to 3,610 households (18,050 people)
- in Gulu and Kitgum, vegetable seeds and tools donated to reception centres sheltering 1,681 children

Improving IDPs' access to water and sanitation facilities

Assessments carried out in camps in Kitgum and Gulu to determine water and sanitation needs confirmed that IDPs, particularly those in newly established camps, had difficulties in obtaining safe drinking water and spent several hours each day collecting it. Water consumption was usually less than 5 litres per person, per day. Sanitation facilities were almost non-existent, and poor hygiene conditions had led to a high incidence of diarrhoea and scabies. To redress this situation, the ICRC initiated a programme in selected IDP camps in Kitgum to drill wells, repair existing water-supply facilities, construct latrines and refuse pits and conduct hygiene-awareness sessions. Although the programme was slowed down by a number of problems, such as lack of security, in one camp the availability of safe water was increased from 4 to 13 litres per person, per day. In another, the water was chlorinated, thereby staving off a cholera outbreak and doubling the supply of safe water. Workshops organized in camps to raise IDPs' awareness of good hygiene practices achieved perceptible results, including better waste disposal and drainage of rainwater.

- 9 boreholes dug or begun, 14 water pumps repaired and 60 latrines constructed in IDP camps and prisons, benefiting over 60,000 people

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

During the period of reduced activity since 2001, the ICRC continued to visit six prisons in Kampala. Enhanced working relations between the ICRC and the relevant civilian and military authorities resulted in improved access to detainees and notification of arrests. The year under review saw a gradual increase in the number of places of detention and detainees accessible to the ICRC. From the beginning of the year the ICRC continued registering detainees and monitoring them individually. Later in the year the organization resumed visits to places of temporary detention (police stations), stepped up visits to permanent detention places and began visiting military barracks. The ICRC carried on visiting detainees in various prisons, including suspected members of the People's Redemption Army, an armed group that had reportedly resurfaced.

The ICRC continued to offer detainees the use of its Red Cross message (RCM)

network so that they could re-establish or maintain contact with their families. It also enabled family members to visit their detained relatives, including those on death row, and provided transport for ex-detainees to return to their families.

- ▶ 192 detainees visited in 48 places of detention
- ▶ 149 detainees registered
- ▶ 1,295 detainees visited by family members with ICRC support
- ▶ 1,506 RCMs collected from detainees and 1,145 delivered

Following assessments in selected prisons, the ICRC dug a borehole and installed a water pump close to the Kitgum prison. The water point improved access to clean water, not just for the prison population, but also for warders and their families and pupils at a nearby school. The ICRC provided items such as mattresses, blankets, soap and clothes to prisoners on an ad hoc basis and extended material assistance to ex-detainees it had been monitoring to help them restart life outside prison.

- ▶ 2,415 detainees/ex-detainees provided with basic assistance

WOUNDED AND SICK

Many hospitals in northern and eastern Uganda remained overcrowded, and overwhelmed doctors could not provide the surgical and medical care required for the war-wounded and other emergencies. No health centres in conflict-affected districts had functioning referral systems or proper equipment, medicines and materials. Trained health-care staff were in short supply. Lack of security prevented humanitarian actors from addressing medical needs in IDP camps. Diseases such as diarrhoea, respiratory infections, malaria and skin infections abounded in the camps. With HIV infection rates between 7.7 and 13.2% in the two districts, HIV/AIDS remained a major health concern.

To address these needs, the ICRC, working with the Ugandan Red Cross, provided Health Ministry and missionary hospitals with medical and other basic supplies and evacuated emergency cases to referral hospitals. In late 2004, for instance, ICRC intervention helped stem the spread of cholera epidemics in the Kitgum and Gulu districts.

In Kitgum, the emergency cases evacuated were mainly war-wounded, people with complications of malaria or pneumonia,

obstetric cases, patients suffering severe malnutrition and victims of traffic accidents.

Following an assessment of needs, hospitals in the Acholi region (Kitgum, Gulu and Pader) were provided with regular assistance, which helped them cope with influxes of surgical and medical emergencies. Items donated to the hospitals included intravenous fluids, glove sets, injection sets, dressing materials and plaster of Paris. The ICRC also supplied dressing materials and hygiene and sanitation products, such as buckets, basins and jerrycans, to health centres in the region.

- ▶ 73,398 patients treated in ICRC-supported hospitals/health centres
- ▶ 120,766 outpatient consultations carried out

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC gradually re-established contacts with the national and local authorities, and together with the Ugandan Red Cross, organized a series of sessions to raise their awareness of the ICRC and the Movement, the Fundamental Principles and international humanitarian law (IHL).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The legacy of the protracted conflict in northern Uganda was the loss of civilian lives, the displacement of over one-and-a-half million people and the forced recruitment and enslavement of thousands of children. Accordingly, the ICRC sought, as a matter of priority, to familiarize parties to the conflict with IHL and urged them to respect it.

Before scaling down activities in 2001, the ICRC had been working with the armed forces to create an IHL course for their training centres. In 2004 the ICRC re-established its dialogue with the military hierarchy to promote an IHL training programme and raise awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities. Visits made by the ICRC in 2004 to a number of military training schools revealed that a few of them were teaching IHL. Another encouraging sign was that the Uganda Human Rights Commission, whose task it was to integrate IHL and human rights law into the UPDF training curriculum, was working on a manual to be introduced in all UPDF training schools in 2005. The ICRC held a series of sessions on IHL and its activities and

those of the National Society in Kampala, Jinja and northern Uganda, for diverse audiences, including trainers, border guards, soldiers and commanders.

Lack of direct contact with the LRA thwarted efforts to develop dissemination activities for the rebel group.

The ICRC worked to renew its relationship with the Ugandan police force in order to promote the integration of the relevant provisions of IHL and human rights law into police training. It began with sessions on human rights standards and aspects of IHL applicable to police functions for officer cadets at the Kibuli Police Training School.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC consolidated its relations with the media, giving interviews on its activities in Uganda and organizing workshops to explain its mandate and activities. The organization received an encouraging response from the country's two major daily newspapers, which pledged to cooperate with it. Red Cross initiatives that caught the media's attention and received wide coverage included: activities to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), combined with the National Society's launch of the Northern Uganda Relief Operation appeal; a blood donation drive; a workshop on road safety and first aid; a campaign to promote immunization; and a Red Cross concert.

The ICRC strengthened its working relations with five universities, *inter alia*, by sponsoring four lecturers from two of the universities to take part in round-table discussions on IHL in Nairobi, and another lecturer to attend the 4th All Africa Course on IHL in Pretoria. The organization also financed the participation of four university students in a moot-court competition in Arusha, Tanzania. The universities indicated that they were ready for a formal agreement with the ICRC on future cooperation in teaching IHL.

- ▶ some 140,000 people attended IHL sessions conducted by the Ugandan Red Cross with ICRC support
- ▶ IHL promotional materials distributed

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In the previous three years the ICRC had directed its efforts towards providing the Ugandan Red Cross Society with considerable financial, logistical, material and technical support and had intensified training of its staff and volunteers. This enhanced cooperation with the National Society, together with support from partner National Societies, helped the Ugandan Red Cross extend its tracing services, implement the programme of assistance for the indigent and promote IHL, particularly in the troubled northern and eastern regions.

Following assessments conducted in northern Uganda in cooperation with the Ugandan Red Cross, the ICRC helped put in place mechanisms to ensure effective planning and coordination of activities among the various components of the Movement. Monthly meetings attended by all Red Cross partners in Uganda, and regular ones between the ICRC and the National Society, ensured the coordination of working methods and allocation of resources required for planned activities. ICRC assistance to the National Society's operations included advice, training and procurement and logistical support (transport, customs clearance, storage, etc.) through its regional logistics centre in Nairobi.

Restoration of family links

Having returned to the field, the ICRC delegation was in a position to provide more focused technical support to the Ugandan Red Cross, along with the financial assistance necessary for it to carry out tracing activities. These activities helped refugees, IDPs, detainees and children separated from their parents to re-establish or maintain contact with their families. As the ICRC expanded its prison-visit programme to various districts outside Kampala, its cooperation with the National Society's tracing department intensified. The two partners worked together to assess the National Society's working methods and caseload.

Promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The Ugandan Red Cross stepped up its IHL promotion activities in northern and eastern Uganda, using newly adapted tools to target traditional groups such as schoolchildren, trainee teachers and community leaders. The ICRC continued to provide the National Society's dissemination officers with training and financial and material support. The National Society and the ICRC held meetings to set priorities for their dissemination programmes, particularly with regard to operations in the north. They held a series of discussions with a selection of journalists, focusing on IHL, the Fundamental Principles and the mandates and activities of the ICRC and the National Society.

Assistance programme

The ICRC and other Movement partners continued to provide significant support to the National Society in consolidating its emergency-preparedness and -response capacities in a conflict environment. This support included helping to organize training workshops in Gulu and Kitgum focusing on various aspects of the Safer Access approach, such as security guidelines and relief management, as well as providing communication and other equipment. The ICRC offered financial and technical support to the National Society in organizing exercises simulating the evacuation of bomb casualties to mark World First Aid Day on 11 September 2004.



ICRC regional delegation ICRC sub-delegation ICRC office

abidjan

Since the outbreak of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2002, the ICRC's regional delegation in Abidjan has focused on maintaining and expanding its operational capacity to protect and assist people affected by the crisis, visiting places of detention and monitoring the situation throughout the country. The ICRC closely coordinates its activities with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire. In the countries covered by the regional delegation, established in 1992, the ICRC supports the authorities in implementing IHL and raises awareness among the armed and security forces of the need to respect IHL. It supports the institutional development of the region's National Societies.

COVERING

Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

2,491,419

Assistance

7,453,275

Preventive action

2,406,165

Cooperation with National Societies

1,818,780

General

123,378

► **14,293,018**

of which: Overheads **852,718**

PERSONNEL

36 expatriates

139 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- Medical and surgical supplies were delivered regularly to over 100 health facilities in Côte d'Ivoire. Convoys carried humanitarian aid across the buffer zone to northern Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere in the country; some 6,000 people received monthly food aid, and some 42,300 received material aid. Technical support, spare parts and nearly 950 tonnes of chemicals were donated to water-treatment plants to sustain water supply to 1.5 million people.
- Over 6,000 RCMs were relayed between family members separated by conflict. More than 50 Liberian children separated from their families were registered in Côte d'Ivoire, 3 were reunited with their families.
- Some 9,000 detainees were visited in Côte d'Ivoire. Of the 140 detainees released under its auspices by the Forces Nouvelles, the ICRC transferred 8 to the government-controlled south.
- Burkina Faso ratified the ICC Statute and, with ICRC support, organized a regional workshop on the Ottawa Convention. Also with ICRC support, Togo drafted a bill on the Ottawa Convention.
- During the November crisis, the Ivorian Red Cross received medical materials, financial support and the means to promote public acceptance of the Red Cross.

CONTEXT

In February a UN Security Council resolution authorized the creation of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). The task of the 7,240-strong force, comprising troops and civilian personnel, was to help the government of national reconciliation implement the Linas-Marcoussis peace agreement, including assisting in the organization of presidential elections scheduled for 2005.

Nevertheless, two years after the armed insurrection, uncertainty lingered in Côte d'Ivoire, and hopes for progress in implementing the peace agreement were frustrated. A fresh outbreak of violence on 4 November dealt a blow to peace efforts. Government planes carrying out air raids against the rebel group, Forces Nouvelles, hit a camp belonging to the French forces, Force Licorne, in Bouaké. In turn, the Force Licorne destroyed the Ivorian air force. Thereafter, violent anti-French demonstrations shook Abidjan and towns in the western region, prompting France to repatriate some 8,000 of its nationals. The same month, the UN Security Council imposed a 13-month arms embargo on Côte d'Ivoire.

Major confrontations between the government and the Forces Nouvelles were averted despite the violence in November, and relative calm returned to Côte d'Ivoire. Most civilians displaced by the events returned to their homes. However, the situation was still volatile.

The country remained divided three ways: the south controlled by troops loyal to

President Laurent Gbagbo; the north controlled by the rebel group, Forces Nouvelles; and the buffer zone patrolled by the 4,000-strong Force Licorne and UNOCI peace-keepers. In the western region, tensions regularly arose between people of local origin and incomers from northern Côte d'Ivoire or other West African countries. The north saw hesitant signs of economic recovery, with people moving around more freely and cross-border trade picking up. The south, where some 80% of the country's wealth was concentrated, suffered economically from the lingering instability. It was difficult to estimate accurately the number of people on the move in Côte d'Ivoire, including internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees and third-country nationals.

In the other four countries of the region, the overall situation stayed calm.

ICRC ACTION

As lead agency, the ICRC continued to coordinate the response of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The ICRC had authorization and security guarantees from all parties involved, and was therefore able to access all areas of the country. Its activities included: the protection of populations threatened by conflict; monitoring detainees in government-controlled and rebel-held territory; support to facilities providing essential services such as water and health care in remote areas, especially in the north; and enhancing economic security for vulnerable populations.

The ICRC managed its activities in Côte d'Ivoire out of its main delegation in Abidjan and through its sub-delegations in Bouaké and Man and its office in Korhogo. It continued to help the Ivorian Red Cross strengthen its capacities, especially to provide emergency aid to civilians affected by conflict. The ICRC coordinated and financed the activities of volunteers and staff of the National Society. It intensified dissemination initiatives to enhance public support for Red Cross personnel and respect for the emblem.

The ICRC carried on promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) in the field, paying particular attention to the Ivorian armed forces and armed opposition groups in the country and to civil society in regions at risk.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC documented reports of IHL violations, primarily in western Côte d'Ivoire, and alerted the military and political authorities and the leadership of the Forces Nouvelles and the Force Licorne to prevent further incidents. The organization negotiated the passage of nearly 1,050 Burkinan nationals, who were stranded in the buffer zone, to the government-controlled area, and handled protection requests from individuals fearing for their safety.

In the Forces Nouvelles-controlled zone, the ICRC made representations to the relevant leaders and impressed upon them the need to protect the staff of the Ivorian water company (SODECI) and medical personnel in ICRC-supported health-care facilities. It also facilitated the transport into and delivery of medicines in this area. Following a spate of violence that claimed a number of lives in Bouaké, the ICRC supported the Ivorian

Red Cross in removing the bodies of 17 casualties abandoned in the streets.

Restoring family links

The ICRC kept up a tracing network to help family members dispersed by the conflict restore contact and, together with the Ivorian Red Cross, continued processing tracing requests from family members wishing to locate vulnerable relatives in conflict zones. Demand increased for tracing services from people overseas seeking their relatives in Côte d'Ivoire. Beneficiaries of the network included demobilized children associated with fighting forces. The ICRC obtained the consent of the authorities to carry out family reunifications across the borders from Liberia and Guinea into Côte d'Ivoire and vice versa, and that of the Forces Nouvelles to repatriate Ivorian children from Ghana and Guinea.

- 5,317 RCMs collected in Côte d'Ivoire and 6,820 delivered
- 52 individuals located out of 143 sought by their families
- 2 Ivorian children registered in Guinea reunited with their families in Côte d'Ivoire
- of the 54 Liberian children registered in Côte d'Ivoire, 2 reunited with their families in Liberia, 1 in Guinea
- tracing continued in the region for the families of 206 children registered by the ICRC

Providing civilians with access to clean water

The ICRC persisted with a major programme, initiated soon after the crisis began, to provide people in the north with access to clean water. Together with SODECI, and with funding from the European Commission, the organization carried out assessments to establish urgent needs and to ensure optimal functioning of facilities covered by the programme. It provided transport for spare parts and technicians to maintain water-purification plants and to carry out emergency repairs.

- 1.5 million people given access to clean water
- 944.4 tonnes of chemicals donated to water-treatment plants in the northern region
- 20 submersible pumps, 46 dosing pumps, 14 dosing basins and agitators supplied and installed
- technical support, including bacteriological analyses of water, offered to 82 city water-treatment plants in the north-west
- 40 spare-part kits supplied

In response to the violence in November, the ICRC met additional needs arising from the disruption of the water supply for 1.5 million people. In several towns, such as Bouaké, Man and Korhogo, the ICRC and the Ivorian Red Cross disinfected wells whose water was not normally used for human consumption and made radio announcements to inform the population of these new sources of safe water.

Providing food and other relief to civilians

Because of the volatility of the situation along the front line and in other troubled regions of south-western Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC responded to various needs as they arose. In conjunction with the ICRC, the Ivorian Red Cross delivered food and household items to IDPs in villages and to social and medical institutions in Abidjan, Man and Bouaké. IDPs in transit centres in Abidjan, Man and Bouaké and elsewhere also received essential household items.

Through two non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the Ivorian Red Cross also delivered food to indigent people in Bouaké, Korhogo and Daloa. In addition, Burkinan migrant families in transit shelters in Duékoué were given soap.

- some 6,000 vulnerable people and IDPs received food, 42,306 received material assistance
- 391 tonnes of food, 2,504 blankets, 20,374 mats, 66,491 pieces of soap, 7,695 buckets, 6,826 cooking sets and 52.4 tonnes of clothes distributed

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC obtained access to places of detention under the authority of the Ministries of Defence, Justice and the Interior. It visited military personnel and civilians detained in connection with the conflict, checked on their conditions of detention and talked to them in private. The ICRC expanded its programme of visits to places of temporary detention in Abidjan and used the opportunity to enhance awareness of its protection activities.

The process of releasing detainees held in relation to the conflict ended in March when the Forces Nouvelles handed eight detainees over to the Ivorian defence forces. Nevertheless, the ICRC kept a close eye on the situation and collected allegations of new arrests. In July and December the ICRC visited detainees held by the Forces

Nouvelles and reinforced its staff in Korhogo and Bouaké to better document prisoner-protection issues.

- ▶ 153 visits made to 78 places of detention under the control of the government and the Forces Nouvelles
- ▶ 8,972 detainees visited; 376 detainees registered

The ICRC made high-level representations to the relevant authorities and maintained a dialogue with them to ensure that the treatment and living conditions of detainees in government-run prisons conformed to minimum humanitarian standards.

In November, following a survey that put malnutrition in one prison at 47%, the ICRC launched a 10-week emergency nutrition programme for all the detainees in the prison and continued to seek a durable solution. Contacts were strengthened with other aid organizations and NGOs concerned with detainee welfare, which made ad hoc supplies of medicines to prisons.

- ▶ medical materials, 0.163 tonnes of food and 740 pieces of soap supplied to government-run prisons
- ▶ bathrooms, septic tanks, water-storage tanks and boreholes repaired/constructed and disinfected; pest control and garbage disposal conducted

WOUNDED AND SICK

In 2004 the ICRC concentrated on safeguarding medical services by protecting medical personnel and ensuring the regular delivery of medical supplies to rural and urban health-care centres and hospitals serving over a million people, particularly in troubled zones inaccessible to the Health Ministry. ICRC support involved organizing the transport and delivery of medicines provided by the Central Pharmacy in Abidjan, and providing vaccines and medical and surgical supplies to 113 health-care facilities. It also supervised the health-care facilities and shared its findings monthly with the Ministry of Health. As an incentive for health personnel, the ICRC maintained a food-for-work programme.

The ICRC set up contingency stocks of medical supplies and equipment in two hospitals in conflict-prone areas. It equipped Ivorian Red Cross emergency-response teams and offered medical support for the treatment of people wounded during demonstrations in Abidjan and other cities

and of 415 Liberian refugees injured when their boat capsized en route to Nigeria.

In response to the hostilities in November, the ICRC, in cooperation with the Ivorian Red Cross, evacuated 100 wounded people to various health-care facilities in Abidjan and Bouaké. The National Society also mobilized first-aid workers and set up first-aid posts in Abidjan, Bouaké, Daloa and Gagnoa to treat the wounded. The ICRC donated medical supplies to four hospitals, provided a fire brigade with sufficient dressing materials to treat 400 war-wounded and gave first-aid materials to the Ivorian Red Cross.

- ▶ 2,600 wounded people in both government-controlled and Forces Nouvelles-held territory benefited from Red Cross action

The ICRC urged the government to put in place a medical-emergency contingency plan in Abidjan and helped set up a committee to look into this. Cooperation with the Ivorian Red Cross enabled the ICRC to maintain a medical team in Toulepleu in the south-west to provide first aid and medical care (including evacuations) for war-wounded IDPs and residents. The two institutions cooperated in strengthening the capacities of clinics operated by local Red Cross committees to deliver health-care services and implement a nutritional programme for IDPs and vulnerable residents. The institutions treated IDPs in the region for scabies.

- ▶ 88,426 ante- and postnatal consultations, 438,758 vaccinations and 464,434 curative consultations carried out by ICRC-supported health-care facilities in Côte d'Ivoire
- ▶ 1,500 first-aid consultations for IDPs conducted by the ICRC/Ivorian Red Cross
- ▶ 4 hospitals and 113 other health facilities supported; 1,760 health-care staff benefited from the food-for-work programme

AUTHORITIES

Burkina Faso ratified the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICRC worked with the Burkinan government and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to organize a regional workshop on the implementation of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. The workshop was a prelude to the First Review Conference of the Convention, the Nairobi

Summit on a Mine-Free World, in November (see *Nairobi*).

The ICRC helped the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission organize meetings/working sessions with the Ivorian national IHL committee and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice. It also supported an ad hoc committee in drafting laws on the emblem and the repression of IHL violations.

In Forces Nouvelles-held territory, the ICRC gave a presentation on its activities and IHL to the local authorities in one prefecture.

In Togo, a bill on the implementation of the Ottawa Convention, drafted by the ICRC working mainly with the Supreme Court and the Ministries of Defence and the Interior, was submitted to the Council of Ministers for review.

- ▶ IHL workshop organized for 100 members of parliament and of the National Assembly in Côte d'Ivoire

Benin's National Assembly included a bill on the emblem, adopted earlier by its committee on laws, for review during its ordinary session. Benin presented to the ICRC a bill on the implementation of the ICC Statute.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL among armed forces

The solid working relations between the ICRC and armed and security forces in Côte d'Ivoire helped the delegation to maintain a high degree of operational capacity. A significant development in Côte d'Ivoire was the adoption of a directive on the teaching of IHL/human rights law to all ranks of the security forces. Subsequently, the ICRC participated in the training of army/*gendarmérie* IHL instructors. The organization also briefed Ivorian army recruits and staff of government combat units on its activities and IHL.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC conducted briefings for UNOCI contingents on its mission and activities and on the 1999 UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on observance by UN forces of IHL. The organization participated in all French-sponsored peace-keeping exercises, seminars and conferences.

In Benin, the ICRC participated in peace-keeping exercises for over 2,500 ECOWAS Monitoring Group troops from the region,

and simulated an ICRC operation during field exercises.

The ICRC strengthened relations with the Ivorian security and police forces to gain support for the Red Cross. It organized sessions on human rights standards, IHL and ICRC activities, attended by *gendarmerie* and police recruits and officers. In other countries of the region, the ICRC maintained contacts with the armed forces.

- 4 army officers from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo sponsored on courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy

The focus of dissemination efforts for the Forces Nouvelles, militias and other armed groups was on first aid, the Red Cross and basic principles of IHL.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC provided the media with regular information on its activities in the sub-region and worldwide, held meetings with and training for its media contacts in the region and succeeded in correcting some misconceptions about its activities. It stepped up production of radio and television programmes on IHL, the Red Cross and the ICRC, including a documentary on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary schools. The 33-minute musical documentary *L'homme, un remède pour l'homme* (Man, a remedy for man) was completed and distributed throughout the sub-region. In Burkina Faso, a workshop on anti-personnel mines was organized in Ouagadougou.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the signing of an agreement between the Education Ministry, the National Society and the ICRC on the incorporation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the school system was a major step forward. In March the education authorities decided to include the programme in five subjects in the school curriculum while it was being revised. A team of 25 education experts trained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme took part in the revision of the curriculum, developed an accompanying guide for teachers who would pilot-test the programme and devised tools to measure its impact. An eight-day training course was conducted for the 75 teachers due to participate in the pilot project from January 2005.

Through cooperation with the Ivorian Red Cross, four Exploring Humanitarian Law

clubs were set up in four cities to reach out to young people not in school. A youth camp on similar themes was also organized. With financial support from the ICRC, representatives of the Education Ministry and of the Ivorian Red Cross attended the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

The ICRC organized the second IHL competition involving teams from universities, institutes of administration and military academies of Togo and Benin. The event, involving IHL courses and a competition, enabled participants to obtain in-depth, non-academic knowledge of IHL and to apply it to the realities of conflicts in Africa. The competition was won by a team from Benin's *Ecole nationale d'administration et de magistrature* (ENAM).

- seminar on IHL and Red Cross activities organized for 120 ENAM and university staff and students
- IHL library donated to the ENAM
- in Côte d'Ivoire, IHL courses/sessions conducted for participants from a human rights institute and students and staff of the University of Abidjan

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

In Côte d'Ivoire, the ICRC maintained its role as lead agency for the Movement's activities. Meanwhile, the presence of four partner National Societies consolidated the activities of the Movement. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked with the Red Cross Society of Côte d'Ivoire on a variety of programmes, including community-health projects.

In the countries of the region, the ICRC supported the development of National Societies in providing assistance, restoring family links and promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles. With other Movement partners, the ICRC supported the National Societies of Benin and Ghana in seeking solutions to their management problems.

Assistance

The Ivorian Red Cross worked with the ICRC to assist civilians in need. Its efforts included disinfecting wells, collecting and identifying corpses left in the streets, disposing of tonnes of waste weekly and building or repairing hygiene facilities in regions affected by conflict.

Red Cross emergency-response teams in four of the region's countries benefited substantially from ICRC technical, material, logistic and financial support, including the payment of staff salaries. The mobilization of hundreds of volunteers, notably in Côte d'Ivoire, and training in first aid, the Fundamental Principles and the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) were also part of the support.

- 2 Land Cruisers and HF radio stations donated to the Ivorian Red Cross

Restoring family links

The ICRC kept up support to the region's National Societies in their tracing activities. In Burkina Faso and Togo, it helped the National Societies organize tracing-awareness campaigns and paid the salaries of their tracing and communication staff. In Côte d'Ivoire, it paid the salaries of Ivorian Red Cross staff, helped produce tracing posters and donated a motorcycle to the National Society.

Through funding, training of staff and volunteers, field missions and other technical assistance, the ICRC supported three of the region's National Societies in their efforts to promote IHL, the Fundamental Principles and the Red Cross. One outcome was that the Red Cross Society of Burkina Faso drafted a communication strategy. The ICRC also funded production of the National Societies' quarterly newsletters, a documentary, a radio programme and fliers for the Togolese Red Cross.



abuja

The ICRC works closely with the Nigerian Red Cross to enhance the National Society's capacity to respond to emergencies anywhere in Nigeria. The ICRC also continues to support the National Society's Alternative to Violence Programme aimed at steering young people away from violence and the Prison Welfare Assistance programme aimed at improving hygiene and sanitation in various prisons. Preventive action includes raising awareness of IHL among the authorities, the armed forces, the police and civil society and promoting its implementation. The ICRC was active in Nigeria during the Biafran war (1966–70). In 1988 it established a regional delegation in Lagos. In March 2003 the regional delegation was relocated to Abuja, while an office was kept in Lagos.

COVERING
Nigeria

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

165,766

Assistance

903,407

Preventive action

1,120,581

Cooperation with National Societies

1,711,281

General

52,932

► **3,953,966**

of which: Overheads **241,322**

PERSONNEL

6 expatriates

30 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC provided medical and material assistance to the National Society for its activities benefiting people affected by internal clashes.
- In all, 2,049 RCMs were collected, 1,624 RCMs delivered and several tracing requests handled in cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross.
- The delegation carried out a survey of prisons to assess and expand the Prison Welfare Assistance programme, implemented by the Nigerian Red Cross with ICRC support.
- Officers from the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, the Nigerian Defence Academy and the Infantry Centre School were trained as IHL instructors.
- The ICRC continued its support to the National Society's Alternative to Violence Programme, to encourage violent youths to engage in productive and constructive behaviour.
- Workshops were conducted for Nigerian Red Cross volunteers throughout the country to help the National Society develop more effective and sustainable tracing activities.

CONTEXT

Nigeria continued to play a pivotal role on the African continent. It clinched the chairmanship of the African Union (AU) for 2004–05 and of the AU's newly established Peace and Security Council. It assumed leadership of the AU's peace-support operations in Darfur (Sudan) and provided the bulk of the funding and peace-keeping troops of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

At the regional level, following the discovery of oil reserves in Sao Tome and Principe, Nigeria concluded an agreement with the island nation on joint exploitation of the resource. Implementation of a 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice stipulating the handover, by Nigeria, of the disputed Bakassi peninsula to Cameroon hit a snag. The handover did not take place as planned on 15 September, and by the end of the year no new date had been set.

In several states of Nigeria that had seen outbreaks of civil unrest in recent years, social tensions remained high. The causes of the unrest often revolved around control of political power or resources, occupation of farmland and religious or ethnic divisions. The civil disturbances being rarely a challenge to the central authority, the police or the military usually managed to restore law and order, and the situation returned to normal.

In the middle belt region, an ongoing dispute between the Christian Tarok and the Muslim Fulani over fertile farmland escalated in early May in Plateau state. In

the town of Yelwa, the violence triggered the killing, wounding or displacement of dozens of people and the destruction of property.

The state of Benue also experienced recurrent clashes. In April over 50 people died in skirmishes between the Ugambe and Ullam clans over farmland near the state capital Makurdi. Likewise, Adamawa state witnessed serious tensions in the town of Numa in June arising from a disagreement over the reconstruction of a mosque.

In the Niger Delta, several longstanding intercommunal rivalries occasionally degenerated into violence. One such crisis, which erupted between the Itsekiri, Ijaw and Urhobo communities over the control of the local government headquarters, led to clashes between the Itsekiri and Ijaw. Furthermore, unemployed youth often indulged in vandalism against the oil industry and clashed with the security forces. Tensions appeared to increase between the Delta communities, the central authorities and the oil companies, which many communities held responsible for the hardships they suffered.

In northern Nigeria, religious issues became politicized, heightening sectarian tensions, particularly in major urban centres such as Kano and Kaduna.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC cooperated closely with the Nigerian Red Cross throughout 2004 in assessing the needs of people displaced as a result of clashes. Essential household items and medical supplies were provided to the most vulnerable, Red Cross messages (RCMs) were relayed between refugees and their relatives, and efforts were made to reunite children with their families.

The ICRC assessed detention facilities and maintained regular contact with the detaining authorities in order to improve the living conditions of detainees. To this end, the delegation, in cooperation with the Nigerian Red Cross, expanded the Prison Welfare Assistance programme to include the upgrading of prison sanitation facilities.

As a priority, the delegation stepped up efforts to familiarize the Nigerian armed forces with the basic principles of international humanitarian law (IHL) and the work of the ICRC and its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

An increasing number of military instructors were trained to teach IHL among the rank and file. In addition, the ICRC held IHL sessions for units of the Nigerian armed forces prior to their deployment under UN or AU command for peace-keeping missions in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Darfur region of Sudan.

The delegation remained committed to the adoption and implementation of a memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and ECOWAS, covering closer cooperation in humanitarian matters.

Given the influence of multinational companies in Nigeria, the ICRC reinforced contacts with them to increase their knowledge and understanding of its mandate and activities and to share with them its principal humanitarian concerns in Nigeria.

CIVILIANS

The Niger Delta continued to be the scene of inter-ethnic violence involving the Itsekiri, the Urhobo and the Ijaw. Violence was particularly pronounced around the city of Warri, prompted by a dispute over ownership of the town. Intercommunal clashes in the states of Borno, Cross River, Delta, Ekiti, Kaduna, Kogi, Plateau, Yobe, Lagos and other regions displaced thousands of people.

In the wake of intercommunal and other clashes in Plateau, Kano, Delta, Rivers, Adamawa and Bauchi states, the ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross undertook missions throughout the year to assess and monitor the situation there. They initiated contacts with the local authorities, traditional and religious leaders and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to learn about their activities, their analysis of the situation in the country, and their emergency contingency plans. The missions also provided the National Society's local branches with a valuable opportunity to promote IHL and raise awareness of the mandates and work of the ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross.

Restoration of family links

The ICRC made regular visits to the Oru refugee camp (Ogun state) in the first five months of the year. In 2004 another 2,200 Liberian refugees arrived in Nigeria, many of them seeking a livelihood outside the camp. The volume of tracing activities increased compared with 2003, but declined again as the year wore on. The ICRC began negotiations with UNHCR and NGOs working in this field to encourage them to include orphans or children separated from their families in their assistance programmes.

- 2,049 RCMs collected and 1,624 delivered
- 11 tracing requests pending
- 5 Liberian children separated from their families repatriated
- 3 children separated from their families still being monitored

Assistance to civilians

When the crisis erupted in Plateau state in May, the ICRC helped the Nigerian Red Cross evacuate around 130 injured people from Yelwa to the closest hospitals, monitored their treatment and assessed the National Society's emergency response. In cooperation with local Yelwa elders, the ICRC opened a small community health centre (staffed by an ICRC health delegate and Nigerian Red Cross volunteers), supplied first-aid materials and treated the wounded. The ICRC distributed dressing materials to support the National Society's branches in the affected areas and provided dressing materials and medicines to hospitals and other health-care facilities treating the injured in Plateau and Bauchi states.

The ICRC and the National Society also worked together to provide the most vulnerable internally displaced people (IDPs) from Plateau state with essential household

items, including soap, blankets, buckets and mats. Approximately 400 families (2,000 people) sheltered in 11 IDP camps in Bauchi state also benefited from Red Cross assistance.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC provided funding and technical advice to the Nigerian Red Cross to facilitate the implementation of its Prison Welfare Assistance programme. The National Society's branches identified prisons with poor water supply and sanitation and proposed small-scale projects, such as the digging of new wells, the repair of septic tanks and the construction of latrines and showers. The ICRC assisted the National Society in setting priorities, designing activities, selecting a contractor and supervising the work. By the end of 2004 improvements had been made to facilities in 12 prisons, benefiting approximately 5,000 inmates. The ICRC also enhanced the skills of some National Society volunteers involved in the programme.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to urge the authorities to accelerate the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties. In March and April the ICRC met representatives of the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and members of the National Assembly and the ECOWAS secretariat. Problems encountered in implementing IHL treaties were discussed, and the ICRC offered them the necessary legal support. In October, together with the Federal Ministry of Justice, the ICRC organized a conference on the implementation of IHL treaties in Nigeria. The conference, attended by officials from the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and Defence, the National Assembly and the National Commissions on Human Rights and Law Reforms, took stock of progress achieved so far in the implementation of IHL in Nigeria.

The ICRC closely followed ECOWAS activities in the sub-region, including in Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and held several meetings with the ECOWAS director of humanitarian affairs to plan joint activities. ECOWAS provided support for a conference on mine action in Ouagadougou in January, organized by the ICRC and the government of Burkina Faso with financial assistance from Canada. Over 60 participants from 15 ECOWAS member

States attended the event, which focused on the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, its humanitarian objectives, assistance to mine victims and the destruction of mine stockpiles. Two high-ranking representatives of the Nigerian Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs took part.

The ICRC attended a meeting organized by ECOWAS and the UN Development Programme to help ensure the success of the ECOWAS programme on small arms. It also participated in a round-table on humanitarian issues organized by ECOWAS and gave a presentation on IHL and the ICRC's activities in West Africa. It furthermore sponsored a visit by two ECOWAS representatives to ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

In October the ICRC met representatives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), who explained NEPAD's operational structures in Nigeria. The ICRC in turn briefed the representatives on its mandate and activities and those of the Nigerian Red Cross. The possibility of cooperation between the Nigerian Red Cross and NEPAD, particularly in the consolidation of the former's operational capacity, was discussed.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

An IHL training course was held for 23 senior military instructors from the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, the Nigerian Defence Academy and the Infantry Centre School. These instructors were to be in charge of teaching IHL in the military institutions. In August the delegation gave a presentation on the Movement, the ICRC and the basics of IHL for 130 graduating cadets of the Nigerian Defence Academy. The graduates then performed a field exercise incorporating components of IHL.

A series of sessions on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities were held in various military training institutions and bases, including the National War College, the Armed Forces Command and Staff College, the Infantry Centre School, the Nigerian Army Intelligence School and the Nigerian Army Medical Corps and School.

Six presentations on IHL and ICRC activities were held for 3,500 Nigerian troops prior to their deployment for UN or AU peace-keeping missions in Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Darfur region of Sudan.

In mid-2004 the Ministry of Police Affairs accepted the ICRC's offer to train police officers in humanitarian principles relevant to policing. In November the ICRC conducted an eight-day instructor's course for 21 police officers/instructors from various regions of the country. The course covered human rights law and humanitarian principles, presentation techniques and training methodology. Following the course, meetings were held with key representatives of the Nigerian police force to discuss, *inter alia*, future cooperation with the ICRC.

- ▶ 2 sessions on human rights standards and humanitarian principles held for 90 Nigerian police officers

CIVIL SOCIETY

To ensure effective relations with the media, and in view of the size of the country and huge number of press and electronic media agencies, the ICRC embarked on an exercise to select media representatives with whom to consolidate or initiate contacts. It sponsored and organized a one-week press tour of Liberia for two Nigerian journalists to enhance their knowledge of the humanitarian situation there. The delegation also produced a quarterly newsletter for its media contacts. In 2004 the Nigerian media published several ICRC press releases and devoted extensive coverage to ICRC activities in Nigeria and in the sub-region (particularly Liberia).

In February the ICRC conducted a two-week mission to strengthen contacts with major multinationals operating in Nigeria. The mission's objectives were threefold: to familiarize the companies with the ICRC's mandate and activities in Nigeria and explore the possibility of a sustained dialogue on field and security issues; to determine how the companies had implemented the Extractive Industry Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights – a voluntary guide for companies to guarantee the safety and security of their operations while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms; and to exchange views on these issues with all stakeholders (the Nigerian authorities, NGOs, diplomats, etc.).

The ICRC met a number of religious activists and other civil society members devoted to the promotion of dialogue between Muslims and Christians, and explained its mandate and activities and those of the National Society.

Several students and law professors made use of the IHL library at the delegation, and the ICRC donated an IHL library to the University of Sokoto.

- ▶ 4 lecturers sponsored on the 4th All Africa Course on IHL, held in Pretoria in November

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC co-funded, with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Nigerian Red Cross's annual meeting in Sokoto in March and pledged to extend financial support to its National Liaison Office in Abuja for three years.

Alternative to Violence Programme

The three partners in the Alternative to Violence Programme (AVP) – the Nigerian Red Cross, the ICRC and the young people taking part – began meeting regularly to map out guidelines, roles and responsibilities. Project coordinators began reaching out to other young people in their communities with the idea of steering them away from violence and towards peace and reconciliation. Following the programme's two successful years in operation, the ICRC held a planning session in March with the new manager of the AVP to consider its future development. AVP workshops continued to be well received and recognized as a beneficial first step in changing young people's attitudes and behaviour.

Follow-up activities to the AVP in the form of branch "clubs", along with regular visits by zone and branch coordinators, offered continuing support to participants. The purpose was to maintain and further develop the skills learned at AVP workshops.

- ▶ 20 basic-level AVP workshops conducted, including 2 special focus workshops in Nasarawa and Anambra states, attended by a total of 375 participants

Assistance

The ICRC continued to support and consolidate the National Society's operational capacity, particularly its emergency preparedness and ability to conduct needs assessments in times of crisis. To this purpose, the delegation held monthly tripartite meetings with the International Federation and the Nigerian Red Cross. In September the ICRC conducted a seven-day instructor's course on disaster management, first aid in emergencies and guidelines for instructors.

Restoring family links

To ensure a viable tracing network at the branch level throughout the National Society's six geographical zones, the ICRC trained Nigerian Red Cross staff from each of the 37 branches in effective tracing methods. Tracing workshops were held in Bauchi, Benin City, Enugu, Ibadan, Ilorin and Kaduna for National Society branch secretaries, information coordinators and zone officers. As a result, every branch had two staff members trained in tracing. The ICRC also cooperated with the National Society in updating and revising all tracing files and in assessing methods of information exchange. The ICRC and the Nigerian Red Cross held monthly meetings to follow up each tracing case individually and to ensure the regular and transparent exchange of information.

The delegation produced materials on IHL and ICRC activities to serve as training tools for new National Society tracing trainees.

IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The ICRC held communication workshops for National Society dissemination officers in the six geographic zones and presented the participants with information on the origin and history of the Movement, ICRC activities and IHL. As a result, National Society branch participants were able to conduct IHL information sessions independently in the field and to train other National Society members in their branches. The ICRC also helped the National Society produce its quarterly newsletter.



dakar

The Dakar regional delegation focuses on promoting IHL among the armed and security forces and on encouraging its implementation throughout the region. It also supports the development of the National Societies' programmes, assists people affected by violence in Casamance, in southern Senegal, and visits detainees of ICRC concern, providing them with material aid where necessary. Opened in 1991, the Dakar regional delegation initially covered Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and the Gambia, later extending its responsibilities to include Mali (1993) and Niger (1994).

COVERING

Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

494,944

Assistance

1,035,610

Preventive action

1,018,216

Cooperation with National Societies

812,276

General

2,908

► **3,363,954**

of which: Overheads **205,312**

PERSONNEL

4 expatriates

26 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC assessed health, water and sanitation needs in areas of Casamance worst affected by the protracted conflict and initiated a programme to install or upgrade health, water and sanitation facilities for over 60,000 people in some 60 villages.
- The ICRC visited places of detention in Niger, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to assess the treatment and living conditions of detainees.
- Progress was made in incorporating IHL into the training programmes of the region's armed and security forces.

CONTEXT

Several countries in the region remained prone to political instability and sporadic violence, owing in some cases to the residual effects of past conflict. Among the main challenges in Senegal's southern province of Casamance, for example, were the reintegration of refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) who had returned to their villages, and the rebuilding of basic infrastructure damaged during the hostilities. The situation in the various countries was often compounded by social and economic problems, including: rising unemployment, inflation and delays in payment for cash crops (in Mali); delays in payment of civil servants' salaries and student and labour unrest (in Guinea-Bissau and Niger); and tensions in the armed forces (in Guinea-Bissau).

In Senegal, the government underwent its sixth reshuffle in four years. The Casamance region remained relatively calm, however, amid heightened but cautious optimism that a peace settlement ending the 20-year armed conflict waged by the separatist Movement of Democratic Forces of Casamance (MFDC) was imminent. In December the government and the MFDC signed a peace agreement.

The return of IDPs and refugees who had fled to neighbouring Gambia and Guinea-Bissau during the conflict slowly gathered momentum. However, many returnees arrived in their villages only to find them razed, their houses, schools and health centres in ruins, and farmland overgrown by forest. Landmines had been laid in some areas, making civilians' return there even more perilous and difficult.

Early in 2004 government troops in Niger clashed repeatedly with members of an armed Islamic group, the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, which had reportedly entered the north of the country, along the Algerian border. Meanwhile, Mali carried out military operations against members of the group on its side of the Algerian border.

In May Mali's president, Amadou Toumani Touré, announced a new national government, after the previous administration resigned at his request.

Following parliamentary elections in Guinea-Bissau in March, a new government was appointed in May, led by the African Party for the Independence of Guinea-Bissau and Cape Verde, which emerged after five years in the opposition. It replaced an interim civilian administration installed by the leaders of a military coup in September 2003, which had paved the way for the elections. In October the head of the armed forces, together with some of his close associates, was killed in an alleged mutiny for non-payment of salary arrears. Presidential elections originally scheduled for December 2004 were postponed until 2005.

Presidential elections, slated for 2006, took centre stage in Gambia. The year saw various reshuffles and dismissals in the leadership of the armed forces. The murder of Deida Hydara, proprietor of *The Point* newspaper and Agence France Presse correspondent, caused a stir, with civil society in Banjul and Dakar mobilizing and demanding clarification of the killing.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC assessed health, water and sanitation needs in areas of Senegal's southern province of Casamance worst affected by over two decades of conflict. The organization then launched a programme, endorsed by the Senegalese authorities and the MFDC, to install or upgrade health, water and sanitation facilities (see *Civilians*). Women's gardening associations received seeds and tools to support the communities in reviving economic activity. The ICRC supported the National Society in implementing a malaria-prevention programme in the province.

Visits were made to detention facilities in Niger, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Senegal to assess the treatment and living conditions of detainees and, in certain cases (Niger), to construct or upgrade prison sanitation facilities.

The countries of the region progressed towards incorporating international humanitarian law (IHL) into the training programmes of their armed and security forces and teaching IHL at university level. IHL briefings were held for military contingents preparing to leave on international peace-keeping missions.

CIVILIANS

The ICRC conducted a survey in Casamance early in 2004. This followed a request by the Senegalese authorities for ICRC support in reconstruction projects in the region, where once flourishing farmland had largely been neglected and essential infrastructure had been severely damaged. Survey findings confirmed shortcomings in the health, water and sanitation sectors. As a result, the ICRC developed a programme to construct, upgrade or renovate health, water and sanitation facilities for over 60,000 people living in some 60 villages. The aim of the 18-month programme, launched in mid-2004, was to repair or construct 40 wells, and repair and equip nine local health posts and their maternity units.

- 2 village wells repaired and hand pumps supplied
- 3 agricultural wells repaired
- 1 village water-supply system repaired and improved
- hygiene-awareness sessions conducted for beneficiaries of the above projects
- 1 warehouse for crop storage repaired

- 3 health posts, including attached maternity units, serving a population of 10,720, repaired and equipped
- a monthly average of 162 consultations conducted in 1 health post

As part of a programme to treat and prevent malaria, the ICRC trained Red Cross volunteers, who in turn relayed information on hygiene, malaria prevention and other health issues to their communities. The programme included the subsidized sale of mosquito nets impregnated with insecticide.

- by end November 2,031 mosquito nets delivered for resale at preferential prices for pregnant women and young children, 1,056 nets sold
- 9 villages benefited from ICRC assistance

The ICRC constructed a warehouse in Djondji village, where it and all the neighbouring villages could store their ground-nut produce before sale and transportation to major markets. The purpose of this project was to help improve the socio-economic situation of civilians affected by conflict. In addition, the ICRC distributed gardening tools to 25 women's associations, thereby helping 837 heads of household to resume vegetable production for sale.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC continued visiting detention centres in Niger, Guinea-Bissau and Senegal to assess the treatment and living conditions of detainees and shared its findings with the authorities.

In February, at the request of the families concerned, the ICRC and the Cape Verde Red Cross visited five Ukrainian sailors detained in the country on drug-smuggling charges. The ICRC enabled the detainees to re-establish contact with their families in Ukraine using the Red Cross message network. During this visit, the Cape Verde Red Cross gave a briefing on IHL to the directors of two prisons and six prison guards.

- 28 visits made to 3,745 detainees in 26 detention centres in the region

In Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC's representations to the authorities led to the provisional release of eight prisoners pending their trial. Following visits to a civilian prison and two military prisons, the ICRC submitted a report on its findings to the detaining authorities, and met the president of the

Guinea-Bissau National Transitional Council. Issues raised related to sanitation, food supply, judicial guarantees and family visits.

In Niger, ICRC reports on detention visits carried out in 2003 were submitted to the prime minister and other senior government officials. Three prisons received farming implements to start kitchen-garden projects.

Improving detainees' welfare

Together with the Red Cross Society of Niger, the ICRC developed a health-education programme in places of detention. The ICRC supported National Society volunteers in conducting an awareness campaign for detainees on hygiene and diseases prevalent in prisons, such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria and diarrhoea. It then held a workshop for health trainers to enable them to relay the same information to other volunteers. Following studies on the feasibility of creating kitchen gardens, an ICRC-funded kitchen-garden project was initiated in three prisons.

- construction of a well to serve 1 prison completed; construction/repair of septic tanks and latrines in 4 prisons completed
- 1 prison received kitchen equipment
- health and hygiene items, including soap, buckets and mosquito nets, acquired for distribution in prisons

In Guinea-Bissau, rehabilitation work was completed on sanitation facilities in a civilian prison in the capital, and medical supplies were provided to two military prisons. Meanwhile, in Senegal, the ICRC completed a study on sanitation in a number of detention facilities and finalized plans to construct or repair latrines and install septic tanks in four of them.

AUTHORITIES

In the countries of the region, the ICRC continued to encourage the authorities to ratify or implement IHL treaties and offered them technical and material support to this end. In 2004, the organization focused on the promotion of laws on the protection of the emblem, the ratification of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the creation of national IHL committees.

In March, Senegal ratified the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. Niger adopted a law and Senegal finalized a draft law on the imple-

mentation of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. The ICRC submitted comments on these laws to the authorities to assist them in their efforts to implement IHL.

In February the ICRC assisted the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission in organizing a visit to Niger and Senegal, during which Commission members met high-ranking political and academic officials, members of human rights organizations and other civil society representatives.

In March ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger signed a cooperation agreement on behalf of the ICRC at the third session of the Conference of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Member States, held in Dakar. He also met Senegal's head of State. Their discussions centred on issues of humanitarian concern in West Africa and Senegal's important role in the region.

In Gambia, the ICRC participated in the 35th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held in Banjul, and advocated the inclusion of IHL in the Commission's policies and activities. An IHL publication, produced in conjunction with the Commission, was presented to participants. The document dealt with the similarities and differences between IHL and human rights law, mechanisms to implement their provisions, and the ICRC and its role to promote IHL, particularly in Africa. The document was well received by the Commission members, government delegations and representatives of human rights organizations present at the meeting.

A meeting with the management of the African Study Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Banjul resulted in an agreement to include a one-day presentation on IHL in the Centre's annual training programme for African human rights activists.

- ▶ a workshop on the protection of the emblem held for 18 National Society representatives from all countries in the region
- ▶ a workshop on the protection of cultural property during armed conflict organized for the authorities in Senegal and Niger and attended by a UNESCO representative
- ▶ 2 sessions held in Mali and Niger to familiarize the civil and military authorities and opinion-leaders with IHL

The ICRC regularly attended meetings convened by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Office for West Africa and made presentations on humanitarian issues.

- ▶ presentation on IHL given for 25 officers from UNICEF offices in African countries

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

With IHL teaching already introduced in military training establishments in Mali and Niger, the ICRC concentrated its efforts on achieving similar results in other countries of the region. The ICRC sponsored the participation of military officers from Senegal, Niger and Guinea-Bissau in a course on IHL at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. The Senegalese officer who attended the course was subsequently requested by his superiors to hold IHL sessions for the army.

In Guinea-Bissau, the ICRC met the defence minister, who requested support in training the country's army. The ICRC expressed its willingness to do so and offered technical support in the integration of IHL into the training of the forces.

- ▶ IHL manuals and audiovisual materials and 2 IHL libraries donated to the armed forces of Senegal, Mali and Guinea-Bissau
- ▶ briefings on IHL, the ICRC and the 1999 UN Secretary-General's Bulletin on observance by UN forces of IHL, given to over 2,400 military officers and other high-ranking members of Senegalese and Guinea-Bissau peace-keeping contingents ahead of their deployment in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- ▶ sessions on the ICRC and IHL held for 60 instructors and soldiers in Niger; 35 trainee officers in Senegal attended sessions on IHL and the ICRC; 2 IHL courses held for 250 army recruits in Mali
- ▶ IHL conferences conducted for 30 trainee officers and at a peace-keeping academy in Senegal

The ICRC maintained contacts with the region's security and police forces, raising their awareness of its mandate and activities and the principles of IHL and providing materials such as the police training manual, *To serve and to protect*, to support their training activities.

- ▶ 100 Senegalese officers being deployed for civil/police duties in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and the DRC familiarized with the ICRC and its activities, human rights law and humanitarian principles
- ▶ in Senegal, some 60 security officers and trainee officers from francophone African countries attended briefings on the ICRC, its mandate and activities, human rights law and humanitarian principles; 70 security officers in Ziguinchor and 300 trainee security officers attended awareness sessions on the ICRC, its mandate and activities, human rights law and humanitarian principles
- ▶ 230 *gendarmes* and police officers from Mali and 20 security officers from Niger attended seminars on the ICRC, its mandate and activities, human rights law and IHL principles; the police and security forces of the 2 countries received training manuals

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC maintained contacts with the region's media, which reported extensively and accurately on its activities in the region and beyond. Topics covered included medical assistance to Liberian refugees stranded between the borders of Mali and Guinea-Bissau, a regional workshop on the emblem, and operations in Sudan's Darfur region.

- ▶ 15 Senegalese and Ivorian journalists attended a workshop in Senegal on the protection of cultural property during armed conflict
- ▶ through a radio programme in Mali, public awareness raised of the ICRC's mandate and activities and the Fundamental Principles

Representatives of over a dozen non-governmental organizations based in Dakar attended an ICRC briefing on the new challenges faced by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In Niger, the ICRC maintained regular contacts with the National Association for Human Rights to discuss issues of humanitarian concern and held workshops on IHL for the association and heads of human rights organizations.

Senegalese university students completed a one-month visit to the regional delegation to learn more about IHL and the ICRC and its activities. An article on child soldiers in Africa, written by the students, was to be submitted to African National Societies for publication in their newsletters. For the

second time in the last 2 years, month-long practical courses in IHL were held for 40 students in their fourth year of international law at Dakar University.

Students preparing their theses on international law in Malian and Senegalese universities received advice and documentation on IHL. In August a Malian student successfully defended his thesis on the protection of prisoners of war.

In Niger, the ICRC submitted an IHL syllabus for inclusion in the University of Niamey's human rights course.

- 36 students from various institutions and disciplines in Niger attended an IHL course

During a meeting with a senior representative of Senegal's Ministry of Education, the ICRC stressed the important role that the ministry had played in the pilot phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools and urged the authorities to pledge their support for the implementation phase.

- 2 representatives of Mali's and Senegal's Ministries of Education attended the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law, in South Africa (see *Pretoria*)
- art workshop on humanitarian principles organized for schoolchildren from Casamance
- 70 participants from various youth associations in Guinea-Bissau attended a session on the mandates and activities of the ICRC and the Movement; presentation on the ICRC and the Red Cross given for 40 schoolchildren

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

To ensure coordinated support to the development of the region's National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies met regularly and participated in each other's workshops.

The Red Cross of Guinea-Bissau benefited from ICRC support in constructing headquarters for two of its branches. Preparations advanced for a similar project with the Senegalese and Malian Red Cross Societies.

Assistance

Red Cross volunteers in Cape Verde received training in emergency-response techniques,

and in Niger the ICRC supported the National Society in organizing a workshop on an emergency contingency plan, attended by heads of the armed and security forces and the fire department. In Senegal, the National Society received support in organizing training for first-aid trainers, thereby consolidating its pool of trainers. It also received first-aid materials. In Bamako, Mali, the ICRC supported the National Society through training and the supply of equipment to six emergency teams active during municipal elections in May. In Guinea-Bissau, the organization helped the Red Cross develop an emergency contingency plan ahead of the legislative elections in March and trained volunteers.

- 130 Guinea-Bissau Red Cross volunteers attended refresher courses; vehicles, radio equipment and medical supplies donated

The ICRC supported the Senegalese Red Cross Society's malaria-prevention programme, training 40 community volunteers whose task it was to relay information on the prevention of malaria to their communities. Information sessions on the topic were organized and sanitation materials, basic drugs and mosquito nets impregnated with insecticides distributed in nine villages.

As part of a project of the Red Cross Society of Cape Verde focusing on malaria prevention in places of detention, the ICRC supported the training of volunteers responsible for raising detainees' awareness of hygiene and health issues.

With the Malian Red Cross, the ICRC provided medical aid to over 300 Liberian refugees stranded for a few days at the border between Guinea-Bissau and Mali.

Restoring family links

The ICRC supported the tracing activities of four of the region's National Societies, enabling a number of people to re-establish contact with family members. With ICRC help, the Malian Red Cross organized a tracing workshop for 11 members of its regional branches.

IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The ICRC continued to provide material and technical support, including training, to the region's National Societies to consolidate their promotion of IHL. The Red Cross Societies of Cape Verde and Mali were assisted in conducting workshops on the Red Cross and the Fundamental Principles for 75 volunteers. The National Societies of

Mali and Niger were assisted in producing quarterly newsletters.

- 87 participants from the National Societies of Cape Verde and Guinea-Bissau attended 3 information sessions on IHL
- the region's National Societies assisted in marking World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May) through cultural and sports events aimed at spreading knowledge of the Movement



harare

The Harare regional delegation has existed in its current form since 1995, although the ICRC has been present in some of the countries covered for much longer. Nowadays, the Harare delegation monitors the region from a humanitarian viewpoint, particularly in Zimbabwe itself, and keeps a close eye on the consequences of the spillover into the region of past conflicts and the current situation in neighbouring countries. It focuses on assisting and protecting civilians displaced by violence, visiting people deprived of their freedom and restoring contact between family members separated by armed conflict. The delegation carries out preventive work, informing the authorities, the armed and security forces and the general public about IHL. It also helps to develop the operational capacity of the region's National Societies.

COVERING

Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

2,119,401

Assistance

1,625,784

Preventive action

913,618

Cooperation with National Societies

837,735

General

30,334

► **5,526,873**

of which: Overheads **337,321**

PERSONNEL

13 expatriates

40 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC provided 2,046 vulnerable displaced and resident families (10,234 individuals) in Zimbabwe with food and essential household items.
- Together with the National Societies in the region, the ICRC delivered 36,339 RCMs and reunited 22 children with their families; it conducted mine-risk education for Angolan refugees in Namibia about to be repatriated.
- Delegates visited 13 places of detention in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia to monitor the living conditions and treatment of security detainees.
- The ICRC provided Zambia's University Teaching Hospital with artificial-limb components, materials and prosthetics training to ensure appropriate treatment for amputees.
- The ICRC pursued efforts to promote IHL among the authorities, the armed and security forces and NGOs in 5 countries and to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools in Zimbabwe.
- The ICRC supported the development of the National Societies in the region, particularly their capacities to respond to the needs of civilians in case of internal disturbances.

CONTEXT

Several countries in the region, notably Namibia and Zambia, played host to refugees who had fled conflict or sporadic outbreaks of violence in their home countries. During the year tens of thousands of these refugees were repatriated, particularly to Angola. However, other refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), kept on arriving, while many Rwandans were reluctant to return home.

Economic and political problems continued to affect the countries of the region. Zimbabwe faced various socio-economic challenges linked to, for example, the government's agrarian reform programme. In Namibia, the government was keen to provide reassurances that a planned land reform programme would be carried out lawfully and with respect for the constitution to avoid any damage to its still fragile economy.

Elections in Malawi in May passed off without serious incident. In Mozambique, the main opposition group, the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO), contested the results of the December general election and urged a boycott of the new parliament, although international observers had pronounced the election free and fair. In Zambia's capital Lusaka, there were demonstrations and arrests as campaigners demanded the adoption of a new constitution before elections in 2006. Zimbabwe's political establishment focused on elections in 2005.

Poverty, unemployment and HIV/AIDS remained key problems for all the countries of the region; some countries were able to provide anti-retroviral therapy for AIDS sufferers, others were not. Food shortages also arose; in Mozambique and Zambia, for example, severe flooding in parts of the countries left many destitute.

ICRC ACTION

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC regularly assessed the situation of hundreds of victims of internal violence, including ex-farm workers affected by eviction notices served on farmers under the government's agrarian reform programme. Where necessary, the ICRC distributed assistance to the families. It urged the authorities to safeguard the physical integrity of farm workers.

The ICRC teamed up with the National Societies (mostly in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia) to collect and distribute tens of thousands of Red Cross messages (RCMs) for refugees and detainees falling within its mandate, and reunited 22 children with their families. There was a drop in the number of RCMs collected owing to the repatriation of Angolan refugees.

Before their repatriation, the ICRC conducted mine-risk education sessions for Angolan refugees in Namibia's Osire (which was subsequently closed) and Kassava refugee camps.

Protection activities were conducted in prisons in Botswana and Namibia, where a number of security detainees were being held in relation to the 1999 uprising in the Caprivi Strip. In Zambia, the ICRC worked with the detaining authorities to improve the management of prisons and reviewed laws leading to detention.

The ICRC continued to encourage the armed and security forces to integrate international humanitarian law (IHL) into training and operations, and to train police forces in the region in human rights standards and humanitarian principles. It worked to increase the capacities of the National Societies to respond to needs in times of internal disturbances, particularly in countries holding elections.

CIVILIANS

Protecting people affected by internal disturbances

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC conducted several field missions in the provinces of Bulawayo, Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Masvingo and Matabeleland North and South to monitor the situation of people affected by internal disturbances. Where necessary, it distributed household items and food.

In coordination with the health authorities, the ICRC visited several hospitals and clinics to assess their capacities to care for people

wounded during political violence, as well as for the sick. Medicine kits were distributed to some health facilities. The ICRC conducted surveys to get an overview of the health infrastructure and to assess whether to undertake health assistance programmes in Manicaland and Mashonaland West.

The ICRC held several information sessions on the ICRC and humanitarian principles for war veterans and the police in Manicaland. It initiated contacts with provincial and district authorities in four provinces where it hoped to conduct protection and assistance activities.

- 1,790 residents (8,953 individuals) and 256 displaced families (1,281 individuals) affected by political violence in Zimbabwe provided with one month's food supply and essential household items such as a blanket, bucket, bars of soap, kitchen set and tarpaulin
- ad hoc supplies of dressing materials and medicine kits provided to medical facilities in Manicaland to ensure free treatment for people affected by political violence; 2 first-aid kits provided to the local hospital of Chimanimani

Restoring family links

Working with the National Societies, the ICRC delivered thousands of RCMs on behalf of refugees in the region who had been separated from their families by instability in their own countries. The repatriation of Angolan refugees in 2004 led to a reduction in the number of RCMs collected. The number of Congolese refugees increased during the year, albeit without a corresponding rise in the number of RCMs collected.

The ICRC registered children separated from their parents and living in refugee camps, and reunited a number of them with their families.

- 36,339 RCMs delivered in the region
- 53,850 RCMs collected in the region
- 33 children separated from their families newly registered, 22 reunited with their families (mostly Angolans, with a few from Rwanda and the DRC)

Alerting Angolan returnees to mine risks

The ICRC held mine-risk education sessions for Angolan refugees in Namibia's Osire and Kassava refugee camps before their return to Angola. The Zambian Anti-personnel Mines Awareness Centre, which had agreed to carry out mine-risk education, did not get the funds to do so.

- 3,800 people attended mine-risk awareness sessions in Namibia

Clarifying the fate of Zimbabwean soldiers killed in the DRC

The ICRC was asked by Zimbabwe's defence minister to encourage the DRC authorities to organize an appropriate mechanism for handling the issue of Zimbabwean soldiers killed in action in the DRC. The ICRC contacted the Congolese Ministry of Defence to remind it of its obligation under IHL to identify the soldiers and facilitate the return of their bodies. The file remained open at the ministry.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Ensuring adequate conditions of detention

The ICRC carried out visits to a number of different places of detention in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia, speaking individually with security detainees and providing them with access to its RCM service – except in Zambia, where it encouraged them to use the postal service. In Zambian prisons, the ICRC worked with the detaining authorities to implement water, habitat and agricultural assistance programmes. It also helped define problems within the prison system and propose possible solutions, in conjunction with other partners, such as Penal Reform International, the Zambian National Committee on Community Service and the Danish embassy, which was preparing a project on access to justice.

- in Botswana, 10 visits carried out to 6 places of detention and 31 security detainees; basic stationery and hygiene products supplied
- in Namibia, 4 visits carried out to 2 places of detention and 118 security detainees; toiletries, stationery and clothing provided; the costs of family visits covered
- in Zambia, 18 visits carried out to 5 places of detention and 106 security detainees; in 3 pilot prisons (Lusaka Central, Kamwala Remand and Mukobeko Maximum Security prisons) water-supply and sewage systems repaired, cells and storerooms fumigated, water tanks, stoves and beds installed and blankets and hygiene materials distributed; the health care and diet of detainees assessed; the potential to create penitentiary agricultural plots assessed and a model plot initiated
- 920 RCMs collected and 587 distributed

WOUNDED AND SICK

Supporting physical rehabilitation for amputees

In Namibia, the ICRC continued to support the prosthetic/orthotic workshop at Rundu State Hospital (Kavango), although on a lesser scale than in previous years. It provided a small number of polypropylene components for the manufacture of artificial limbs and conducted occasional visits to monitor production quality and meet representatives of the hospital and Health Ministry.

In Zambia, the ICRC provided components and materials for artificial-limb production at the physical rehabilitation centre of the University Teaching Hospital (UTH), as well as equipment for the physiotherapy department. It provided on-the-job training to staff of both units treating amputees (refugees and Zambians). A UTH hostel constructed by the ICRC provided accommodation for refugees undergoing treatment. The UTH paid for their meals, taking over this responsibility from the ICRC, which on occasion still purchased food for the centre.

- ▶ in Namibia, an average of 6–10 orthopaedic appliances delivered each month
- ▶ in Zambia, 114 new patients fitted with prostheses and 70 with orthoses; 125 prostheses and 95 orthoses delivered; 18 pairs of crutches produced
- ▶ 59 refugees transported to and assisted at Zambia's UTH physical rehabilitation centre/hostel in Lusaka
- ▶ a five-day seminar organized by the ICRC at the UTH physical rehabilitation centre attended by 16 Zambian prosthetic-orthotic technologists and assistants and 2 physiotherapists

AUTHORITIES

Ensuring ratification and implementation of major IHL treaties

The ICRC regularly met high-level government officials from countries in the region to promote the ratification and implementation of the major IHL treaties, including the adoption of national legislation to protect the red cross emblem. It provided expert advice on IHL and helped governments prepare their participation in IHL conferences.

In Zimbabwe, the National Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law accepted in principle that the ICRC could attend its meetings as an observer; the decision was subject to confirmation from the current acting chair of the committee.

- ▶ in Namibia, parliament passed implementing legislation for the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols
- ▶ in Mozambique, the ICRC assisted the government in preparing for the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World in December (see *Nairobi*); a draft law on the protection of the red cross emblem was approved by parliament
- ▶ in Zambia, a workshop on implementing legislation on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was held for 27 participants, including the Zambian minister of justice and other government officials from Zambia, Botswana and Namibia

The ICRC held discussions with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in Gaborone, Botswana, aimed at promoting the ratification and implementation by member States of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Integrating IHL into military training

The ICRC pursued its efforts to promote the integration of IHL into military training programmes. These included conducting IHL presentations or courses for senior officers at military schools in Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe and information sessions for the troops. In Zambia, the ICRC had high-level discussions with the Ministry of Defence and the Presidency to encourage the government to issue a directive formally incorporating IHL into military training.

- ▶ in Namibia, 400 soldiers of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) attended an ICRC session on IHL ahead of their peace-keeping mission in Liberia; 23 high-ranking participants from the NDF's military schools took part in a five-day train-the-trainer course on IHL
- ▶ in Zambia, the ICRC met the legal adviser to the president and senior members of the Ministry of Defence to discuss ICRC activities and the integration of IHL into the training of the armed forces; IHL familiarization courses were held for senior officers at the Zambian Army Staff College, including several officers from other African countries

- ▶ in Zimbabwe, 105 soldiers of the Mechanised Brigade, 75 officers at the All Arms Battle School, 64 junior staff officers at the Staff College and 56 platoon sergeants of the School of Infantry attended courses/presentations on the ICRC and IHL

Promoting human rights standards and humanitarian principles among police forces

The ICRC continued to train the police in the region in international human rights standards and humanitarian principles pertaining to internal disturbances and other internal violence. It also worked to raise their awareness of the role and activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- ▶ in Mozambique, 3 five-day courses on international human rights standards and humanitarian principles were held for 148 district police commanders; 1 two-week train-the-trainer seminar was organized for 19 instructors at the Academy of Police Sciences in Maputo
- ▶ in Zambia, half-day dissemination sessions were held for 125 high-ranking officers, in collaboration with the Institute of Human Rights, Intellectual Property and Development Trust (HURID); the ICRC participated in HURID's first human rights and policing workshop
- ▶ in Zimbabwe, the ICRC maintained regular contact with police commanders in the areas where it carried out its field work; the police commander in Manicaland committed himself to supporting the ICRC's dissemination activities for his officers

CIVIL SOCIETY

Relations with the media and other key stakeholders

The ICRC maintained contacts with the national and international media, universities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the region to raise awareness of humanitarian issues, the ICRC's mandate and the relevance of IHL. It regularly provided interested parties with press releases and newsletters and responded promptly to inquiries about its work. Zambian national TV gave good coverage of the ICRC's physical rehabilitation and tracing activities.

Instilling humanitarian principles in young people

In Zimbabwe, the ICRC nurtured its contacts with the Ministry of Education, Sports and Culture with a view to initiating a test phase

of its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and promoting its formal inclusion in the secondary-school curriculum.

For members of the Zimbabwean national youth service about to undergo military training, the ICRC conducted basic IHL information sessions. It sponsored representatives of the Ministries of Youth Development, Gender and Employment Creation and of Education, Sports and Culture to attend the Pan-African Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law in South Africa (see *Pretoria*).

- 250 trainers and some 3,300 trainees at three youth centres in Zimbabwe attended IHL presentations by the ICRC; literature and communication equipment supplied
- 600 IHL publications donated to the libraries of 3 youth centres

Promoting the obligatory teaching of IHL in law faculties

The ICRC conducted IHL classes for a number of university students in Mozambique and Zambia. It also held talks with university directors in the two countries to promote the formal inclusion of IHL in law curricula. In November it sponsored three Zimbabwean academics to attend the 4th All Africa Course on IHL in Pretoria (see *Pretoria*).

- in Mozambique, 30 students at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo attended an IHL presentation; the ICRC encouraged staff at the university and the Institute of International Relations to develop the teaching of IHL; it donated 50 books to the institutions' libraries
- in Zambia, 185 students and professors attended IHL sessions at academic institutions involved in the training of public servants (the National Institute of Public Administration, the Zambia Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies, HURID and the University of Zambia, the last of which offered IHL courses to fourth-year law students)
- the ICRC worked with the University of Zimbabwe, the country's only university, to incorporate IHL into a new masters programme in human rights law at the faculty of law

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC helped prepare the National Societies of the region to provide humanitarian relief during emergency situations. It dispatched first-aid materials and training tools to the National Societies after first ensuring that they had established proper stock-control systems. It also worked to ensure that tracing networks were efficient and that the National Societies were equipped to raise awareness of IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles. It signed project cooperation agreements (working documents) with all six Societies.

The ICRC continued to coordinate its activities with partner National Societies present in the region, including the Danish and German Red Cross Societies. It established contact with the Iranian Red Crescent mission, which was planning to open health clinics in Harare and Lusaka in collaboration with the Zimbabwean and Zambian National Societies respectively.

Ensuring effective tracing

The ICRC updated its tracing procedures and was working to impart this information to the National Societies. It continued to facilitate experience-sharing among the National Societies to boost their performance, particularly in communication. To support their tracing activities, the ICRC contributed to the National Societies' running costs, including payment of salaries and mission expenses and donating equipment such as computers.

- the Botswanan Red Cross Society conducted 13 field missions and handled over 2,100 RCMs
- the Malawi Red Cross Society covered the tracing needs of over 10,000 refugees in two camps and handled some 16,000 RCMs
- the Mozambique Red Cross Society handed some 1,400 RCMs, focusing its tracing activity on Maratane refugee camp, which sheltered nearly 5,000 refugees (about 100 new refugees arriving each month, particularly from the Great Lakes region)
- the Namibian Red Cross supported ICRC tracing staff in collecting and distributing 5,977 RCMs in Osire, Kavango and Caprivi
- the ICRC conducted tracing activities with the Zambian Red Cross Society in 6 refugee camps and for social cases

Enhancing conflict preparedness and response

The ICRC helped the National Societies organize workshops on emergency response,

the mobilization of action teams and first-aid, and donated first-aid materials. As a result, National Society volunteers in Malawi were able to support local medical facilities when violence erupted in Blantyre on election day. Ahead of election day in Zimbabwe in 2005, National Society action teams were also prepared with first-aid training and materials.

Promoting IHL, the Fundamental Principles and the Movement

The ICRC facilitated the exchange of reports and publications among the various National Societies' information departments so that they could learn from one another's experiences. It promoted dissemination activities, including the production of radio programmes, the publication of newsletters and the organization of events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May (in which the Zambian president participated). It helped facilitate induction courses on the Movement for governance members of the National Societies, when requested, and organized internal dissemination workshops.

In 2004, the ICRC:

- assisted the Botswanan Red Cross in holding its first general assembly since 1997; the assembly adopted a new draft constitution and a plan of action to carry out elections for provincial and national committees in 2005;
- supported the Namibian Red Cross in establishing a team of disseminators in its 7 divisions, who carried out information sessions for members of the public (such as schoolchildren), and provided the National Society headquarters with news and stories for its newsletter;
- gave the Mozambican Red Cross financial and technical assistance in enforcing the implementation of the Red Cross Emblem Act passed by parliament;
- supported the Zambian Red Cross communications department through contributions to staff salaries, mission expenses, running costs and the production of a newsletter and radio quiz;
- with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Danish Red Cross, helped the Zimbabwean Red Cross organize a national governance workshop; the support was also to cover planned provincial governance training on the Fundamental Principles for National Society members and volunteers.



nairobi

The ICRC's regional delegation in Nairobi was set up in 1974 and has a dual purpose: first, to carry out operations and pursue humanitarian diplomacy in the three countries covered; and second, to provide logistic support services for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries of the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions, and further afield.

COVERING
Djibouti, Kenya, Tanzania

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection
1,735,848
Assistance
2,016,909
Preventive action
1,644,441
Cooperation with National Societies
951,668
General
169,479
► 6,518,345
of which: Overheads **397,833**

PERSONNEL

35 expatriates
373 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC president addressed the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, calling for more support for mine victims; before the summit, the Nairobi regional delegation held an East African landmine workshop and presented Kenya and Djibouti with draft legislation to implement the Ottawa Convention.
- The ICRC delivered some 47,000 RCMs to refugees and increased efforts to restore contact between child refugees and their parents.
- The ICRC initiated projects to improve the economic security of communities affected by ethnic clashes in north-eastern Kenya.
- With ICRC support, the armed, security and police forces in the region continued to integrate IHL and international human rights law into their training.
- As tensions rose on the Zanzibar archipelago, the ICRC positioned medical supplies there and increased its support to local Red Cross branches.
- The ICRC's logistics and assistance units provided relief goods and specialist staff to ICRC delegations in Africa and beyond to meet the needs of conflict victims.

CONTEXT

Owing to conflict and instability in neighbouring countries, Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania together hosted some one million refugees. Tanzania remained home to Africa's largest number of refugees (more than 700,000), the majority of them from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

As stable countries, Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania continued to play an important diplomatic role in a troubled region. Kenya hosted peace talks on Somalia and Sudan, while the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the body mediating both processes, had its headquarters in Djibouti. Kenya also hosted the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, the first review conference of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. Tanzania supported efforts to implement peace agreements in Burundi and the DRC and was home to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

Ethnic clashes continued sporadically in the more remote and arid regions of Kenya, mainly over water and pasture. A prolonged drought in parts of the country, widespread poverty and the availability of small arms exacerbated the problem.

There were isolated disturbances on the Zanzibar archipelago, triggered by rising political and religious tensions in the run-up to the general elections in Tanzania in 2005.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC stood ready to protect and assist any victims of violence or disturbances in the region. Given the election-related tensions in the Zanzibar archipelago, it positioned medical supplies on the islands. In Kenya, it initiated medium-term projects to improve the economic security of communities affected by ethnic clashes in the neighbouring north-eastern districts of Turkana and West Pokot. It also rehabilitated water systems in Kenya's southern coastal district of Lamu to ease community tensions over the lack of clean water. In Djibouti, it covered the cost of fitting mine victims with prostheses.

Tens of thousands of refugees in all three countries used the ICRC's tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) services to locate relatives left behind and exchange news with them. The ICRC stepped up efforts to put refugee children in Tanzania and Kenya back in touch with their parents in their home countries. In Tanzania, it paid for the medical treatment of war-wounded refugees, including fitting amputees with artificial limbs.

Programmes to raise awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL) in the region remained a priority, targeting governments, armed forces, police, universities and schools. Efforts focused on generating political and public interest in the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World.

The three National Societies received substantial ICRC support. In Tanzania, emphasis was placed on preparing Red Cross

branches in the Zanzibar archipelago to respond to any election-related violence, in Djibouti on rebuilding the Red Crescent, and in Kenya on strengthening Red Cross relief and tracing activities.

In parallel, the ICRC's Nairobi Logistics Centre supplied a wide range of essential goods and services by land, sea and air to ICRC operations in Africa and beyond, using the most efficient and cost-effective means. In addition, the Regional Assistance Unit developed and coordinated ICRC strategy and provided delegations with specialist advice, training and field support in the areas of nutrition, agriculture, medicine, water and sanitation, tracing, communications – including IHL promotion – and information technology.

CIVILIANS

Easing community tensions in Kenya

The ICRC initiated projects in late 2004 aimed at relieving tensions and improving the economic security of communities affected by ongoing ethnic clashes in the neighbouring districts of Turkana and West Pokot in north-eastern Kenya. ICRC surveys carried out in early 2004 in this remote and arid region had confirmed that community clashes over water, pasture and arable land were ongoing, destroying village infrastructure, driving people from their homes and disrupting economic activities. The ICRC opened an office in Turkwel in the Turkana district and, in consultation with the authorities and communities, initiated the first phase of its assistance programme: 500 families dependent on livestock received vouchers for free veterinary treatment; 250 families received farming implements; and construction began on two schools in villages hosting displaced families (Kainuk in Turkana and Ritten in West Pokot).

The ICRC also initiated projects in Kenya's south-eastern coastal district of Lamu to ease tensions between communities over a chronic lack of clean drinking water. It provided the authorities with five pumps to increase the water supply to Lamu town and, together with the Kenyan Red Cross, was rehabilitating three reservoirs on Pate and Ndau islands.

Improving public health

The ICRC and the Tanzanian Red Cross completed some 20 projects in 2004 to build or upgrade water points and latrines in the Zanzibar archipelago. It also held a course on the maintenance of water facili-

ties for the Zanzibari water authorities and village caretakers and provided the authorities with a database on local water access and public health. These activities were part of an ongoing programme launched in 1999 to reduce the incidence of communicable diseases in poorer areas following a severe cholera outbreak.

- 750 families in Kenya benefited from projects to improve their economic security
- 2 village schools being rebuilt in Kenya
- 8,000 people benefited from 2 water/sanitation programmes in Kenya and the Zanzibar archipelago

Restoring family links for refugees

To enable refugees to communicate with family left behind, the ICRC ran the tracing and RCM services in the 13 camps along Tanzania's western border and the three camps in Djibouti. The Kenyan Red Cross assisted the ICRC in providing the services in Kenya's Kakuma and Dadaab refugee camps. A priority was to restore contact between child refugees and their parents and to reunite the families when the situation in the home country allowed. This mainly concerned Burundian children in camps in Tanzania and Sudanese children in Kakuma camp in Kenya. The ICRC located and visited the children, offering them the RCM service to contact relatives. To maximize the impact of programmes for refugees, the ICRC reinforced contacts with UNHCR, UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration and other agencies involved in child protection. For example, the ICRC received details from UNHCR of any Burundian children registered for voluntary repatriation and followed up their cases with their families in Burundi.

- 30,162 RCMs delivered in Tanzania, 16,476 in Kenya and 463 in Djibouti
- 75 child refugees separated from their parents registered in Tanzania and 1,106 in Kenya
- 96 child refugees in Tanzania and 6 in Kenya reunited with family in their home countries, including 75 directly under ICRC auspices
- 213 people located whose families had filed tracing requests

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Gabode prison in Djibouti and those held in connection with the ICTR at the UN detention facility in Arusha, Tanzania. After the visits, it reported its findings, in confidence, to the authorities. The ICRC offered the RCM service to detainees so they could communicate with their families. To maintain basic hygiene standards in Gabode prison, it provided soap and cleaning agents each month, made minor repairs to the kitchen and replaced the wood-burning cookers with cheaper and more environmentally friendly kerosene stoves.

- 56 detainees, including 1 newly registered, monitored individually in 1 detention facility in Tanzania
- 396 detainees, including 4 monitored individually, visited and provided with monthly material assistance in 1 prison in Djibouti

WOUNDED AND SICK

Treating the wounded and amputees

In Tanzania, the ICRC maintained its lead role in ensuring care for war-wounded refugees arriving from Burundi and the DRC, in accordance with an agreement made in 2001 with the Tanzanian government, UNHCR, Caritas and the International Rescue Committee. The ICRC paid for and monitored the treatment of wounded refugees at Heri and Kigoma missionary hospitals and Kibonda District Hospital, distributed medical supplies, as needed, to border facilities that administered first aid and arranged for the transport of patients to hospital. It also covered the cost of fitting refugee amputees with artificial limbs at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre in Moshi.

Hospitals in the Zanzibar archipelago lacked the resources to cope with any influx of wounded in the event of election-related violence. The ICRC, therefore, positioned medical stocks on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba for distribution, if needed, to the Ministry of Health and the Al Rahma Hospital in Zanzibar Town.

There had been no new mine victims in Djibouti for over three years. However, amputees needed replacement prostheses about every two years because of general wear and tear. The ICRC arranged for 24 such amputees to be refitted in Ethiopia

at the ICRC-supported Harar physical rehabilitation centre.

- ▶ 2 hospitals supported; 2 war-wounded treated and 6 operations performed
- ▶ 8 first-aid posts supported
- ▶ 24 amputees refitted with prostheses

AUTHORITIES

Promoting the ban on anti-personnel mines

In preparation for the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World, the ICRC strove to generate political interest in landmine issues and to encourage countries in the region to incorporate the provisions of the Ottawa Convention into their national law. Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania were all parties to the treaty. With Canada and Kenya, the ICRC organized a regional workshop on landmines, held in Nairobi from 2 to 4 March and attended by government representatives of 10 East African countries. The workshop covered the clearance and destruction of stockpiles of mines, support for mine victims and the national implementation of the Ottawa Convention. The ICRC also presented Kenya and Djibouti with draft bills implementing the Convention. Prior to the summit, Djibouti declared that it had cleared all anti-personnel mines, and Tanzania announced that it had destroyed its stockpiles of mines, in accordance with the Ottawa Convention.

The summit took place in Nairobi from 19 November to 3 December and drew some 1,300 participants, including government representatives from 90 countries. ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger addressed the summit on 2 December, hailing the progress made in banning anti-personnel mines, while calling for far greater support for mine victims.

Implementing other IHL treaties

The ICRC provided Kenya's interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL with technical and legal advice pertaining to revising its Geneva Conventions act, to drafting a national bill on the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and to ratifying the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

In Tanzania, the ICRC encouraged the authorities to create a national IHL committee. On 11 November Tanzania ratified the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

The ICRC also discussed with national and regional authorities humanitarian issues related to refugees and the disturbances in the Zanzibar archipelago.

Promoting IHL among inter-governmental authorities

The ICRC renewed contact with the Djibouti-based IGAD and Tanzania-based East African Community. As regional bodies involved in development, defence and security, both organizations were well placed to promote IHL among their member States.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL for armed forces

IHL was taught at the armed forces training establishments in Kenya and Tanzania, although ICRC support was still needed to sustain the programmes. In Djibouti, the ICRC and the armed forces were jointly assessing the status of IHL training.

In Kenya, the ICRC:

- ▶ regularly gave presentations on IHL at the Peace Support Training Centre (PSTC) in Nairobi, which trained peace-keepers from around the world; this included a briefing for 40 military personnel as part of the centre's first course on civil-military cooperation during peace-keeping missions;
- ▶ gave a briefing on IHL and the ICRC to 42 Kenyan officers and non-commissioned officers joining the UN peace-keeping mission in Sierra Leone;
- ▶ sponsored 2 high-ranking officers to take part in a week-long IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;
- ▶ initiated contact with the US Central Command's Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa to discuss the ICRC's mandate and activities.

In Tanzania, the ICRC:

- ▶ conducted 2 courses to train military IHL instructors;
- ▶ gave presentations on IHL and the ICRC to armed forces personnel, including peace-keepers.

In Djibouti, the ICRC:

- ▶ liaised with the Defence Ministry, the armed forces and the military academy to assess IHL training;
- ▶ assisted 2 officers in drafting an IHL training proposal which was submitted to armed forces headquarters;

- ▶ gave a presentation on IHL and the ICRC to 200 national service recruits.

Police and security forces

The ICRC was helping the police and security forces in Kenya and Tanzania and the police force in Djibouti to reinforce their instruction of IHL and international human rights law. These subjects were not yet part of the training of Djibouti's security forces or republican guard, but the security forces agreed in 2004 to take part in police training.

In Kenya, the ICRC:

- ▶ trained 20 General Service Unit (GSU) and police instructors to teach international human rights law using the ICRC DVD, *To serve and to protect*; gave DVDs and user guides to the police and GSU colleges;
- ▶ gave presentations on IHL, international human rights law and the ICRC to some 1,300 GSU personnel, to police officers from various African countries at the PSTC and to Kenyan police officers at the Government Training Institute in Mombasa.

In Tanzania, the ICRC:

- ▶ conducted a five-day seminar on international human rights law and the ICRC for 22 police officers from all parts of Tanzania;
- ▶ in the Zanzibar archipelago, held a seminar in Pemba on IHL and international human rights law for police commanders and initiated contact with the security forces.

In Djibouti, the ICRC:

- ▶ helped the police force revise the IHL and international human rights law training manual and print 1,000 copies;
- ▶ conducted a two-day course on international human rights law for 50 police officers.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Focus on the mine summit

In the run-up to and during the Nairobi summit (see *Authorities*), the ICRC worked closely with other national, international and non-governmental organizations concerned to raise awareness of landmine issues among opinion-leaders and the public. It provided the local and international media with press packs, briefings and interviews. The conference attracted worldwide media coverage, drawing attention to the need to ban anti-personnel mines and provide more support for mine victims.

In 2004 the ICRC also:

- organized 2 week-long courses in Arusha, Tanzania, on the practical application of IHL for policy-makers and aid workers, drawing 40 participants from UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) – including the International Medical Corps, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam, Save the Children and World Vision – and National Societies;
- gave a talk in Nairobi on its Women and War survey to 25 representatives of ministries and NGOs from 7 African countries as part of a workshop organized by the Swedish-based Raoul Wallenberg Institute;
- given rising tensions in the Zanzibar archipelago, stepped up its promotion of IHL among NGOs and religious leaders there and held a round-table on IHL for 45 local media representatives.

IHL in universities

The ICRC provided ongoing support, as needed, to IHL courses taught at five Kenyan institutes of higher learning and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

ICRC support in 2004 included:

- organizing a three-day round-table on IHL for law lecturers from 9 universities in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda;
- sponsoring a journalism lecturer from the University of Nairobi and a graduate law student at the University of Dar es Salaam to take part in the pan-African IHL seminar in South Africa (see *Pretoria*);
- organizing, with the ICTR, the annual six-day international moot-court competition on IHL in Arusha, Tanzania (12 university teams from 7 African countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda – competed).

IHL in schools

Plans moved ahead to introduce the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Djibouti's secondary schools, following the official approval of the Ministry of Education in November 2003. In 2004 the ICRC, in cooperation with Djibouti's National Education Production, Information and Research Centre, held a four-day workshop on the programme for 21 school inspectors and teacher trainers. Under ICRC sponsorship, a representative of Morocco's Ministry of Education took part as a workshop leader. The ICRC also provided Djibouti's Ministry of Education with 150 teaching packs in Arabic and French

and sponsored two ministry officials to take part in the ICRC's pan-African seminar on the programme in South Africa (see *Pretoria*). The officials then presented a proposal for the introduction of the programme, which the ministry was considering. Kenya's Ministry of Education approved in principle the introduction of the programme in secondary schools and two ministry officials attended the pan-African seminar.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Strengthening the Kenyan Red Cross

The Kenyan government appointed the Kenya Red Cross Society as national coordinator for disaster response. To support the National Society's relief activities, the ICRC provided funds, materials and logistic back-up. It donated trucks to deliver relief goods to drought and flood victims, helped organize training on relief management in priority branches and assisted in producing a disaster-management handbook and revising the first-aid manual. It also helped set up two Red Cross regional management centres in Garissa and Eldoret to cover violence-prone regions more effectively and assisted in organizing the National Society's first workshop on managing security and stress.

To reinforce the National Society's tracing activities in refugee camps, the ICRC and Kenyan Red Cross met regularly to review the workload. They also developed a teach-yourself tracing guide which was presented at the annual tracing workshop, attended by members from 16 branches and the posts in the refugee camps.

To build skills to promote the work of the Kenyan Red Cross and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the ICRC helped conduct a workshop to train 27 National Society branch members as disseminator trainers. It also supported events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on 8 May.

Emergency-response training for the Tanzanian Red Cross

The ICRC and the Tanzanian Red Cross Society focused on strengthening the skills of branches in the Zanzibar archipelago to respond to any election-related violence. The ICRC helped organize training for branch leaders on relief management and the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*), as well as two general workshops for some 50 participants covering first aid, tracing,

relief management, the Safer Access approach and the dissemination of IHL and the Movement's role and Fundamental Principles. It also provided the branches with first-aid kits, stretchers and dissemination materials.

Rebuilding the Djibouti Red Crescent

With ICRC support, the Red Crescent Society of Djibouti revised its statutes to conform to Movement standards, established emergency-response and dissemination departments, restructured its six branches and drafted a five-year plan to develop disaster-preparedness activities. Two first-aid instructors from the Mauritanian and Kenyan Red Cross Societies trained some 120 Djibouti Red Crescent volunteers, 14 of them as instructors, with the ICRC providing 150 first-aid kits. The ICRC also helped organize dissemination training in all six branches, provided communication materials and accompanied volunteers during their presentations to the public.



pretoria

The Pretoria regional delegation has existed in its present form since 1995. It keeps a close eye on the domestic situation in the countries covered and helps refugees and asylum seekers restore family links severed by conflict. It promotes ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation and encourages the incorporation of IHL into military and police training and into second- and third-level education. The ICRC supports the region's National Societies, in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In Madagascar, the ICRC maintains a permanent expatriate presence and visits people detained in connection with post-2002 election disturbances; in Lesotho, it visits detainees protected by IHL.

COVERING

Union of Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,281,772

Assistance

43,502

Preventive action

2,263,608

Cooperation with National Societies

1,153,279

General

-

► **4,742,160**

of which: Overheads **289,428**

PERSONNEL

11 expatriates

36 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC issued 115 travel documents and made its family-links service available to refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa.
- In coordination with the authorities, the ICRC launched targeted and short-term nutrition programmes in 4 prisons in Madagascar to combat malnutrition among detainees.
- The ICRC continued to encourage countries of the region to contribute to the development of IHL and to ratify and implement the full range of IHL instruments.
- The ICRC promoted the formal inclusion of IHL in the training of the armed forces and provided back-up to countries that had already issued directives to this effect.
- A memorandum of understanding was concluded between the ICRC and the University of Swaziland on IHL teaching for undergraduates.
- The ICRC and the International Federation urged the government of Madagascar to allow the Malagasy Red Cross to function in a way that reflected the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

CONTEXT

Elections were held in South Africa in April 2004, with only a few incidents of politically motivated violence. The main challenges facing the country were drought, social issues related to crime (particularly against women and children), housing, electricity and water shortages, land reform, unemployment, HIV/AIDS and the issue of asylum.

The political situation in the Comoros improved following elections in April, which ended a separatist crisis and led to the introduction of democratic processes. However, political progress was overshadowed by economic woes. State employees were not paid their salaries, and foreign investment was lacking.

In Lesotho, the political situation remained stable, but the economic situation was precarious. The government requested food donations for over half a million people to cover a shortage until the 2005 harvests. The country was also prey to high unemployment and an HIV/AIDS pandemic. Official statistics put the number of babies born HIV-positive each year at 15%.

Mauritius was one of the stronger economies in the region, with its gross domestic product buoyed by the stability and diversity of its main industries, including sugar cane, textiles, tourism, information technology and financial services. The country had one of the lowest rates of HIV/AIDS infection in sub-Saharan Africa.

The political scene in the Seychelles remained stable, with a relatively smooth handover of power following the retirement of the former president. The economy, however, did not rally significantly. Economic reforms instituted a year earlier, such as a rise in value added tax on all items, created difficulties for many households. There was a slight increase in violent crime.

In Swaziland, there was social unrest linked to the process of adopting a new constitution that reinforced the monarchy's power over the legislature. A third year of poor weather, with erratic rainfall ruining harvests left over a quarter of the population reliant on food aid. The HIV/AIDS infection rate remained at around 40%.

In Madagascar, the political situation was relatively stable, although a series of grenade attacks against politicians in mid-year led to police raids and hundreds of arrests. Parliament did not schedule into its agenda discussion on an amnesty for detainees held in connection with the post-election disturbances in 2002. The macro-economic situation improved, but life for the population – 70% of whom were living below the poverty line – deteriorated. The island was still trying to recover from successive tropical cyclones that had damaged crops and houses.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to offer its Red Cross message (RCM) service to refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa to enable them to restore or maintain links with family members in conflict-affected countries. In coordination with other organizations and embassies, it provided ICRC travel documents to a number of people eligible for resettlement in third countries.

ICRC delegates conducted regular visits to central prisons in the Comoros, Lesotho and Madagascar to register security detainees, assess their living conditions and ensure respect for their judicial guarantees. Where necessary, it made recommendations for improvements to the relevant authorities. The ICRC made its RCM service available to the detainees.

The countries of the region were encouraged to ratify the full complement of international humanitarian law (IHL) instruments and to adopt national implementing legislation. The ICRC continued to offer seminars and training courses on IHL for the defence and security forces in the region with a view to the eventual inclusion of the subject in their regular training programmes.

To advance the teaching of IHL in academic institutions, the ICRC maintained and initiated contacts with academics, keeping them abreast of developments in IHL. It also supported the education authorities in incorporating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula.

The ICRC worked with the National Societies in the region to devise appropriate communication strategies and boost their capacities to raise their profile among – and elicit the support of – governments, the public and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It also helped the National Societies develop their assistance programmes.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

The Pretoria delegation continued to offer the tracing and RCM service to refugees and asylum seekers wishing to restore or maintain links with their families in conflict-affected countries. As at mid-October, some 90,000 foreign nationals – mostly from the Great Lakes region, Ethiopia and Somalia – had applied to the South African government for refugee status.

In coordination with UNHCR and embassies, the delegation provided ICRC travel documents to a number of people eligible for resettlement in third countries.

- 1,183 RCMs delivered and 322 collected
- 115 ICRC travel documents issued

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Protecting and assisting detainees

In prisons in Lesotho, the ICRC conducted visits to former members of the armed and police forces arrested in connection with the internal conflict of 1998. It assessed their detention conditions and, where necessary, encouraged the authorities to make improvements. It also held talks with the prison service, its AIDS committee, the minister of justice and other actors, such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the UN, regarding implementing a policy on HIV/AIDS.

In Madagascar, the delegation regularly monitored conditions in several prisons and encouraged the authorities, to make improvements where necessary. It focused on Antanimora and Tsiafahy prisons, where several detainees were still being held in connection with post-2002 election disturbances. At the beginning of the year the ICRC launched a short-term food programme in four of the prisons because of shortages. It provided medical, hygiene and kitchen materials, blankets and agricultural tools for the inmates of various prisons.

Also in Madagascar, the ICRC rehabilitated four cells in Farafangana prison and constructed two latrines in Moramanga. It started talks with the authorities on prison rehabilitation work in 2005 and indicated the technical and financial commitments it would make. It sponsored the annual meeting of national and regional prison directors and took part in seminars on food, health care and hygiene for detainees.

The ICRC met the South Africans arrested in connection with a coup plot in Equatorial Guinea and helped them communicate with their families through RCMs.

- in the Comoros, 2 security detainees monitored until their release
- in Lesotho, 2 visits conducted and 35 detainees monitored (21 still being monitored at the end of the year)

- in Madagascar, some 400 detainees given food assistance in 4 prisons until the situation stabilized; 700 blankets distributed in various prisons
- in Madagascar, 95 detainees monitored (70 still being monitored at the end of the year); 22 detainees newly registered

AUTHORITIES

Promoting the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties

The delegation held several meetings in Pretoria with representatives of the South African Ministries of Defence and of Foreign Affairs to discuss the ratification and implementation of IHL instruments. The South African government was aiming to ratify amended Article I and the new Protocol V to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) before adopting national implementing legislation.

In Lesotho, the government was finalizing legislation to implement the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). It continued work on draft legislation incorporating the provisions of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and the 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and on enacting existing draft legislation on the Geneva Conventions.

In the Comoros, the national committee on IHL submitted proposals to the government for the ratification of the ICC Statute and the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The government responded favourably, and the committee prepared to present a project for ratification of the two instruments to the Union's Assembly.

A headquarters agreement signed by the ICRC and the Malagasy Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2003, establishing the legal status of the ICRC mission and its staff, had yet to be ratified by parliament and published in the government's official journal. The ICRC held meetings with various ministries to discuss setting up a national committee on IHL.

In Mauritius, the national IHL committee, with the help of the ICRC, finalized a bill on the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention, which had its first reading in parliament. It continued work on implementing legislation for the ICC Statute. A cabinet memorandum was prepared for the ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention for the

Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its two protocols. Mauritius did not ratify Amended Protocol II or Protocol V to the CCW.

The Seychelles passed the Anti-Personnel Landmine (Prohibition) Act in March and expressed its intention to ratify the ICC statute, the last IHL instrument to which it was not yet party. However, despite progress in the ratification of treaties, national implementation remained minimal. The ICRC provided the Seychelles with technical support in drafting legislation to incorporate the provisions of the Additional Protocols in the Geneva Conventions Act, which was presented to the cabinet for approval, and in implementing the Ottawa Convention. It also helped complete the draft for legislation incorporating the CWC.

In Swaziland, the ICRC discussed the implementation of IHL with various ministries and the attorney general.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL among defence forces

In South Africa, which had issued a ministerial directive incorporating IHL into military training in 2003, the ICRC continued to advise the armed forces on integrating IHL into the conduct of operations. It gave an IHL presentation at the African Defence Summit, liaised with key officials in the Department of Defence, worked with the South African National War College (South Africa's flagship military training institution) and participated in a four-day peace-keeping exercise. It also conducted pre-deployment briefings for South African peace-keeping contingents leaving for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi.

In the Comoros, the ICRC sponsored an officer to attend a basic course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy. In addition, it conducted a liaison visit to assess the status of IHL implementation in the armed forces.

In Lesotho, the ICRC carried out liaison visits to the Lesotho Defence Force (LDF) to prepare the ground for discussions on the training of instructors, with the ultimate aim of integrating IHL into military training.

In Madagascar, which like South Africa had issued a ministerial directive integrating

IHL into the training of the armed forces, the ICRC sponsored the president of the Ministry of Defence's commission in charge of the process, to attend a course at the IIHL. The commission integrated IHL instruction into all military schools, including the training establishment of the *gendarmerie*.

In Mauritius, the ICRC conducted training workshops for instructors from the Mauritius Police Academy and Police College on the use of its *To serve and to protect* DVD. The police commissioner issued an order for any discrepancies in the existing curriculum to be adjusted accordingly.

In Swaziland and Lesotho, the police authorities worked on incorporating the provisions of IHL and international human rights law into the curriculum of police training and conduct. The ICRC held a five-day course on IHL, human rights standards and humanitarian principles for officers of the Royal Swazi Police. It also sponsored two officers from the Umbutfo Swaziland Defence Force to attend a course at the IIHL. A five-day train-the-trainer workshop was also held for junior officers returning from a 14-month course in Botswana.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL and the ICRC among the media

The delegation encouraged the National Societies of the region to reach out to future leaders and opinion-makers. The ICRC's regional documentation centre distributed a newsletter to journalists and, in conjunction with the National Societies in Lesotho and Swaziland, held workshops for the media.

During the year the ICRC encouraged respected schools of journalism in South Africa, such as the Tshwane University of Technology, Rhodes University, the Johannesburg-based Institute for the Advancement of Journalism and the University of Cape Town, to integrate IHL and ICRC-related topics into their teaching. The delegation singled out Tshwane University to conduct pilot projects in 2005; IHL was due to be integrated into second- and third-year courses in international reporting, while a competition for journalism students was planned.

Promoting the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

The ICRC hosted the Pan-African Education Leadership Seminar in Benoni, South Africa, in July. The South African minister of education opened the event, which

brought together 77 participants from 22 African countries. The seminar was also attended by experts and special guests from organizations such as UNESCO, the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Education Development Centre, and from non-African countries such as Malaysia, Serbia, Ukraine, Uruguay and the United States. Representatives from National Societies also attended.

In South Africa, the ICRC presented the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to some 160 teachers attending two orientation sessions organized by the Ministry of Education's Centre for Educational Policy Development and the Directorate for Race and Values in Education. The teachers took part in the ministry's Human Rights Inclusivity and Social Justice pilot project, which included elements of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

In the Seychelles, changes had been made to the curriculum integrating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme and were awaiting formal approval from the education authorities. The ICRC was informed by the National Institute for Education that the programme would be included in the training of teachers of geography, history and citizenship education.

In Mauritius, negotiations with the Ministry of Education continued on a memorandum of understanding to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools. At the end of the year the ICRC received notice that the memorandum of understanding had been submitted to the minister for approval.

In the Comoros, pilot Exploring Humanitarian Law projects began in schools. Ahead of this, a master trainer from the Mauritanian Ministry of Education, seconded by the ICRC and the Comoros Red Crescent, trained 22 teachers in the programme.

Promoting IHL in third-level education

In November the ICRC hosted the 4th All Africa Course on IHL for professors of law from English-speaking African countries to encourage them to incorporate IHL into law curricula. Also in November, it held its 7th H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) course in Pretoria, in collaboration with the University of Pretoria's School of Health Systems and Public Health. Participants from various African countries, as well as ICRC and National Society staff, attended. All the participants were invited

to a seminar on explosive remnants of war, which was going on at the same time.

During the year the ICRC visited or contacted a number of education and research institutes in the region to promote the teaching of IHL. The University of the Comoros confirmed that it intended to continue teaching IHL and that the subject would be made compulsory for its 750 law students in 2005. The Institute of Islamic Studies also expressed interest in introducing IHL as a subject. The general secretary to the grand mufti of the Comoros, who was attached to the Institute, attended an IHL course for teachers in Amman.

The University of Swaziland signed a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC on IHL instruction for undergraduates. In Mauritius, the ICRC met the dean of the faculty of commerce and management (with which it already had a memorandum of understanding) to discuss incorporating IHL into a new master's programme.

In South Africa, the ICRC maintained or initiated contacts with the Universities of KwaZulu-Natal (formed by the amalgamation of Natal and Durban-Westville universities in January), Cape Town and Stellenbosch. It also participated in seminars and workshops organized by research institutes. In Madagascar, it fostered links with two universities and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Commerce.

To encourage interest and stimulate research in IHL, the ICRC sponsored students to participate in various IHL events, including the Michael Cowling and the Arusha moot-court competitions. Three female students from KwaZulu-Natal represented South Africa in the Jean Pictet IHL moot-court competition in southern France in April and one participated in the All Africa Course on IHL in Pretoria.

The ICRC presented IHL libraries to the Universities of Swaziland and KwaZulu-Natal, and an ICRC legal adviser gave lectures on IHL themes for their students, as well as for those of the Rand Afrikaans University.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Improving National Societies' response to emergencies

The Pretoria delegation worked to ensure that the National Societies had the necessary staff, structures and systems in place at local, regional and national levels to

respond to man-made and natural disasters. Cooperation agreements for 2004 were negotiated and signed. The ICRC also developed a strategy on applying the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) in the National Societies of South Africa, the Comoros and Swaziland.

In Madagascar, the ICRC took part in a meeting organized by the National Society for its partners, including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the French Red Cross, to assess the Movement's response to two cyclones in April and May. In close coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC also developed a joint approach aimed at resolving a crisis that had resulted from governmental interference in the functioning of the National Society. The ICRC and the International Federation urged the government to enable the Malagasy Red Cross to function in accordance with the Movement's Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC helped the Comoros Red Crescent improve training for volunteers and staff in emergency response and dissemination. It also supported efforts by the National Society and the French Red Cross's Platform of Regional Intervention for the Indian Ocean to restructure and develop the national first-aid programme. It helped the Comoros Red Crescent set up a programme to support the development of assistance activities in the branches.

In the first half of the year the ICRC and the Baphalali Swaziland Red Cross Society held training sessions for emergency-response teams. In the second half of the year the teams were mobilized on several occasions during mass meetings, demonstrations, strikes and other cultural events that turned violent.

In South Africa, a community-based HIV/AIDS project in Soweto was fully integrated into the South African Red Cross's national programme. ICRC funding for the project ended in September. Some 7,400 people received HIV/AIDS education and 130,000 condoms were distributed. The project reached 546 AIDS sufferers, of whom 166 were referred by local health authorities. Some 430 affected households received food parcels and other basic supplies, and over 8,200 home visits were conducted.

Although South Africa had enjoyed a period of peace, violent crime was still causing concern in certain areas. The ICRC helped the National Society develop its disaster-management capacity, particularly in the

provinces of Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Prior to the elections, the ICRC held training sessions for emergency-response teams. During the elections, the situation was relatively calm, and the teams focused on first-aid services. The Pretoria delegation was invited to take part in the National Society's quarterly management meeting.

Promoting National Societies' dissemination activities

In the Seychelles, the ICRC encouraged the Red Cross to use radio to disseminate information about its work. In the Comoros, it encouraged the Red Crescent to monitor closely the transition period, broadcast monthly radio programmes and raise awareness of the emblem. The Comoros Red Crescent continued to conduct training sessions for the military on IHL, the emblem and the Fundamental Principles and to participate in the national IHL committee.

In Swaziland, the ICRC helped the National Society reorganize its information service, train a new officer, develop a documentation centre, reorganize a radio programme, review the training curriculum and revive branch initiatives.

The Mauritius Red Cross sat on the national IHL committee and promoted the plan of action adopted at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to improve communication and coordination within the Movement.

South African Red Cross family-links programme

With ICRC support, the South African Red Cross increased the number of RCMs relayed on behalf of refugees and asylum seekers and ensured that the family-links programme received more media coverage.



yaoundé

The Yaoundé regional delegation was set up in 1992. However, the ICRC has been working in the region since 1972, when it signed a headquarters agreement with the authorities in Cameroon. In 2004 the ICRC protected and assisted civilians affected by armed conflict or violence in the Central African Republic and Chad, supported treatment for mine victims in Chad, visited security detainees in the region and restored family links for refugees. It also promoted IHL among the authorities, armed, security and police forces and academic institutions, and supported the development of the National Societies.

COVERING

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,728,394

Assistance

1,894,752

Preventive action

1,823,700

Cooperation with National Societies

942,517

General

87,684

► **6,477,047**

of which: Overheads **394,452**

PERSONNEL

13 expatriates

42 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- In response to the Darfur crisis, the ICRC opened a sub-delegation in eastern Chad (Abéché), extended the tracing and RCM services to all Sudanese refugee camps and initiated projects to improve residents' access to water.
- In the Central African Republic, the ICRC continued upgrading 8 urban water systems serving more than 1 million people.
- The ICRC regularly visited security detainees in the region and had a good working relationship with the detaining authorities.
- The ICRC provided medical supplies to a hospital in Chad to treat the war-wounded and, together with the National Society, distributed relief goods in the CAR to some 1,700 people displaced by armed violence or natural disasters.
- The Central African army chief of staff signed a standing order to integrate IHL into military training; in Equatorial Guinea, the ICRC gave its first course on IHL and international human rights law for security forces.
- The ICRC covered the cost of fitting mine victims in Chad with artificial limbs.

CONTEXT

The conflict in the neighbouring Sudanese region of Darfur had enormous repercussions for Chad. Incursions of Sudanese fighters and the arrival of an estimated 200,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad stirred up ethnic, religious and political tensions and placed a huge economic strain on the area. Chad reinforced its military presence around the border, supported by French troops. In northern Chad, fighting flared up briefly between the army, the substantially weakened opposition Movement for Democracy and Justice in Chad and the Algerian Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat. On 17 May the government reported that an attempted army mutiny had been put down in N'Djamena without bloodshed. In the south, communal tensions triggered short-lived but violent clashes in October in Bebidja and in November in Bongor.

Equatorial Guinea reported a series of attempts to oust the government. In a subsequent security crackdown, 1,500 Cameroonian nationals were expelled. On 26 November around 20 people, including several foreigners, were found guilty of plotting a coup. During the year, more than 100 other people were convicted of offences against national security.

The Central African Republic (CAR) remained under a transitional government, with elections scheduled for early 2005. Following the overthrow of the government in March 2003, rural areas of the CAR were still insecure, and incidents of banditry increased in the north. In April the army

and disaffected Chadian fighters who had supported General François Bozizé's bid for power clashed briefly in the capital, Bangui. French troops and a contingent provided by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC) were helping the authorities maintain security and restructure the armed forces.

There were landslide victories for Equatorial Guinea's ruling Democratic Party in legislative and municipal elections on 25 April and for the incumbent Paul Biya in Cameroon's presidential elections on 11 October. In the CAR, voters accepted the new constitution in a referendum on 5 November.

ICRC ACTION

In coordination with UNHCR and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the ICRC took the lead role in restoring family links for Sudanese refugees who had fled Darfur and were living in camps in eastern Chad. It opened a sub-delegation in May in Abéché and extended the tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) services to all the camps. Protecting child refugees separated from their parents and, where possible, reuniting them with their families were priorities. Projects were also initiated to improve residents' access to water in areas near the Sudanese border where the influx of refugees was straining local resources. All these activities were financed by the ICRC's appeal on 27 May for an additional CHF 31 million for its Darfur operation in Sudan.

In the CAR, the ICRC continued to work with the national water board to upgrade urban water systems serving more than one million people. The systems had been damaged by long-term instability and the fighting that led up to General Bozizé's seizure of power on 15 March 2003.

The ICRC continued to visit security detainees held in Cameroon, the CAR, Chad and Equatorial Guinea. Given the unstable situation in eastern Chad, it stepped up its protection activities in the region, visiting several detention facilities there for the first time.

In Chad and the CAR, the ICRC stood ready to provide emergency aid in the event of armed violence. It provided relief goods to some 1,700 people in Bangui and distributed medical supplies to a hospital in Chad to treat victims of communal clashes. It also continued to support a physical rehabilitation centre in Chad treating mine victims.

ICRC programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) in the region made significant progress. In the CAR, the army chief of staff signed a standing order to integrate IHL into military training, and the ICRC trained some 20 army officers to teach IHL. In Equatorial Guinea, the organization gave its first presentation on IHL for security forces. Ahead of November's First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention in Nairobi, the ICRC submitted draft laws to the governments in Chad and Gabon aimed at incorporating the Convention's provisions into their national legislation.

Support to the region's National Societies was maintained to strengthen their capacities to assist the most vulnerable populations.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links for refugees

The ICRC took the lead role in restoring contact between refugees who had fled Darfur into eastern Chad (an estimated 200,000 at 31 December 2004) and their relatives in Sudan, in other camps in Chad or elsewhere in the world. This was an enormous challenge. Around one-and-a-half million people had been displaced by the Darfur conflict, many of them several times, and were scattered in over 100 locations in Darfur and eastern Chad. On 17 May the ICRC opened a sub-delegation in Abéché in eastern Chad (costs were covered by the ICRC's Sudan budget extension appeal launched on 27 May). Together with the Red Cross of Chad, it extended the tracing and RCM services to all refugee camps. A priority was to protect child refugees separated from their parents and, where possible, reunite them with their families, in coordination with UNHCR and other organizations in the field. The ICRC also created a tracing directory listing details of people searching for relatives and posted it in the camps and key locations in Darfur. Anyone who recognized the name of a relative could contact that person by sending an RCM.

On 21 January the ICRC reunited the last two child refugees separated from their parents and living in camps in southern Chad with their families in the CAR. The children had been among some 40,000 people who fled the fighting in the CAR prior to the overthrow of the government in March 2003. On 31 January the ICRC closed its office in Sahr, Chad, opened in September 2003 to respond to the needs of the refugees.

In the CAR, the RCM service was offered to Sudanese refugees (around 30,000) in Mboki camp, Congolese refugees (some 3,000) in Molangui camp and refugees living in Bangui. Given the progress of peace processes in their countries, around 20,000 Sudanese and 1,500 Congolese refugees returned home voluntarily during the year.

In Chad:

- 217 RCMs delivered and 2,474 collected;
- 107 children separated from their parents interviewed and registered;
- 18 child refugees reunited with their parents;

- 81 tracing requests received;
- 689 names listed in the tracing directory.

Elsewhere in the region:

- 270 RCMs delivered and 311 collected in Cameroon, 175 and 312 in the CAR and 29 and 46 in Equatorial Guinea;
- 4 people located at the request of a family member.

Providing clean water in CAR urban centres

Following the overthrow of the government in the CAR in March 2003, the ICRC had helped SODECA, the national water board, make emergency repairs to damaged or decrepit water systems serving some one million people in Bangui and seven towns (Bambari, Berberati, Bossangoa, Bouar, Bozoum, Carnot and Ndele). During 2004 the ICRC assisted SODECA in maintaining and upgrading water-treatment plants and distribution networks in all eight centres, providing expertise, chemicals, spare parts and other equipment. Priorities were to reduce leakage by repairing or replacing pipes and valves – 50% of Bangui's water supply was lost through leakage – and to extend the distribution network into poorer neighbourhoods. Progress was slowed by delays in deliveries of materials and by restructuring within SODECA.

Assisting Chadian residents near the Darfur border

UN agencies, their implementing partners and other NGOs were assisting the Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad. The ICRC, therefore, carried out assessments in August and September to determine the effects on residents of the sudden influx of refugees and their livestock. The survey showed that tensions were building between the two communities over access to scarce water, pasture and firewood. The ICRC identified projects designed to alleviate these tensions and started work in December on rehabilitating the water system serving residents in the border town of Adré.

Providing emergency aid

The ICRC, together with the Central African Red Cross, provided essential household items in April to families in Bangui affected by clashes between the army and disaffected Chadian fighters and in October to people made homeless by flash floods in the capital. In the case of the floods, the ICRC intervened because the government and other aid agencies did not have the resources in place.

- 1,721 people in the CAR received relief goods

- ▶ urban water systems serving 1.14 million people being upgraded in the CAR
- ▶ water systems serving 23,000 residents being rehabilitated in eastern Chad

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC regularly visited security detainees in Cameroon, the CAR, Chad and Equatorial Guinea, monitoring their treatment and living conditions and reporting its findings, in confidence, to the authorities. Given the instability on the Chad-Sudan border, the organization increased the number of visits to detention facilities in eastern Chad, many of which were visited for the first time. Cooperation with the detaining authorities in all countries was generally good.

Detainees were offered the RCM service so they could communicate with their families. The ICRC also monitored the health and welfare of the general prison population. Where necessary, it provided or arranged medical care for detainees, distributed hygiene and recreational items, disinfected detention areas and helped the authorities rehabilitate prison infrastructure. In the CAR, for example, a project to rehabilitate water and sanitation facilities in Bangui central prison (230 inmates) was scheduled for completion in January 2005.

- ▶ in total 8,228 detainees, including 284 monitored individually, visited in Cameroon, the CAR, Chad and Equatorial Guinea in 77 detention facilities during 146 visits
- ▶ around 6,000 inmates benefited from ICRC distributions of hygiene and recreational items

WOUNDED AND SICK

Rehabilitating mine victims

Mine-clearance operations were under way in Chad, but many people continued to lose limbs in mine accidents, particularly in the north and east of the country. To ensure amputees had access to adequate treatment, the ICRC continued to support the Kabalaye physical rehabilitation centre in N'Djamena (cooperation started in 1982), run by the NGO Secours Catholique et Développement (SECADEV). The ICRC financed the fitting of war amputees and provided the centre with basic materials, components, equipment and technical support.

- ▶ 1 physical rehabilitation centre supported
- ▶ 205 prostheses (96 for mine victims), 142 orthoses (4 for mine victims) and 916 crutches delivered
- ▶ 91 new patients fitted with prostheses and 95 with orthoses

Treating the war-wounded

The ICRC positioned medical supplies in Bangui and N'Djamena to distribute to hospitals in the event of an influx of war-wounded. In Chad, supplies were delivered to St Joseph Hospital in Bebidja to treat people wounded during clashes there in October, and to the Military Teaching Hospital in N'Djamena to make up for a temporary shortage. In the CAR, stocks nearing their expiry date were donated for immediate use to the Community and Friendship hospitals in Bangui.

- ▶ 4 hospitals assisted

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC focused on helping governments in the region prepare for the First Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention, held in Nairobi in November. All countries covered by the regional delegation were party to the Convention, but none had fully implemented its provisions.

Representatives of the Chadian government and the National Demining Commission attended a workshop for West African countries on implementing the provisions of the Ottawa Convention, co-organized on 28–29 January by the ICRC, the host country Burkina Faso, and Canada. During the year the ICRC provided technical support to the authorities in Cameroon, Chad and Gabon in implementing the Convention, including presenting draft laws to the relevant ministries in Chad and Gabon. In December the ICRC met 10 Gabonese government legal advisers to discuss the status and technical aspects of IHL implementation.

The ICRC facilitated a five-day visit to Cameroon in February by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission and encouraged the government to recognize the Commission's competence. The Commission was established in 1991, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, to help States ensure implementation of and respect for IHL during armed conflict.

In the CAR, the ICRC had a series of working meetings on IHL implementation with the ministries concerned and provided input

on incorporating sanctions against war crimes into the country's military and civil criminal codes, which were being revised.

Contacts were established with CEMAC and the Economic Community of Central African States. Both regional organizations were mandated to preserve peace and security in their member States and so could play an important role in promoting IHL.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following a presidential decree in 1994, IHL had been integrated into military training in Cameroon. On the basis of an agreement with the government in 2002, the ICRC helped the armed forces develop instruction in IHL and ensure its application during operations.

In Cameroon, the ICRC:

- ▶ revived cooperation with EMIA, the main officer training centre, conducting a three-day IHL seminar there for 37 officers, including field exercises and instruction on teaching IHL;
- ▶ produced 50 sets of IHL exhibition panels for teaching purposes in military training centres;
- ▶ conducted presentations on IHL and international human rights law for 90 police officers from French-speaking African countries at the Awae regional training centre supported by France;
- ▶ held meetings with armed forces training personnel in the 3 military regions.

In Chad, IHL had been integrated into the training of all armed forces recruits. The ICRC helped to reinforce and standardize the programme at the 12 military and police training centres.

In Chad, the ICRC:

- ▶ produced 8 shows on IHL in French and Arabic broadcast on national radio during the weekly programme for the armed forces;
- ▶ regularly conducted IHL presentations at armed forces and police training centres;
- ▶ gave briefings on IHL and the ICRC for some 150 Chadian peace-keepers heading for Haiti;
- ▶ conducted IHL presentations in eastern Chad for Chadian and French troops, police providing security in the refugee camps and the African Union ceasefire monitoring team.

The CAR authorities showed a keen interest in working with the ICRC to incorporate IHL into the training programmes of the armed and security forces, which were being restructured with French army support. The Central African army chief of staff signed a standing order to integrate IHL into military training.

In the CAR, the ICRC:

- trained 20 military instructors as IHL trainers;
- conducted the first IHL presentations for the republican guard;
- sponsored an army officer on an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;
- regularly conducted IHL presentations for CAR officers and recruits and incoming CEMAC contingents;
- produced a four-part series on IHL broadcast on public radio during the programme for the armed forces;
- gave presentations on international human rights law for some 320 police recruits.

In a breakthrough in Equatorial Guinea, the ICRC, together with the National Society, conducted its first course – a two-day session – on IHL and international human rights law for security forces (15 members of the police and *gendarmerie* and staff of the Ministry of Justice).

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC held press conferences, issued press releases and distributed its first newsletter on its activities in the region in order to raise public awareness of humanitarian concerns and the relevance of IHL to current events. These initiatives generated widespread media coverage, drawing attention particularly to the plight of civilians affected by the conflict in Darfur.

The ICRC also supported the efforts of academic institutions to include IHL in their curricula. It gave presentations on IHL and provided teaching materials and advice, as appropriate, to universities and Ecoles Nationales d'Administration et Magistrature (ENAMS) – schools training civil servants – in Cameroon, the CAR and Chad. A highlight was chairing a conference on 22 October at Cameroon's ENAM on "IHL and modern armed conflicts: the challenges", attended by some 200 students. The ICRC also sponsored two university lecturers from Cameroon to take part in IHL courses abroad and held its first meeting with Cameroon's director of secondary

schools to discuss the introduction of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the curriculum.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC provided funds, materials, equipment, training and other technical support and advice to help the National Societies in the region strengthen their capacities to restore family links, respond to emergencies and promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles.

Building capacities

With ICRC support, the Cameroon Red Cross Society revised its statutes to conform to the standards of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; the draft was to be presented at the annual general meeting in 2005. The Central African Red Cross Society, under new leadership since April, started the revision process. The ICRC also provided funds and technical advice to help rebuild the Central African Red Cross headquarters in Bangui, damaged during the March 2003 rebellion.

Enhancing emergency response

The ICRC provided the National Societies of Cameroon and the CAR with funds, first-aid materials and training, as needed, so that they would be in a position to respond to any violence related to the elections and the referendum, respectively. It also supplied first-aid materials to the Gabonese Red Cross Society and donated a four-wheel drive vehicle to Equatorial Guinea's National Society for its relief operations and water and sanitation projects.

Restoring family links

The Red Cross of Chad had to rapidly develop its capacities in order to respond to the needs of the Sudanese refugees from Darfur. The ICRC, together with the National Society, ran the tracing and RCM services in the refugee camps, while the National Society, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, assisted UNHCR's refugee operation. The ICRC organized refresher sessions on IHL and the Fundamental Principles for Chadian Red Cross volunteers and provided funds, materials and training for those involved in restoring family links. The ICRC, International Federation, Chadian Red Cross and partner National Societies active in eastern Chad worked together to reinforce coordination mechanisms. The ICRC also trained tracing staff and provided the National Societies of

Cameroon and Gabon with the necessary materials to conduct tracing activities.

Raising awareness of IHL and the Movement

The ICRC continued to assist the National Societies in the region in developing their skills to promote IHL and the role and Fundamental Principles of the Movement. It advised the Gabonese Red Cross on planning and implementing a communications programme to revive its public image and provided technical and legal advice to help the National Society promote the government's adoption of a law on the protection of the red cross emblem. With ICRC support, the National Society in Cameroon launched its own website, produced a newsletter and trained disseminators, the National Societies of Chad and Equatorial Guinea produced Red Cross radio programmes and the CAR Red Cross staged events to mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May).



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An amputee receives treatment and rehabilitation services at an ICRC-supported prosthetics/orthotic centre.

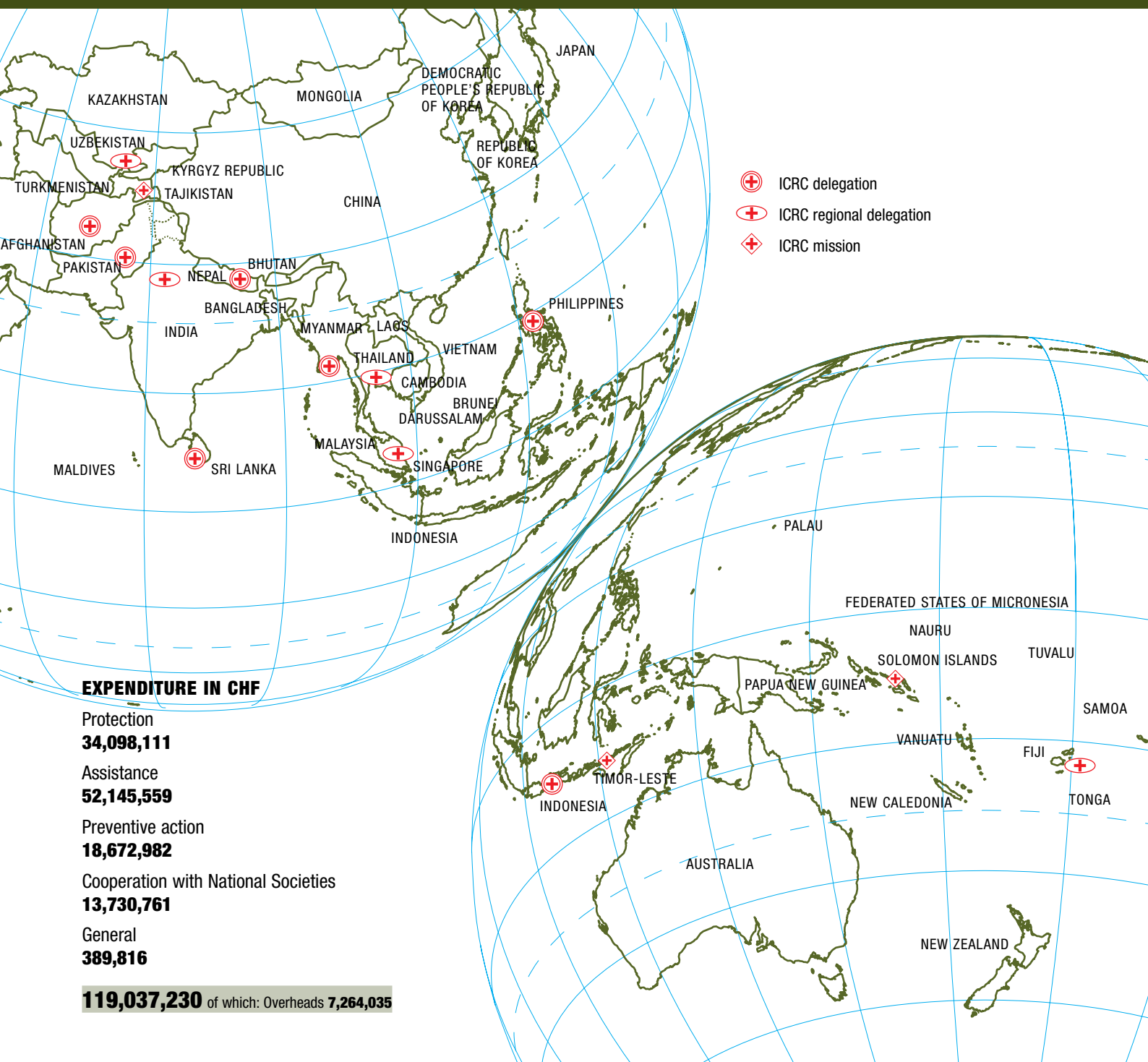
DELEGATIONS

Afghanistan
Indonesia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Bangkok
Kuala Lumpur
New Dehli
Suva
Tashkent

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

34,098,111

Assistance

52,145,559

Preventive action

18,672,982

Cooperation with National Societies

13,730,761

General

389,816

119,037,230 of which: Overheads **7,264,035**

With their economies flourishing, Asia's powers further developed commercial, diplomatic and security ties during the year. Multilateral organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Association of South-East Asian Nations played an important role in strengthening regional cooperation.

An emerging force in the global economy, China amended its constitution to clarify its position on human rights and the right to private property. Australia increased its engagement in the Pacific region and South-East Asia. Japan reasserted its role as leader in development aid and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in Asia and beyond. Its definition of a new security policy and the provision of a small ground unit of its Self-Defence Force in support of coalition operations in Iraq signalled a marked change in the role of its military. The government kept pace with these developments by acceding to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. It also sought a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. India sustained steady economic growth and affirmed its strong stance on security issues in South Asia, and it too made a bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council.

While in many areas of Asia prosperity and cooperation strengthened regional stability, several points of discord still posed serious threats to security. There were few signs of progress in resolving the issue of nuclear weapons and other security concerns on the Korean peninsula. While longstanding tensions between India and Pakistan remained unresolved, hopes of stabilizing the relationship between the two nuclear neighbours were raised as both countries engaging in composite dialogue at different levels and developed people-to-people contacts through economic, cultural and other types of exchange.

Conflicts in Asia, ongoing or frozen, stayed relatively steady over the year, without significant changes in pattern or scope. In Sri Lanka, the ceasefire held, and in Afghanistan, the presidential elections in October were an important milestone in the normalization process. Tensions persisted in both countries, however, and reconstruction did not advance as swiftly as hoped. In Myanmar, a ceasefire and talks between the government and the Karen National Union reduced fighting along the Eastern borders, but attempts by the authorities to integrate the country's diverse political and ethnic groups in the constitutional process did not yield comprehensive

results. Armed struggles continued in the Philippines, Nepal and the trouble spots of Indonesia. Although improved relations between India and Pakistan resulted in a ceasefire and the suspension of crossfire at the Line of Control, the impact of these developments on the violence in Jammu and Kashmir was limited.

Asia being home to the world's largest Muslim populations, many parts of Central, South and South-East Asia were deeply affected by the confrontation between extremist Islamist groups and the governments concerned. In 2004 most Asian countries continued to develop unilateral, bilateral and multilateral action against local and international terrorism, positioning themselves with respect to global strategies. This affected the dynamics of domestic politics and regional relations: the outbreak of violence in southern Thailand was one manifestation of this; another was in Central Asia, where governments adopted stricter measures to counter Islamic opposition groups following several bomb attacks in Tashkent.

All of the ICRC's seven operational delegations and five regional delegations in Asia worked directly for the victims of past or present conflicts, internal strife or other situations of violence, helping to protect or improve their security, dignity, health or livelihoods. Alongside these activities in response to conflict, they also carried out preventive activities to enhance knowledge of, adherence to and respect for international humanitarian law (IHL). At local, national and regional levels, the ICRC's preventive action involved law-makers, academia, the media and other key civil society actors in building an environment that supported respect for the rules of IHL and their underlying principles. Not limited to countries experiencing active conflict, this work often made the most headway in areas enjoying periods of stability, when the authorities could devote more attention and resources to the process. Crucial groundwork for present and potential operations – and for lessening the need for intervention in the first place – the ICRC's preventive action was concentrated in, but not limited to, its regional delegations. In Asia, these were located in Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur, New Delhi, Suva and Tashkent; in 2004 the ICRC made significant progress towards establishing another such structure for East Asia in Beijing. With the Japanese Red Cross Society, the ICRC continued exploring the possibility of opening an ICRC mission in Tokyo.

In both its direct operations and its preventive action, the ICRC worked in close partnership with the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In areas of conflict, these crucial local organizations often delivered assistance and provided first-aid and other services; for its part, the ICRC provided the National Societies with financial and technical support to reinforce their capacities to deliver such services. In Indonesia, Nepal, the Philippines and elsewhere in Asia, National Societies were invaluable partners in the implementation of ICRC operations. In Afghanistan, where the personnel of international organizations were at special risk, the work of Red Crescent branches on the spot, particularly with respect to tracing services and mine-data collection, enabled the ICRC to reach areas that were off-limits to its own staff.

The ICRC and Asian National Societies took steps to broaden their international cooperation: through the secondment of staff and delegated projects, the Red Cross Societies of Australia, Japan and New Zealand participated in ICRC activities in 2004. Other Asian National Societies, such as the Red Cross Society of China and the Republic of Korea National Red Cross, showed interest in developing international activities, and the ICRC worked to broaden this kind of collaboration to include them in future operations.

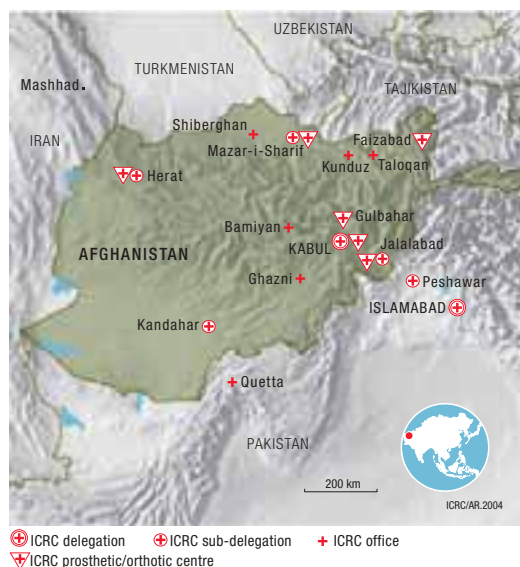
Asia's dynamic environment presented the ICRC with unique challenges and opportunities. In spite of the ICRC's efforts, its mandate and mission were not yet sufficiently understood in many areas of the continent. Many of Asia's leading countries were hesitant to embrace IHL instruments and questioned the universal applicability of its rules and underlying principles. To increase the scope and impact of its current action in Asia, the ICRC strove to anchor IHL more firmly in Asian institutions. It also aimed to gain a better insight into how it was perceived and how its messages and methods of communication could be adapted in order to alter the misperceptions that limited its effectiveness.

The growing interconnectedness of global economics and politics extended Asia's links with other continents, as did increasing access to rapidly developing information and communication technology. In some countries, this put domestic issues in a new light. Seeking to gain a better grasp of the global political, social and economic dynamics that contributed to shaping Asian governments and societies, the ICRC broadened its exchange with governments,

organizations, think-tanks, the media and other Asian institutions. Its communication hub in Kuala Lumpur was instrumental in fostering such exchange in South-East Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, and also enhanced internal communication and synergy between the ICRC's diverse operations in these sub-regions.

In areas affected by extremist Islamist activity and efforts to combat it, "Western" institutions were viewed with some caution. In Asia, this was most striking in Afghanistan, where new threats to staff security further restricted the scope of ICRC operations. There, as well as in Aceh and other areas, the ICRC's efforts to retain its identity as a neutral, independent and purely humanitarian organization were complicated by national or international initiatives and actions that combined military, political and humanitarian objectives. In order to demonstrate its neutrality and independence, the ICRC worked to increase the tangible benefits of its operations for groups and individuals most affected by the "war on terrorism". It gave particular priority to efforts to enhance the impact of its visits to detainees in areas such as Central Asia, Jammu and Kashmir, Afghanistan and South-East Asia. At the same time, the ICRC focused on strengthening dialogue with influential religious and ideological groups and leaders, building on the exchange with Islamic scholars established at a conference on Islamic law and IHL that the ICRC helped organize in Islamabad, Pakistan.

The tsunami devastated coastal areas of South and South-East Asia in the last days of the year. Some of the areas hardest hit were Aceh and north-eastern Sri Lanka, where the ICRC had substantial operations already in place. The provision of aid in these areas was complicated by the conflict situations that had called for ICRC operations in the first place. The ICRC teamed up with National Societies, their local branches and other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to respond immediately, providing first aid and evacuating the wounded to hospitals, removing bodies, re-establishing contacts between family members, assisting hospitals, improving water and sanitation and providing emergency relief to those who had lost their homes.



afghanistan

The ICRC opened a delegation in Kabul in 1987. Before then, it assisted victims of the Afghan conflict for six years from bases in Pakistan. Current operations focus on: protecting detainees; promoting compliance with IHL by the armed forces and other armed groups; preventing injuries from mines and other explosive remnants of war and assisting the disabled; supporting medical, water and sanitation services; and strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

4,700,472

Assistance

30,167,732

Preventive action

3,105,434

Cooperation with National Societies

4,659,351

General

6,180

► **42,639,168**

of which: Overheads **2,601,373**

PERSONNEL

81 expatriates

1,244 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC visited nearly 3,000 detainees held by either the Afghan or the US governments.
- The ICRC remained a major provider of rehabilitation services for the disabled in Afghanistan and kept its lead role in mine/ERW incident surveillance.
- ICRC improvements to water-supply and sanitation facilities in urban areas benefited hundreds of thousands of people and reduced the risk of communicable disease; tens of thousands of Afghans received inpatient care in ICRC-supported hospitals.
- The ICRC offered its technical expertise to the Afghan National Army in developing its IHL training.
- With support from the ICRC and the International Federation, the Afghan Red Crescent further developed its activities and institutional strength.
- In view of the persistent security problems in the south and the east and emerging ones in the north and central regions, the ICRC restricted staff movements in these areas.

CONTEXT

The adoption of a new constitution in January 2004 paved the way for the presidential election in October. Millions of Afghans turned out to vote, and Hamid Karzai became Afghanistan's first popularly elected president.

Security problems slowed reconstruction and development around the country. Anti-coalition/anti-government forces showed signs of gaining influence in the south and east. Regional, ethnic and political rivalries surfaced in other areas as well and occasionally erupted into violence; fighting broke out around Herat in August, but the situation there was more stable by the end of the year. The burgeoning drug trade also fed violence. Médecins Sans Frontières pulled out of the country after five of its workers were murdered in Badghis in June. This, along with the killing of 11 Chinese labourers in Kunduz shortly afterwards and the kidnapping of UN staff in Kabul in October, made it clear that those working for international organizations faced serious risks even in areas earlier considered to be secure.

The Afghan National Army (ANA) grew, deploying new battalions around the country, while the disarmament and demobilization of locally controlled militias progressed. The International Security Assistance Force, which was under the command of NATO, remained responsible for security in Kabul. It reinforced its troops amid controversy over whether its mandate should be extended.

The US-led coalition continued its operations in the south and east, sending in reinforcements. The wider deployment of Provincial Reconstruction Teams fuelled controversy over their approach of combining military and humanitarian objectives.

Spin Boldak, a large camp near Kandahar housing 180,000 people from the Western and Central regions, was closed during the year. Many displaced people or returning refugees preferred to stay in urban areas, crowding neighbourhoods within the cities or settling into the shantytowns that sprawled around their edges.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained its activities in 2004, streamlining assistance as a number of its projects – especially the ones delegated to National Societies – were completed. As projects there came to an end, the ICRC reduced its expatriate staff and closed its offices in Taloqan, Shiberghan and Kunduz.

After the incidents in Badghis and Kunduz in June, the delegation tightened its security regulations, limiting staff travel in rural areas around Kunduz, Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif and Taloqan. These restrictions did not have a big impact on the activities planned, since the bulk of the ICRC's work focused on prisons, physical rehabilitation centres, hospitals and water-supply networks located in or around the cities which could still be reached safely by its regular flights; the few located in areas declared off-limits had been close to completion. Some activities which required travel in rural areas, such as delivering Red Cross messages (RCMs) or collecting data on mine incidents, were carried out by Red Crescent branches on the spot.

The concept of neutrality in humanitarian action was questioned in different quarters. Preserving its independence from political and military initiatives remained, therefore, a clear objective of the ICRC. It devoted much effort to pointing out the importance of its neutrality and impartiality to the many different organizations, forces and groups active in the country and to explaining how this affected decisions about its operations.

CIVILIANS

Improving public health in cities

The ICRC continued to drill boreholes, improve wells or pumps and repair or extend pipe networks in Afghanistan's major cities. It concentrated its projects in shantytowns in city outskirts (peri-urban areas) and other areas not covered by the larger-scale schemes planned by the government and international donors. Most were planned and carried out with city water boards.

Between 1996 and 2003 the ICRC built nearly 59,000 latrines in Afghanistan's major cities. In 2004 it completed its hygiene-promotion programme in the neighbourhoods where the latrines had been built. Conducted in mosques and in schools, as well as door-to-door, the programme was implemented through projects delegated to the National Societies of Sweden, Switzerland and Germany.

- ▶ 315,000 people benefited from ICRC water-supply and sanitation improvements
- ▶ 26 urban water-supply systems repaired in 5 major cities
- ▶ 165 boreholes, wells, hand pumps and tap stands drilled, repaired, sunk or set up
- ▶ 300 household latrines and toilets built or repaired
- ▶ 14,000 people taught good hygiene practice

Preventing mine injuries

The ICRC, together with the Afghan Red Crescent, continued to collect data on mine accidents throughout the country and to conduct mine-risk education in highly contaminated areas of the northern, eastern and central regions.

Mine-incident data was collected both from communities and from a network of 400 health facilities; it accounted for over 95% of the information centralized by the UN Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan. The ICRC analysed the data, using it to prioritize both ICRC/Red Crescent risk-reduction activities and mine clearance carried out by other organizations. While Afghan Red Crescent teams were able to collect data from some areas off-limits to ICRC staff, their movements, too, were restricted by security in the south and east, leaving data incomplete; it was uncertain how much this accounted for the decrease in accidents reported.

As the United Nations progressed in its plans to turn mine action over to the government, the Afghan Red Crescent and the ICRC worked on ensuring that the National Society's role in national mine action was firmly established (see *National Society*).

- ▶ some 45,000 people alerted to the dangers of mines
- ▶ 53 contaminated sites identified for clearance

Protecting civilians and restoring family links

The Afghan Red Crescent and the ICRC continued to work together to expand and improve the efficiency of the RCM network. Mostly exchanging messages between detainees and their families, the network also helped some families keep in touch with relatives abroad, particularly in refugee camps or isolated border areas in Pakistan. It also helped them find family members with whom they had lost contact.

Security restrictions limited the ICRC's ability to monitor the conditions of most of the country's civilians.

In August, following three days of clashes in western Afghanistan, the ICRC was requested by both parties involved to facilitate the handover of bodies; it brought the remains of two people over front lines to return them to their families.

- ▶ 5,888 RCMs delivered to civilians
- ▶ 23 people located at the request of their families; 312 cases pending
- ▶ 270 new tracing cases opened
- ▶ 8 people issued with travel documents

Bolstering economic security

To help offset livestock loss, the ICRC began a veterinary programme in 2003 to improve the health and increase the reproductive capacity of herds in areas hard hit by conflict and drought. In 2004 the programme was completed when the final dose of anti-parasite treatment was given to some 119,000 animals in areas south of Mazar-i-Sharif.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC followed the individual cases of more than 2,800 detainees held either by the Afghan authorities or by the United States. It monitored their treatment and detention conditions and offered them the opportunity to exchange RCMs with their families. Following visits, the ICRC gave both oral and written feedback on its findings to the authorities at local and central levels.

- ▶ 4,011 RCMs delivered to detainees
- ▶ 360 released detainees assisted in covering the costs of transport home

Detainees held by the Afghan authorities

The ICRC visited detainees held by the Afghan authorities in more than 60 places of detention. In May some 800 detainees still held in connection with the fighting that led to the fall of the Taliban were transferred from Shiberghan to Pul-i-Charki prison in Kabul; over 300 Pakistanis were subsequently transferred to Pakistan and many others released. This halved the number of detainees whom the ICRC followed individually in Afghan prisons.

The ICRC made improvements to water-supply and sanitation facilities in prisons. This included building latrines, installing

septic tanks, rehabilitating internal water-supply or sewage systems and connecting the water supply to city networks. In May, when the sudden transfer of hundreds of detainees from Shiberghan overwhelmed the water supply at Pul-i-Charki, ICRC engineers trucked in 18,000 litres of water a day until they had finished drilling a bore-hole to increase the prison's water capacity.

ICRC deliveries of blankets and winter clothes helped detainees keep warm in the cold winter months. The delegation brought together prison and health authorities to ensure appropriate tuberculosis treatment in prisons. These activities helped the Afghan authorities improve conditions not only for persons in categories of concern to the ICRC but also for their fellow detainees.

The ICRC checked on detainees earlier found to be undernourished and registered an improvement in their nutritional status. A countrywide shortage of female health professionals made it particularly hard for prisons to provide health care for women detainees. Because of their special vulnerability, the ICRC visited women detainees (and the children detained with them) of all categories. It worked with prison staff to find solutions to any special health or nutritional needs of the women and children and on each visit distributed assistance such as soap, nappies (diapers) and towels.

- 5,213 detainees visited
- 2,023 detainees followed individually (including 13 women and 146 minors), 897 of whom newly registered
- 64 places of detention visited

Detainees held by the United States

The ICRC made regular visits to people held in detention facilities run by the United States at Baghram airbase (north of Kabul) and in Kandahar. The number of prisoners visited in US custody, which was around a hundred at the beginning of 2004, increased manifold over the year.

- 995 detainees visited
- 844 detainees followed individually (including 1 woman and 26 minors), 756 of whom newly registered
- 2 places of detention visited

WOUNDED AND SICK

Support to medical services

The ICRC kept up its substantial assistance to Afghan hospitals in 2004, supporting services that treated some 5,000 inpatients a month. It regularly provided medicines,

medical and other basic supplies, carried out repair and maintenance on buildings, trained staff and supplemented salaries as needed to maintain quality services in nine hospitals in Kabul (Karteh Seh and Wazir Akbar Khan), Jalalabad (Public Health Hospital), Kandahar (Mirwais), Mazar-i-Sharif (Military), Shiberghan, Samangan, Taloqan and Ghazni. The ICRC also improved the quality of ancillary services such as radiology, laboratories and blood banks, sent an expatriate surgical team to help upgrade staff skills at Jalalabad hospital, and supported ambulance services in Kabul. A large part of this assistance was provided through projects delegated to the Japanese, Finnish and Norwegian Red Cross Societies.

Constantly adjusting its hospital assistance to fill gaps and avoid overlaps as the government, international donors and non-governmental organizations took over support to more health facilities, the ICRC ended its assistance to hospitals in Mazar-i-Sharif, Karteh Seh (Kabul) and Samangan. Although projects delegated to National Societies ended in Shiberghan and Taloqan at the end of the year, the ICRC continued to provide these hospitals with some assistance.

- 9 hospitals regularly supported
- 58,136 patients admitted (including 2951 war-wounded and 327 mine injured) to ICRC-supported hospitals
- 36,596 surgical operations performed
- 285,022 outpatient consultations given

Rehabilitation for the disabled

The ICRC continued to run most of the country's physical rehabilitation services, providing for about 60,000 disabled Afghans. More than 50% of these were amputees, of whom a large majority were mine victims. In six centres located around the country, the ICRC produced and fitted orthopaedic aids, gave physiotherapy and offered disabled people education, vocational training, job placement or small loans for starting up businesses. It also made home visits to persons with spinal-cord injuries.

In 2004 the ICRC encouraged the health authorities to recognize officially the qualifications of the prosthetic/orthotic technicians employed in its centres, and began a second course in four locations to upgrade the skills of such technicians. It also provided components and other supplies to four rehabilitation centres run by other organizations: two run by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (located in

Ghazni and Taloqan), one by Guardians (Kandahar) and one by International Assistance Mission (Maimana).

With the Italian Red Cross, the ICRC helped the Ministry of Health's Indira Gandhi Hospital to open the country's first centre for children with cerebral palsy, which taught families to provide home care for children with the disease. In addition, the ICRC renovated the new Ali Abad rehabilitation centre, so that services previously based at the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital could move there.

- 4,365 prostheses fitted (3,132 for mine victims; 904 for new patients)
- 8,363 orthoses fitted (23 for mine victims; 4,375 for new patients)
- 873 wheelchairs and 4,588 pairs of crutches produced
- 1,535 disabled received training, schooling or micro-credits
- 874 people with spinal-cord injuries visited at home

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC strove to raise awareness of humanitarian issues among officials and to encourage the government to ratify and implement IHL. It translated key IHL texts into Dari and Pashto and gave feedback on draft legislation to implement the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. It also met both national and provincial authorities to explain the ICRC's role, working methods and principles.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ANA had trained approximately 18,000 soldiers in IHL by the end of the year. The ICRC worked closely with the ANA to develop its IHL curriculum for military training institutions. It continued to train IHL instructors, to impress upon senior officers the importance of incorporating IHL into training and operations and to provide technical support in developing curricula and training materials. By the end of the year each of the army's major combat, combat support and service units had an officer qualified to teach IHL. To build up the army's expertise in IHL, the ICRC financed the participation of three officers in IHL courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

The delegation also held sessions or briefings on IHL for Afghan militias, the staff of detention facilities and legal specialists from international forces active in the country.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Conscious of the impact of public perception of the ICRC on the security of its staff, and unable to gauge how its messages were being interpreted in large parts of the country off-limits to its staff, the ICRC suspended the radio programming it had planned for 2004. Instead, it broadened its exchange with journalists. It also continued presentations at the local level to discuss its mission with elders and other community leaders.

To mobilize support for mine action, the delegation sponsored the trip of Najmuddin, a double amputee who is director of the ICRC physical rehabilitation centre in Afghanistan, to Cairo where he carried the Olympic flame.

To promote the study of IHL at university level, the ICRC sponsored the participation of several academics in the South Asia Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law in Bangalore, India.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Strengthening the Afghan Red Crescent

The Afghan Red Crescent Society established branches in three newly created provinces and reviewed its constitution. The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies gave the National Society financial and technical assistance in conducting many of its activities, and jointly supported its institutional development. The terms of their cooperation were laid out in a memorandum of understanding signed by all three organizations.

Within this framework, the ICRC helped the Afghan Red Crescent to: offer vocational training programmes for widows, disabled people and other disadvantaged groups to improve their job prospects; implement income-generating food-for-work projects repairing irrigation systems and other public infrastructure; carry out mine action; operate an RCM network and other activities to maintain family links; promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; and run shelters for the destitute (*marastoon*) located in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat, Kandahar

and Jalalabad. Support for the five *marastoon* was implemented by the German Red Cross as a delegated project and was handed over to the International Federation at the end of the year. Between 2002 and 2004 the project provided shelter for some 700 people, of whom more than one-third were resettled.

The ICRC trained National Society mine-action staff to enable them eventually to carry out independently mine-action programmes currently run jointly with the ICRC.

In July the Afghan Red Crescent agreed to introduce the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*). It adapted its emergency response set-up in line with the government's national disaster plan, taking action during small-scale natural disasters in the second half of the year.

Through Afghan Red Crescent activities supported by the ICRC:

- ▶ over 1,400 people given vocational training by more than 650 trainers
- ▶ over 40,000 families benefited from more than 70 food-for-work projects
- ▶ over 5,500 RCMs delivered

Coordinating Movement action

Seven foreign National Societies carried out projects delegated to them by the ICRC in 2004, and others gave bilateral support to the Afghan Red Crescent. Maintaining its role as lead agency for the Movement in Afghanistan, the ICRC coordinated these activities in order to ensure that the Movement's response was effective and coherent.



Indonesia

The ICRC established a presence in Indonesia in 1979. Throughout the archipelago, it works closely with the Indonesian Red Cross Society to protect and assist victims of violence, especially displaced and resident populations whose livelihoods or family ties have been disrupted. The ICRC continues to visit people held in connection with non-international armed conflict and internal disturbances, and works to broaden understanding and acceptance of IHL. It promotes IHL implementation, supports its inclusion in the doctrine and training programmes of the armed forces and police and develops activities with universities to promote the study of IHL.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,809,716

Assistance

2,558,040

Preventive action

1,782,006

Cooperation with National Societies

1,329,580

General

-

► **7,479,342**

of which: Overheads **456,486**

PERSONNEL

19 expatriates

95 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC expanded its detention-related activities, visiting security detainees throughout the country, in police stations and prisons, to assess their treatment and detention conditions.
- Working with the Indonesian Red Cross Society, the ICRC facilitated the release of 151 people held by the Free Aceh Movement.
- The ICRC continued efforts to promote IHL among the armed and security forces and academic circles; it maintained its support for the work of the national IHL committee.
- The ICRC continued its partnership with the Indonesian Red Cross Society, particularly in the fields of tracing and training in the Safer Access approach.
- With the support of the National Society, the ICRC provided emergency relief in Banda Aceh town and its surroundings to survivors of the tsunami of 26 December and provided them with means to restore family links.

CONTEXT

An earthquake in the Indian Ocean on 26 December and the resulting tsunami led to large-scale devastation and loss of life in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD) province – along its 800-km coastline and up to 15 km inland. The west coast and the north of the province were particularly hard hit. The north-eastern coast was less affected by the disaster but became host to many displaced people who had fled from other more affected regions.

Throughout 2004 the political scene was dominated by parliamentary and the first direct presidential elections. In the parliamentary elections, none of the parties won an absolute majority, although the Golkar party emerged the winner. The presidential elections took place in two rounds, with Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono being declared the victor in October without securing a majority among the various political parties represented in parliament.

In NAD, despite the lifting in May of martial law – imposed a year earlier – and the introduction of civil emergency regulations in its place, armed confrontation continued in the province. In Papua, the special autonomy law had not yet been implemented a year after being decreed, and sporadic violence persisted. There was a resurgence of sectarian violence in Ambon (Maluku).

In September, a car packed with explosives blew up in front of the Australian embassy killing nine civilians and injuring more than 180 others. In the wake of the bombing, Indonesia took further action to strengthen

its counter-terrorism measures by creating a military-backed task force. In the continuing drive to bring to justice people suspected of terrorist offences, several individuals were arrested during the year.

Bilateral and multilateral agreements between regional forums such as ASEAN and individual countries, including Australia and New Zealand, were signed to further promote cooperation in the “fight against terrorism”.

ICRC ACTION

After the earthquake and tsunami

Prior to the disaster, the ICRC had relief materials and personnel in place (including an operational sub-delegation in Banda Aceh) so it was able to respond rapidly. From the day of the tsunami onwards, the ICRC provided National Society volunteers with a steady supply of equipment and relief goods.

The rest of 2004

Before the tsunami, the ICRC had authorization from the authorities for two expatriates to be permanently based in Banda Aceh. The staff members were supported by personnel from Jakarta, who joined them for short missions, and by the Indonesian Red Cross Society.

In 2004 the ICRC expanded its detention-related activities, visiting security detainees throughout the country, in police stations and prisons, all of them held in connection with situations of conflict or violence or for alleged links to terrorist organizations. Among them were people detained in connection with the Bali bombing in 2003. Confidential reports were submitted to the authorities after each visit. The ICRC provided basic hygiene and recreation items to detainees and contributed to improvements to prison infrastructure on an ad hoc basis.

Upon the request of the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), the ICRC, working with the Indonesian Red Cross, facilitated the release of 151 people held by the armed separatist group.

In close cooperation with the Indonesian Red Cross, the ICRC was able to deliver urgently needed relief in various provinces affected by armed conflict, other situations of violence or natural disaster. These included Ambon (Maluku), NAD and western Sulawesi. In addition, the ICRC was able to strengthen its cooperation with the National Society in the areas of conflict preparedness and response (applying the Safer Access approach, see *Glossary*) and restoring family links, and on the issue of missing persons. Training sessions were organized to improve the Indonesian Red Cross's capacity to help affected communities in all these fields. Throughout 2004 the Indonesian Red Cross remained an invaluable partner to the ICRC in carrying out its activities.

The ICRC kept up its programmes to promote national implementation of IHL.

With the Indonesian Red Cross, it supported the efforts of the national IHL committee to draw up domestic legislation to regulate use of the red cross and red crescent emblems. It also initiated a study to determine the best way to implement national legislation on war crimes.

Considerable effort was again made to promote IHL within the Indonesian armed forces (TNI) and the national police force, thus fostering a better understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities and enhancing the protection of civilians during armed conflict. The TNI, which had already begun including IHL in its standard training curricula, regularly asked the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross to brief troops on IHL prior to their deployment in the field. In addition, on several occasions the National Society and the ICRC were invited to participate in TNI field training and command post exercises. Together with the Indonesian National Police, the ICRC began looking into ways of promoting the inclusion of IHL and human rights law into the training of the Mobile Brigade forces.

The ICRC continued to promote IHL in universities and train law lecturers in IHL so as to enhance knowledge of IHL among future leaders and decision-makers.

CIVILIANS

Helping tsunami survivors

On 28 December the ICRC provided the Indonesian Red Cross with 1,000 tarpaulins and 1,800 family relief kits comprising essential household items, which it immediately distributed to survivors in need. The ICRC provided medical supplies to hospitals in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, and to health centres throughout the province, and supplied camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the Banda Aceh surroundings with drinking water. It also assisted a hospital in Lhokseumawe.

Immediately after the disaster, the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross initiated a programme to restore family links, which was supported by a special website (www.familylinks.icrc.org) for people to use to let others know they were alive or to post the name of a person being sought. For people without access to the Internet, lists of names collected by ICRC and National Society mobile teams were displayed in key public places and announced on the radio. Satellite or mobile phones were made available for people to call their family members nationally and abroad.

Assisting people displaced by violence

In NAD and a few other areas of Indonesia, civilians continued to be the victims of armed conflict or other situations of violence stemming from separatist conflicts or inter-communal hostilities. The living conditions of people displaced by violence varied according to the location, but recurrent needs were basic health care, clean water, proper sanitation facilities, hygiene products, household items and shelter.

The ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross provided IDPs and their host families with essential household items – cooking utensils, sleeping mats, jerrycans, wash basins, hygiene products, baby items and tarpaulins – and reconstruction kits comprising tools, nails and hinges.

- ▶ 10,600 IDPs in NAD, Maluku, Sulawesi and Java provided with relief
- ▶ 349 residents of Aceh affected by typhoons, floods or fire provided with relief

Clean water

The ICRC assessed the water-supply needs in six IDP camps in NAD and worked with the Indonesian Red Cross to clean and disinfect wells in one of the camps. Trained Red Cross volunteers were then given materials to continue chlorination of drinking water. A four-day training seminar was conducted for 31 volunteers from 16 local Red Cross branches to enable them to promote good hygiene practices among civilians in the province.

Civilian health

The ICRC set up medical stocks to serve IDPs in Aceh. It also continued supporting the efforts of the Indonesian Red Cross to deliver health services in the province by, *inter alia*, providing 20 branches with first-aid kits and equipment for evacuating and treating the wounded.

For the first time in Indonesia, in cooperation with the University of Indonesia and the World Health Organization, the ICRC conducted a H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) course for 18 National Society staff members and civil servants from NAD and Papua. Its aim was to develop local capacities to respond adequately to the population's needs in the event of emergencies. The ICRC also organized a seminar on protecting and facilitating the delivery of health services for victims of conflict, attended by 150 representatives of the authorities, civil society, security forces, religious leaders and the Indonesian Red Cross.

Separated family members

In Indonesia, several groups of people had lost contact with their next of kin as a result of conflict and other situations of violence. The ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross worked to enable them to restore family links. They included Timorese unaccounted for but presumed to be still alive in Indonesia; adults and children in northern Maluku who had lost contact with relatives; asylum seekers and refugees in Indonesia; and Indonesian asylum seekers in Malaysia.

The ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross conducted a total of 10 field assessments to gauge the need for RCM and tracing services in different areas. The ICRC provided the National Society with financial support, training and two motorcycles to improve its tracing service (see *National Society*).

- 310 RCMs delivered to civilians

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2004 the ICRC expanded its detention-related activities, visiting security detainees throughout the country, in police stations and prisons, to assess their treatment and detention conditions. Confidential reports were submitted to the authorities after each visit. Alleged GAM members, transferred from NAD to detention centres in Java, were all visited by ICRC delegates. The ICRC provided detainees with basic hygiene and recreation items and made improvements to prison infrastructure on an ad hoc basis.

In June the ICRC launched a family visits programme for the Acehnese detainees who had been transferred from NAD to Java. In addition, two detainees on death row received visits from their relatives for the first time.

- 13,436 detainees visited (including 601 newly registered, 691 followed up individually, 11 women and 14 minors) in 45 places of detention
- 72 detainees visited by family members with ICRC support
- 184 RCMs delivered to detainees

ICRC assistance in places of detention included carrying out water, sanitation and habitat assessments in seven prisons and eight police stations in Papua. The ICRC then rehabilitated wells, provided tents following an earthquake, increased water-storage capacities and improved ventilation as necessary.

- 7,906 detainees provided with basic hygiene items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry and body soap) and mosquito nets

WOUNDED AND SICK

Following disturbances in the region, the ICRC carried out an assessment in Ambon to determine the capacity of health facilities to respond to the needs of victims. Together with the Indonesian Red Cross, it provided several of the health facilities with basic assistance and began setting up stocks to support key hospitals in Ambon. It helped revive a National Society first-aid post so that it could provide temporary care following clashes in the town.

The ICRC also assessed hospitals and *puskesmas* (health centres) in NAD. All of the facilities received medicines, medical consumables and equipment in line with the needs identified.

Following an earthquake in February 2004 the ICRC provided medicines and dressing materials to a general hospital in Papua. Immediately after the bomb explosion in front of the Australian embassy in September, the ICRC and the National Society provided medical assistance to the hospital receiving most of the wounded.

- 7 hospitals in Ambon given medicines and consumables
- 14 hospitals and 22 *puskesmas* in NAD received supplies
- 20 Red Cross branches and local chapters received stretchers and first-aid kits
- 1 Indonesian candidate sponsored on a three-year training course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC had contact with several government ministries in an effort to promote ratification of IHL treaties and enactment of domestic implementing legislation. The organization participated in a series of workshops, seminars and meetings at ministerial level. Indonesia's national IHL committee was the main body through which the delegation supported the government's efforts to implement IHL. In 2004 the committee was working on proposing domestic legislation to repress war crimes and regulate use of the red cross and red crescent emblems.

The ICRC supported an academic study into the various options regarding the incorporation of IHL into existing legislation or the creation of new laws.

Furthermore, in 2004 the ICRC:

- promoted the ratification of the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions during a seminar for 30 government representatives, organized by the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights;
- gave a presentation on national implementation measures for 30 civil and military judges and lawyers from the Supreme Court;
- sponsored the participation of the secretary of the national IHL committee in a meeting on IHL implementation at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy;
- sponsored the participation of 3 representatives of the Indonesian authorities in a regional meeting on the protection of cultural property during armed conflict, held in Cambodia (see *Bangkok*);
- addressed the plenary of the annual meeting of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization in Bali.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL and the armed forces

The ICRC pursued efforts to promote IHL within the TNI, which included participating in field training and command post exercises. In addition, the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross regularly briefed troops on IHL prior to their deployment in NAD and Papua. The ICRC financed the production of additional IHL teaching files for the army and helped create and finance a teaching file for the navy.

The Ministry of Defence asked the ICRC to help with the drafting of the new military penal code, particularly to ensure that the provisions of IHL were included. To this end, the ICRC provided the ministry with technical support and legal advice.

- 344 army and navy officers instructed in IHL during TNI train-the-trainer events
- 11,000 TNI personnel briefed on IHL prior to field deployment in NAD and Papua
- 16 dissemination sessions on IHL given for nearly 4,700 TNI personnel
- 1,500 TNI officers reached during field training and command post exercises

- 40 officers from the Military Intelligence unit briefed on the ICRC and its working methods
- 4 TNI officers participated in basic and specialized military courses at the IHL in San Remo and 3 other officers in a regional IHL seminar in Xi'an, China (see *Bangkok*)

Good policing

The ICRC was invited to conduct dissemination sessions in all police posts in NAD. The sessions dealt with ICRC activities, basic human rights law and aspects of IHL relevant to police operations. The ICRC began looking into ways of promoting the inclusion of IHL and human rights law into the training of the Mobile Brigade forces of the Indonesian National Police.

The ICRC also continued work on the production of a booklet explaining its detention-related activities, intended for the police command.

- 18 training sessions on IHL and human rights law conducted for 1,600 police officers and staff at national and regional level
- 40 Mobile Brigade officers briefed on ICRC activities for security forces

Other bearers of weapons

The ICRC had contacts with GAM in order to facilitate the release of 151 individuals held by the group.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Since the late 1990s, the ICRC had provided extensive training to a considerable number of law lecturers in about 100 universities. By 2004, 26 law faculties in 19 cities were offering IHL as a separate subject in their curricula, and of the other 85 law faculties whose members had participated in IHL courses, 11 had introduced elements of IHL into their undergraduate courses.

A group of schoolteachers and the ICRC continued working on the translation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law teaching pack into Bahasa Indonesia.

During 2004 the ICRC:

- in cooperation with two Indonesian universities, organized 2 IHL courses for 70 law lecturers from 39 universities;
- organized 2 moot-court competitions for 400 students from 10 universities;
- gave 9 lectures for 860 students and lecturers at various universities;

- sponsored the participation of 2 lecturers in an international conference on Islamic law and IHL, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, and the participation of 4 lecturers in an IHL symposium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Decision-makers, local NGOs and professionals

The role of the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross in securing the release of people held by GAM generated great media interest. The ICRC responded by giving interviews, briefings and explanations in English and Indonesian.

Following a request from British Petroleum, the ICRC carried out two dissemination sessions on the basic rules of IHL and human rights law for the company's security guards in Papua. The ICRC also met representatives of other international firms working in NAD, Papua and other conflict-prone areas.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Cooperation between the ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross aimed to optimize protection of and assistance to victims of conflict. In addition to assistance activities conducted jointly with the National Society (see *Civilians*), various capacity-building activities took place in 2004.

The ICRC subsidized the salaries of five staff members at National Society headquarters, in all fields of activity. Furthermore, the National Society chapter and 19 branches in NAD, and 18 field-action teams, were given monthly financial support for their operations.

Emergency preparedness and response

A series of Safer Access workshops were conducted for Indonesian Red Cross staff and volunteers in Aceh. The Safer Access approach – which aimed to help the National Society to better respond to the needs of conflict victims while enhancing the safety of its workers – increasingly became part of all training conducted by the National Society and the ICRC.

The ICRC held training sessions in hygiene education attended by 31 National Society volunteers from 16 branches in NAD. It also provided financial support for the training of 60 members of field action teams.

The ICRC and the Indonesian Red Cross developed a training module on psycho-

logical support for volunteers working in stressful circumstances. Twenty-one staff members and volunteers then received training using the module.

The ICRC gave 20 National Society branches 25 complete first-aid kits, stretchers, blankets, masks, gloves and body bags for use when evacuating wounded people or dead bodies.

Restoring family links

The ICRC pursued its objective of developing the tracing capacities of the Indonesian Red Cross nationwide. In addition to providing two motorbikes to facilitate the collection of RCMs and tracing requests and conducting training for eight staff members, the ICRC sponsored the participation of a tracing officer in a regional tracing seminar in Bangkok.

Promoting IHL

To enhance knowledge of IHL, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Fundamental Principles, the ICRC conducted or assisted with four training workshops for staff and volunteers of the Indonesian Red Cross. In addition, it financed the production of promotional and dissemination materials, such as IHL leaflets and a calendar.



myanmar

The ICRC first established a presence in Myanmar in 1986, carrying out physical rehabilitation programmes for mine victims and other disabled people. Since 1999 delegates have made regular visits to people deprived of their freedom and have progressively begun to monitor the situation of the civilian population in conflict areas along the Thai-Myanmar Border. In areas where weakened infrastructure, isolation and the security situation make the population particularly vulnerable, the ICRC meets basic health, water and sanitation needs, helps hospitals provide surgical care to the wounded and seeks dialogue with government authorities on the protection of the civilian population. The ICRC also works with the International Federation to enhance the effectiveness of the Myanmar Red Cross Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

6,845,874

Assistance

6,092,315

Preventive action

1,084,563

Cooperation with National Societies

849,517

General

-

► **14,872,269**

of which: Overheads **907,697**

PERSONNEL

55 expatriates

253 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC continued to assess the security conditions of civilians in conflict-affected areas along the Thai-Myanmar border and further developed health, water and sanitation programmes to address their most basic needs.
- The organization assisted the prison authorities in developing suitable health care for detainees and continued to meet the urgent need for medical supplies and hygiene materials. In collaboration with the prison authorities, it rehabilitated living quarters, improved access to safe water and upgraded hygiene and health facilities for minors, women, and women detained with children.
- The ICRC supported government-run prosthetic services and the Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre by training technicians and supplying raw materials, specialized equipment and components.
- In close coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC supported the Myanmar Red Cross in strengthening its capacity to deliver humanitarian services.

CONTEXT

The temporary ceasefire agreement between the Karen National Union (KNU) and the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), reached in December 2003, was only partially respected, and small-scale clashes continued throughout the year. By the end of 2004 further ceasefire talks were announced.

The National Convention, billed as a framework embracing all political parties and ethnic and social segments of the country and one component of a seven-point "road map to democracy", began on 17 May. While the major ceasefire groups attended the Convention, which was expected to draft a constitution, the opposition National League for Democracy, the KNU and a number of smaller armed groups whose negotiations with the government had reached a stalemate stayed away. The National Convention was adjourned after two months of deliberation, and plans to resume at the end of 2004 were postponed till 2005.

Meanwhile, other armed groups persisted in their struggle against the government, engaging in regular skirmishes with the Tatmadaw (Myanmar armed forces) in remote areas along the Thai border – mainly in Shan state, but also in Kayin state and Thanintharyi division.

In October General Khin Nyunt, the prime minister and head of military intelligence, was removed from office, placed under house arrest and charged with corruption and disobedience. The incident was followed by a general reshuffle of the government.

The SPDC announced the release of 14,318 detainees in November and December. Although these releases were granted outside a formal amnesty law, it was the largest mass release for a decade.

On 26 December, the coast of Myanmar was hit by the tsunami generated by an earthquake off the coast of Indonesia, but the country was spared a large-scale disaster. The humanitarian community, led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Myanmar Red Cross and the ICRC, assessed the damaged areas and was able to confirm government estimates of about 90 people killed and 10–15,000 people affected.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the government authorities to ensure its presence in sensitive areas along the Myanmar-Thai border. It assessed the security and living conditions of the civilian population in areas affected by conflict and, where necessary, extended assistance to vulnerable civilians. The ICRC developed water and sanitation programmes, supported rural health facilities, rehabilitated basic health structures in certain villages and townships and constructed latrines in schools and health centres. During health-education sessions, it informed the population of the health benefits of better sanitation practices. The ICRC also continued to support immunization programmes in remote areas inaccessible to the national vaccination programme.

The ICRC provided technical and material assistance to enable hospitals in conflict areas to offer suitable treatment to war-wounded patients. It also provided financial, technical and material support for the production and fitting of artificial limbs in the country's six physical rehabilitation centres. At the end of the year preparations got under way for the launch of mine-risk education activities in 2005, with a view to significantly reducing mine-related deaths and injuries.

The ICRC continued to check that the treatment and living conditions of all detainees under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs met international standards, and offered detainees the opportunity to restore family links through Red Cross messages (RCMs). In addition, the ICRC provided financial and logistical support to enable family members to visit relatives held in places of detention far from their homes.

Efforts continued at different levels to foster a better understanding of international humanitarian law (IHL) and acceptance of the ICRC's role and working methods, especially among all parties to the conflict. It established relations with the National Defence College, the highest military academy in Myanmar, with a view to promoting IHL among the high-ranking officers attending courses there. The year also saw new openings for dissemination to the armed forces in the field.

The ICRC further expanded its network of contacts and strengthened its relations with representatives of the media and university lecturers to ensure that its message reached

as wide an audience as possible. The translation of dissemination materials into local languages continued.

The ICRC worked with the Myanmar Red Cross to build its capacities and supported it in reforming its structures in order to increase its effectiveness in carrying out humanitarian activities.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

In its dialogue with the authorities, the ICRC continued to raise its concerns about the safety and protection of civilians in conflict-prone regions. To monitor civilians' security and welfare, it maintained a presence in areas of southern and eastern Shan state and in the country's south-east, including sensitive areas in Kayin state. The organization also pursued efforts to develop a dialogue with the various armed groups on issues related to the conflict and the obligations of the parties concerned.

The ICRC conducted several visits to the Myawaddy transit camp, where it collected data on illegal migrant workers expelled from Thailand on the basis of a memorandum of understanding concluded between the two countries. It interviewed individuals privately upon their arrival in Myanmar to assess their situation.

Although some repatriations took place in 2004, hundreds of Myanmar nationals remained administratively detained in Bangladesh while awaiting repatriation. Some of them were able to establish or maintain contact with their next of kin through the RCM service.

- 157 RCMs collected from Myanmar nationals detained in Bangladesh, 123 RCMs delivered to their relatives in Myanmar

Water and sanitation

The ICRC pressed on with its health, water, and sanitation projects. To ensure access to safe water for the population in selected areas in Kayin, eastern and southern Shan and Mon states, it constructed new water-supply systems, upgraded existing ones, provided materials for their construction or upkeep and helped set up a committee for their maintenance.

The construction of family latrines in 19 villages in Mon and Kayin states was successfully completed. The ICRC supplied villagers with basic construction materials,

such as concrete slabs, pipes and plastic pans, and taught them how to build the latrines. In all, 600 latrines were built, serving some 3,000 people.

In southern Shan state, the ICRC finished building a spring catchment, connected to a reservoir via a 1-km pipeline, which supplied the community, including a school and a health centre. It also built two washing areas and two blocks of four latrines for villagers and the school. In Kayin state, a spring catchment was constructed with five tap stands to provide clean water for 300 families, 620 schoolchildren and a hospital, and three blocks of two latrines for the school were completed.

Community health

Throughout the year the ICRC conducted health assessments in rural areas of eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon states and visited several health facilities, providing assistance as necessary.

A malaria prevalence survey was conducted in nine schools in eastern Shan state in preparation for a malaria programme due to begin in 2005. Over a nine-day period 914 children and 26 adults were screened. A total of 60 people were then given anti-malaria treatment.

Through an expanded programme of immunization carried out in southern Shan state with the support of the Myanmar health authorities, the ICRC vaccinated children under five against six childhood diseases, and immunized women of childbearing age against tetanus.

In 2004 the ICRC:

- delivered essential medicines to mother-and-child health centres and rural health centres; supported training of auxiliary midwives and health workers for the immunization programme;
- organized a two-month training course for 16 community health workers in Kayin state, then
- conducted a follow-up visit a month later to provide supervision and coaching and to maintain links with the communities;
- held 8 sessions on good hygiene practices for 230 pupils in primary and middle schools and HIV/AIDS sessions for the teaching staff.

Mine action

Since the beginning of the ceasefire negotiations with the KNU, areas formerly affected by the conflict had become accessible again

and open for agricultural use. This, however, led to an increase in the number of injuries caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). The ICRC carried out an assessment of the danger of mines and ERW, which led to a two-day mine-risk education session at the Myawaddy hospital for 16 community health workers from mine-infested border areas.

In preparation for the mine-risk education programme set to be launched in 2005, the ICRC initiated a dialogue with the Myanmar Red Cross so as to include the treatment of mine injuries in the National Society's first-aid training and to integrate international mine-risk education standards into its dissemination programme. The ICRC also produced information materials for the programme.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC carried out regular visits to detainees held by the prison department of the Ministry of Home Affairs in order to monitor their treatment and detention conditions. Some of the detainees were followed up on an individual basis, including security detainees, minors, detainees claiming foreign citizenship or those in need of particular protection, such as the sick or elderly. The organization made confidential representations and recommendations to the authorities based on its findings.

- 57,109 detainees visited (including 1,869 newly registered, 3,815 followed up individually, 388 women and 1,252 minors) in 64 places of detention
- 977 detainees received ICRC-funded visits from family members
- 6,055 RCMs delivered to detainees

Health and living conditions in prisons

A joint working group, bringing together medical officers from the prison department, Ministry of Health and the ICRC, convened on a monthly basis, with a view to improving access to health care for detainees.

The ICRC supplied the detaining authorities with essential drugs and soap to cover 50% of the detainees' monthly needs (10 tonnes per month). It also gave ad hoc aid to the most vulnerable detainees, such as pregnant women or women with children. In April it treated detainees suffering from scabies and raised awareness of the condition and its management among detainees and health personnel. A follow-up assessment

of the detainees treated showed an 88% success rate.

In Insein central prison, the largest in the country, the ICRC improved living conditions for women detainees. The maternity room was renovated and the water supply for the whole prison was upgraded. At the end of the year the ICRC started another project to establish a separate area for minors and upgrade the facilities in order to create an appropriate environment for them.

Training

The ICRC, in collaboration with the Australian prison health authorities, organized a two-week study tour in Australia for three Myanmar doctors, during which they attended a seminar on forensic medicine and visited various places of detention.

The ICRC was invited to give lectures to superintendents and prison warders attending training courses organized by the prison department. In its presentations, the ICRC concentrated on promoting minimum standards for the treatment and living conditions of detainees, as enshrined in Myanmar law, and stressed the importance of health issues. The ICRC also gave a presentation at a workshop for prison doctors.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Medical care

The conflict that smouldered along the Thai-Myanmar border continued to claim casualties, many of whom required hospital treatment. During regular visits to hospitals in the area, the ICRC collected information on and provided assistance to the war-wounded and furnished the hospitals with medical and surgical materials and equipment.

Rehabilitation projects in 11 hospitals in Kayin and southern and eastern Shan states were completed during the year. The projects included repairs to buildings, water and sanitation facilities and waste-disposal systems. Training in hospital-waste disposal was also provided to reduce related health risks.

- 11 hospitals benefited from repairs, upgrading or material or technical assistance
- 83 hospital or health-centre staff attended workshops on war-surgery and waste management in hospitals, jointly organized and conducted by the ICRC and the national health authorities

- 250 health personnel in Kayin state attended a session on the ICRC's mandate and medical activities and on the role of medical staff in conflict-affected areas

Physical rehabilitation

To improve access of patients from remote border areas to physical rehabilitation services, the ICRC kept up efforts to boost the quality and capacity of artificial-limb production in all five government-run centres (three under the Ministry of Health and two under the Ministry of Defence), developed services provided by the Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre (thereby addressing the needs of amputees living in the south-east of the country) and supported an outreach programme to identify and refer for treatment the most vulnerable amputees living in remote and/or border areas.

The professional skills of government-service personnel were enhanced through refresher courses in prosthetics and physiotherapy and on-the-job training. This was reinforced by the integration into the team of a Myanmar prosthetist trained, with ICRC support, at the Cambodian School for Prosthetics and Orthotics. Two other prosthetists from Myanmar completed their training at the school in Cambodia in 2004.

At the Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre, the ICRC conducted on-the-job training for staff. With ICRC support, the centre's premises were adapted to the needs of wheelchair-bound patients.

- a total of 1,370 prostheses and 1,344 crutches produced at 5 government-run prosthetic centres (new patients fitted with prostheses represented about 40% of the total number of patients, and victims of mines represented about 70% of the total number of patients);
- 701 prostheses produced for amputees (557 of them for mine victims) and 1,247 crutches distributed; 651 new patients fitted with prostheses at the Hpa-an physical rehabilitation centre

AUTHORITIES

Little progress was made in strengthening dialogue with the central authorities, mainly as a result of the changes within the government. It was nevertheless possible for the ICRC to meet the new minister for home affairs before the end of the year and to continue efforts to raise awareness of its mandate and activities and of IHL among a wide range of regional and local authorities.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces and IHL

In 2004 there were some encouraging developments regarding the dissemination of IHL to the armed forces. High-ranking officers attended the ICRC regional seminar on IHL in Xi'an, China (see *Bangkok*). Furthermore, the ICRC established contacts with the National Defence College, the highest military academy in Myanmar, comprising 80 students – all high-ranking officers. The ICRC met the students and provided the college with IHL documents and teaching materials for its basic IHL programme. The college asked the ICRC to give two one-hour presentations on its mandate, role and activities for students doing a master's degree in military studies.

In mid-year ICRC teams were able to hold dissemination sessions in the field for high-ranking military personnel. Five sessions were conducted for senior officers, Tactical Operational Command units and the South-east Command medical battalion, in southern and eastern Shan state and northern Kayin state.

Good policing

The ICRC organized a one-day IHL seminar in Yangon in October, which was officially opened by the minister for home affairs and attended by staff from the ministry and its prison department, the police force and the Bureau of Special Investigation. Also among the 32 participants were staff from the Attorney-General's Office, the Supreme Court and Yangon University's law department. Presentations on ICRC activities and respect for the emblem were given in the first half of the day, and a presentation on IHL in the second. Fact sheets on ICRC activities in Myanmar and publications on IHL in the Myanmar language were distributed to the audience.

Other bearers of weapons

Through the notification system set up for this purpose, the ICRC systematically informed both the Shan State Army-South

(SSA-S) and KNU of its teams' movements in sensitive areas. The ICRC met the KNU representative in charge of international relations, who was briefed on ICRC activities. Discussions focused on humanitarian issues relating to the SPDC-KNU negotiations. The ICRC also discussed the humanitarian situation in Shan state with the SSA-S.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising awareness of IHL

In 2004 the ICRC established contacts with three State-run television channels and the armed forces channel. Good relations were maintained with *The Myanmar Times*, and several published articles about the ICRC provided the general public with a clearer picture of IHL and the organization's identity and mandate.

The ICRC carried out dissemination sessions for the civilian population in all villages visited. Sessions were held in newly accessible regions and included an introduction to the ICRC and its mandate and an explanation of its activities. Local village leaders were always present, and dissemination materials in the local language were distributed.

IHL and future decision-makers

Meetings with professors from the University of Yangon and representatives of the Supreme Court enabled the ICRC to establish contact with stakeholders likely to facilitate the promotion of IHL at university level. The ICRC sponsored the participation of the head of the law faculty in an IHL symposium held in Kuala Lumpur in December. The organization also developed working relations with two law professors from the university and donated 20 books and manuals on IHL to the library.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In 2004 the Myanmar Red Cross Society established five new programme and support divisions at its national headquarters. The National Society continued with its restructuring process intended to bring about a clear separation of governance and management functions. In support of these efforts, the ICRC contributed to the renovation of a floor of the national headquarters building so that each division, as a distinct management unit, could be given its own working area.

The Myanmar Red Cross completed the first draft of its strategic five-year plan which was presented to its partners in the

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at a meeting in October. The National Society also produced a report on the results of a two-year survey of its branches, the recommendations of which were to form the basis of a plan of action for branch development. For both processes, the ICRC and the International Federation provided the National Society with technical and financial support.

With similar ICRC support, the Myanmar Red Cross increased its capacity to train its staff and volunteers. It began to build up a pool of national instructors in community-based first aid and initiated a project to integrate community-based first aid into disaster-preparedness training. By the end of the year training in community-based first aid, disaster management and dissemination had been extended to township level in the majority of states and divisions.

The approach to cooperation chosen by the ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross in 2004 proved largely successful. In the first week after the earthquake and tsunami, the Myanmar Red Cross was quick to respond, with its volunteers, assessment teams and relief supplies all readily available. Together with the International Federation, the National Society took the lead in coordinating the assessments and relief efforts of the entire international community in Myanmar and developed an approach for the long-term recovery and rehabilitation of affected regions.



nepal

The delegation in Nepal opened in 2001; before that, the ICRC's work in the country was managed out of the regional delegation in New Delhi. Through field activities in regions affected by the conflict between the government of Nepal and the Communist Party of Nepal-(Maoist) and through contacts with both parties, the ICRC aims to: protect civilians from the effects of the conflict; monitor the living conditions and treatment of security detainees; promote IHL; assist the wounded, displaced people or other civilians affected by the conflict, in cooperation with the Nepal Red Cross Society; and support the National Society's efforts to strengthen its capacities and its credibility as a neutral humanitarian organization.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

4,230,984

Assistance

1,429,594

Preventive action

651,434

Cooperation with National Societies

1,132,458

General

-

► **7,444,469**

of which: Overheads **454,357**

PERSONNEL

30 expatriates

72 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- Extending their reach to more areas affected by the conflict, ICRC field teams monitored the security and living conditions of civilians in these areas and gave feedback on its findings to the civilian and military authorities and CPN-M leaders.
- The ICRC visited detainees in many jails, police stations and army camps around the country, as well as some people held by the CPN-M; it sought full access to those held by the army and by the CPN-M.
- The ICRC started to assist a physical rehabilitation centre at a hospital in Pokhara and assessed the problem of mines and explosive remnants of war.
- The Nepalese Red Cross adapted its activities so that it could work more effectively in conflict-affected areas.

CONTEXT

After the ceasefire collapsed in August 2003, fighting between the government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) resumed. By the beginning of 2004 it had reached its pre-ceasefire intensity, and the violence had spread to new areas of the Eastern Region and the Terai (the fertile plain on the border with India). In March the CPN-M launched two major attacks, one in Beni and the other in Bhojpur. By the end of the year the army had deployed new brigades in areas affected by the insurgency, and the People's Liberation Army of the CPN-M had enlarged its fighting force. Estimates of the total death toll of the eight-year conflict varied, hovering around 10,000. Human rights groups and other non-government sources estimated that over 2,000 people were killed during the year.

Rejecting the government appointed by the king, several of Nepal's leading political parties kept up protests throughout the year. In May Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa stepped down, and in his place King Gyanendra appointed Sher Bahadur Deuba, who had held the position when parliament was dissolved in 2002. There was also widespread unrest in August following the murder of 12 Nepalis in Iraq.

During the year "Autonomous Peoples' Governments" were set up in several CPN-M-controlled areas. Some UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) suspended or cancelled projects in these areas when they were faced with demands from these bodies that they register, pay taxes and submit staff for approval. In

August and again at the end of December Maoist forces blockaded Kathmandu for several days. At the end of the year anti-Maoist demonstrations were staged in some districts to protest against forced recruitment.

The continuing rise in the number of persons reported missing gave cause for serious concern, and the government appointed a commission to clarify their fate. In October a new version of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act was adopted, allowing longer periods of preventive detention. The publication of reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch and visits to Nepal by several international commissions drew the world's attention to human rights abuses in the country.

The Lhotsampas refugees, who left Bhutan during disturbances there in the early 1990s, remained in camps in Nepal, as Nepal and Bhutan continued bilateral talks on their future.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC worked from offices in Kathmandu, Biratnagar and Nepalganj, expanding its field staff so that it could better cover the remote areas affected by the conflict. Respect for its neutrality enabled the organization to fulfil its traditional role of neutral intermediary and facilitated its access to areas controlled by both sides.

ICRC delegates had access to detainees in jails and police stations around the country and visited some held by the army and by the CPN-M. Through oral and written representations – both locally and at high-level positions of central authority – the delegation endeavoured to gain access to all detainees held by the army and by the CPN-M, to ensure that detainees were respected and to persuade both sides to implement or strengthen measures to protect civilians.

ICRC teams made frequent field trips, often over isolated, difficult terrain and passing through different areas of control. Through multidisciplinary assessments, they gained a comprehensive picture of economic and security conditions in conflict-affected communities. The delegation worked with the Nepalese Red Cross to meet the needs arising from the conflict and built up a capacity to respond on a larger scale, if necessary.

CIVILIANS

Monitoring civilian security and living conditions

Both parties took measures to protect civilians and those no longer participating in combat, and showed a willingness to consider others. Even so, reports of serious IHL violations remained frequent and widespread. Civilians often told of how they were forced to cooperate by one side, then punished for collaboration by the other. The ICRC's 11 field teams collected such allegations, analysed them, and through face-to-face discussions and written reports, relayed their findings to leaders from both sides.

The ICRC worked with NGOs caring for children captured by the Nepalese army and then released, to ensure that they would not be returned home if they risked being re-recruited or accused of collaboration.

In July and August the ICRC and the NRCS carried out an assessment of the impact of mines and other explosive remnants of war

(ERW) on civilians, and began planning mine action.

Pressure from both sides made it difficult for civilians to travel from one area to another. In zones with low agricultural output, these constraints disrupted the trade and temporary migration that families have always relied on to make ends meet. In very remote areas, restrictions on movement also interfered with the upkeep of water-supply systems and health services.

During field trips, ICRC teams assessed living conditions in isolated areas. They found no immediate need for large-scale assistance, but supplied Nepalese Red Cross branches with stocks of household necessities, which it distributed to families who had been displaced, had lost property or had had a family member killed, wounded, disabled or detained in connection with the conflict (see *National Society*).

Plans to improve water supply in 13 remote villages in Jumla district were delayed by weather and logistic problems, but by the end of the year ICRC engineering staff had delivered four tonnes of materials needed for the work under way in nine villages.

Tracing the missing

To help families locate relatives who had disappeared, the ICRC cross-checked allegations of arrest with its own records of detainees visited. It submitted to the army a report detailing procedures for identifying people killed in fighting and for notifying their families, and listed several hundred names of persons who had neither been seen in prison nor reported released. In December it submitted a similar list of alleged arrests to the CPN-M.

Restoring family links

The ICRC and Nepalese Red Cross worked together to deliver Red Cross messages (RCMs) sent between detainees and their families and offered the same service to others who had lost contact with family members because of the conflict.

- ▶ 862 RCMs delivered
- ▶ 732 people whose families had filed tracing requests located

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held by the government

The ICRC visited detainees held by the government in jails, police stations and army barracks.

It also visited several high-level CPN-M members in government custody. Its teams monitored living conditions and treatment of the detainees, improved water and sanitation facilities in jails, trained prison health-care staff, helped detainees keep in contact with their families through RCMs and, when needed, provided them with clothing or hygiene products. Its assistance and renovations improved living conditions for all inmates in the prisons concerned, not just those registered for ICRC follow-up. Both orally and in written reports, the delegation shared findings from these visits with all the authorities concerned at local and central levels.

- ▶ 1,652 detainees visited (including 1,310 newly registered) in 344 places of detention
- ▶ 310 RCMs delivered to detainees
- ▶ improved water and sanitation for over 2,000 detainees in 5 prisons

Detainees held by the CPN-M

In two separate operations in April, the ICRC facilitated the release of 76 people captured during CPN-M attacks in March and April. It conducted private interviews with all of the captives before their release. It also visited several people still held by the CPN-M.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Medical care for the wounded

Although the government subsidizes health care in Nepal, only a few hospitals outside Kathmandu can perform war surgery. Ambulance transport is costly and is not covered by the government. The ICRC therefore reimbursed the surgical or transport expenses of over 100 people injured in fighting and provided medical supplies to hospitals treating the wounded in Nepalganj and Kathmandu. It also organized seminars for health professionals on medical care for the war-wounded. This included sponsoring a symposium on war surgery attended by 150 surgeons at the VIIth International Conference of the Society of Surgeons of Nepal.

The ICRC sent a specialist to assess the national blood bank (run by the National Society) and to offer input on a national blood policy. It also helped fund Nepalese Red Cross ambulance services and first-aid training and distributed first-aid kits to soldiers and fighters in the field (see *National Society*).

- 2 hospitals assisted
- 201 war-wounded patients treated in ICRC-assisted hospitals

Rehabilitation services for the disabled

The government did not reimburse the costs of fitting prostheses, and most rehabilitation services were expensive and far from the areas where most war injuries occurred. To strengthen the sustainability of rehabilitation services, and to make them more accessible to the war-wounded, the ICRC began in April to assist a physical rehabilitation centre at the Green Pastures Hospital in Pokhara (Western Region). It provided the centre with materials and equipment and sent a technician to train staff in the ICRC's polypropylene technology developed to maximize cost effectiveness and patient mobility. By mid-year, the centre was producing polypropylene prostheses on its own.

The Nepalese Red Cross ran an outreach programme which identified and registered amputees (of whom some 15% were war-wounded) and took charge of transporting them to the centre.

- 66 prostheses/orthoses manufactured
- 64 new patients fitted with prostheses and 1 with an orthosis
- 88 crutches and 1 wheelchair distributed

AUTHORITIES

In January 2004 the Supreme Court issued a directive to the government to enact legislation to punish war crimes and protect the emblem. The ICRC drafted a comprehensive Geneva Conventions Act, which included provisions for the protection of the emblem, and submitted it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for consideration.

The dissolution of parliament and a high turnover in government posts left few avenues for the ICRC to promote the ratification or implementation of IHL instruments.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) retained responsibility for combating the Maoist rebellion, with the Armed Police Force (APF) and the Nepal Police often participating in operations under its command. The RNA had announced that it would

develop IHL training in 2002, following which the ICRC had worked with it to train IHL instructors. By 2004 the army had enough qualified trainers to conduct its own instruction in IHL, and it issued a directive that the subject be included in all formal training.

The ICRC continued to provide technical support to the RNA for training and the development of teaching materials. It also organized IHL seminars for APF brigades, with the aim of encouraging the force to introduce a similar programme of IHL training. The ICRC sponsored the participation of two officers, one from the RNA and one from the APF, in IHL courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Working with journalists, with the many national and international NGOs present in the country and with professional groups, the ICRC raised public awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL. This involved organizing presentations, participating in events organized by others and producing and distributing printed materials.

The ICRC also worked with Nepal's leading law faculty at Tribhuvan University to make IHL an integral part of its curriculum. It helped qualify instructors to teach IHL by sending four Nepali participants to India for the South Asia Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law. At the request of the Red Cross youth section, it also gave presentations on IHL to university students and teachers.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC retained its lead role for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Nepal, coordinating support to the Nepalese Red Cross from a number of Movement components active in the country. In August 2004 the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Nepalese Red Cross and the ICRC jointly prepared the International Federation's appeal for flood relief and cooperated in delivering assistance.

With the joint support of the ICRC and the International Federation, the Nepalese Red Cross hosted the yearly South Asian Regional Partnership meeting held in March/April and a meeting of the secretary

generals of the South Asian National Societies in November.

Attacks on its ambulances, offices and volunteers continued to seriously limit the National Society's activities in conflict-affected areas. The Nepalese Red Cross officially adopted the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*). By applying the approach with input from the ICRC, more National Society branches were able to work in conflict-affected areas once they had made contact with both sides.

With funding and/or technical support from the ICRC, the Nepalese Red Cross expanded its first-aid services and enhanced their sustainability, improved the quality and reach of its ambulance service, evaluated its blood bank, began planning involvement in mine action, enlarged the RCM network, distributed household items and hygiene products to victims of fighting, ran an outreach programme identifying amputees and transporting them to rehabilitation services, and maintained activities promoting the Movement, its Fundamental Principles and IHL. The National Society ran a campaign to reduce misuse of the emblem that had added to security risks for Red Cross staff or volunteers assisting people affected by internal violence, and by the end of the year reported that more than half of the country's districts were free of emblem misuse.

- 2,173 families affected by conflict assisted through the National Society
- 112 people trained in first aid so as to set up new services in 5 districts
- 200 amputees registered, nearly half of whom transported to Pokhara for assessment



pakistan

The ICRC has been working in Pakistan since 1981, when it began assisting victims of the Afghan conflict. In addition to providing support for operations in Afghanistan, the delegation in Pakistan promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the doctrine and theoretical and practical training of the armed forces and into university curricula. It also visits prisoners held in connection with the 2001 conflict in Afghanistan and seeks access to other categories of security detainees. The ICRC helps the Pakistan Red Crescent Society enhance its response capacity, particularly in areas near the Line of Control.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,520,286

Assistance

1,429,697

Preventive action

1,351,300

Cooperation with National Societies

587,802

General

14,033

► **4,903,117**

of which: Overheads **299,251**

PERSONNEL

21 expatriates

181 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC visited over 500 detainees/internees who had been transferred to Pakistan from Guantanamo Bay or Afghanistan, and made home visits to those who had been released.
- The delegation made an offer of services to assess the conditions of civilians in Waziristan and to visit detainees captured in connection with fighting there, but had not obtained authorization by the end of the year.
- The ceasefire with India improved security in areas near the Line of Control, where the ICRC assisted displaced people returning to isolated villages.
- The ICRC started helping amputees in isolated areas near the border with Afghanistan or the Line of Control to access rehabilitation services.
- Pakistan's armed and security forces advanced in integrating IHL into their standard training programmes.
- The ICRC co-sponsored a conference on IHL and Islam attended by religious scholars from Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

CONTEXT

Strong economic growth reinforced stability in Pakistan, but attacks and other types of violence highlighted the country's political and social fault lines. Two attempts on the president's life at the end of 2003 were followed by a series of assassination attempts on other key political figures in 2004. Sectarian violence between extremist Shia and Sunni groups escalated, taking the form of targeted killings and attacks on mosques. The resurgence of separatist activity in Baluchistan manifested itself in a growing number of attacks on government installations in the province.

Relations between Pakistan and India improved as the countries' top leaders met, diplomatic and commercial ties were strengthened and long-standing differences began to be addressed through the composite dialogue at various levels. The ceasefire established at the end of 2003 held throughout the year, improving security for residents of areas near the Line of Control (LoC) and permitting the return of internally displaced people who had fled cross-fire that had, in previous years, repeatedly threatened their security.

Pakistani forces heavily deployed in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas faced local resistance, and in March they intensified operations in South Waziristan. The area remained sealed off to journalists and international organizations as fighting there continued through the year.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan, though eased periodically by goodwill gestures, remained strained. The steady flow of Afghan refugees returning home from Pakistan was accelerated in August, when the UNHCR closed camps housing Afghan refugees who had crossed the border in 2001–02.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to expand its activities within Pakistan, developing and expanding the field activities it conducted from its bases in Quetta and Peshawar. Reaching new areas along the LoC that had been too dangerous to visit before the ceasefire, field teams assessed security and economic conditions in villages that had been affected for years by crossfire between India and Pakistan. With the National Society, they distributed assistance to displaced people returning to villages near the LoC. The ICRC also drew up plans to help amputees living near the LoC receive rehabilitation services, and did the same for Afghan refugees who had crossed the border since 2001 and lived in camps in Baluchistan and North-West Frontier Province (NWFP).

When military operations in South Waziristan intensified in mid-March, there were reports of civilian displacement and injury. The ICRC made a written offer of services to the government in March. By the end of the year it had not yet received authorization to visit either detainees held in connection with the fighting or civilians living in the areas affected. It had, however, assisted a small number of people injured in the fighting and transferred out of Waziristan for medical treatment.

Aircraft based at the ICRC logistics centre in Peshawar kept up regular flights for Red Cross and other humanitarian workers travelling to major cities in Afghanistan.

The ICRC continued to develop its preventive activities, promoting IHL among media, academic and religious circles and the armed and security forces. Noteworthy in 2004 were the progress made by the Pakistani armed forces in integrating IHL into their training programmes, and the deepening of dialogue on the relationship between IHL and Islamic law at an international conference of Islamic scholars. The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked with the Pakistani Red Crescent to promote its institutional development and provided funding or technical support for designated activities.

CIVILIANS

Assisting displaced people/returnees near the LoC

For years, crossfire between India and Pakistan had endangered people in villages near the LoC, causing sporadic displacement. The ceasefire in 2003 improved security conditions in areas near the LoC, and in 2004 many displaced people were able to return home.

In the high-altitude Northern Areas, people who had fled crossfire before the ceasefire had to stay in camps in Skardu until the roads to their villages opened with the spring thaw. To help some 700 displaced families survive the winter, the ICRC complemented assistance provided by the local authorities by distributing tents, blankets, stoves and other household necessities in camps. About half of the beneficiaries were able to return home in April, in time for the planting season, and on their route the ICRC gave each family a two-month food ration to see them through until the harvest. Others were from an area that was cut off longer, so they did not return until July. The ICRC visited them in their village and distributed staple foods and household necessities. Before the snow cut them off again, it sent a team of specialists to assess economic security, access to medical care, water supply and sanitation in both areas. Finding that the returnees had already regained their normal standard of living and could be expected to cope through the winter, the ICRC did not distribute further assistance. Meanwhile, ICRC engineers started small projects to improve water supply for displaced people who had stayed in Skardu because their villages had been destroyed or remained off-limits.

The rest of the LoC runs along Pakistan-administered Kashmir, in a more densely populated area with a milder climate and a lower altitude. Some 140,000 residents of villages in the area had been affected by crossfire for over two decades. When thus threatened, they moved to areas around Muzaffarabad and Bagh. In August 2004 the ICRC made its first visit to areas near the LoC in this region, including to the Jhelum and Leepa valleys and Bagh and Poonch districts. These places were in military zones requiring special permission to travel, making access more complicated. Some displaced people had already returned to their villages, but not all of those living in camps had clear-cut prospects for return. The ICRC found no immediate need for emergency assistance.

- 700 displaced/returnee families assisted
- over 360 tonnes of food, shelter and household items distributed

Maintaining family links

The ICRC and the Pakistani Red Crescent provided Red Cross message (RCM) and other tracing services. Most of the messages delivered were between detainees held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station, in Pakistan or in Afghanistan and their families in Pakistan, but some were between Afghan refugees who had difficulty communicating with relatives over the border.

- 4,354 RCMs delivered
- 29 travel documents issued

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC made regular visits to people who had been detained at Guantanamo Bay or in Afghanistan and transferred to facilities in Pakistan. When they were released, it followed up to confirm their safe arrival home. Detainees visited included 364 Pakistanis transferred to Pakistan from Pul-i-Charki prison (Afghanistan) in September. The ICRC initiated a post-detention assistance programme to provide tools, equipment or supplies for those who needed help in getting back to work, or to ensure access to medical care for those with health problems.

- 568 detainees visited (all followed up individually) in 3 places of detention
- 668 RCMs delivered to detainees
- 224 releases followed up; 92 released detainees assisted

WOUNDED AND SICK

Care for the wounded

Unable to visit the areas in Waziristan where fighting was going on, the ICRC could not assess the medical care available to the wounded. It did assist about 20 patients who had been injured in Waziristan and then transferred elsewhere for care, reimbursing their medical costs and providing the facilities treating them with medical supplies.

Rehabilitation for amputees

While Pakistan had rehabilitation services for amputees, only veterans received prostheses free of charge. In its visits to camps housing refugees in areas along the border with Afghanistan and to areas near the LoC, the ICRC collected information on about

500 amputees who needed new prostheses. Isolated by harsh winters, mountainous terrain and travel risks, these amputees could neither reach rehabilitation facilities nor afford their services. The ICRC identified local facilities that could provide the services they needed, and arranged for their care there.

For Afghan refugees in Baluchistan, the ICRC began support to the physical rehabilitation programme at the Christian Hospital in Quetta. It agreed to cover the centre's running costs, to introduce ICRC-developed polypropylene technology to improve cost-effectiveness, and to equip a mobile unit to fit amputees living far away.

The ICRC transported amputees from the NWFP to its physical rehabilitation centre in Jalalabad (Afghanistan) and arranged for them to keep their refugee status while being treated there. The Jalalabad centre fitted 169 such refugees with prostheses and 10 with orthoses. To offer a longer-term solution that would permit them to be treated locally in Pakistan, the ICRC began reimbursing the services of the Peshawar Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Services (PIPOS). PIPOS took the first of these disabled refugees in November, and by the end of the year had fitted eight people under the agreement. For the disabled living near the LoC, the ICRC made a similar arrangement with the Fauji Foundation at the Artificial Limbs Centre in Rawalpindi.

AUTHORITIES

To strengthen the authorities' commitment to comply with IHL, the ICRC sent officials on IHL courses and to events abroad. The Pakistan Research Society of International Law conducted a study commissioned by the ICRC to assess the compatibility of national legislation with the requirements of IHL treaties, which would serve as a basis for prioritizing implementation measures. The delegation also organized workshops in Lahore and Peshawar to familiarize civil servants with IHL and the ICRC.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In 2003 the Pakistani armed forces started a programme to integrate IHL into the doctrine and theoretical and practical training activities of the army, navy and air force. As part of the programme, the ICRC trained IHL trainers, briefed senior officers on IHL, enhanced the forces' expertise in IHL by

sending officers on IHL courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, developed IHL teaching materials and provided training establishments with reference materials.

The delegation gave briefings on IHL and the ICRC's role and mandate to members of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan, which were stationed at the LoC. It also encouraged provincial paramilitary forces to include more instruction on human rights and humanitarian principles in their training programmes, and conducted train-the-trainer courses on IHL/human rights for police in Sindh and Punjab.

CIVIL SOCIETY

To foster better understanding of the ICRC's neutrality, impartiality and independence, the delegation regularly briefed members of Pakistan's influential print and electronic media on IHL, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Fundamental Principles.

The ICRC had worked for several years to develop contacts with Islamic scholars in Pakistan, and in 2004 it worked with the International Islamic University of Islamabad to organize an international conference on the relationship between IHL and Islamic Law. The three-day conference was held in September and was attended by representatives of all the major *madrassat* (Islamic schools) in Pakistan, along with scholars from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

Several Pakistani universities had recently added IHL to their law and international relations curricula. To enhance their capacities to teach the subject, the ICRC paid for two Pakistani professors to go on an IHL course in Arabic in Amman and co-operated with the Higher Education Commission to organize an IHL training session for 20 others. It also taught a course in IHL for law students and chose a team to represent Pakistan at the Jean Pictet Moot Court Competition from among the course participants.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

A National Society with a large membership, the Pakistan Red Crescent Society concentrated on developing ambulance services, blood banks, disaster management and first aid. It also maintained an RCM network. The International Federation supported its disaster management and health programmes, and the ICRC supported tracing and first-aid training. The two international organizations worked together to encourage and fund the National Society's institutional development (including strategic planning and the revision of its statutes) and its work to promote the Movement and the Fundamental Principles.



philippines

In the Philippines, where the ICRC has been working since 1982, the delegation assists and protects civilians displaced or otherwise affected by armed clashes between the government and insurgent groups, primarily on the southern island of Mindanao. It acts as a neutral intermediary between the parties in humanitarian matters, visits security detainees and works with the Philippine National Red Cross through its network of regional chapters and local branches to assist displaced people and promote compliance with IHL.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,014,069

Assistance

249,701

Preventive action

553,435

Cooperation with National Societies

204,421

General

-

► **2,021,626**

of which: Overheads **123,386**

PERSONNEL

7 expatriates

58 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ICRC delegates visited 90 detention facilities housing 57,531 detainees.
- The ICRC ensured the safe medical evacuation of a wounded NPA combatant in Mindanao and facilitated the handover of two members of the armed forces by the NPA to government officials.
- The ICRC held numerous presentations and workshops throughout the country to broaden knowledge of IHL and Red Cross activities among the military, police and armed groups.
- The ICRC part-financed the medical treatment of 152 individuals who had been wounded in armed clashes and were unable to meet the cost of their treatment.
- A review of cooperation programmes with the Philippine Red Cross resulted in enhanced collaboration between the ICRC and the National Society in the fields of assistance and dissemination.
- The ICRC provided technical support to the Philippine Red Cross for its tracing activities when two typhoons devastated the north-east of the country in November.

CONTEXT

May saw political unrest in connection with national and local elections: during the campaigning some of the candidates were targeted and two bomb attacks occurred in Mindanao. The presidential contest was won by the incumbent, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, with Noli de Castro, a senator and former broadcaster, as her vice-presidential running mate. To meet the challenges facing the country, President Arroyo announced a ten-point plan in June.

Follow-up talks scheduled for the end of the year were suspended.

The government of the Philippines withdrew its troops from Iraq in response to the demands of hostage-takers who had seized a Filipino worker there. The hostage was subsequently released.

A team of observers from Malaysia and Brunei were deployed to Mindanao in October with the task of monitoring compliance with the 2003 ceasefire agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), prior to the resumption of formal talks. Despite occasional clashes and skirmishes, the ceasefire held.

The Abu Sayyaf Group remained active. Police filed multiple murder charges against six suspected members after investigators concluded that the group was behind the bombing of a passenger liner that killed more than 100 people.

The National Democratic Front – the political wing of the New People's Army (NPA) – continued talks with the government through formal meetings held in Oslo, Norway. The two sides formed a Joint Monitoring Committee in April to receive and investigate allegations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) committed by either side.

ICRC ACTION

In 2004 the ICRC continued its efforts to collect information about civilians killed, wounded or displaced owing to internal armed conflict or disturbances and relayed its concerns on their behalf to the relevant authorities. It focused special attention on the plight of children and women caught up in fighting or held in detention. All dissemination to armed groups, the military and civilian authorities stressed the protection owed to these vulnerable groups. Joint assistance programmes of the ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross continued to benefit populations in need, particularly in regions inaccessible to the ICRC.

Visits to places of detention to register and keep track of detainees falling within its mandate remained a priority for the ICRC. It also worked to improve all detainees' treatment and living conditions through a confidential dialogue with the various authorities.

The ICRC continued to support the national IHL committee in its endeavour to promote the implementation of IHL. The ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross worked closely with the authorities on the adoption of a law repressing grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

By conducting training sessions or providing expertise and materials to support IHL instruction for the armed, security and police forces, the ICRC pursued its long-term goal of ensuring the forces' autonomy in IHL training and the integration of IHL (and human rights law in the case of the police) into their doctrine, manuals and operational procedures.

The ICRC continued to raise awareness of and respect for IHL among the authorities and civil society. Particular emphasis was placed on promoting IHL in universities, which were given encouragement and support in incorporating the subject into their curricula.

The ICRC cooperated with the National Society to enable detainees to receive visits from relatives and to keep in contact with them through the Red Cross message (RCM) service. The two organizations also worked together to disseminate IHL to a wide range of audiences.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

A large proportion of the civilian population of the rural Philippines continued to live in proximity to the fighting between insurgents and soldiers and police. The ICRC monitored the situation of the civilian population following armed incidents in Mindanao, Mindoro, Bohol and northern Luzon. The organization investigated alleged abuses of IHL and presented confidential reports to those concerned, so that appropriate measures could be taken.

During dissemination sessions, the ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross stressed, in particular, the prohibition under IHL of the recruitment of children by armed groups and the obligation to protect women in armed conflict.

Barangay dissemination programme

For the fourth year the ICRC supported the *barangay* (village) dissemination programme, which aimed to increase knowledge of IHL among local leaders and civilian security forces. Some 150 sessions were conducted for 7,220 *barangay* leaders, health workers and schoolteachers, organized by local Red Cross chapters, mostly in Mindanao.

The displaced

Displaced populations in the Philippines were mainly concentrated in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago, and displacement in 2004 was usually short term, with only a temporary need for food and shelter.

The ICRC and Philippine Red Cross conducted field missions to assess the needs of communities displaced by fighting, and where necessary distributed tarpaulins and/or essential household items to families who had lost all their belongings.

The ICRC provided technical support to the Philippine Red Cross for its tracing activities when two typhoons devastated the north-east of the country in November.

- 274 displaced families assisted

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to places of detention and the individual follow-up of detainees registered by the ICRC remained a priority in 2004. Delegates visited all categories of detainees held by the Philippine authorities, paying special attention to suspected members of

rebel groups, individuals held within the broad framework of the "war on terrorism" and military personnel detained in connection with the July 2003 mutiny and the 2004 Kawal Pilipino coup plot. They also checked on the living conditions of ordinary detainees, including vulnerable groups such as women and children. The ICRC engaged in dialogue with the various authorities in charge of detention and lobbied relevant groups (including the Human Rights Commission and members of the Philippine Congress) in an effort to raise awareness of problems in prisons, to mobilize resources and to meet the most urgent needs of detainees.

Through a regular dialogue, the ICRC brought several issues of concern to the attention of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the responsibility of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. The Bureau and the ICRC signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize the ICRC's activities in places of detention under the Bureau's control.

The ICRC and the Philippine Red Cross continued to make family visits to detainees possible by covering their travel costs.

Assistance to detainees focused particularly on Antipolo City Jail in Rizal, which required specific attention and follow-up.

- 57,531 detainees visited (including 87 newly registered, 448 followed up individually, 14 women and 6 minors) in 90 places of detention
- 197 individual detainees benefited from the ICRC/National Society family visits programme
- 7 RCMs delivered to an Iraqi detainee
- building-maintenance projects carried out in 3 prisons: Davao del Sur provincial and Antipolo (water systems), Sorsogon provincial and General Santos city (accommodation)
- a three-day scabies treatment programme conducted for 310 young offenders at the National Training School for Boys
- 27,334 inmates in various prisons received hygiene, medical and recreational items (laundry and bath soap, disinfectant, medicines, pencils, notebooks, dictionaries)

WOUNDED AND SICK

Sporadic clashes persisted in various parts of the country, particularly Mindanao, with civilians wounded in the crossfire between

government forces and rebel factions. Medical care was free of charge in government-run hospitals and dispensaries, but the facilities often lacked medicines, blood and medical equipment.

In Mindanao, the ICRC:

- supported surgical treatments for 152 wounded people, including 132 civilians injured in bomb blasts, ambushes and indiscriminate firing in Mindanao and 14 members of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit;
- with the Philippine Red Cross, provided medical assistance to 6 civilians wounded in an incident with the NPA in Mabini;
- provided blood for transfusions for 18 victims needing surgery;
- fitted 29 prostheses and delivered 19 sticks and crutches, 2 braces and 7 wheelchairs.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to work closely with the Philippine Red Cross and the national IHL committee, as well as with government authorities and law-makers, to promote and support the incorporation of IHL into domestic legislation. Discussions were pursued regarding a draft law on the repression of war crimes prepared by the national IHL committee with financial and legal assistance from the ICRC. The draft bill was filed with Congress for consideration and approval.

Presentations on the ICRC and IHL were held for a congressional group studying legislation on internally displaced people. About 60 officials from the House of Representatives and Senate attended, along with representatives of the military, the government departments of health, social welfare and development, various government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The ICRC also participated in the first Asian Victims' Forum on the International Criminal Court, held in Manila under the auspices of the University of the Philippines and leading national and international NGOs. The ICRC legal adviser gave a presentation on ICRC activities for representatives of over 10 countries in South and South-East Asia.

A one-day seminar on missing persons was held in Manila and attended by international legal and medical experts from India, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Nepal, the

Philippines and Sri Lanka. The event was organized by the Indo-Pacific Legal and Medical Science Congress and co-sponsored by the ICRC. The delegation also took the opportunity to showcase some of its publications and to air the ICRC's film on the missing.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL and the army

The ICRC had established good cooperation with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) since 2000. ICRC-trained instructors based at military academies conducted IHL sessions as part of the regular training curricula. In 2004 military instructors trained, with ICRC support, at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, began conducting IHL sessions independently.

As part of the battalion- and brigade-level basic courses conducted by the army, the Philippine Red Cross and the ICRC were regularly invited to conduct sessions on IHL and the role and activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Information materials on IHL – leaflets, booklets and CDs – were distributed at the training and dissemination sessions. The ICRC financed the salary of a new National Society disseminator specifically trained to reach fighters on the island provinces of Sulu, Basilan and Tawi Tawi, in areas not accessible to the ICRC.

As in the past, special attention was paid to paramilitary units of the Citizens Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU), organized and supervised by the AFP. CAFGU members (farmers-by-day/soldiers-by-night) had little or no academic training, and remained an ICRC priority in the dissemination of IHL.

Among the notable achievements of 2004 were:

- the reintroduction of IHL instruction in the curricula of military academies;
- the training of a further 20 AFP instructors in IHL, conducted by the ICRC in cooperation with the Civil-Military Operations office of the Philippine Military Academy;
- the holding of more than 180 ICRC/National Society dissemination sessions on IHL for some 11,000 brigade, battalion or company members, CAFGU trainees and non-commissioned officers;

- the organization, by the Philippine Human Rights Commission, of a human rights/IHL advocacy course on the rights of the child for 175 military officers, conducted jointly by the ICRC and the AFP Civil-Military Operations office.

Philippine National Police

The Philippine National Police numbered some 118,000 officers who could at any time be called on to participate in counter-insurgency operations. A presidential decree made regular instruction in IHL and human rights law compulsory for the police in 2000, but the force still needed assistance in achieving full compliance.

In cooperation with the Philippine Red Cross, the ICRC:

- held 24 IHL dissemination sessions for 1,664 police officers and special action forces;
- raised awareness of IHL, the basics of human rights and the role and mandate of the ICRC among junior officers at the Philippine Public Safety College during their month-long advanced leadership course.

Members of armed groups

While direct contact with the leadership of most armed opposition groups was on the whole difficult owing to the lack of security guarantees and inaccessibility of mountain camps, in 2004 the *barangay* dissemination programme (see *Civilians*) resulted in IHL sessions for the combatants and supporters of both the NPA and the MILF. Dissemination materials on IHL and the Movement were distributed during the sessions.

The ICRC facilitated the handover of two members of the armed forces by the NPA to government officials.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL among tomorrow's decision-makers

Following the participation of a law professor in the IHL symposium organized by the ICRC in Kuala Lumpur (see *Kuala Lumpur*), the dean of the College of Law of the University of the Philippines announced the revival of its master's degree in IHL and human rights.

In Mindanao, two symposiums on IHL were held for 118 college and university students in General Santos City. Another two sessions were conducted for 55 political

science and law students of the University of the Philippines. The sessions included films and a workshop on the ICRC and IHL, in preparation for the university's first participation in the Jean Pictet international moot-court competition, held in France in April. The ICRC provided financial support to the university team and to students from the Ateneo de Manila law school who qualified to compete in the competition.

Two training courses on IHL for 49 university professors were organized by the Institute of International Legal Studies of the University of the Philippines Law Centre. The ICRC participated in the courses, provided financial support and distributed publications on IHL. Four university professors, two military officers, one police official and a National Society staff member were granted scholarships to the Institute, financed by the ICRC.

With ICRC support, the Philippine Red Cross gave over 500 presentations for more than 25,000 young people and adults, dealing with topics such as first aid, health, and disaster management.

The ICRC conducted several dissemination sessions on IHL and its mandate and activities for representatives of local NGOs active in similar fields.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Early in the year, a review of the ICRC's cooperation programmes with the Philippine National Red Cross took place, resulting in enhanced collaboration between the two organizations in the fields of assistance and dissemination. Cooperation continued to benefit vulnerable populations, particularly in regions inaccessible to the ICRC, and detainees, who with ICRC/National Society support received visits from family members.

Ten years after an Abu Sayyaf attack that razed the public market and killed a number of civilians in the area, the National Society created its new Sibuguey sub-chapter. With ICRC support, the nascent sub-chapter conducted two dissemination sessions for 309 *barangay* leaders in the municipality of Kabasalan.

In conjunction with the national IHL committee, the Philippine Red Cross organized a series of IHL seminars and round-tables with the University of the Philippines. The

National Society also worked to promote IHL in the media.

The National Society continued with its internal dissemination programme, briefing staff on the mandate of the Red Cross assigned to it under IHL. More than 30 sessions on IHL were conducted for over 1,000 volunteers.

In 2004 ICRC support to the dissemination activities of the Philippine Red Cross included:

- ▶ conducting 2 three-day sessions to train 55 volunteers (from 13 chapters) as IHL disseminators;
- ▶ holding a dissemination event for 150 staff members of the Zamboanga City chapter during its general assembly;
- ▶ overseeing logistics and providing transport for National Society disseminators;
- ▶ helping with vehicle maintenance;
- ▶ supplying tens of thousands of leaflets and booklets on IHL for distribution by the National Society;
- ▶ organizing a meeting for all chapters to introduce the ICRC's Safer Access approach (*see Glossary*).



sri lanka

The ICRC has worked in Sri Lanka since 1989. With the ceasefire between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in effect since 2002, the ICRC has focused on: protecting civilians from violations of IHL, including the recruitment of minors; helping the parties resolve the problem of missing persons; ensuring the safe passage of civilians into and out of the Vanni; supporting IHL training for the armed and security forces; improving primary health care and water supply in the north-east; and coordinating the Movement's action in areas affected by conflict.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

5,595,046

Assistance

4,060,713

Preventive action

1,281,748

Cooperation with National Societies

560,955

General

20,123

► **11,518,585**

of which: Overheads **702,913**

PERSONNEL

36 expatriates

285 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The tsunami killed some 30,000 Sri Lankans and devastated the country's coast. Sri Lankan Red Cross teams responded around the country; in the north-east, which was the area hardest hit, they worked with ICRC staff to deliver aid to shelters, help survivors contact relatives, distribute medicines and materials to hospitals and evacuate the wounded and dead.
- Before the tsunami, ICRC activities focused on easing passage between government- and LTTE-controlled territory by maintaining a presence at crossing points, and on helping the parties resolve the problem of the missing.
- Sri Lanka acceded to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property and to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its four Protocols.

CONTEXT

The ceasefire between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), signed in 2002, held throughout 2004. The Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission continued to monitor its implementation. The Norwegian government facilitated exchanges between the parties; these centred on the possibility of establishing an interim administration in the north-east but made little headway. Direct talks, which had been suspended early in 2003, did not resume. As delays wore on, tensions built up between the government and the LTTE, and reconstruction funding linked to progress in talks remained on hold.

In the north-east, services in towns and other areas near main roads improved, but some isolated areas still did not have adequate water supply, health care or other basic services. The effects of funding short-falls were compounded by several other factors: qualified professionals were hard to attract to isolated areas of the north-east; emergency organizations continued to withdraw; population shifts caused by the return of internally displaced people led to constant changes in the need for services; and restrictions left many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) unable to work in "high security" areas.

In March a faction from Batticaloa broke away from the LTTE leadership based in the Vanni. The commander, Colonel Karuna, was ousted from Batticaloa in a clash in April, but inter-factional rivalry provoked killings and other security problems throughout the year. Some 1,600 minors

returned home after the demobilization that followed the events in April.

In April the United People's Freedom Alliance, headed by President Kumaratunga, unseated the government led by the United National Front. In October the president set up the National Advisory Committee for Peace and Reconciliation, which was to serve as a national forum for consultation on the peace process.

On 26 December the tsunami hit. Devastating Sri Lanka's coastlines, it was the worst natural disaster in the history of the island. Killing more than 30,000 people, the tidal wave displaced hundreds of thousands more and destroyed homes, hospitals, schools and roads. The north-east was very hard hit: more than half of the fatalities occurred there, with Ampara the district worst affected.

ICRC ACTION

Since access to the north-east began to improve in 2002, the ICRC gradually cut back the emergency assistance intended to alleviate difficulties caused by years of isolation. The delegation then concentrated on two aspects of its protection activities that reinforced the peace process: assisting the parties in addressing the problem of the missing and facilitating trade and other movement between government- and LTTE-controlled areas.

While it maintained this focus in 2004, the ICRC slowed down its cutbacks in assistance as reconstruction plans faltered and it became clear that gaps in basic services would not be filled quickly. It prolonged and extended its programme of well maintenance, and further developed its support to Sri Lankan Red Cross preventive health services in the north-east (implemented as delegated projects by the Canadian and Norwegian Red Cross Societies).

The tsunami prompted the ICRC to shift its priorities, at least in the short term. Working closely with Red Cross branches and local authorities in the north-east, the ICRC immediately began to distribute aid to tsunami victims. It used up stocks that it had helped local branches build up in the north-east and purchased household necessities such as jerrycans, tarpaulins, blankets, soap and cooking utensils, distributing them to people who had sought shelter in public buildings. It evacuated the sick and wounded and provided medicines and other medical materials to hospitals. Engineering staff ordered or purchased locally pumps, tap stands, water purification tablets, chlorine and cleaning materials and began assessing priorities for providing safe water and sanitation facilities.

The day after the disaster, the Sri Lankan Red Cross, with ICRC support, set up a call centre in Colombo for people needing to contact relatives. In the north-east, the ICRC and local Red Cross branches made mobile phones available for the same purpose to people in camps. In the first few days, the ICRC set up a website to help stricken families communicate with relatives on the island and abroad and sent tracing teams to areas of the south and north-east. Red Cross teams helped transport remains to hospitals and morgues, particularly in LTTE-controlled areas, and the ICRC supplied body bags. The ICRC also coordinated National Societies working in the north-east.

CIVILIANS

Easing travel and trade

In spite of periods of tension between the parties, thousands of people continued to move in or out of the Vanni each day to do business, get health care, go to school, make pilgrimages, visit families and pursue other activities. This movement over lines – seven million crossings by individuals and 500,000 by vehicles during the year – was essential for reviving trade, restoring services and permitting development in the north-east, and helped strengthen confidence and investment in the peace process. In April, for the first time in over a decade, Vanni residents were able to cross lines to vote in a general election.

At the request of both parties, the ICRC stayed full time at all three crossing points (near Jaffna, Mannar and Vavuniya), serving as an intermediary when problems cropped up between the two sides. This presence helped ensure that people passed safely between government- and LTTE-controlled territory, and kept minor incidents from escalating. When the tsunami hit, the crossing points stayed open longer to let aid pass through the lines, requiring more staff hours to maintain the ICRC's presence there.

Helping the families of the missing

Thousands of civilians disappeared during earlier phases of the conflict, and a lack of systematic procedures for identifying the dead and notifying their families meant that many soldiers were missing in action.

Since 1990 the ICRC had collected information on over 11,000 people reported unaccounted for in connection with the conflict in the north-east. In 2004 it continued the painstaking work of updating and verifying these cases. It visited the families of those reported missing and broadcast lists of names in a bid to find those still not located. The ICRC also consulted Sri Lankan officials in a study of domestic law on the issue (see *Authorities*).

In July, the ICRC forensic coordinator visited Elephant Pass, the gateway to Jaffna Peninsula and the scene of heavy fighting in 2000. He found remains that might provide a biological profile for identification, and the ICRC approached both parties to discuss the possibility of exhuming them. It also developed a forum for deminers so that they could transmit information about remains found in the course of their work.

- ▶ 4,000 cases of missing persons updated through contact with families

Reacting to IHL violations

While other aspects of security had improved since the ceasefire, killings increased in 2004. Many were related to inter-factional fighting within the LTTE. Reports of the recruitment of minors continued through the year and were frequent and widespread. The ICRC collected information about IHL violations and presented its findings to the leadership concerned, urging it to ensure that such practices were stopped. Some minors were released, particularly after the demobilization of breakaway units; for those who had lost touch with their families, the ICRC worked with UNICEF to locate and put them back in touch with their families.

Ensuring sustainable water supply

Water supply in the Vanni had always been a problem, since shallow wells often ran out in the dry season. Government plans to establish the official "three-tier maintenance system" were delayed there by shortages of funding and personnel, so people in many rural areas had no means to maintain their wells. There were also problems maintaining wells in some areas of the east.

Two ICRC teams worked to maintain tube wells, repair or install new hand pumps and protect open wells in 179 sites around the north-east, managing to finish nearly all the work planned for the year. To help them maintain their own wells, the ICRC trained local caretakers and encouraged villagers to form consumer societies to cover maintenance costs. This work was done in consultation with bodies responsible for water supply, including the National Water Supply and Drainage Board. ICRC engineering staff also improved the water supply in hospitals at Mullaivivu and Puttukudiyiruppu, which helped the facilities provide better services both during flooding in November and after the tsunami.

- ▶ 90,000 people benefited from improvements in water supply
- ▶ 69 open wells maintained/rehabilitated; 114 hand pumps repaired/installed; 37 water-point protection basins built/repared
- ▶ 86 caretakers trained; 46 consumer societies registered
- ▶ 2 hospitals had water supply improved

Assisting in emergencies

In addition to aid to tsunami victims (see *ICRC action*), the ICRC provided Red Cross branches or local authorities with household necessities to distribute to a few hundred people displaced by factional fighting in the

east and to several thousand affected by flooding in Trincomalee in mid-December.

Making preventive health services more sustainable

As new medical services were set up in the Vanni, the ICRC closed all of its Mobile Health Teams providing curative care in the north-east. In 2004 it kept up its support to community health services because poor funding and staff shortages left preventive care patchy in remote areas. In a project delegated to the Canadian Red Cross, the ICRC supported Sri Lankan Red Cross Health Centres and trained community health workers staffing them. The National Society took on more responsibility for running the centres.

Supported through a project delegated to the Norwegian Red Cross, the Sri Lankan Red Cross launched a new health education project in Batticaloa district, covering 10 villages that had high rates of communicable disease. Although delayed by security problems, the National Society assessed the villagers' health problems and worked with local health authorities to plan the programme and select instructors. In October, 60 volunteers began training in health awareness.

- 24 Red Cross health centres were supported
- 44,248 consultations were given

Restoring family links

Freer movement and good systems of communication enabled Sri Lankans – even detainees – to keep in touch with family members by their own means. In March and April the ICRC helped reunite 11 demobilized minors with their families.

- 38 RCMs delivered
- 217 people located via tracing requests

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held by the government

The ICRC continued to visit detainees held by the government in connection with security issues. While there were no detainees killed by the tsunami, some prisons were damaged, and in one prison two detainees were killed in the panic that ensued.

- 204 detainees visited (including 102 newly registered, 9 women and 5 minors) in 54 places of detention
- 88 family visits to detainees funded

Detainees held by the LTTE

The ICRC made visits to LTTE police stations and some of its prisons. It saw over 300 detainees and requested access to others.

- 335 detainees visited in 18 places of detention
- 18 family visits to detainees funded

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC organized the fourth annual seminar on war surgery, which was held at the Jaffna Teaching Hospital in June. It was attended by 40 participants from hospitals around the north-east.

AUTHORITIES

Sri Lanka acceded to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in May and to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and four of its Protocols in September. It worked on translating an act implementing the Geneva Conventions into Sinhala and Tamil. While not yet party to the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, Sri Lanka did agree to submit, voluntarily, a report on anti-personnel landmines required under Article 7 of the Convention.

The ICRC continued its consultations with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the adoption of the Geneva Convention Act, assisted two Sri Lankan officials in attending the regional expert meeting on the Hague Convention sponsored by the ICRC and UNESCO in Phnom Penh, and supported the participation of an army general in the First Review Conference on the Ottawa Convention. Working with a Sri Lankan consultant, it began a study of domestic law related to the missing in order to provide a basis for improving legal mechanisms that could help prevent a recurrence of the problem. ICRC staff also explained IHL and the role of the ICRC to groups of officials in the north-east.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The Sri Lankan army advanced in its five-year plan, developed with technical assistance from the ICRC, to integrate IHL into its training. In 2004 it produced an IHL manual in English and conducted nearly all of its own IHL training, reaching over 600 officers and 9,000 rank and file in the field and over 370 officers and 4,000 rank and file in military training establishments. Army instructors also conducted most IHL training for trainers. ICRC delegates briefed senior officers on incorporating IHL into training and doctrine and applying it in operations.

To encourage the navy and air force to start similar programmes, the ICRC provided them with IHL reference materials, sent one officer from each force on courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy and organized seminars for senior officers.

The ICRC discussed the specifics of setting up an IHL/human rights training programme with the Special Task Force, a security force which conducts counter-insurgency operations.

The ICRC provided IHL reference materials to the LTTE, and conducted several sessions on IHL for several groups of cadres.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC kept contact with the media and made presentations to NGOs or international organizations, to explain its role and activities and to provide information on humanitarian issues.

The law department at the University of Colombo had incorporated IHL into its curriculum and was planning to develop a new course. The ICRC encouraged other law schools in the country to teach the subject, and sent a lecturer from the Open University of Colombo to Geneva for the ICRC's seminar on IHL for university professors. It also made presentations on IHL and the ICRC at colleges and universities in the north-east.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Sri Lanka Red Cross Society, one of the country's largest humanitarian organizations, had branches throughout the island. Its extensive first-aid programmes played an important role in the emergency response to the tsunami. The National Society worked with the ICRC to restore family links, promote IHL and, for branches in the north-east, to build its capacity to provide emergency assistance and primary health care.

To clarify their roles in a fast-changing environment, the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Sri Lankan Red Cross renewed an agreement covering organizational development and operational cooperation in May. The ICRC maintained its position as lead agency in the north-east, coordinating activities of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement there; these included a Danish Red Cross project for children in Jaffna, and a Canadian Red Cross project to build branch capacity.



ICRC regional delegation
 ICRC office
 ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

bangkok

The ICRC first established its presence in Bangkok in 1979 to support its operation in Cambodia. The regional delegation has since worked to promote the ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into military doctrine and training in all countries in the region and has supported the National Societies in developing their dissemination and tracing activities. In Cambodia, the ICRC continues to restore family links, visit detainees and assist people disabled in the past conflict. In Thailand, the ICRC has begun to visit detainees arrested in connection with the situation in the south. ICRC physical rehabilitation projects in Cambodia, China and the DPRK contribute to meeting the need for affordable, good-quality prostheses and orthoses in these countries.

COVERING

Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Republic of Korea (ROK), Laos, Mongolia, Thailand, Vietnam

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,034,429

Assistance

4,843,873

Preventive action

2,021,176

Cooperation with National Societies

1,217,468

General

33,323

► **9,150,269**

of which: Overheads **558,467**

PERSONNEL

27 expatriates

60 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC began visiting detainees held in connection with an outbreak of violence in southern Thailand.
- Thailand completed a bill on accession to and implementation of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, to be submitted to parliament for consideration, and began drafting a bill to implement the ICC Statute.
- The ICRC maintained substantial support to physical rehabilitation services in Cambodia, China and the DPRK.
- The ICRC negotiated a new agreement on IHL training with the Mongolian armed forces, and a national military training plan was put in place.
- The Cambodian military authorities agreed to integrate IHL into all future training manuals and materials.
- Particular progress was made in the implementation of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law education programme in Mongolia and China, which was due to be launched in the two countries in 2005 with the support of the National Societies.

CONTEXT

Following an armed attack on an army base in the Narathiwat province of Thailand on 4 January, acts of violence increased and positions became further polarized in the southern, mainly Muslim, provinces. The continued violence resulted in the destruction of buildings and property and left over 400 people dead or injured.

The tsunami caused by an earthquake off the coast of Indonesia on 26 December lashed six southern provinces of Thailand. Thousands of people were killed or injured.

The second round of six-party talks, involving the DPRK, ROK, China, Japan, Russia and the United States and concerning the DPRK's nuclear programme, was held in Beijing in February. The talks gave way to lower-level working groups set up to resolve specific issues ahead of the third round of talks, which ended in June without any major progress being made.

In May the Japanese prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, travelled to the DPRK. Following a summit with the country's leader, Kim Jong Il, the prime minister returned with the children – aged between 16 and 22 – of Japanese citizens abducted to the DPRK in the 1970s (who had already been repatriated to Japan). The children were then reunited with their families.

The second round of inter-Korean military talks took place in June in the ROK. The two sides agreed on a number of measures to ease tensions, after which loudspeaker

broadcasts were stopped and signboards were dismantled in the demilitarized zone between the countries. The Koreans resumed military talks in October, three months after pulling out of discussions because of a navy tussle in their disputed waters.

In Cambodia, a compromise finally ended a year-long stalemate over the outcome of parliamentary elections held at the end of July 2003, which failed to attain the constitutionally required two-thirds majority to form a government. A vote by Cambodia's parliament on 4 October removed the final legal hurdle to establishing a special UN-backed tribunal to try leaders of the Khmer Rouge.

ICRC ACTION

In 2004 the ICRC carried out several missions to the violence-prone southern provinces of Thailand to obtain a better understanding of the humanitarian consequences of the instability. In August the ICRC began visiting people detained in connection with the disturbances there. Activities for detainees held in Cambodia remained on course.

War-wounded patients arriving in Thailand from the conflict-affected border areas in Myanmar continued to receive medical assistance as part of an ICRC-funded programme carried out in cooperation with specialized local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The ICRC maintained its support to Cambodia's only prosthetic/orthotic component factory, run by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in Phnom Penh, and to the physical rehabilitation centre in Battambang. It also started renovating the Kompong Speu centre in preparation to support production in 2005. Furthermore, the ICRC worked with the Red Cross Society of China to support a prosthetic/orthotic workshop and physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming, which began to assist mine victims from the border region with Vietnam. Substantial progress was also made at the Songrim physical rehabilitation centre in the DPRK where programmes were carried out jointly with the National Society and the Ministry of Public Health.

To accelerate the development of national legislation for the implementation of IHL in all countries in the region, the ICRC continued strengthening its dialogue and cooperation with the relevant ministries. In China, the organization pursued consultations with the authorities concerned regarding the opening of an ICRC regional delegation in Beijing.

As in the past, the ICRC worked to ensure that the military authorities gave due attention to IHL instruction for their troops. As well as conducting its own training seminars and workshops tailored to the level of IHL integration already achieved by each armed force, the ICRC supported regional training initiatives.

ICRC activities to raise awareness of IHL among members of civil society were pursued, with particular emphasis on academic institutions. Universities were encouraged to make IHL a compulsory part of their curricula. Particular progress was made in

the implementation of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in China and Mongolia, both of which planned to launch the programme in secondary schools in 2005.

Through financial, administrative and technical support and training, the ICRC continued to reinforce the capacities of National Societies. It assisted them in developing their networks to promote IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to improve their tracing capacities. Following a three-month assessment mission, the ICRC decided to make cooperation with the National Societies of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam a priority in 2005.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

Hundreds of thousands of Korean families were separated by the 1950–53 Korean war. Since 2000, on 10 occasions, 100 people from each side had been able to meet up with relatives during temporary reunions organized by the two governments. Although the ICRC had no direct involvement in arranging these reunions, it followed the issue closely in conjunction with the Red Cross Societies of the DPRK and the ROK.

In Cambodia, the ICRC supported the National Society – in its fourth year of managing the tracing service independently – in securing the regular exchange of Red Cross messages (RCMs) between family members who had lost touch with each other during the internal armed conflict in the 1970s.

Thailand was host to more than 100,000 refugees from Myanmar living mainly in camps along the border. The ICRC visited the only Shan refugee camp on Thai soil and briefed the camp leader on its activities on both sides of the border. The ICRC also maintained regular contact with Myanmar opposition groups and various local and international organizations to monitor the situation of Myanmar migrant workers and refugees living in Thailand.

The ICRC delegation issued travel documents to individuals of various nationalities, enabling them to leave their host country legally.

- ▶ 2,780 RCMs delivered to civilians throughout the region
- ▶ 178 tracing requests received

- ▶ 62 people sought by their relatives located
- ▶ 37 travel documents issued

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2004 the ICRC continued to have access to all places of detention holding security detainees in Cambodia. It initiated a dialogue with the Thai authorities concerning access to people detained in connection with the situation in southern Thailand, and a first round of visits took place in August.

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the Lao authorities regarding the ICRC's offer made in 2002 to visit detention places in Laos.

- ▶ in Thailand, 80 detainees in 9 places of detention registered and followed up individually
- ▶ in Cambodia, 11 detainees registered and 128 followed up individually in 10 places of detention holding a total of 4,687 detainees
- ▶ 1,761 RCMs delivered to detainees in the region
- ▶ additional water tanks and new ground reservoirs installed, increasing water-storage capacity at a Cambodian correctional centre, and minor improvements to the sanitation and living conditions carried out; 2,000 inmates benefited from a scabies eradication campaign

WOUNDED AND SICK

Assisting the war-wounded

As part of its programme to finance the medical treatment of war-wounded patients from Myanmar, the ICRC continued to cooperate with international and local medical organizations working along the Thai-Myanmar border.

- ▶ 71 war-wounded, mainly with mine and gunshot injuries, assisted

Supporting physical rehabilitation services

Cambodia

Poverty obliged many Cambodians to live and work on land still littered with mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). Through its regional physical rehabilitation centre in Battambang, and by managing and partially funding the manufacture of prosthetic/orthotic components at the

national component factory in Phnom Penh, the ICRC helped ensure the provision of physical rehabilitation services in Cambodia.

The Ministry of Social Affairs agreed to the budget-allocation plan submitted by the ICRC requiring the ministry to cover 20% of the costs of prosthetic/orthotic production materials and utility costs for both the component factory and the Battambang centre. A plan of action was drawn up, which involved the centre assuming greater responsibility for its own management, and the factory assuming financial responsibility for the purchase of locally available production materials and equipment.

The ICRC gave a presentation on its physical rehabilitation activities to 48 prosthetists/orthotists attending two national meetings in Battambang. It also conducted a refresher course on correct use of ICRC components for 10 prosthetists/orthotists and bench workers from the Cambodia Trust and Veterans International.

The ICRC prosthetic/orthotic team carried out 21 field trips to assess the needs of amputees finding it difficult to travel to the Battambang centre. During those trips, the team:

- assessed the condition and needs of 2,750 patients;
- repaired 1,619 prostheses on location;
- delivered 1,024 crutches and 152 wheelchairs;
- arranged appointments for 1,047 amputees to have their artificial limbs replaced at the Battambang centre.

Battambang centre

- 373 new patients fitted with prostheses and 311 with orthoses
- 1,494 prostheses manufactured (1,363 for mine victims)
- 732 orthoses manufactured (14 for mine victims)
- 2,797 crutches and sticks and 289 wheelchairs delivered

In October the ICRC began renovating the regional physical rehabilitation centre in Kompong Speu ready to start supporting production there in 2005.

DPRK

In the DPRK, official figures indicated that there were approximately 36,000 amputees, a high percentage of whom had badly amputated stumps. In 2004, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the authorities, the ICRC conducted two training seminars on stump-revision surgery. More than 50 surgeons and nurses

from six hospitals and physical rehabilitation centres participated in the seminars.

A series of repairs were carried out to improve working conditions at the physical rehabilitation centre in Songrim. At the same time, resident ICRC staff conducted training, particularly in prosthetics, physiotherapy and English, for staff at the centre and participants from the Ministry of Defence physical rehabilitation centre. Training materials prepared and translated into Korean were distributed to all trainees and to Handicap International for use in the country.

Songrim centre

- 338 new patients fitted with prostheses and 18 with orthoses
- 381 prostheses manufactured (58 for mine victims)
- 11 orthoses manufactured (1 for mine victims)
- 350 crutches and 64 wheelchairs delivered

China

According to official estimates, there were some 280,000 disabled people in China's border province of Yunnan, many of them the victims of landmines and other ERW left behind from the war between China and Vietnam in the late 1970s. The newly established physical rehabilitation centre in Kunming, Yunnan, began producing artificial limbs at the beginning of the year. The ICRC started fitting patients in February, while continuing to conduct basic training in prosthetics for staff of the Chinese Red Cross.

Two candidates from the centre began their first year of a course at the school of the Chinese Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists in Beijing. The ICRC's national staff and all bench workers followed a 20-hour first-aid training course.

Kunming centre

- 193 new patients fitted with prostheses
- 313 prostheses manufactured (275 for mine victims)
- 4 crutches and sticks delivered

Vietnam

There were an estimated 75,000 amputees in Vietnam. Between 1989 and 1995, the ICRC helped the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Action set up production of prosthetic/orthotic components at the Ho Chi Minh City rehabilitation centre, and introduced polypropylene technology, increasing both the volume and quality of prostheses manufactured. The ICRC Special

Fund for the Disabled (SFD) took over this support in 1995, when the ICRC ended its presence in the country. The support was then redirected to the provision of prostheses for destitute amputees.

In 2004 SFD-sponsored centres continued to produce prostheses and fit amputees. Red Cross volunteers from provincial branches made follow-up visits to the disabled treated under the programme. Seven more provinces were included in the project, making a national coverage of 44 out of 64 provinces. (For more information, see the *SFD Annual Report* at www.icrc.org.)

Ho Chi Minh City centre

- 3,109 new patients fitted with prostheses
- 4,646 prostheses manufactured (3,252 for mine victims)
- 7,302 pairs of crutches and 32 wheelchairs delivered

AUTHORITIES

Throughout the year the ICRC pursued its dialogue with the authorities of the countries in the region to help accelerate accession to IHL treaties and their national implementation.

Discussions in Laos concerned revision by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao translation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols. In Mongolia, where the authorities were favourably disposed to becoming party to the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, the ICRC continued encouraging them to expedite ratification.

A series of constructive meetings were held with the Chinese authorities to discuss, *inter alia*, the establishment of an ICRC regional delegation in Beijing. The ICRC participated in the 17th International Congress of Penal Law held in Beijing in September.

Making further progress in efforts to ratify and implement IHL treaties, Thailand finished drafting a bill on accession to and national implementation of the Additional Protocols, which it then submitted to parliament. Another bill, on implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), was also under way.

With ICRC support, the Vietnam Red Cross worked with the government to develop national legislation on recognition of the status of the National Society and

to ensure that such legislation included provisions for the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems. The ICRC provided advice, technical support and sample documentation.

A regional meeting on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict was jointly organized by the ICRC and UNESCO in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in December. The meeting was attended, among others, by government representatives from China, the ROK, the DPRK and Mongolia. The ICRC vice-president also attended.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In 2004 China hosted a supra-regional IHL seminar in Xi'an, which was organized by the ICRC in conjunction with the People's Liberation Army and involved 40 military representatives from over 20 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.

The ICRC sponsored the participation of candidates from Cambodia, China, the DPRK and Laos in the 109th International Military Course on IHL at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy.

The ICRC again participated in Cobra Gold, the US Pacific Command's oldest joint military activity in the Asia-Pacific region. The command post exercise brought together members of the armed forces of the United States, Singapore and Thailand, as well as military observers from 13 countries. Training scenarios included crisis situations involving displaced people and refugees, mine clearance and relief assistance.

In Cambodia, negotiations regarding the production of IHL training materials remained on course, and the military authorities agreed to integrate IHL into all the forces' future training manuals and materials. The ICRC conducted a train-the-trainer course for the armed forces in March.

In Mongolia, the ICRC held several meetings with officials in the Ministry of Defence, the National Society and a border guards' commission in order to revive cooperation in promoting IHL among the armed forces. The ICRC negotiated a new agreement with the Mongolian armed forces, and an IHL training programme was put in place. The ICRC continued to sponsor a retired officer

from the Mongolian armed forces to carry out various training activities for the forces.

In 2004 the ICRC conducted IHL seminars and workshops, each lasting two or three days, for:

- ▶ 15 senior officers from the Korean People's Army (DPRK);
- ▶ 25 IHL instructors from the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces;
- ▶ 26 command staff and officers from the Lao People's Army;
- ▶ 30 senior officers, appointed professors and military instructors at the National Defence University in Taiwan.

Furthermore, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL to:

- ▶ 320 officer cadets and officers at military academies in China, and 30 French-speaking and 40 English-speaking foreign officers being trained with them;
- ▶ 100 officer cadets at a military academy in Thailand;
- ▶ 20 representatives of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, part of the ROK Defence Ministry.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In China, the ICRC website in Chinese, launched in early 2003, provided regularly updated news and information highlights, and its database of IHL documents was steadily improved.

The ICRC held a series of meetings with NGOs active in the region along the Thai/Myanmar border to keep them updated on its activities in Myanmar. With the Thai Red Cross, the ICRC conducted dissemination sessions for more than 500 representatives of the army and police, civil servants and Red Cross volunteers.

Tomorrow's decision-makers

In conjunction with the law faculty of the University of Fudan, China, the ICRC organized a symposium on weapons and IHL, which brought together scientists, politicians and the military to discuss and promote reflection on subjects such as weapons and biotechnology.

Several IHL dissemination sessions were held for students doing master's courses in Thailand. The ICRC organized a one-day seminar on IHL for students from Prince of Songkhla University and the Yala Islamic College.

Promoting humanitarian principles in schools

During meetings in Mongolia, representatives of the Ministry of Education and the Mongolian Red Cross Society showed great interest in the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law secondary-school programme. In May the ICRC participated in a preliminary seminar organized in cooperation with the Mongolian Red Cross to familiarize a group of teachers and ministry representatives with the programme. A second training seminar was organized by the ICRC in Ulaanbaatar, with strong support from the Ministry of Education, for 13 schoolteachers from five selected regions and three ministry officials. A pilot project was scheduled to start in early 2005.

China also decided to launch the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 2005. The ICRC gave a presentation on the programme for officials from the Red Cross Society of China and the Ministry of Education. The National Society, in consultation with the ministry, then chose 20 schools in which the programme would be piloted. In November, in collaboration with the Macau branch of the Red Cross, the ICRC organized a regional seminar to train teachers who would be implementing the programme. Fifteen teachers from China and Mongolia and representatives of the Red Cross branches of Hong Kong and Macau took part.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC pursued cooperation partnerships with the National Societies of the region, predominantly in the fields of tracing and dissemination. Through training and financial support, the ICRC also worked to build the capacities of National Societies in these areas.

In China, Cambodia and the DPRK, the National Societies continued to work with the ICRC to provide amputees with prostheses. The Cambodian Red Cross continued to implement a national programme on the collection and analysis of data on victims of mines and other ERW. The ICRC sponsored the participation of the National Society's mine-action coordinator in an ICRC meeting on mine action held in Stockholm, Sweden.

The ICRC carried out a three-month evaluation in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam to determine the impact of past and present cooperation policies and programmes. The evaluation also sought

to enhance cooperation programmes and the Movement's approach in the region. Based on the findings of the mission, priority in 2005 was to be given to cooperation with the National Societies of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. A full-time cooperation delegate was posted in the region to ensure follow-up.

Restoring family links

A tracing seminar, organized jointly by the Australian Red Cross and the ICRC, was held in Bangkok in May. The seminar brought together participants from 16 National Societies, and the ensuing plan of action was expected to consolidate the tracing network and improve tracing services.

The Cambodian Red Cross organized a tracing workshop and yearly review meeting at its headquarters, in which the ICRC took part.

In November the ICRC supported and participated in a three-day tracing seminar organized by the Red Cross Society of China. The seminar was attended by National Society tracing officers from 18 different provinces, who agreed on a set of guidelines and criteria to be followed in their future work.

Disseminating IHL

The ICRC supported the efforts of the National Societies both to promote IHL programmes within their organizations and among the region's authorities, civil society and the armed forces and to strengthen their capacities to spread knowledge of the Fundamental Principles.

With a view to strengthening the capacities of the National Societies to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles, the ICRC:

- gave a presentation on its activities and mandate for 65 members from provincial branches of the Red Cross Society of China; representatives of the Red Cross Organization of Taiwan, China, were among the participants;
- took part in a dissemination seminar, organized by the Red Cross Society of China, for 60 of its members;
- provided funding for and co-presented a general dissemination training session for 31 participants from the district and commune branches of the Vietnam Red Cross;
- co-presented a refresher course for 33 trained disseminators from the Cambodian Red Cross;
- financed the production of dissemination training files for the Cambodian Red Cross;
- financed publication of dissemination materials in Laos.

Disaster response

The ICRC assisted with a basic training course, the first to be organized by the Hong Kong branch of the Red Cross Society of China, which included a simulation exercise on disaster response. Twenty people took part in the training, among them participants from China (including Hong Kong and Macau), Mongolia, India, Afghanistan and Singapore.



ICRC regional delegation

kuala lumpur

The ICRC worked in Malaysia between 1972 and 1983 and opened a regional delegation in Kuala Lumpur in 2001. The regional delegation endeavours to gain a better understanding of the views and concerns of the leaders, experts and National Societies of the countries it covers in order to obtain their support for ICRC activities in the region and worldwide and involve them in reflection on humanitarian issues. The ICRC encourages the ratification and implementation of IHL treaties by the countries of the region and the incorporation of IHL into military training and academic curricula. The delegation hosts the ICRC's regional centre for IHL implementation and dissemination, which supports delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific in developing a coherent regional approach to promoting IHL.

COVERING

Brunei Darussalam, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

16,507

Assistance

-

Preventive action

1,387,883

Cooperation with National Societies

75,954

General

310,060

► **1,790,403**

of which: Overheads **109,274**

PERSONNEL

6 expatriates

13 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- In Japan, a package of emergency legislation – including laws on the implementation of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the repression of war crimes and accession to the 1977 Additional Protocols – was approved by the Diet.
- The integration of IHL into the training of the Royal Malaysian Armed Forces was consolidated with the production of teaching materials and the growing involvement of military instructors in IHL training.
- The ICRC continued to support the Ministry of Education in Malaysia in piloting the Exploring Humanitarian Law secondary-school programme, which by the end of the year was being implemented in 45 schools; the ministry confirmed its plans to include the programme in a draft of the national civics syllabus.
- The ICRC maintained contacts and strengthened its cooperation with all of the region's National Societies.
- Through its regional centre, the ICRC coordinated communication activities and provided support for the IHL-related activities of delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific.

CONTEXT

Malaysia and Singapore were among the countries affected by the tsunami in the Indian Ocean at the end of December. In both countries, lives were lost and property destroyed in coastal areas. The respective governments mounted their own emergency aid and support programmes to enable the inhabitants of the affected areas to rebuild their lives.

In October the Malaysian government declared a period of amnesty to enable all illegal foreign workers, regardless of their nationality or immigration offences, to return to their countries. Originally scheduled to finish at the end of 2004, the amnesty was extended until 28 February 2005 as a result of the earthquake and tsunami.

The violence and instability in southern Thailand remained a security concern for Malaysia. The Malaysian and Thai authorities agreed to conduct joint operations to combat the trafficking of humans and weapons and other forms of organized crime across their common border. They established their first-ever joint observation command outposts to coordinate border patrols and thereby reinforce border security.

Japan acceded to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions and amended its constitution to enable its Self-Defence Force to dispatch troops to southern Iraq to help with reconstruction; this was the first deployment to a country in conflict since the Second World War. In December the Japanese government

reviewed its defence guidelines, which included calling for Japan to participate in international peace-keeping missions.

Brunei's ruler Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah announced that he would be instituting some political reforms. On 26 September he reconvened parliament for the first time since 1962.

In a bid to enhance regional cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China, Japan and the Republic of Korea pledged to work together to combat emerging and resurgent diseases and the potential threat of terrorism with biological weapons.

ICRC ACTION

In 2004 the ICRC continued to assist with the training of military instructors in international humanitarian law (IHL) with a view to empowering national authorities to carry out this work independently. It conducted courses in IHL not only for officers of national forces, but also for those taking part in multinational military exercises or UN peace-keeping missions. It also gave advice and offered its expertise to facilitate the permanent integration of IHL into the training modules and tactical and operational instruction of the region's armed forces.

To encourage ratification and implementation of IHL treaties, the ICRC and its Advisory Service on IHL pursued a dialogue with the national authorities and developed contacts with key ministries and members of parliament.

Cooperation with universities and ministries of education aimed to promote the inclusion of IHL in law curricula – to ensure that future leaders would be well versed in the subject and recognize its importance – and to integrate IHL principles into secondary-school education. The ICRC continued to work with Malaysia's Ministry of Education on expanding the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the school system.

The ICRC strengthened its contacts with the media in the region so as to promote coverage of IHL and to sustain interest in humanitarian issues, particularly with regard to the armed conflict in Iraq.

The ICRC maintained its material and training support to strengthen the region's National Societies, specifically regarding their capacities to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

IHL communication support centre

The regional centre for IHL implementation and dissemination, established in 2003, continued to support the efforts of ICRC delegations in East and South-East Asia and the Pacific to improve understanding and implementation of IHL by the region's authorities, armed forces and civil society. In 2004 the centre broadened its scope, expanding its staff to include a delegate responsible for the promotion of IHL in universities. Otherwise, the centre consolidated its efforts to raise awareness of national and international humanitarian concerns and enhance

cooperation between the different countries and regional organizations.

CIVILIANS

The delegation continued to offer its Red Cross message service to enable Malaysians to correspond with relatives detained abroad, in particular in Myanmar, Iraq and Afghanistan. A growing number of travel documents were issued to asylum seekers awaiting resettlement in a third country by UNHCR.

AUTHORITIES

The Kuala Lumpur regional delegation maintained contacts with the authorities of the four countries covered, providing them with advice and the information necessary for the ratification and implementation of IHL instruments.

In Japan, emergency legislation comprising laws implementing the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the act of accession to their Additional Protocols was adopted in June 2004 by both houses of the Japanese parliament, the Diet.

The ICRC continued to provide the Malaysian Red Crescent Society with advice and documentation to help it support the government's efforts to establish a national IHL committee. An inter-agency group was created to consider Malaysia's prospects for accession to the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and other related matters. Discussions with the Ministry of Defence and the attorney general centred on the possibility of Malaysia's accession to the Additional Protocols.

In Brunei Darussalam, the ICRC held talks with the Attorney General's Chamber and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education and the Interior. In the course of these contacts the ICRC provided legal advice on a draft law on the implementation of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. At the end of the year the bill was awaiting submission to the sultan for approval.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

As part of ongoing efforts to support the armed forces in incorporating IHL into their training courses, the regional delegation held a series of discussions with high-ranking

officers and conducted IHL seminars for members of the forces. It also sponsored the participation of two officers in an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy and of six officers from Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore in the regional IHL seminar in China (see *Bangkok*).

In Malaysia, IHL training was already well established. IHL had been included in military doctrine but was not yet sufficiently represented in training curricula and programmes. Activities for the armed forces carried out or supported by the ICRC in Malaysia included:

- a one-week training course in IHL for 14 navy, army and air force officers;
- a two-day IHL course for 159 senior officers at the Malaysian Staff College, conducted in close cooperation with instructors from the Joint Warfare Centre;
- lectures and presentations for 135 officers at the Malaysian Peacekeeping Centre and the Joint Warfare Centre;
- financial support for the translation and printing of a handbook for commanders (2,000 copies) and printing of copies of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols.

Japan sent troops to Iraq to help with its reconstruction. Upon the request of the Japanese authorities, the ICRC briefed members of the country's Self-Defence Force on IHL prior to their departure. It also began to work with the Self-Defence Force to provide IHL training at home. It conducted a seminar for 35 senior officers and civilians from the Ministry of Defence.

The ICRC had been cooperating with the Singapore Armed Forces since 2002. IHL had been included in the forces' doctrine and a comprehensive theoretical IHL programme was taught in all military educational institutions. Activities carried out or supported by the ICRC in Singapore included:

- presentations on the ICRC and civil-military relations for some 100 officers ranking from major to colonel at the Singapore Command and Staff College, and for 45 officers during a course on police-support operations;
- a lecture for 28 army officers attending a peace-keeping course.

CIVIL SOCIETY

IHL awareness among the general public

In Malaysia, the ICRC strengthened its media contacts. Using such opportunities as its photo exhibition, "Society and conflict", and a media briefing on its Women and War campaign, the ICRC conveyed information about its work and IHL, thereby generating wide media coverage and public debate. Participation in the Asia Media Summit 2004, organized by three major academic and media institutions, enabled the ICRC to establish fresh contacts and to stimulate further interest in its activities and IHL. The organization carried on with its regular media-related activities, keeping editors and journalists abreast of its activities and providing them with a variety of related documents.

The ICRC started cooperation with the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre based in Singapore, which brought together media representatives and researchers from across Asia and the Pacific. A panel discussion on "Media and conflict reporting" was held as part of the centre's annual conference, and a seminar on the same topic was later held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

During the year the ICRC participated in a number of seminars and conferences involving members of civil society, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, international organizations and UN agencies. Activities included a one-day seminar held in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Institute for Development Communication (AIDCOM) to raise the media's awareness of humanitarian issues in general and those specifically related to reporting in conflict areas.

Working with the Japanese Red Cross Society, the ICRC made contact with some major media outlets in Japan. Issues that caught the media's attention included the ICRC's operations in Iraq and the deployment there of a contingent of the Japanese Self-Defence Force. The ICRC was on hand to provide the media with information on its mandate, activities and IHL.

Exploring Humanitarian Law

In Malaysia, the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme continued into its third year as a post-examination programme in 45 selected secondary schools using the 30-hour resource pack. In February the Malaysian curriculum development centre organized a review meeting for teachers

and officials from the ministry to discuss the findings of an evaluation of the 10 schools piloting the programme carried out in 2003. Two additional workshops on Exploring Humanitarian Law were then held in July and August. The first was an advanced workshop bringing together 17 teachers from schools already piloting the programme and participants from the Malaysian Red Crescent. The second workshop involved teachers from 28 schools that had yet to join the programme, along with participants from the Malaysian Red Crescent and the Indonesian Red Cross. Furthermore, the education authorities decided to include an IHL component in the draft of the new civic-education curriculum of secondary education for 15- and 16-year-olds, due to be implemented in 2007.

The Junior Red Cross youth section of the Japanese Red Cross agreed to proceed with the translation into Japanese of a sample section of the Exploring Humanitarian Law education pack, with ICRC financing. In August representatives of the ICRC and the Japanese Red Cross met officials from the Ministry of Education to introduce the programme and explore the possibility of its integration into the formal secondary-school curriculum.

The ICRC kept up discussions with the Singaporean Red Cross regarding the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in Singapore.

IHL and future decision-makers

In Kuala Lumpur, the ICRC organized a three-day symposium on the promotion of IHL in academic circles for 30 leading academics from China, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam representing faculties of law, political science, journalism, human rights and defence studies. The participants decided to create an Asian Humanitarian Law Forum to facilitate inter-university cooperation and to support each other and share regional expertise in promoting IHL in institutions of higher education.

In addition, contacts were established with two leading academic institutions in Malaysia – the University of Malaya and the International Islamic University of Malaysia. The ICRC, in collaboration with the law faculty of the University of Malaya, organized a national IHL moot-court competition, in which 15 students representing three leading universities participated. During presentations at other higher-education

establishments, the ICRC reached students of diplomacy and foreign relations and lecturers from teacher-training colleges.

The ICRC established contacts with the National University of Singapore and discussed measures to integrate IHL into the courses of the university's law faculty. ICRC support was extended to the Singaporean Red Cross for its programmes to raise awareness of IHL among students. The promotion of IHL was also discussed with the dean of the School of Communication and Information of Nanyang Technological University and with two professors, one of whom was running a 40-hour course on media and conflict at undergraduate and graduate levels.

In Japan, the ICRC sought to initiate activities to promote IHL in academic circles. Support was also extended to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in organizing the Asia Cup moot-court competition in Tokyo.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

An active member of the Movement since 1887, the Japanese Red Cross Society continued to operate a large, efficient network of blood centres and hospitals. It also offered the services of its Emergency Response Unit internationally, and in 2004 was involved in Movement activities in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Israel and the occupied and autonomous territories. With the support of the ICRC, the National Society conducted a seminar for 30 of its volunteers on IHL and the ICRC's humanitarian action.

The Malaysian Red Crescent Society was active in the promotion of IHL, for which it had established its own committee. The ICRC participated in the committee's quarterly meetings. The National Society continued its dialogue with the Centre for Counter-Terrorism and with the Ministry of Defence to advance the implementation of IHL, particularly with regard to a law on protection of the red crescent emblem and the ratification of the Additional Protocols and of the ICC Statute.

During a disaster-management course for the Malaysian Red Crescent held by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC gave presentations for 33 trainee volunteers on its Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*). The ICRC also provided the Malaysian Red Crescent with support in organizing various other training courses, including a basic

IHL course for 40 staff members and armed forces personnel and a two-day dissemination workshop for 22 National Society representatives at branch and national levels to adopt a dissemination strategy and plan of action for 2005. Furthermore, the delegation helped the National Society organize a national youth photography competition, in conjunction with Malaysia's National Art Gallery.

The Singaporean Red Cross continued to assist the ICRC in the dissemination of IHL. The ICRC supported the National Society in organizing an IHL debating competition along with the Debating Association of Singapore.

The Brunei Darussalam Red Crescent Society, formed in 1997, had not yet fully developed its role within the Movement. In 2004 the ICRC pursued efforts to establish cooperation with the Society.



ICRC regional delegation

new delhi

The ICRC has had a regional delegation in New Delhi since 1982. It visits people detained in relation to the situation in Jammu and Kashmir (India), Bhutan and the Maldives. It works through the armed forces, universities and the media in the region to promote broader understanding and implementation of IHL and to encourage respect for humanitarian rules and principles. It also supports the development of the Indian Red Cross and Bangladesh Red Crescent Societies.

COVERING
Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

3,046,844

Assistance

234,852

Preventive action

2,041,319

Cooperation with National Societies

882,947

General

-

► **6,205,962**

of which: Overheads **378,768**

PERSONNEL

22 expatriates

74 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC visited detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and kept up efforts to enhance the impact of its visits and to gain fuller access to detainees.
- The Maldives signed an agreement permitting the ICRC to start visits to detainees in early 2005.
- The ICRC continued to visit detainees held in connection with past disturbances in Bhutan, but the government declined its offer of services made in relation to the military offensive against armed groups from north-east India in late 2003.
- The ICRC began supporting Indian Red Cross physical rehabilitation services in Jammu and Kashmir, and joint ICRC/Indian Red Cross teams developed mine-risk education in affected border areas in Rajasthan and Punjab.

CONTEXT

India enjoyed good economic growth in 2004. With a view to strengthening its position of leadership in security matters in South Asia and raising its profile in global politics, it sought a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Parliamentary elections in May brought in a new government led by the Congress Party.

Relations between India and Pakistan improved as the two neighbours strengthened diplomatic, cultural and commercial ties at different levels. Border areas stayed calm, with both sides observing the ceasefire in effect at the Line of Control (LoC) since late 2003. The new prime minister, Manmohan Singh, met Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, in October, and groups including journalists and pilgrims crossed the border in a growing exchange.

In Jammu and Kashmir, talks began between the central government and leaders of the local opposition All Party Hurriyat Conference, but there was no breakthrough. In November the prime minister visited Srinagar and announced plans to pull out some of the troops deployed in the region. While attacks and clashes still took a heavy toll on civilians, fatalities recorded in official and other sources were lower than they had been for over a decade.

In Assam, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) continued their armed opposition to the government. In October the NDFB declared a six-month ceasefire with security forces. In Nagaland,

the Indian government continued to engage in peace talks with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muviah faction).

After launching an offensive late in 2003 to flush the ULFA and NDFB out of camps they had set up in its territory, the government of Bhutan announced that it had arrested dozens of people for helping the insurgent groups.

The repatriation of the Lhotsampas refugees, some 100,000 of whom had remained in camps in Nepal since the early 1990s, was stalled after Bhutanese officials visiting one of the camps were physically harassed. At the end of the year Bhutan announced that it was ready to resume the process.

Longstanding internal rivalries continued to dominate politics in Bangladesh. In the Chittagong Hill Tracts, tension between tribal groups and other populations persisted.

Faced with unrest since 2003, the government of the Maldives declared a state of emergency and arrested over 150 people when demonstrations there turned violent in August. In October some of the emergency measures were lifted, but a curfew and the prohibition on demonstrations remained in effect.

On 26 December the tsunami in the Indian Ocean devastated coastal areas in southern India and in the Maldives. In India, where 11,000 people were killed and some 200,000 left homeless, the government took charge of relief efforts. It also provided assistance to other affected countries.

ICRC ACTION

ICRC activities in Jammu and Kashmir included visits to detainees, support to Indian Red Cross rehabilitation services for amputees and first-aid programmes, and the promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) among troops, journalists, students and other groups. Security and working conditions remained good, and ICRC staff could travel freely in most parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

In Bangladesh, the ICRC provided technical support for the integration of IHL into the training programmes of the armed forces, raised public awareness of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and working methods, and supported some of the activities of the Red Crescent Society.

In January the government of Bhutan declined the ICRC's offer to visit detainees held in connection with military operations and to assess the need for other humanitarian action. The ICRC continued its regular visits to detainees held in connection with disturbances in the early 1990s, and looked for openings to develop preventive activities with the government and the army.

In October the government of the Maldives signed an agreement authorizing ICRC visits to detainees held in relation with political unrest in the country.

The regional delegation engaged in a wide range of preventive activities at national and regional levels, organized in partnership with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, government officials, armed forces, universities, the media, international and non-governmental organizations and professional groups. The activities aimed to strengthen the legal framework, training and education underpinning respect for the rules and principles of IHL. The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies coordinated their support to the National Societies in South Asia, fostering regional cooperation and information exchange, helping them strengthen their legal bases and supporting the development of their operational capacities.

CIVILIANS

Enabling refugees to travel

In close cooperation with embassies and UNHCR, the ICRC issued 495 travel documents to refugees in India who did not have the papers required to go to countries offering them asylum. Most were from Afghanistan, Somalia or Myanmar.

Preventing mine injuries

In programmes set up in 2003 with the technical and financial support of the ICRC, Indian Red Cross branches in Punjab and Rajasthan continued to develop mine action in areas along the border with Pakistan. Red Cross volunteers helped collect data, which was used to design mine-risk education in areas identified as mine-contaminated. This included mobilizing local media, training teachers, social workers and village leaders and developing materials such as leaflets and posters to convey messages about mine risks.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Jammu and Kashmir

The ICRC conducted regular visits to detainees held in connection with the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, some of whom were detained in other states. The delegation continued to raise issues of treatment and living conditions with the authorities at state and central levels and to request full access to detainees held in connection with the situation. It followed up on released detainees and relayed Red Cross messages (RCMs) between detainees and their families. It also covered the transport costs of needy families visiting detainees in prisons away from their home states.

In cooperation with the Indian Medical Association, the ICRC organized a seminar in Jammu for prison medical staff. It covered topics such as post-traumatic stress disorder and psychological care in detention.

- 1,356 detainees (including 524 newly registered) visited in 28 places of detention
- 256 release checks carried out
- 152 RCMs were delivered to detainees

Bhutan

The ICRC visited persons held in Chamgang and Lodrai prisons under the National Security Act of 1992. It maintained the offer, made at the end of 2003, to visit detainees arrested in connection with military operations against armed groups from north-east India.

- 59 detainees (none newly registered) visited in 2 places of detention
- 123 RCMs relayed between detainees and their families

WOUNDED AND SICK

Physical rehabilitation services

The ICRC began providing technical assistance to a physical rehabilitation centre in Jammu, run jointly by the state health authorities and the state branch of the Indian Red Cross. The support enabled the centre to start producing polypropylene prostheses using the ICRC-developed technology, thus improving the cost-effectiveness of prosthesis replacement and repair and making services easier to sustain. The centre started receiving patients in October. In addition to providing on-the-job training, the ICRC sent two staff members from the centre on a course in Bangalore. It also had discussions with the Bone and Joint Centre in Srinagar to plan support to the centre.

In Bangladesh, the ICRC's Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD) supported the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee artificial limb centre in Dhaka (see *SFD Annual Report* at www.icrc.org).

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC encouraged the Indian government to adhere to the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions, the Second Protocol to the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and Protocol V (on explosive remnants of war) to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. It provided technical assistance in the preparation of an amendment to the 1960 Geneva Conventions Act designed to provide better protection for the red cross and red crescent emblems. The delegation also co-sponsored a working session on IHL during the Second International Conference of the Indian Society of International Law (ISIL).

As Bangladesh had ratified most major IHL treaties, the ICRC concentrated on helping the government develop legislation to enforce their provisions. It offered technical input to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the drafting of a Geneva Conventions Act and gave legal advice on the drafting of implementing legislation on the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. To encourage Bangladesh to accede to the Hague Convention and its Protocols, the ICRC sponsored two officials to attend the regional expert meeting in Phnom Penh (see *Bangkok*); it also financed the participation of two officials from Bhutan.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Military forces

In 2004 the Indian army reiterated its commitment to further develop its IHL training and produced an IHL manual. The ICRC continued to encourage both the army and the air force to include IHL more widely in formal training curricula. It gave presentations on the ICRC's aims and working methods to troops either deployed in the field or leaving for peace-keeping missions.

The ICRC had trained a number of military IHL instructors in Bangladesh, and in late 2003 the armed forces agreed to integrate IHL into their formal training programmes. The three forces began to plan the process and develop instructional materials, and the ICRC trained more instructors.

The ICRC's plans to offer an IHL seminar and trainer training for the Bhutanese army were postponed until 2005.

To support the efforts of the armed forces to strengthen their IHL training, the ICRC:

- ▶ gave 4 presentations on IHL to senior army officers attending courses at the Indian Institute of Mass Communication;
- ▶ held IHL seminars for officers based in Jammu and Kashmir;
- ▶ gave 2 IHL courses for Indian air force officers;
- ▶ sponsored 2 officers from India and 1 from Bangladesh on IHL courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;
- ▶ conducted IHL trainer training for 10 Bangladeshi air force officers.

Police and security forces

Police, security and paramilitary forces worked alongside Indian army units to counter armed opposition. The ICRC offered to help these forces integrate instruction in IHL and human rights law into their regular training programmes. It also gave presentations on its aims and working methods to police and security personnel.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Media

To enhance the public's grasp of humanitarian issues and the ICRC's aims and activities, the regional delegation worked through India's highly developed and influential print and electronic media.

University-level IHL studies

India had a large and well-developed system of higher education, and IHL was taught in a number of universities. NALSAR University (Hyderabad) offered a web-based distance-learning course in IHL, and ISIL ran a one-year postgraduate diploma course in the subject. In collaboration with these and other universities, professional and academic societies and international organizations, the ICRC organized seminars, competitions and other events to stimulate interest in IHL and develop professors' qualifications to teach the subject. In Bangladesh, where IHL is not as well known, the regional delegation worked with the law department of Dhaka University to promote the study of IHL.

In 2004 the ICRC:

- ▶ organized the Sixth South Asian Teaching Session on IHL and Refugee Law, together with UNHCR and the National Law School of India University; 38 participants from 9 countries of the region attended the event in Bangalore, India;
- ▶ worked with ISIL to organize the fourth Henry Dunant moot-court competition, involving 42 teams from law schools around India;
- ▶ with UNHCR, supported 2 courses on IHL and refugee law: a one-year diploma course run by ISIL; and a five-day training programme at the National Law Institute University (Bhopal) for teachers from 4 states in central and western India;
- ▶ supported a legal literacy programme for college students, run by Kashmir University; sponsored leading scholars from India and Bangladesh to attend the conference on Islamic law and IHL held in Islamabad (see *Pakistan*); organized a workshop on the subject at Jamia Milia Islamia University in India;
- ▶ supported the development of IHL reference and teaching materials in India.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Working together to support the development of the National Societies of India and Bangladesh, the ICRC and the International Federation funded and organized meetings or workshops, provided technical advice and encouraged the National Societies to strengthen their legal bases by reviewing their statutes. They also supported National Society efforts to promote the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including campaigns to end misuse of the

emblem. In India, the nationwide emblem campaign was in its fourth year and had succeeded in reducing misuse of the emblem in more than 10 states by alerting medical professionals and businesses to the problems it caused; in 2004 the campaign focused on Assam, Bihar, Karnataka and Maharashtra. A similar campaign was conducted in selected cities in Bangladesh. Bhutan and the Maldives did not have National Societies.

The ICRC helped fund and gave technical advice to strengthen the activities of the Indian Red Cross and Bangladeshi Red Crescent in violence-prone areas and to introduce the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*). This support enabled both National Societies to boost first-aid services in troubled areas: the Indian Red Cross trained and set up first-aid units in Jammu and Kashmir, Tripura and Bihar, organizing the first such activity in areas near the LoC (Kargil); the Bangladeshi Red Crescent set up first-aid activities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts as part of efforts to expand its work in that remote area. During missions in April and June, the ICRC and the Bangladeshi Red Crescent jointly assessed needs in the area, and the ICRC subsequently provided relief materials, which the Red Crescent distributed to some 500 vulnerable families. In India, the ICRC gave technical and financial support to help the Indian Red Cross develop mine action in Punjab and Rajasthan.

The ICRC funded training and provided material and technical support to help the National Societies build up their tracing services. These focused on "stranded foreigners" (illegal migrants in jails, awaiting repatriation) and disaster victims. The Indian Red Cross helped trace family members of tsunami victims.



suva

Since 2001 ICRC operations in the Pacific have been carried out by the Suva regional delegation. The ICRC works to encourage ratification and implementation of humanitarian treaties and the integration of IHL into university curricula and into the doctrine and theoretical and practical training programmes of the region's armed and security forces. It also visits people detained in connection with past violence in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste and is assisting with the creation of a national commission on missing persons in Timor-Leste. The ICRC encourages the region's National Societies to integrate conflict preparedness and response into their overall emergency-response management. It is also working with the International Federation to prepare the fledgling Timor-Leste Red Cross for recognition and admission to the Movement.

COVERING

Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Samoa and autonomous States, territories and colonies of the Pacific

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

461,282

Assistance

110,206

Preventive action

1,055,146

Cooperation with National Societies

1,348,051

General

6,098

► **2,980,783**

of which: Overheads **181,926**

PERSONNEL

4 expatriates

11 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The Marshall Islands ratified the Geneva Conventions.
- ICRC delegates visited detainees held in connection with past violence in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste.
- Contact was maintained with government decision-making bodies regarding ratification of and accession to IHL treaties.
- The ICRC continued to process information concerning people reported missing in Timor-Leste and supported the creation of a national commission to deal with the issue.
- The ICRC and the International Federation made significant progress in preparing the Timor-Leste Red Cross for recognition by the Movement and continued to strengthen the capacities of other National Societies in the region.
- The ICRC organized courses and gave presentations on IHL and human rights law for members of the region's armed forces, police and prison services, media representatives and students; the ICRC participated in an international conference in Australia, entitled "The Challenge of Conflict: International law responds".

CONTEXT

Comprising military and police personnel from Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga, the Australian-led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI) began its operation in July 2003 to help the Solomon Islands government restore law and order, rebuild the country's institutions and economy and carry out mine-clearance. The situation in the Solomon Islands was generally stable in 2004, although intercommunal tensions persisted in parts of the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal. For the most part, the RAMSI expanded its police presence and substantially scaled down its military force. However, following the killing of an Australian Federal Police Protective Service Officer, the Australian government sent a further 120 elite Defence Force troops to the country.

The governments of Australia and Papua New Guinea agreed on an assistance package – the Enhanced Cooperation Programme – involving the deployment of Australian police officers and civil servants to Papua New Guinea. Crime, violence and the problem of squatters continued to cause concern, and security remained an issue on Bougainville. The UN Observer Mission to the island, which was due to withdraw in mid-year, extended its stay by six months, keeping on three observers. On 15 December 2004 the government endorsed a Bougainville constitution, opening the way for elections and the establishment of an autonomous government in the province by July 2005.

During the year, on separate occasions, the Timor-Leste president, Xanana Gusmão, met the Indonesian president, Megawati Soekarnoputri, and her successor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, to discuss future relations between the two countries. The mandate of the UN Mission in Timor-Leste, which was to have expired in May, was extended for an additional year for security reasons, upon the request of the Timorese government, but with considerably reduced personnel.

In Fiji, the ramifications of the coup d'état in May 2000 were still being felt in 2004. The vice-president was tried and jailed for his part in the attempt, and a new vice-president was appointed. He was due to take office at the beginning of 2005.

ICRC ACTION

In 2004 the ICRC kept up its efforts to protect and assist people affected by armed conflict and violence in the region by monitoring the situation in affected areas. The organization also pursued a preventive approach by regularly visiting countries in the region and engaging in dialogue with a wide array of authorities and armed forces. It offered advice and financial and technical support in the creation of an independent commission to address the issue of missing persons in Timor-Leste. People in Timor-Leste who had been separated from their family members, mainly in Indonesia, as a result of former armed conflict were able to use the international tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) network to restore and maintain contact with relatives.

The ICRC visited people detained in connection with violence and armed conflict in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste so as to monitor their treatment and detention conditions. The ICRC submitted confidential reports on its findings to the detaining authorities in each country.

In 2004 the ICRC assisted the Marshall Islands in acceding to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Throughout the region, the ICRC provided advice and expertise to governments drafting national legislation to implement ratified treaties or preparing for accession to others.

The ICRC continued efforts to improve knowledge of international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian principles among the armed forces and police forces respectively and provided advice and training tailored to their needs. Furthermore, through regular contacts and briefing sessions, the ICRC raised awareness of IHL in media circles, to promote wider coverage of humanitarian issues in the region. It also maintained contacts with academic institutions to increase knowledge of IHL among their students, particularly those studying law, and to encourage the incorporation of IHL into their curricula.

The ICRC promoted knowledge of and respect for the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among the National Societies of the region. It provided financial and material support and training to strengthen their operational capacities so that they would be in a position to respond effectively in the event of armed conflict or tension.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

Although law and order in the Solomon Islands improved significantly following the RAMSI intervention, there remained pockets of insecurity, particularly on the Weathercoast of Guadalcanal. In Papua New Guinea, migration from the countryside to the cities, rising urban unemployment and the expansion of squatter settlements continued. The presence of tens of thousands of squatters mainly around urban centres led to clashes between landowners and the migrants.

Delegates carried out field missions to monitor and assess the situation of internally displaced people in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, during which they explained the role of the ICRC and the National Society to local authorities and community leaders. The ICRC also kept up a dialogue with the national authorities and security forces in the two countries, and made representations to them, where necessary, regarding the safety and security of civilians.

Missing persons

In 2003 the ICRC made a commitment to support the creation of a national commission on missing persons in Timor-Leste. The commission's role would be solely humanitarian: to clarify the fate of people unaccounted for as a result of the conflict in East Timor (1975–99) and, in cooperation with the Timorese authorities and non-governmental actors, to inform their families accordingly. The foundations for the formal creation of the commission were laid in 2004. The ICRC provided technical and material assistance, meeting regularly with future commissioners, offering advice on the drafting of the commission's statutes and funding the translation of various documents relevant to the work of the commission.

The ICRC maintained its support for the tracing activities of the Timor-Leste Red Cross and began preparing it to play a role in the future national commission on missing persons. In particular, it continued to ensure that the RCM network functioned well, enabling civilians in Timor-Leste separated from family members in Indonesia and abroad to restore and/or maintain contact with them. The ICRC also processed tracing requests with the aim of reuniting individuals in Timor-Leste, especially children, with members of their families in Indonesia.

- ▶ 419 RCMs delivered in the region
- ▶ 7 tracing requests received

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Fiji, the ICRC had regular access to all persons detained in connection with the events of 2000 and held in military barracks and other detention places under the authority of the Ministries of Home Affairs and Justice. Following its visits, the ICRC submitted confidential reports to the authorities.

The ICRC conducted a series of visits to detainees in the Solomon Islands. It also met the detaining authorities on a regular basis, and submitted confidential reports on the visits.

ICRC delegates carried out visits to Timor-Leste's three prisons to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees serving sentences for offences related to the militia violence of 1999. An annual report detailing the ICRC's findings during its prison visits in 2003 was presented to the Ministry of Justice. The ICRC renovated part of Becora prison in Dili to ensure a direct supply of water to cells.

- ▶ 7 places of detention visited (3 in Fiji, 1 in the Solomon Islands, 3 in Timor-Leste)
- ▶ 167 detainees visited (91 in Fiji, 45 in the Solomon Islands, 31 in Timor-Leste)
- ▶ 74 detainees newly registered (42 in Fiji, 10 in the Solomon Islands, 22 in Timor-Leste)
- ▶ 1,122 RCMs delivered to detainees and their families throughout the region

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to deal with a diverse range of political authorities in the Pacific, and participated in an international conference in Adelaide, Australia, entitled "The Challenge of Conflict: International law responds".

In 2004 the Marshall Islands ratified the Geneva Conventions, thereby becoming the 192nd State to do so. This left Nauru the only State in the world not yet party to the Conventions. The ICRC provided technical support to speed up Nauru's ratification of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols of 1977.

The ICRC held a number of meetings with governments in the Pacific regarding their accession to IHL treaties and the enactment of national implementing legislation. During discussions the Solomon Islands expressed its intention to ratify in the near future the

1993 Chemical Weapons Convention, and New Zealand indicated its readiness to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The ICRC participated in an IHL colloquium jointly organized by the New Zealand Red Cross IHL committee and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Discussions in Fiji and Papua New Guinea again focused on accession to the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. Meanwhile, in Fiji, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together with the Red Cross Society and the government to hasten adoption of legislation on the red cross emblem.

In Timor-Leste, the ICRC worked with the National Society, the International Federation and the ministries concerned to draft a decree on recognition by the government of the Timor-Leste Red Cross Society and a law pertaining to the use and protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL and the armed forces

The ICRC financed the participation of the members of the armed forces of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste and Tonga in an IHL seminar in Xi'an, China, in June (see *Bangkok*). The ICRC also gave presentations on its mandate and activities to 130 participants from 42 nations at the Australian Defence Force Command and Staff College and to personnel from the Force's Joint Operations Command.

Training for the armed forces in IHL had been conducted in Fiji on an ad hoc basis since 1997. In 2004 the ICRC held a workshop on IHL for 20 officers involved in training recruits. A long-term plan was being drawn up aimed at integrating IHL into the standard curriculum.

Well-established cooperation with the ICRC in IHL training in the previous five years had laid the groundwork for the Papua New Guinea Defence Force to carry out such training autonomously. A course on internal security operations was held for 10 members each of the Defence Force and the Constabulary, and the ICRC sponsored one army officer to attend an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Supported by two instructors it had already trained, the ICRC

conducted an IHL course for members of the Defence Force.

The ICRC initiated a programme to promote IHL among the armed forces of Timor-Leste in 2003, conducting a basic course in the subject and a train-the-trainer course. As a follow-up in 2004 the ICRC ran two training courses for senior commanders. Materials produced and translated for the courses were made available to the forces to enable them to conduct training on their own in future.

Humanitarian principles and good policing

Implementation of instruction in humanitarian and IHL-related principles by the Fijian police force was successful, although senior officers still occasionally requested ICRC support.

By 2004 the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary had incorporated the teaching of international human rights law and humanitarian principles into its curricula, and qualified instructors within the Constabulary were carrying out the training. The ICRC conducted a week-long course for 10 members each of the Constabulary and the prison services. A member of the force previously trained by the ICRC assisted.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Raising awareness of IHL

The challenge for the ICRC in its media outreach in the Pacific was to make humanitarian issues relevant and valid in the local contexts. With this in mind, in 2004 the delegation initiated a study to identify parallels between traditional customs of Pacific islanders and IHL and, on the basis of the findings, to seek ways of disseminating IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles best suited to the region.

During the year the ICRC:

- briefed 7 journalists from print and broadcast media in Papua New Guinea on IHL and the ICRC;
- organized 3 seminars in Fiji and Australia, during which activities in the region and protection of journalists in conflict situations were discussed;
- made presentations on the same topics to journalists and students on a journalism course at the University of the South Pacific;

- made a presentation on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities at a meeting of the Australia Member Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific;
- gave a presentation at a humanitarian forum organized by the Australian government's aid agency AusAID on ICRC protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict and the challenges posed by the blurring of military and humanitarian operations, attended by representatives of Australian government agencies and the humanitarian community;
- with the Fiji Red Cross, ran an IHL dissemination programme at the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre;
- gave a presentation on anti-personnel mines and the 1997 Ottawa Convention for lawyers, Red Cross staff and other interested parties at an event organized by the Australian Red Cross.

IHL and future decision-makers

The few higher-education institutions in Pacific Island nations continued to offer a full range of subjects, including law (in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea).

In 2004 the ICRC:

- set up an IHL dissemination programme at the Solomon Islands campus of the University of the South Pacific;
- maintained contacts with the University of Papua New Guinea, which expressed an interest in incorporating IHL-related themes into the curriculum of the newly inaugurated Institute of Governance;
- met a senior lecturer in the faculty of law at the Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, and gave a general briefing on its work in the region and the rest of the world.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Throughout the year the ICRC provided financial and material support and training to reinforce the operational capacities of the region's National Societies. It continued working with the International Federation to prepare the fledgling Timor-Leste Red Cross for recognition and admission to the Movement. Two committees were set up: one to draft new statutes and the other to oversee their implementation.

Restoring family links

A regional tracing seminar was conducted in Bangkok in May (see *Bangkok*), in which the ICRC covered the cost of participation of National Society tracing specialists. The plan of action that ensued was expected to consolidate the regional tracing network and thereby improve tracing services.

The ICRC also played an active role in a conference for Australian Red Cross tracing officers, organized in April at the National Society's head office.

The ICRC continued working with the Timor-Leste Red Cross to trace children separated from their families and people reported missing as a result of the earlier conflict in East Timor. In addition, the Timor-Leste Red Cross continued to deliver RCMs between former East Timorese refugees in West Timor (Indonesia) and their families in Timor-Leste. The ICRC started to prepare the Timor-Leste Red Cross for its future involvement in the national commission on missing persons.

Emergency preparedness

Throughout the region, the ICRC continued to work with National Societies on integrating the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) to help them better respond to the needs of conflict victims while enhancing the safety of their staff.

IHL promotion

The ICRC had discussions with the Australian and New Zealand Red Cross Societies on matters of mutual concern. It also attended a meeting of the Australian Red Cross IHL committee in Canberra and met members of the New Zealand Red Cross IHL committee.

The ICRC conducted a five-day regional dissemination workshop in Fiji for staff from the National Societies of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. Working with the International Federation, the ICRC continued dissemination to staff of the Timor-Leste Red Cross.

Support to the region's National Societies in producing documentation on IHL and other information materials continued uninterrupted; for example, in Timor-Leste, the ICRC helped the National Society produce its quarterly newsletter.



tashkent

The ICRC regional delegation in Central Asia opened in 1992. It visits detainees in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to ensure that their treatment and conditions of detention are in line with international standards. It fosters the teaching of IHL and humanitarian principles in armed forces' training programmes and in civilian educational institutions and encourages the ratification of IHL instruments and the adoption of national implementing legislation. The ICRC supports National Societies' efforts to boost their operational capacities, assist victims of violence and promote IHL.

COVERING

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

3,822,604

Assistance

968,837

Preventive action

2,357,538

Cooperation with National Societies

882,257

General

-

► **8,031,235**

of which: Overheads **490,138**

PERSONNEL

26 expatriates

99 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC began visiting detainees in Tajikistan and continued to visit detainees in Uzbekistan, but visits were temporarily stopped in both countries late in the year pending clarification of procedures and working methods.
- Visits to detainees continued in the Kyrgyz Republic, where the ICRC helped the authorities develop a TB-control programme in prisons; the ICRC obtained access to all detainees sentenced to death.
- The ICRC maintained its offer to visit detainees in Turkmenistan in accordance with its standard working procedures, and continued dialogue with the authorities on this issue.
- The Tajik government took on more financial responsibility for the country's only physical rehabilitation centre, and the ICRC scaled back its support.
- Tajikistan ratified the Biological Weapons Convention and completed destruction of anti-personnel mine stockpiles to meet its obligations under the Ottawa Convention.
- The ICRC and the Kyrgyz Republic signed a formal agreement clarifying the organization's legal status in the country.

CONTEXT

The countries of Central Asia grappled with border and trade issues, drug trafficking and disagreements over the allocation of energy/water resources. As each country developed bilateral links with regional and world powers, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Central Asian Cooperation Organization and other regional forums played a growing role in fostering a regional approach to common problems, especially in the domain of security.

Tashkent was shaken by several bomb attacks during the year, including the suicide bombings of the US and Israeli embassies in July. These triggered new arrests and the introduction of further measures to repress the activities of Islamist groups, which the government blamed for the violence. The Hizb-ut-Tahrir, a network banned throughout Central Asia, was particularly targeted by these measures. Advocating the establishment of a Caliphate through peaceful means, Hizb-ut-Tahrir denied involvement in the acts. Groups active in the field of human rights voiced concern at the situation in Uzbekistan. In April the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development cut back its loans to the government.

ICRC ACTION

Protecting detainees remained the regional delegation's first priority in 2004. It began visits to detainees in Tajikistan and expanded its activities in the Kyrgyz Republic, helping prison authorities there set up a tuberculosis (TB) control programme. For the first time the ICRC gained access to detainees sentenced to death in the country. In Uzbekistan, ICRC delegates visited detainees around the country. To cover these rapidly growing activities, the ICRC reinforced its staff in Dushanbe and Bishkek, and by mid-year more than half of the delegation's staff members were engaged in prison visits, reaching more detainees in Central Asia than in previous years. The momentum slowed in the second half of the year, and by the end of 2004 questions over procedures and conditions for visits had led to a temporary halt to visits in both Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The ICRC continued to request access to security detainees in Turkmenistan.

The government-run physical rehabilitation centre in Dushanbe continued to provide the only prosthetic/orthotic services available in Tajikistan. As the government took on more financial responsibility for running the centre, the ICRC gradually scaled back its support and focused on reinforcing the centre's technical autonomy.

The regional delegation maintained its preventive activities at both regional and national levels to anchor IHL more firmly in Central Asian law and practice. For years the main focus of the ICRC's work in Central Asia, these activities took on a lower profile as the scope for visits to places of detention increased and more resources were devoted to protecting and assisting detainees directly.

The ICRC and the Kyrgyz Republic signed a formal agreement clarifying the organization's legal status in the country.

CIVILIANS

Mines and other border security measures

The Tajik Mine Action Cell reported that since 2000 over 100 people had been wounded or killed by mines laid near some of the country's border areas. Some villages in the Kyrgyz Republic were also mine-infested. Poorly marked borders and other problems complicated clearance in frontier areas, but some progress was made in clearing mines in the Central Region left over from the Tajik civil war.

Tajikistan declared that it had finished destroying all of its landmine stockpiles to meet its obligations under the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines. Turkmenistan announced that it would meet the requirement as well, completing stockpile destruction by the end of the year, and acceded to IHL instruments that include regulation of mine use (see *Authorities*). The ICRC gave technical support to Tajikistan's Mine Action Cell in implementing the Ottawa Convention and provided funding and training for mine action carried out by the Tajik and Kyrgyz Red Crescent Societies (see *National Societies*).

The ICRC discontinued the monitoring of villages relocated away from border areas in 2000–01, after assuring itself that they were nearly self-sufficient and that the Uzbek government was attending to their remaining problems.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits in Uzbekistan

ICRC visits to detainees in Uzbekistan resumed in February 2004, after having been suspended the previous October. Making dozens of visits to prisons around the country, the delegation continued to seek access to two further categories of detainees: those still under investigation, particularly those accused of a connection with recent violence, and those sentenced to death. In December it suspended visits pending clarification of procedures and reconfirmation of the government's commitment to comply fully with the agreement it signed with the ICRC in January 2001.

- ▶ 663 detainees visited individually in 26 places of detention
- ▶ 69 RCMs delivered to detainees and 145 collected

Improving TB treatment in Kyrgyz prisons

In the Kyrgyz Republic, the ICRC followed up security detainees individually, most of whom were accused of association with banned groups. Previously, visits had been made out of Tashkent, but in January the ICRC based two delegates, an engineer and a medical doctor, in Bishkek to expand activities in the country's prisons. In March the regional delegation gained access for the first time to detainees sentenced to death. Blankets delivered before winter, in addition to those provided the previous year, served the needs of nearly all inmates in the country.

To reduce the spread of TB in prisons, the ICRC supported the Ministry of Justice's efforts to introduce a directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) programme conforming to the World Health Organization's recommended strategy. The ICRC provided technical advice and occasional assistance and helped mobilize funds from other sources. The ICRC assessed penitentiary medical facilities and conducted a nutritional survey in colony 27, which housed detainees with chronic TB; in November, it began rehabilitating water and sanitation facilities there. The ICRC helped create a working group on TB in prisons, bringing prison authorities together with health authorities and international organizations involved in TB control. It also gave technical input to help the government develop information-gathering systems for TB control.

- ▶ 47 detainees visited individually in 15 places of detention
- ▶ 42 RCMs delivered to detainees and 280 collected
- ▶ 5,000 blankets distributed to detainees

Starting visits in Tajikistan

From January the ICRC visited detainees held in investigation facilities and colonies and accused of crimes against the State, the constitution, the president and security. These included former fighters in the civil war and people accused of links with banned organizations. The ICRC continued to seek access to detainees held under the Ministries of the Interior and Security.

During the first half of the year the ICRC visited a number of places of detention in accordance with its standard procedures: registering and following up detainees, offering them the use of the Red Cross message (RCM) service and conducting interviews with them in private. The interviews gave a good picture of the detainees' problems, which the ICRC communicated through confidential reports to the local and national authorities concerned. The delegation also sought information on disabled detainees with a view to providing them with orthopaedic appliances as needed. Despite the promising start, the authorities suspended the visits in September, and for the rest of the year the ICRC sought to clarify the issues raised over the purpose and procedures of visits. After visits were suspended, the Tajik Red Crescent continued to relay RCMs between some of the detainees and their families.

- ▶ 206 detainees visited individually in 13 places of detention

- 58 RCMs delivered to detainees and 90 collected

WOUNDED AND SICK

Rehabilitating the disabled in Tajikistan

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Red Crescent Society of Tajikistan and the ICRC jointly ran the only physical rehabilitation facility in Tajikistan, located in Dushanbe. An outreach programme operated by the ministry and the National Society identified disabled people, provided transport to and accommodation in Dushanbe and made follow-up visits. The ICRC continued to offer on-the-job training for the centre's technicians and provided materials, scaling down its financial support as the ministry gradually took over this responsibility.

- 358 prostheses (including 37 for mine victims) and 209 orthoses delivered
- 101 new patients fitted with prostheses and 123 with orthoses
- 11 wheelchairs and 174 pairs of crutches delivered

AUTHORITIES

After a series of consultations, the Uzbek parliament adopted a new law on the emblem. In December Tajikistan ratified the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. Turkmenistan acceded to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocol I on non-detectable fragments and Amended Protocol II on mines, booby-traps and other devices.

The ICRC maintained a regular dialogue with the authorities in Central Asia in order to encourage them to accede to IHL treaties and to adopt national implementing measures, providing them with training and technical assistance in this process. It sponsored representatives from Uzbekistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan to attend the regional conference on the protection of cultural property in time of armed conflict (see *Moscow*), and helped fund official translations of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols into Kazakh and Uzbek languages.

In Tajikistan, the ICRC helped organize a national workshop on the implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, held in Dushanbe in October on the initiative of a Tajik non-governmental organization; it also provided

technical assistance to Tajikistan's Mine Action Cell (see *Civilians*) and helped sponsor the Tajik delegation's participation in the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World (see *Nairobi*).

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

With the aim of strengthening the commitment of the armed forces to provide IHL training independently, the ICRC had encouraged key ministries to issue orders for the forces to comply with IHL and to integrate it into standard training programmes; some ministries had done so but without including guidelines detailed enough to ensure systematic training.

In 2004 the ICRC focused on encouraging armed forces in Central Asia to extend IHL training beyond legal departments and academies to practical training and application in the field. It submitted a paper to the Ministries of Defence of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic offering suggestions on how to achieve this. In June it held a regional seminar in Uzbekistan on integrating IHL into different military training cycles.

To reinforce IHL expertise in the armed forces, the ICRC helped fund the second annual Al-Farabi IHL competition held in Almaty in October, in which seven teams from military training institutes in Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan participated. It also sponsored military officers from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to attend the IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, and sent the winners of the 2003 Al-Farabi competition to take part in the Skobelev IHL competition in Kazan (see *Moscow*).

The ICRC also gave presentations on IHL and the role of the ICRC to troops in selected areas of Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and held a five-day seminar on IHL and human rights law in Dushanbe for senior officers of the Tajik police and security forces. The possibility of conducting similar activities in Turkmenistan only began to open up towards the end of 2004.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Institutionalizing IHL instruction

Since independence, the education systems of Central Asian States have faced new demands and had fewer resources. Under the Soviet system, studies in public international law (including IHL) were centralized in Moscow and were therefore relatively underdeveloped in Central Asia. Since then, universities in the region have benefited from the ICRC's support in developing their IHL expertise and teaching materials and in conducting research on the subject. By 2004, the region's main universities were teaching IHL, but the quality and sustainability of the instruction was not yet ensured.

Secondary-school systems had to redesign curricula and materials to support new national identities after independence but had few resources for the task. The ICRC helped Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan develop textbooks in local languages, with lessons on the principles underlying IHL. Once these programmes were off the ground and under way nationwide, the ICRC sought ways to institutionalize the teaching of humanitarian principles so it would continue without external support. This involved getting the subject included in the official standards that determined curricula. In 2004 the ICRC signed agreements with the education authorities in Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic, setting out the steps to be taken to maintain IHL teaching independently in both secondary schools and universities. In Tajikistan, it carried out an evaluation of the secondary-school programme with a view to developing an exit strategy.

In 2004 the ICRC:

- organized the 5th Central Asian IHL competition in Issykul, in the Kyrgyz Republic in May for teams from universities;
- sponsored students and professors to attend IHL courses co-organized by National Societies in Warsaw and Berlin;
- organized a regional workshop on topical issues in contemporary IHL in Tashkent, attended by 28 university lecturers;
- held seminars for instructors in State teacher-training institutes in Uzbekistan to enable them to train teachers to give IHL lessons in secondary schools;
- updated textbooks used in secondary schools in Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic;

- ▶ worked through the National Society to develop modules for use in promoting IHL in Turkmenistan;
- ▶ explored avenues for starting an Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for youth in Kazakhstan.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Central Asian Red Crescent Societies had activities to promote IHL, tracing services and youth programmes. The ICRC worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to help the National Societies develop legal frameworks for independent action and to strengthen their operational capacities.

Recognized as a fully fledged National Society and admitted to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement at the end of the previous year, in 2004 the Red Crescent Society of Kazakhstan urged the government to issue a decree clarifying its tasks as a National Society. In Uzbekistan the National Society worked on revising its statutes, and the Kyrgyz Red Crescent worked with the Danish Red Cross on a project to develop its branches.

The Red Crescent Societies of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyz Republic also conducted mine-action programmes. Tajik Red Crescent and ICRC mine-action staff participated in an assessment conducted by the Tajik Mine Action Cell in the Rasht Valley (Central Region) in October. The ICRC's offer to help set up mine-risk education activities in Uzbekistan was declined.

In 2004 the ICRC:

- ▶ helped fund and organize (with the International Federation) a workshop on management skills for regional National Societies;
- ▶ introduced National Societies to the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) at a regional seminar in March;
- ▶ organized mine-risk education training seminars for volunteers and helped fund other mine-action activities in the Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan;
- ▶ continued to provide technical and financial support for National Society activities to promote IHL, restore family links, provide first aid and reinforce conflict preparedness.



ICRC visits to detention facilities allow detainees to maintain contact with their loved ones.

EUROPE DELEGATIONS

Armenia
Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Serbia and Montenegro

EUROPE REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Budapest
Kyiv
Moscow
Skopje
Ankara
Brussels
International Tracing Service
London
Paris

THE AMERICAS DELEGATIONS

Colombia
Haiti

THE AMERICAS REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Buenos Aires
Caracas
Lima
Mexico City
Washington
New York

EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS



EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

22,836,273

Assistance

65,208,039

Preventive action

33,338,118

Cooperation with National Societies

12,140,677

General

174,688

133,697,795 of which: Overheads **8,081,263**

⊕ ICRC delegation

⊕ ICRC regional delegation

⊕ ICRC mission

Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe, plus Washington

Within the region, the ICRC continued to focus on three main activities. First, it worked on behalf of people deprived of their freedom across the region, to ensure that they were provided with adequate facilities and benefited from the legal guarantees to which they were entitled under international humanitarian law (IHL) and international customary law. Where necessary, the ICRC also assisted families in visiting their detained relatives.

Second, the ICRC remained actively involved in the missing persons issue, supporting the families of the missing in gaining answers on the fate or whereabouts of their loved ones and promoting dialogue among all parties concerned.

Third, the ICRC worked closely with National Societies operating in volatile or unresolved contexts, such as Kosovo or Bosnia and Herzegovina, assisting them in functioning in a reliable, independent and impartial manner. It also supported the National Societies in Croatia and Albania in raising awareness of the dangers of mines and other explosive remnants of war among civilians living in affected areas.

In addition, the ICRC continued to monitor developments in the region, standing ready to respond to any crises as they erupted, such as the violence in Kosovo in March.

In the Balkans, the ICRC undertook assistance activities for internally displaced people (IDPs), while phasing out other programmes. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the ICRC's income-generating projects for IDPs were completed by the end of the year and their impact evaluated.

The many still unresolved cases of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina remained a major concern for the ICRC. During the year, four stages of ante-mortem data collection in targeted areas were completed by ICRC-trained National Society staff and through members of family associations.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC looked into longer-term solutions for vulnerable IDPs from Kosovo receiving direct assistance. It negotiated with the Ministry of Social Affairs to include them in the social-welfare system, providing them with temporary cash assistance until they were able to begin receiving State benefits. Before all direct assistance programmes were concluded at the end of 2004, the ICRC ensured that a large number

of households benefited from in-kind grants, vocational training or micro-credits.

In the countries covered by the Budapest regional delegation, the ICRC pursued efforts to build an extensive network of contacts in civil society to raise awareness of its mandate and activities and of IHL. During the year, the ICRC strengthened its dialogue with the States of the region that had reaffirmed their commitment to implement IHL at national level. A number of these States created interministerial committees, with ICRC support, to facilitate this process. Cooperation progressed with existing national committees in Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia, while a national committee was created in Poland.

Throughout 2004, the Washington regional delegation, which covers the United States and Canada, pursued its strategy of advancing and intensifying its dialogue with the US administration on issues crucial to the protection of people held in relation to the so-called "war on terror" and on the continued relevance of IHL. In addition, the delegation continued to maintain close contacts with the Canadian authorities on ICRC operational and institutional issues of concern. Early in the year, an additional staff position was created at the Washington delegation to consolidate and enhance the ICRC's longstanding institutional relations with the US and Canadian armed forces and to establish contacts with private military and security service providers based in North America. The delegation also maintained and broadened its activities with the US Corps' Training and Education Command and its subordinate training facilities.

The ICRC delegations in Brussels and Paris sought to bolster their increasingly important role in international humanitarian diplomacy and to enhance respect for humanitarian principles and for the applicability of IHL in conflict situations.

From its communication office in London, based at the British Red Cross, the ICRC developed its network of international and national media contacts to ensure that humanitarian concerns were central to their reporting on situations of conflict. It sought to raise awareness and gain support among the public for the rules of IHL, particularly as they related to the treatment of certain detainees held in connection with the "war on terror".

In 2004 the ICRC maintained its presence in Ankara, strengthening relations with the

national authorities and the Turkish Red Crescent Society and promoting IHL within the armed forces and academic circles.

Eastern Europe

In Eastern Europe, the ICRC continued to concentrate on the northern Caucasus, where the need for protection and assistance was still immense and where coordination between organizations working in this context was especially important. Owing to the volatile security environment in the region, the ICRC's expatriate team remained based in Nalchik, Nazran and Khasavyurt, carrying out missions to Chechnya as conditions permitted.

Visiting people detained in connection with the conflict in Chechnya remained one of the ICRC's priorities in the Russian Federation. However, problems encountered in 2004 in carrying out these visits in accordance with its standard procedures obliged the ICRC to suspend them in September. Until then, delegates had visited places of detention in Chechnya, Ingushetia, Daghestan, North Ossetia and southern Russia, held talks with the authorities, interviewed registered detainees in private and monitored their treatment and material and psychological conditions of detention. The ICRC also sought to engage the authorities in a dialogue on clarifying the fate of missing persons and ensuring respect for the civilian population, in particular residents and IDPs in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia.

Across the northern Caucasus, the ICRC continued to provide vulnerable residents and IDPs with food and/or essential household items. In Chechnya, aid was distributed according to economic criteria in the main urban centres. In Daghestan, where there were very few humanitarian organizations present, the ICRC assisted IDPs from Chechnya. In Ingushetia, the most vulnerable IDPs, selected on the basis of State social criteria, were included in relief distributions.

The ICRC also continued to cooperate with the Russian Red Cross, strengthening its operational-response capacity by involving it closely in aid programmes in the northern Caucasus and building up its tracing and dissemination programmes.

The whereabouts of a Grozny employee of the ICRC, who was abducted in August 2003, were still unknown at the end of the year.

Across the countries of the southern Caucasus – Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – the ICRC continued to enjoy a high degree of acceptance. The issue of persons unaccounted for in relation to conflict, activities for detainees and, in Georgia, aid for the destitute were the main operational challenges facing the organization.

In Georgia, the ICRC began to seek more sustainable answers to the problems facing vulnerable residents and IDPs, with a view to reducing its assistance programme. To this end, it implemented a number of income-generating projects in 2004. It also continued to distribute food and other basic supplies to the most needy and to improve housing conditions in collective centres for IDPs.

Throughout the penitentiary systems of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, the ICRC continued to support the authorities in their efforts to bring under control the life-threatening epidemic of tuberculosis.

In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ICRC presented the authorities with updated lists of 3,000 names of persons missing in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict itself. In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC kept up its mine-awareness programme, including creating safe play areas for children in mine-affected communities. It also supplied health facilities in remote rural areas with basic medicines.

In the region covered by the Kyiv regional delegation, including Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the ICRC maintained its long-term programmes to promote IHL. These included the ongoing integration of IHL into domestic legislation and academic teaching and developing the capacities of its local partners to promote IHL proactively and independently.

The ICRC in Kyiv also continued to expand contacts with academics, the media, representatives of parliaments and non-governmental organizations in an effort to deepen their understanding of IHL and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Across Latin America and the Caribbean, the political stability of a number of countries continued to be threatened by economic and social problems, such as poverty, the growing gap between rich and poor, crime and migration. In particular, the disproportionate economic disadvantages of indigenous people continued to politicize ethnic

divisions in the countries where they had organized themselves to voice their demands.

In Colombia, where the only large-scale armed conflict on the continent was still ongoing, the ICRC continued to face major challenges in conducting its operation, both in terms of the resources required and the difficulty of carrying out neutral and impartial humanitarian activities in a context of persistent IHL violations. In 2004 the Colombian government pursued its military offensives against the country's main insurgent groups, bringing ever-larger swathes of territory under its control. During this time the ICRC reoriented its operation in Colombia to focus on "priority zones", where protection, health, water, sanitation and economic security needs were greatest. The ICRC remained the only major organization in Colombia with access to victims in the zones hardest hit by the armed conflict and with the ability to provide them with emergency assistance and facilitate health services.

Following the signing of a decree on prison visits in Peru, the ICRC was able to resume visits to detainees, suspended since autumn 2003, and to check on their conditions of detention. It continued to monitor situations of potential tension or internal strife and areas at risk of armed confrontation in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru and contributed to the strengthening of the capacities of National Red Cross Societies to respond to these situations. In addition, the ICRC worked with the authorities concerned to accelerate the ratification and national implementation of IHL, as well as supporting efforts by academic institutions in the region to include the study of IHL as a permanent component of their curricula.

From its regional delegation in Mexico City, the ICRC continued to encourage national authorities in the region to implement and accede to IHL instruments, while fostering the integration of IHL norms into the doctrine, standing procedures and training of the armed forces in Mexico and other countries of Central America. In addition, the delegation pursued its programmes with police forces in the region to promote the integration of human rights standards relevant to the use of force into their manuals, standing procedures and training.

In light of the general breakdown of law and order in Haiti at the beginning of the year and the persistent instability since, the ICRC established a fully fledged operational delegation in the country. At the peak

of the crisis in March and April 2004, the ICRC worked to ensure that wounded civilians had access to medical services and that humanitarian convoys could reach their destinations. ICRC delegates also monitored the conditions of detention of people deprived of their freedom and endeavoured to prevent abuses against the civilian population.

The delegations in Buenos Aires and Caracas continued to monitor the situation in the countries they covered and maintained contact with the authorities in areas where the potential for internal disturbances was greatest. They also kept up efforts to promote IHL in the region.

The ICRC continued to have access to security detainees throughout the five countries covered by the Buenos Aires delegation. In particular, during the prolonged hunger strike by detainees in Chile and following the arrest of hundreds of landless farmers in Paraguay, ICRC delegates and doctors visited the detainees and made written and oral representations on their behalf to the appropriate authorities.

From Caracas, the ICRC continued to encourage the Venezuelan authorities and those of the English-speaking Caribbean countries to bring national legislation in line with the provisions and obligations of IHL.

Throughout the region, where possible in tandem with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continued to strengthen the institutional capacities of the National Societies. This task was particularly important in countries in the throes of armed conflict, such as Colombia. In countries experiencing, or likely to experience, internal strife, such as Bolivia, Haiti, Guatemala and Paraguay, the ICRC focused on enhancing the National Societies' emergency preparedness, especially their first-aid and ambulance services.



armenia

The ICRC has been working in Armenia, in the context of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, since 1992. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees held in connection with the conflict, detained for security reasons or otherwise vulnerable. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis in prisons under control. It also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

590,851

Assistance

1,175,659

Preventive action

899,924

Cooperation with National Societies

159,789

General

-

► **2,826,223**

of which: Overheads **172,493**

PERSONNEL

6 expatriates

62 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC focused on addressing the issue of persons missing in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, by encouraging discussion on the issue, by submitting updated lists of persons unaccounted for, by maintaining contacts with the official commissions and by advising the *de facto* authorities of Nagorno Karabakh on the recovery of human remains.
- The ICRC carried out protection visits to vulnerable detainees or people arrested in connection with internal troubles.
- The ICRC continued to support the authorities of Armenia in implementing a TB-control programme in prisons, increasing their capacity to deal with the spread of the disease and promoting the involvement national TB initiatives.
- The ICRC organized seminars and courses on IHL for the armed and security forces, further developed the teaching of IHL in secondary schools and universities and continued assisting the authorities in implementing IHL treaties.

CONTEXT

The tenth anniversary of the ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan saw no significant progress in resolving the conflict. Talks on a peace settlement between the two countries went ahead, with several meetings held between Armenian and Azerbaijani officials under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) during the year. At the UN General Assembly session in November, the Azerbaijani delegation put forward a new resolution requesting a fact-finding mission (under the umbrella of the OSCE) in the seven so-called "occupied territories" around Nagorno Karabakh.

In Armenia, the opposition's campaign of street demonstrations gradually lost momentum over the year as internal differences over tactics resurfaced. The government continued to pursue a complementary foreign policy, whereby it sought to balance its relations with the United States, the European Union, Russia and Iran.

ICRC ACTION

The main priority of the ICRC in Armenia was to help resolve the issue of missing persons. To this end, it presented the authorities in Armenia with lists of 3,000 names of persons still unaccounted for in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

The ICRC visited and provided assistance to a small number of people detained in connection with the conflict, liaising with the authorities regarding their detention and repatriation. It continued to monitor the material conditions of all detainees, particularly vulnerable groups within the prison population, including women and minors.

As part of its continuing efforts to control tuberculosis (TB) within the Armenian prison system, the ICRC promoted better health care in prisons, in particular the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) strategy developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a means to control TB. It also engaged in dialogue with the Armenian authorities regarding ICRC support to the HIV/AIDS programme in places of detention.

The ICRC sought to expand contacts with the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and professional circles which had the potential to serve as relays to raise awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian issues and action. It encouraged the authorities to ratify and implement IHL treaties and promoted IHL among the armed forces and secondary-school and university students.

The ICRC coordinated its activities with other organizations working in the region, in particular UNHCR, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, WHO and the Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (the German agency for technical cooperation). It maintained regular contacts with organizations dealing with the issue of the missing, such as the Clasen Group. It also cooperated closely with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

CIVILIANS

Encouraging dialogue on the missing persons issue

At every opportunity, the ICRC reiterated the duty of the authorities to provide clear answers to the thousands of families still without news of the fate or whereabouts of relatives missing in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. As part of the process, the ICRC submitted updated lists, containing the names of 3,000 people unaccounted for in relation to the conflict, to the Armenian authorities.

While maintaining contacts with the commissions set up to address the issue of the missing, the ICRC continued to remind the authorities of their obligations under IHL and sought to convince them of the need to establish mechanisms to deal comprehensively with this issue.

To keep the subject high on the agenda in Armenia, the ICRC dubbed the video *The Missing: End the Silence* into Armenian. In addition, it organized a number of meetings between an ICRC forensic expert and Armenian authorities and forensic experts.

- ▶ 3,145 tracing requests in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict received since 1992

Family contact through Red Cross messages

With telephone and postal links between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh still disrupted as a result of the conflict, the Red Cross message (RCM) service was the only way for some people to maintain contact with family members from whom they had been separated as a result of the conflict.

- ▶ 335 RCMs delivered or collected
- ▶ 1 travel document issued
- ▶ 2 personal documents forwarded to Abkhazia

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visiting people detained in connection with the conflict

The ICRC continued to visit people still held in relation to the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh, as well as those detained for security reasons in Armenia proper.

- ▶ 69 detainees (of whom 16 newly registered) visited in 16 places of detention
- ▶ 23 RCMs delivered to detainees and 32 RCMs collected
- ▶ 13 detainees benefited from ICRC-supported family visits

Monitoring the situation of detainees

With access to the entire civilian prison population in Armenia, the ICRC monitored conditions of detention and treatment, focusing on such vulnerable groups as women, minors, foreign nationals and people serving life sentences. Where needed, the ICRC provided small-scale assistance to improve detainees' living conditions. An agreement was signed with the Armenian branch of the Union Internationale de la Marionnette for an ICRC-funded puppeteer programme for women and minors detained in the Abovian detention complex.

In addition, the ICRC maintained the RCM service for detainees wishing to exchange news with their families.

Containing the life-threatening TB epidemic

The prevalence of TB among prisoners, coupled with a high level of resistance to first-line TB drugs, remained a serious problem in Armenia. The ICRC maintained its firm commitment to the DOTS-based TB-control programme in prisons, monitoring it and advising the authorities on its implementation. It also promoted health education in prisons, provided medicines, laboratory supplies and equipment and arranged staff training in the country and abroad. The aim of the programme was to increase the capacity of the authorities to deal effectively with the problem and to foster interaction between TB management in the prison population and TB management in society as a whole. In addition, the ICRC completed a TB/HIV survey involving the collection of saliva samples and a behavioural study among inmates and staff of penitentiary institutions in the framework of a baseline study on HIV.

Detainees with TB continued to be treated at the TB department of the hospital for detainees in Yerevan. The ICRC also supported the Ministry of Justice in rehabilitating areas in other detention facilities to house TB patients (Goris and Noubarashen Criminal Executive Institutions).

The ICRC organized round-table discussions on the proposed TB-control programme involving medical staff from facilities throughout the Armenian prison system. On World TB Day (24 March) the administration of the hospital for detainees and the ICRC's TB team organized an open-house, allowing families of TB patients to visit the premises of the TB department. The follow-up of detainees released while under treatment proved successful, with two-thirds of them completing treatment.

- ▶ 149 patients completed TB treatment since 2002
- ▶ 109 prisoners with newly detected TB integrated into the programme
- ▶ 3 renovation projects completed in 3 detention facilities benefiting some 3,200 inmates per year
- ▶ 1 government official participated in the TB management course in Warsaw (Poland), 2 laboratory specialists from the Ministry of Justice trained in TB lab-management in Warsaw, 1 TB doctor from the ministry participated in the regional conference of the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in Moscow (Russian Federation), 2 TB specialists from the ministry participated in TB drug-management training in Tbilisi (Georgia), and 3 laboratory specialists travelled to Tbilisi on a regional exchange
- ▶ two-day seminar on collaboration between civilian and penitentiary TB-control programmes in Armenia organized

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC paid for three surgeons from the Armenian Ministry of Defence to attend a war-surgery seminar in Moscow.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained regular contacts with the authorities concerned with the national implementation of IHL, providing them with advice and technical support in incorporating it into domestic legislation, in

particular with respect to the translation of IHL treaties into the national language.

The ICRC assisted in the realization of a study on the compatibility of national legislation with the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and in the organization of a one-day conference in Yerevan on the national implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It also facilitated the participation of two Armenian representatives in a regional conference on the Hague Convention organized in St Petersburg under the auspices of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and of three governmental experts in a round-table on IHL held in Moscow.

The ICRC met Armenia's President Kocharyan, with discussions focusing particularly on the issue of the missing.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

During the year the ICRC met Armenia's deputy minister of defence and discussed the ICRC's support to ongoing IHL teaching in the Armenian armed forces. It also produced a set of posters containing extracts from the *IHL for Commanders* manual. IHL instructors from the Military Institute prepared the content and layout of the posters, in close cooperation with the ICRC.

To enhance knowledge of IHL among members of the armed forces, the ICRC:

- sponsored 2 high-ranking officers from the Ministry of Defence to take part in an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;
- supported the participation of teams from the Military Institute in the 5th General Skobolev IHL competition in Kazan, Russian Federation, and in the 4th Yaroslav the Wise international IHL competition in Ukraine;
- held a five-day IHL course for 12 officers of the Ministry of Defence in Yerevan in October;
- organized a round-table for 11 officers of the Military Institute in Yerevan in December;
- held a five-day IHL course for 12 officers of the Ministry of Defence in Tsakhkadzor in December.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained contacts with the media, including the military press, as well as with international organizations, NGOs and diplomatic representatives, and produced and distributed various information materials. Topics of particular interest to these audiences included ICRC activities in the repatriation/transfer of captured servicemen and civilians, the issue of the missing and the ICRC's TB and school programmes. The ICRC held a round-table with media representatives, dedicated to the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World (see *Nairobi*). Twenty-two IHL media kits were sent to the Caucasus Media Institute.

Building a network of IHL experts

The ICRC kept up efforts to develop teaching and research capacities in the field of IHL by sponsoring the participation of students and lecturers in IHL-related events and providing educational institutions with reference literature, training and support materials.

In Armenia, the main institutions with which the ICRC had contacts were Yerevan State University, Acharian University, Armenian-Russian State (Slavonic) University and the Humanitarian Institute in Hrazdan. A set of IHL-related publications was donated to the Hrazdan Humanitarian Institute, which had formally integrated IHL into its curriculum. The ICRC also facilitated the participation of Armenian representatives in IHL courses in Poland, France and Russia. A session on IHL/ICRC activities was held at the French University in Armenia.

Promoting IHL concepts in schools

With the aim of familiarizing secondary-school pupils aged 11 to 13 with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action, the ICRC kept up its support for a school programme, in cooperation with the education authorities. The programme included producing course books for students and manuals for teachers on IHL themes in cooperation with local education experts, distributing them to schools countrywide and organizing ongoing training and refresher courses on programme content and methodology for teachers and teacher trainers/methodology specialists. The programme was officially recommended by the education authorities.

- 60 seminars conducted by Armenian trainers, with ICRC support, for 560 literature teachers from the Shirak, Lori, Gegharkunik, Syunik and Tavush regions

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to provide financial and technical support to the Armenian Red Cross for its tracing, dissemination and first-aid programmes. With the support of the ICRC, the National Society held six 42-hour courses in saving lives in emergency situations, with 70 participants in the Tavush, Gegharkunik and Syunik regions. The Armenian Red Cross was closely involved in the ICRC's programme to promote IHL teaching in secondary schools. The ICRC assisted the National Society in organizing four dissemination and three tracing seminars for staff and volunteers of the National Society. Furthermore, dissemination instructors from the National Society conducted numerous sessions throughout the year to spread knowledge of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, its Fundamental Principles and the emblem among schoolchildren and the general public. More than 18,000 people attended the sessions throughout Armenia.

The ICRC assisted the Armenian Red Cross in producing 500 copies of its *2003 Annual Report* in Armenian and English and 3,500 dissemination posters in Armenian. In addition, the organization facilitated the participation of the National Society's head of international affairs in the annual meeting of National Society legal advisers held in Geneva.



azerbaijan

The ICRC has been working in Azerbaijan, in the context of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, since 1992. It focuses on addressing the issue of missing persons and the problems of detainees held in connection with the conflict, detained for security reasons or otherwise vulnerable. It supports the authorities in bringing the spread of tuberculosis in prisons under control. It also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. In addition, the ICRC assists the health authorities in making limb-fitting services available across the country. In Nagorno Karabakh, the ICRC also supports primary-health-care services.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,291,003

Assistance

1,037,614

Preventive action

848,717

Cooperation with National Societies

144,358

General

-

► **3,321,691**

of which: Overheads **202,732**

PERSONNEL

7 expatriates

49 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC focused on addressing the issue of persons missing in connection with the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, by encouraging discussion on the issue, by submitting updated lists of names of people unaccounted for, by maintaining contacts with the official commissions and by advising the *de facto* authorities of Nagorno Karabakh on the recovery of human remains.
- The ICRC continued visits to detention facilities.
- The ICRC supported the authorities of Azerbaijan in implementing a TB-control programme in prisons.
- The ICRC organized IHL seminars and courses for the armed and security forces in Azerbaijan, further developed the teaching of IHL in secondary schools and universities and continued assisting the authorities in implementing IHL treaties.
- The programme in Nagorno Karabakh to create safe playgrounds for children in mine-affected communities was expanded to cover a total of 40 villages.
- In Nagorno Karabakh, the ICRC completed the distribution of medicines to 66 health centres and continued training health workers in proper drug management.

CONTEXT

The tenth anniversary of the ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan saw no significant progress in resolving the conflict. Talks on a peace settlement between the two countries went ahead, with several meetings between Armenian and Azerbaijani officials held under the aegis of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) during the year and a meeting between the two presidents taking place in Kazakhstan. At the UN General Assembly session in November, the Azerbaijani delegation put forward a new resolution requesting a fact-finding mission (under the umbrella of the OSCE) in the seven so-called "occupied territories" around Nagorno Karabakh.

In Azerbaijan, the government of President Ilham Aliyev continued to consolidate its power base while pursuing a complementary foreign policy, endeavouring to balance its relations with the United States, Russia, Turkey and Iran. Rapid economic growth in the oil sector led to a widening of the gap between rich and poor, with half of Azerbaijan's population continuing to live at or below the poverty line.

Violations of the ceasefire along the line of contact remained a concern, as did the number of incidents involving mines and other explosive remnants of war.

ICRC ACTION

The main priority of the ICRC in Azerbaijan was to help resolve the issue of missing persons. To this end, it presented the authorities in Azerbaijan, as well as relevant actors in Nagorny Karabakh, with lists of the names of some 3,000 people still unaccounted for in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict.

The ICRC continued to monitor the living conditions of all detainees, particularly vulnerable groups within the prison population. As part of its work in places of detention, the ICRC provided assistance to the small number of people detained in connection with the conflict, liaising with the authorities regarding their detention and repatriation/transfer.

As part of its continuing efforts to control tuberculosis (TB) within the Azerbaijani prison system, the ICRC promoted better health care in prisons, in particular the directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) strategy for TB control developed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Throughout the year the ICRC sought to expand contacts with the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and professional circles that had the potential to serve as relays to raise awareness of international humanitarian law (IHL) and humanitarian issues and action. It pursued its efforts to encourage the authorities to ratify and implement IHL treaties and to promote IHL among the armed forces and secondary-school and university students.

As before, the ICRC coordinated its activities with other organizations working in the region, mainly UNHCR, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, WHO, Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (the German agency for technical cooperation), the Clasen Group on missing persons and the Halo Trust. It also cooperated closely with the Azerbaijani Red Crescent Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC continued to create safe play areas for children in mine-affected communities, expanding the programme to include more areas. It also supplied health facilities in remote rural areas with basic medicines.

CIVILIANS

Encouraging dialogue on the missing persons issue

At every opportunity, the ICRC reiterated the duty of the authorities to provide clear answers to the thousands of families without news of the fate or whereabouts of relatives missing in connection with the Nagorny Karabakh conflict. As part of the process, the ICRC submitted updated lists, containing the names of 3,000 people unaccounted for in relation to the conflict, to the Azerbaijani authorities and to relevant actors in Nagorny Karabakh. While maintaining contacts with the commissions set up to address the issue of the missing, the ICRC continued to remind the authorities of their obligations under IHL and sought to convince them of the need to establish mechanisms to deal comprehensively with this issue.

To keep the subject high on the agenda, the ICRC dubbed the video *The Missing: End the Silence* into Azerbaijani and broadcast it on national TV stations. In addition, meetings to discuss technical aspects of the issue were organized between an ICRC forensic expert and the Azerbaijani authorities and forensic experts.

In Nagorny Karabakh, the ICRC advised the *de facto* authorities on dealing with human remains and assisted the local authorities in fencing cemeteries for unidentified soldiers in the town of Mardakert/Agdara. A visiting ICRC forensic expert gave a presentation on forensic science in relation to the missing to the authorities. In addition, the ICRC assisted the Nagorny Karabakh forensic institute in repairing the refrigerator of the morgue.

- 3,145 tracing requests in relation to the Nagorny Karabakh conflict received since 1992

Family contact through Red Cross messages

With telephone and postal links between Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorny Karabakh still disrupted as a result of the conflict, the Red Cross message (RCM) service was the only way for some people to maintain contact with family members from whom they had become separated as a result of the conflict. The ICRC issued travel documents to enable refugees without the necessary identification papers either to resettle in a third country or to return to their home country.

- 249 RCMs delivered
- 47 travel documents issued for 63 people

Safe play areas in Nagorny Karabakh

The ICRC completed the Safe Play Area programme to create playgrounds for children free from the risk of injury by explosive remnants of war, expanding the number of planned sites from 30 to 40 mine-affected villages in Nagorny Karabakh. A set of playground equipment was designed and adapted to the needs of disabled children at the rehabilitation centre.

The ICRC printed 1,000 copies of the *Outdoor Games Resource Book* on mine-risk education for distribution among schools. The project was funded by the Norwegian Red Cross.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visiting people detained in connection with the conflict

The ICRC continued to visit people still detained in relation to the conflict in Nagorny Karabakh. It assisted in the transfer of two Azerbaijani soldiers who had been captured after crossing the line of contact.

Monitoring the situation of detainees

With continued access to the entire civilian prison population in Azerbaijan, the ICRC monitored conditions of detention and treatment, focusing on such vulnerable groups as foreign nationals and people serving life sentences. Improvements to the water supply for detainees in the Shuvelian Pre-trial Isolator were also completed.

In Nagorny Karabakh, where the ICRC also had access to the entire civilian prison population, small-scale assistance was distributed in two places of detention.

The ICRC maintained the RCM service for detainees wishing to exchange news with their families.

- 32 places of detention visited in Azerbaijan, 114 detainees closely followed
- 179 detainees visited in 2 places of detention in Nagorny Karabakh
- 14 RCMs delivered to detainees in Nagorny Karabakh and Azerbaijan
- 15 detainees benefited from the ICRC family-visits programme in Nagorny Karabakh

Containing the life-threatening TB epidemic

The prevalence of TB among prisoners, coupled with a high level of resistance to first-line TB drugs, remained a serious problem in Azerbaijan. The ICRC maintained its firm commitment to the DOTS-based TB-control programme in prisons, monitoring it and advising the authorities on its implementation. It promoted health education, provided medicines, laboratory supplies and equipment and arranged staff training in the country and abroad. The main aim of the programme was to increase the capacity of the authorities to deal effectively with the problem and to foster interaction between TB management in the prison population and TB management in society as a whole.

Detainees with TB continued to be treated in the Special Treatment Institute for Detainees with Tuberculosis (STIDT) in Baku. Active case-finding went on in three isolators, commencing in the prison colonies, to diagnose prisoners with TB in the early stages of the disease. From May prison TB statistics were integrated into national TB statistics.

During the year the ICRC's health-education component of the TB-control programme was extended to cover all detention places. A biochemistry laboratory was constructed and the microscopy room rehabilitated in the STIDT. Over 700 leaflets and 11 posters on TB were distributed to the prison population, and doctors were supplied with 300 booklets to hand out to new inmates. The ICRC marked World TB Day (24 March), in cooperation with the Azerbaijani Red Crescent, by giving presentations and distributing educational materials.

Regular interagency meetings improved collaboration between the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health. A major priority was the improvement of access to civilian TB services for released prisoners with the disease. The Azerbaijani Red Crescent continued to take part in the interagency meetings. Discussions were held on developing a pilot programme to keep track of released prisoners suffering from the disease.

With technical support from the ICRC, the Ministry of Justice submitted an application to WHO's Green Light Committee for the "DOTS-plus" application, particularly concerning multi-drugs resistance.

- ▶ 3,078 patients completed TB treatment since 1995
- ▶ 765 prisoners with newly detected TB integrated into the programme
- ▶ 7 government TB officials participated in regional and international courses

WOUNDED AND SICK

Proper treatment for amputees and other disabled people

The ICRC maintained its support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to help it ensure that amputees and other people with disabilities had access to good-quality rehabilitation services at the government-run Ahmedly Prosthetic Orthopaedic Rehabilitation Centre in Baku and its branches in Nakhichevan and Ganja, in western Azerbaijan.

At ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres:

- ▶ 130 prostheses delivered;
- ▶ 87 new patients fitted with prostheses;
- ▶ 915 orthoses delivered;
- ▶ 339 new patients fitted with orthoses.

A planning seminar was held in Baku on how to improve the physical rehabilitation programme of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, during which a framework for future cooperation between the ministry and the ICRC was defined.

- ▶ 4 physiotherapists participated, with ICRC support, in a refresher course in Tbilisi (Georgia)
- ▶ 6 surgeons from the Ministries of Defence and Health attended, with ICRC support, a war-surgery seminar in Moscow (Russian Federation)

Support to primary-health-care and surgical facilities in Nagorny Karabakh

The ICRC continued to support 66 health facilities in rural and war-affected districts of Nagorny Karabakh, supplying them with essential medicines and training local health workers in proper drug management.

- ▶ medicines distributed and drug-management procedures monitored in health facilities in 63 remote villages and 3 regional polyclinics

AUTHORITIES

Throughout the year the ICRC maintained contacts with the authorities concerned with the national implementation of IHL, providing them with advice and technical support in incorporating its provisions into domestic legislation and in translating IHL treaties into the national languages.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, the ICRC supported a round-table on the subject. The event, organized by the Azerbaijani National Commission on the Implementation of the Hague Convention and Protocols, was attended by government officials, academics and foreign experts. An official from the Azerbaijani Foreign Affairs Ministry attended an IHL course in Warsaw, Poland. The ICRC also organized a two-day course on IHL for Azerbaijani civil servants. Furthermore, it supported a one-day conference in Baku on the repression of war crimes at national and international levels.

The ICRC met Azerbaijan's President Aliyev, with discussions focusing particularly on the issue of the missing and IHL training for the armed forces.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC met the Azerbaijani defence minister for discussions on IHL training for the armed forces. The ICRC gave presentations during Equity International's human rights-based security training sessions for oil-pipeline guards. In addition, it took part in a NATO planning meeting in Baku in June, giving presentations on IHL and the role of the ICRC for senior officers.

In Azerbaijan:

- ▶ 1 officer from the Ministry of Defence and 1 officer from the internal troops attended an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy;
- ▶ 1 Ministry of Defence officer participated in a regional conference on the protection of cultural property held in St Petersburg, Russian Federation;
- ▶ 4 five-day courses on IHL/international human rights law were held for 30 internal troops and 30 police officers;
- ▶ 1 Internal Troops officer participated as an observer in the cadets competition of the interior troops at the Saratov Military Institute of the Russian Federation;

- presentations on the ICRC, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and IHL were given for 34 operational commanders, deputy operational commanders and instructors of the Special State Protection Service (in charge of oil-pipeline guards).

In Nagorny Karabakh:

- 1 dissemination session was held in a regional police station;
- 1 four-day IHL instructors' course was held for 18 officers responsible for training of arms bearers.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC cultivated a network of contacts with the media in Azerbaijan, including the military press, as well as with international organizations, NGOs and diplomatic representatives, and produced and distributed various information materials. Topics of particular interest to these audiences during the year included detention-related activities the issue of the missing, the ICRC's TB and school programmes and the Safe Play Area programme. The ICRC's role in the transfer of captured Azerbaijani servicemen received extensive media coverage.

Building a network of IHL experts

The ICRC pursued efforts to develop Azerbaijan's teaching and research capacities in the field of IHL by providing educational institutions with reference literature, training and support materials and sponsoring the participation of students and lecturers in IHL-related events.

In Azerbaijan, the ICRC kept in regular contact with the seven universities where IHL was taught (its main partners being Baku State University, Khazar University and Western University). The ICRC financed a team of three students from Baku State University to participate in the Jean Pictet international IHL moot-court competition in France. In cooperation with the Azerbaijan Young Lawyers' Union, the ICRC organized the first national moot-court competition on IHL for students from Azerbaijani universities. A presentation on the ICRC and IHL was also given to the law and social sciences faculty at Nakhichevan State University, while around 300 books and brochures on IHL were donated to the same faculty. Two IHL teachers from Azerbaijani universities participated in the regional round-table on IHL for civil servants and academics held in Moscow.

In Nagorny Karabakh, Artsakh State University, which taught law and journalism, initiated a 24-hour IHL course for third-year law students. The ICRC gave a presentation on its role, mandate and activities and on the basic principles of IHL for 25 of the university's law students. Contacts were also maintained with two private universities in the region. A special 38-hour IHL course for fourth-year law students was launched at Mesrop Mashtots University.

Promoting IHL concepts in schools

The ICRC, in cooperation with the education authorities, maintained its support for a school programme to familiarize secondary-school pupils aged 11 to 15 with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action. This process included producing course books on IHL themes in cooperation with local education experts, distributing them to schools countrywide and organizing ongoing training and refresher courses on programme content and methodology for teachers and teacher trainers/methodology specialists. In 2004 the Ministry of Education included IHL in the obligatory curriculum of the "man and society" subject area for 8th, 10th and 11th grades. As part of the school programme, *The Little Prince*, a play on promoting IHL concepts, was performed seven times in different regions of Azerbaijan, including four times in line of contact/border areas.

In Nagorny Karabakh, agreement was reached on the training of a number of specialists to take charge of IHL teaching, so that the school programme could gradually be handed over.

In Azerbaijan:

- 24 training seminars were held for 436 teachers from 361 schools;
- over 300 students took part in a competition on humanitarian principles and the basic principles of IHL;
- 5 IHL essay competitions were held.

In Nagorny Karabakh:

- 5 seminars were held for 147 teachers on interactive teaching methods and teaching IHL principles.

providing training and financial support for key staff members.

The tracing training video, aimed particularly at those involved in disaster preparedness and response, was completed, and the ICRC conducted nine tracing seminars for volunteers. A network of dissemination volunteers in seven regional centres was established and received ICRC support in organizing a campaign on the emblem.

The Azerbaijani Red Crescent organized distributions of school materials provided by the ICRC for internally displaced children.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC renewed its annual cooperation agreement with the Red Crescent Society of Azerbaijan and continued to support the National Society's efforts to develop dissemination and tracing programmes by



bosnia and herzegovina

The ICRC, in partnership with the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, supports the population in its efforts to recover from the emotional wounds of the conflict that ended with the Dayton Peace Agreement in 1995. Acting independently, though in close coordination with the authorities and national and international organizations, the ICRC supports the families of missing persons in their quest to ascertain the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones. The ICRC, which has had a presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1992, opened a delegation in the country in 1995. The ICRC also supports the efforts of the National Society to raise civilians' awareness of the danger of mines and other explosive remnants of war.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

2,395,372

Assistance

-

Preventive action

1,809,205

Cooperation with National Societies

1,535,491

General

-

► **5,740,068**

of which: Overheads **350,333**

PERSONNEL

5 expatriates

71 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The adoption of a law on missing persons signalled a strong commitment by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to address various aspects of the issue of people who went missing during the conflict.
- The sixth edition of the *Book of Missing Persons on the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina* was published and circulated.
- A campaign to collect ante-mortem data was completed.
- The ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to become a unified, functioning and self-sustainable National Society and to develop its tracing, dissemination and conflict-preparedness capacities.
- Access was granted to the ICRC to visit security detainees.
- The ICRC trained more teachers in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina to promote its integration into the secondary-school curriculum.

CONTEXT

Nine years after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, Bosnia and Herzegovina remained a country in transition. Throughout 2004 the UN Office of the High Representative (OHR) kept up pressure on anyone perceived to be offering support to persons indicted for war crimes or to be blocking the work of the Srebrenica Commission, which is tasked with clarifying the fate of people who went missing in Srebrenica in July 1995.

The European Union (EU), while continuing to urge Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in particular the Republika Srpska, to meet the conditions set for entry to the Union, released a feasibility report recognizing progress in only two of the 16 requirements.

Events reached a head at the end of the year, when the OHR reacted against the failure of the Republika Srpska to apprehend war-crimes suspects by replacing nine of the entity's officials, ordering the abolition of its Ministry of Defence by 2005 and enforcing new measures against the support network of persons indicted for war crimes. The High Representative, Paddy Ashdown, also announced possible measures to further delay Bosnia and Herzegovina's admission to NATO, while the United States simultaneously declared travel bans on senior members of the Serbian Democratic Party and the Party for Democratic Progress and the freezing of party assets. A number of Republika Srpska ministers, including Prime Minister Dragan Mikerevic, resigned in protest at the moves.

Earlier in 2004 the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia sentenced former Bosnian Serb General Radislav Krstic to 35 years in prison for participation in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes committed in Srebrenica in 1995. Meanwhile, there were at least four attempts by the NATO Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) to arrest the wartime Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic.

Late in 2004 the EU formally took over peace-implementation duties from SFOR, although NATO maintained a presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina consisting of 250, largely US, troops.

The Srebrenica Commission delivered its final report to the Republika Srpska government. In response, the government issued its first official apology to the families of Bosniaks murdered following the fall of Srebrenica.

ICRC ACTION

The issue of missing persons remained a major focus of ICRC operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the year four stages of ante-mortem data collection in targeted areas were completed by ICRC-trained National Society staff, in conjunction with members of associations of the families of missing persons. Through various forums, such as the Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For, the ICRC worked with the authorities to develop or strengthen the legal basis for the tracing process and the status of families of the missing. A significant outcome of this process was the adoption in 2004 of a law on missing persons, reflecting a commitment by the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to address a number of major aspects of this issue (see *Civilians*). The red cross law was finally adopted, providing the National Society with a legal basis and allowing it to pursue new initiatives such as partnerships and fundraising.

The ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its efforts to consolidate its legal structure and build up its capacities in fields of ICRC expertise such as mine-risk education and ante-mortem data collection.

Efforts to promote international humanitarian law (IHL) among the armed forces and institutes of higher education continued throughout the year. Dissemination sessions were held at law faculties across the country, and IHL was added to the curriculum of several universities. Meanwhile, the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools advanced during the year, with six training courses for teachers being held and 7,200 secondary-school students taking part in pilot projects.

To keep the authorities informed about ICRC activities, the delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina distributed the Serbo-Croat version of the handbook, *Respect for International Humanitarian Law*, to parliamentarians in the Republika Srpska.

A constructive dialogue with the detaining authorities resulted in the ICRC gaining access to security detainees.

CIVILIANS

Resolving the issue of missing persons

Since the beginning of 1996 the ICRC had collected 21,425 tracing requests and 734 requests for return of human remains, of which 5,775 had been resolved, mostly through the identification process. In 2004 families submitted 855 new tracing requests, including 301 reports of death. The ICRC resolved 1,388 cases, of which 56 people were located alive and 1,332 identified bodies were handed over to their families.

As part of efforts to determine the fate of thousands of people who disappeared during the conflict, the ICRC worked with local authorities and international bodies, such as the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP), to draw up legislation on the issue and set up effective tracing mechanisms.

The Working Group on Persons Unaccounted For met at regular intervals, with a full session convened in November attended by members and support persons, including State and entity officials, family representatives, delegations from Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro and high-level international and national observers. The ICRC continued to remind the authorities concerned of the urgency of transmitting to the Working Group, at the earliest possible stage, all relevant information on the missing. The Republika Srpska delegation gave the Working Group the locations of 24 mass graves in the areas of Srebrenica and Visegrad for verification by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The adoption of a law on missing persons was evidence of the commitment of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to tackling aspects of the issue, including the rights of the families of missing persons. For the first time the ICRC participated as expert adviser in the drafting of national legislation linked to missing persons, drawing extensively on the guidelines that emerged from the 2003 international expert conference on the missing convened by the ICRC in Lima, Peru.

The law on missing persons, among other provisions, foresaw the establishment of a Missing Persons Institute (MPI) to oversee the process of clarifying the fate of the missing. A working group was set up to negotiate its functions and structure. As an observer to the working group, the ICRC produced a discussion paper aimed at ensuring transparency in the creation of the

MPI, responsiveness to the needs of the families of the missing and respect for the mandates of the ICRC and the National Society. Furthermore, the ICRC participated in the Expert Group on Central Records of Missing Persons, which was established in accordance with the MPI Plan of Work 2004/2005 approved by the Plan's co-founders, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the ICMP.

To boost the capacity of the National Society in this domain, the ICRC selected seven National Society staff for a five-day train-the-trainer course on the collection of ante-mortem data. The participants went on to train 115 National Society staff and 30 members of family associations during a further six training sessions.

The sixth edition of the *Book of Missing Persons on the Territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina* was published, listing 16,608 persons in two volumes organized by alphabetical order and place of disappearance.

By the end of 2004 ante-mortem data had been collected on 14,749 missing persons, of whom 2,153 had been identified. Preparations were initiated for the handover of the database to the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Four phases of the ante-mortem data collection process were carried out between October 2003 and November 2004, covering 123 municipalities and involving 176 volunteers from the National Society and 52 from family associations. A total of 12,206 families of missing persons contacted the teams, 3,587 ante-mortem questionnaires were completed, 419 new tracing requests were opened and 542 reports of death submitted. Following a training workshop on the collection of ante-mortem data held in Tuzla, participants from 14 National Societies began gathering details on persons who went missing during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia from their families living abroad.

The ICRC provided psychological support for 290 members of families of missing persons through 18 new psychological-support programmes.

Minimizing civilian suffering caused by mines and explosive remnants of war

In 2004, 43 people were killed or injured by mines and other explosive remnants of war. The mine-risk education programme, in which both the ICRC and the National Society participated extensively, functioned

well in 2004, with a number of mine-risk education activities taking place each month. An intensive media initiative was mounted to remind people of the danger of mines ahead of spring farming activities. The ICRC facilitated the full participation of the National Society's Mine Action Centre National Policy Board and other forums to contribute to the ongoing revision of the national mine action plan (see *National Society*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

After a constructive dialogue with the detaining authorities, the ICRC obtained access to security detainees held by SFOR. An ICRC team carried out a number of visits to places of detention throughout the year. Following the replacement of SFOR in December by the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR) and NATO HQ, the ICRC was advised that any detainees would be held exclusively by NATO HQ, which confirmed that the ICRC would have continued access to this category of detainees.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained regular bilateral contacts with international organizations and diplomatic missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, keeping them informed of its activities and plans. It provided technical and legal expertise to the authorities at both State and entity levels in the drafting of legislation related to missing persons, including the law on missing persons, the Protocol on the MPI and Central Records of Missing Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also updated them on ICRC activities and advocated stronger support for the National Society.

The ICRC organized an event for members of the Republika Srpska's National Assembly in order to promote the handbook for parliamentarians, *Respect for International Humanitarian Law*, produced with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The handbook encouraged Assembly members to adopt national measures to implement IHL.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Cooperation with the armed forces of both the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska remained good,

and the ICRC had regular exchanges with them on IHL and missing persons. Discussions were also held on future ICRC participation in the training of officers for peace-support operations. A joint seminar on IHL for 19 senior officers of both armies was organized.

The ICRC gave a presentation on its work with armed forces for senior SFOR staff. It also conducted a seminar on IHL in peace-keeping operations for troops from both entities potentially taking part in UN peace-keeping missions.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting humanitarian issues through the media

Throughout the year the ICRC's key concerns received extensive media coverage. Mine awareness was the subject of a number of articles and interviews. The delegation also organized a press trip in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a dozen international journalists covering the situation in mine-affected countries ahead of the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World (see *Nairobi*). An extensive media campaign at the local level was launched to support the ante-mortem data collection process.

Other issues covered in the media included the missing, notably the Working Group on Missing Persons, the Srebrenica Report, tracing, the IHL moot-court competition in Belgrade, and events organized for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May).

Exploring Humanitarian Law in secondary schools

The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools in the Brcko District entered its second year. The ICRC organized a number of training sessions on the programme for 40 secondary-school teachers from the district and 25 from outside. In addition, the ICRC and the district's education department established a group to monitor classes in schools and prepare a report.

In the Republika Srpska, the Ministry of Education issued a letter of support for the initiation of a pilot phase of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in 2004. The ICRC worked alongside a team from the ministry to adapt the teaching materials. The first round of training in the programme for 43 teachers was co-organized by the ICRC and the Republika Srpska's Pedagogical Institute.

The Ministry of Education of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed that the ICRC present the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to all 10 educational authorities within the entity's jurisdiction. While contacts were being established, the ICRC, together with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, met officials of the education department in the Herzegovina-Neretva district. As a result, the ICRC conducted the first training course on Exploring Humanitarian Law for 32 teachers in Mostar. A training course also took place for 44 secondary-school teachers in Teslic.

- ▶ 306 secondary-school teachers trained in 6 seminars involving 7 teacher-trainers
- ▶ 7,200 secondary-school students involved in 25 pilot Exploring Humanitarian Law projects

Fostering the teaching of IHL in universities

Throughout the country, the ICRC continued to work with key professors and academic institutions to promote greater integration of IHL into university curricula. The ICRC held dissemination sessions for law students in Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zenica and Mostar. The law faculties in Sarajevo, which had departments in Tuzla, Zenica and Mostar decided to include IHL as an optional subject in the third year. The law faculty in Banja Luka also decided to include IHL as an option in its new curriculum. Students from the law faculty in Sarajevo participated, with ICRC support, in the IHL moot-court competition in Belgrade.

IHL sessions were held for students at the law faculty in Sarajevo, with further sessions scheduled in Mostar, Tuzla and Banja Luka. Twelve law professors and students attended the regional conference on IHL in Belgrade.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to support the Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, scaling down its financial assistance as the situation evolved. It helped the National Society to strengthen financial control mechanisms by supporting a further four finance posts in the two entities. The National Society drafted new statutes proposing a unified leadership to replace the rotating presidency and including provisions for a secretary general.

Local-language versions of ICRC tracing publications were produced and a tracing assessment tool, developed to assess the efficiency of the National Society's tracing services, was finalized. The ICRC continued to pay the salaries of three tracing coordinators, one at the National Society headquarters, and one at each entity headquarters. The first National Tracing Commission was formed.

The ICRC continued to support the National Society's mine-risk education activities and victim-data gathering. At the same time, the National Society reviewed its mine-action activities in the light of the findings of the Landmine Impact Survey conducted through the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine-Action Centre, and the resultant revision of the country's national mine-action plan.

The ICRC maintained its extensive collaboration with the National Society in the collection of ante-mortem data.

The ICRC continued to support the National Society's Disaster Preparedness Programme's (DPP) Management Commission, including the training of four emergency-response units. Following extensive flooding in early April, the DPP team prepared an appeal, launched by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to assist more than 8,000 of the most vulnerable flood victims.

At each of the entity Red Cross organizations, the ICRC maintained its commitment to support two health coordinators. Both organizations held first-aid competitions involving 20 teams in the Republika Srpska and 13 teams in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The ICRC supported one dissemination coordinator in each entity Red Cross organization. The Red Cross Society of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized a national dissemination training workshop in Pale, which brought together 20 people responsible for dissemination activities from all 19 cantonal and regional Red Cross offices.



georgia

The ICRC has been working in Georgia since 1992. It covers the basic protection and assistance needs of internally displaced people and destitute residents in the breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, as well as in other areas prone to or affected by conflict. It supports government commissions and families in Georgia, including Abkhazia, seeking to clarify the fate of missing persons. In and around the Gali area, the ICRC assists emergency surgical and blood-transfusion services. Across Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia, the ICRC visits detainees and supports the authorities in their efforts to curb the spread of tuberculosis in prisons. To ensure the continued availability of physical rehabilitation services in Georgia, the ICRC works in cooperation with a local partner in Tbilisi and the authorities in Gagra. It also promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into the training of the armed and security forces and into university and school curricula. Cooperation programmes with the Red Cross Society of Georgia focus primarily on dissemination.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,115,123

Assistance

12,731,350

Preventive action

1,291,168

Cooperation with National Societies

168,666

General

-

► **15,306,308**

of which: Overheads **925,479**

PERSONNEL

25 expatriates

360 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC assessed and implemented income-generating projects alongside existing food-aid programmes for the most vulnerable residents and IDPs in conflict-affected areas of western Georgia.
- The TB programme was expanded throughout the prison system, with a renewed cooperation agreement signed by the ICRC and Georgia's Ministries of Justice and of Labour, Health and Social Affairs.
- Ante-mortem research interviews with the families of persons missing as a result of the conflict in Abkhazia were conducted to help identify human remains.
- The ICRC supported hospitals, polyclinics and blood banks in western Georgia, including Abkhazia, while handing over management of the Tbilisi prosthetic/orthotic centre to an independent local foundation.
- The ICRC promoted and supported the inclusion of IHL teaching in schools and universities and worked closely with the Defence and Interior Ministries to support the ongoing integration of IHL into military training at all levels.
- The ICRC supported the Red Cross Society of Georgia's successful revision of its statutes and helped assess its dissemination and tracing capacities.

CONTEXT

The momentum of the so-called Rose Revolution of November 2003, which saw the departure of long-serving President Eduard Shevardnadze, continued to be felt, with the election of opposition candidate, Mikheil Saakashvili, to the Georgian presidency. The new government strove to reinforce its legitimacy through some improvements in the social field, with foreign political and economic support. In May the national authorities successfully brought the wayward Adjara region under central control.

The October elections in Abkhazia heightened political tensions among various groups vying for power; an agreement was ultimately reached among the different power brokers, and new elections were scheduled for January 2005.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC remained active in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. The delegation gave priority to the issue of persons unaccounted for in Georgia and Abkhazia as a result of armed conflict, to the situation of minorities in Abkhazia and of civilians in areas plagued by unrest, and to the problems of people imprisoned for conflict-related or security reasons and other vulnerable detainees. In addition, it pursued the programme to contain tuberculosis (TB) in prisons, in cooperation with other humanitarian organizations and donors.

With a view to scaling back its assistance programme, the ICRC began to seek more sustainable solutions, such as income-generating projects, to the problems facing destitute people in Georgia. It nonetheless continued to distribute food and other basic supplies to the most needy and to improve housing conditions in collective centres for internally displaced people (IDPs).

In and around the conflict-prone Gali area, the ICRC maintained support to emergency surgical and blood-transfusion services. Meanwhile, it handed over responsibility for the Tbilisi physical rehabilitation centre to an independent local foundation, the Georgian Foundation for Prosthetic and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (GEFPOR).

During the upsurge in hostilities in South Ossetia in August, the ICRC reminded the authorities of their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL). It also closely monitored the emergency medical facilities on all sides.

The ICRC continued to promote IHL, with a focus on strengthening the capacities of State agencies and local civil society partners to carry on this work independently. The delegation also kept up its extensive communication efforts to familiarize the media, the general public, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and public- and private-sector decision-makers with the ICRC's mandate and work in Georgia.

As before, the ICRC supported the Georgian Red Cross in its dissemination efforts and, to a limited extent, its tracing activities. With the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, it assisted in the revision of the National Society's statutes.

CIVILIANS

Encouraging dialogue on the issue of missing persons

Many families were still without news of some 2,000 relatives who went missing during the 1992–93 armed conflict in Abkhazia, and around 100 who went missing in South Ossetia. As in the past, the ICRC urged both the Georgian and the Abkhaz sides to exchange all relevant information in their possession and provided them with the necessary technical assistance. Interviews with the families of missing persons, conducted in accordance with a memorandum of understanding concluded with the authorities, facilitated the collection of ante-mortem data which would help to identify human remains. The data collected continued to be entered into the databases in Georgia and Abkhazia. In partnership with Physicians for Human Rights, the ICRC trained local professionals of the Georgian Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture and offered psychological support to those interviewing the families of the missing. Following a mission to Georgia by an international forensic expert, the ICRC established contacts with local forensic experts, anthropologists and archaeologists. The ICRC also analysed and submitted recommendations on the statutes of the Georgian State Commission for the Missing.

Red Cross message network

For some members of the Abkhaz population, the ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) network remained the only means of keeping in touch with relatives outside Abkhazia, mostly in Georgia, but also in the Russian Federation and other countries. Messages continued to be delivered throughout Abkhazia.

The ICRC provided elderly people living alone without any family support with the opportunity to join their relatives outside Abkhazia, if they so wished.

- 4,685 RCMs delivered
- 7 people reunited with their families

Food aid for vulnerable groups in Abkhazia

The ICRC continued to operate three types of programmes (community-kitchen, dry-food and home-assistance) to cover the food requirements of Abkhazia's most vulnerable population, according to the degree of need. In this respect, the ICRC signed an updated memorandum of understanding with the authorities.

The re-registration of all beneficiaries, the registration of other members of their households and a reassessment of every household's economic situation was undertaken in the first half of the year. This exercise reduced the overall number of beneficiaries in Abkhazia from 18,900 individuals at the beginning of the year to some 15,000 at the end of the year. At the same time, all members of beneficiary households were assisted, as opposed to just some members of each household in previous years.

- up to 15,100 beneficiaries received dry-food assistance during the first nine months of 2004
- 12,300 beneficiaries received dry-food assistance during the last quarter of the year

Under a community-kitchen programme, the ICRC supplied food on a daily basis through 19 canteens and eight mobile units to some 4,000 destitute people in urban areas. Among them, 1,400 housebound people received daily meals at home distributed by 480 local Red Cross volunteers. Within the home-assistance programme, financed by the Swedish Red Cross, these 1,400 housebound people were also provided with home care and essential household items (shampoo, washing powder, hygiene kits, bedding, clothes and slippers).

In the last quarter of the year, the ICRC launched its first income-generating projects, involving agriculture, trade or crafts.

- up to 19,442 beneficiaries received food
- 3,485 tonnes of food distributed (cooked and dry food)
- 587,910 hygiene kits/soap bars distributed
- 27 households benefited from agricultural, trade or craft projects

- 2,900 m of water pipe installed to improve the water-distribution systems in Sukhumi and Ochamchira

Food, water and shelter for the needy in western Georgia

In western Georgia's Samegrelo and Imereti regions, the ICRC continued its assistance operation relaunched in 2002, on an as-needed basis.

During the first half of the year the ICRC distributed food (wheat flour, sugar, beans, oil, salt and yeast) and other necessities, such as candles and soap, quarterly, to 20,150 households – mostly elderly, chronically ill or otherwise vulnerable people who were no longer able to meet even their most basic needs. During the second half of the year the number of households receiving this assistance was reduced to 13,000, as other households either had benefited from agricultural, trade or craft projects or had received a last supply of food in May. At the same time the ICRC continued to upgrade the extremely poor and unhygienic water and living conditions in communal centres housing IDPs.

- up to 20,150 households (60,128 individuals) received food
- 2,162 tonnes of food distributed (cooked and dry food)
- 450,119 hygiene kits or soap bars distributed
- 13,677 people in 3,860 households benefited from agricultural, trade or craft projects
- 25 communal centres housing 1,863 IDPs rehabilitated

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Improving living conditions in prisons

Living conditions in prisons continued to be affected by Georgia's economic crisis. The ICRC advised the Ministry of Justice and the European Commission in their joint efforts to reform the penitentiary system and to improve detention conditions. In addition, the ICRC assessed the extent of overcrowding in places of pre-trial detention and submitted a report on the matter to the Ministry of Justice.

The ICRC continued to have regular access to places of detention throughout Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia. It focused on people detained for security reasons, whose cases it monitored on an individual basis.

- ▶ 26 detention facilities visited (including 3 in Abkhazia and 2 in South Ossetia)
- ▶ 32 detainees visited (including 13 newly registered)
- ▶ 66 RCMs delivered (including 39 in Abkhazia)
- ▶ construction of a toilet block in the Rustavi 1 prison colony completed, benefiting 612 inmates
- ▶ second phase of water and sanitation project in Tskhinvali Prison, South Ossetia, completed

Containing the life-threatening TB epidemic

The high risk of TB among detainees threatened not only the prison population but the population as a whole, spreading when families visited their relatives in prison or when infected detainees were released. The ICRC therefore continued to support the government in implementing TB-control measures in prisons and in integrating them into the National TB Programme (NTP). As part of the integration process, prison services were encouraged to use the NTP's civilian laboratories, which received ICRC assistance.

A renewed cooperation agreement dealing with TB control in prisons was signed by the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the ICRC. The agreement covered TB-drug procurement by the NTP and ensured access of NTP supervisors to places of detention applying the WHO-recommended directly observed treatment, short course (DOTS) approach.

Owing to the expansion of the TB-control programme to prisons in western Georgia, the ICRC decided to establish a DOTS training programme, for medical personnel treating detainees with TB.

Systematic TB screening in prisons, coupled with strict adherence to the DOTS approach, helped to reduce the number of infectious cases and to diagnose the disease much earlier. Systematic screening of incoming prisoners was carried out in six prison colonies by Ministry of Justice health staff. In Georgia's other penal institutions, screening was still carried out by an ICRC/Ministry of Justice team.

- ▶ 1,776 patients completed TB treatment since 1998
- ▶ 317 new prisoners integrated into the programme in 2004
- ▶ 26 prison doctors undertook a DOTS training course

- ▶ renovation of Central Penitentiary Hospital medical facilities completed (300 beds)
- ▶ both the medical ward at the Rustavi 1 prison colony (benefiting 800 detainees), and the Kutaisi TB laboratory (benefiting 1,500 detainees and part of western Georgia's civilian population) rehabilitated

WOUNDED AND SICK

Support for surgical facilities

As a result of both conflict and decay due to lack of maintenance and resources, health services in Abkhazia and western Georgia remained in poor shape. Abkhazia's unrecognized status hindered the delivery of essential medicines and surgical supplies, while in western Georgia, the large number of IDPs put an additional strain on the fragile infrastructure.

In 2004 the ICRC continued to provide surgical hospitals with equipment, surgical supplies and medicines, largely for patients with weapon-related injuries or requiring emergency surgery.

In western Georgia, including Abkhazia, a number of hospitals benefited from ICRC support. Assistance to these hospitals was cut back or terminated at the programme's conclusion at the end of 2004.

- ▶ 7 hospitals assisted regularly (including 5 in Abkhazia)
- ▶ 1,497 surgical operations performed (including 748 in Abkhazia) in ICRC-assisted hospitals

The ICRC pursued its support to blood-transfusion programmes in western Georgia, including Abkhazia. In Zugdidi, a cooperation agreement on a blood-transfusion programme between the ICRC and local hospitals was updated until the end of 2004. This project enabled blood to be screened for infectious diseases, thus ensuring that only uncontaminated blood was used for transfusions.

- ▶ 842 patients received blood transfusions (including 575 in Abkhazia)
- ▶ 1,552 blood units transfused (including 954 in Abkhazia)

Owing to increased tensions, including localized hostilities, in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict zone, the ICRC conducted 11 missions to the region to assess health facilities on both sides.

Treatment for amputees and other disabled people

The ICRC maintained its support for the prosthetic/orthotic centres and workshops in Tbilisi and Gagra, the only major physical rehabilitation facilities in Georgia. To ensure the country's 4,000 amputees continued to receive quality services, it was decided in 2003 to transfer the management of the Tbilisi centre to an independent foundation. As such, the GEPFOR had since been established and had succeeded the ICRC in managing the facility. To assist in the management transition, the ICRC organized a financial-sustainability planning seminar for the GEPFOR board and staff. Under an agreement with GEPFOR, the ICRC renovated 100 square metres of additional space for the Tbilisi centre.

In Abkhazia, which was particularly affected by explosive remnants of war, the ICRC maintained its support to the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Gagra. The centre served the region's 600 amputees, most of whom were war-disabled. It also covered the Gali area through an outreach programme, visiting patients who were unable to get to the centre by their own means.

- ▶ 438 prostheses delivered
- ▶ 174 new patients fitted with prostheses
- ▶ 705 orthoses delivered
- ▶ 237 new patients fitted with orthoses
- ▶ 10 physiotherapists trained (2 from Gagra, 4 from Baku, 4 from Tbilisi) and 1 prosthetic/orthotic technician sponsored on a three-year course at the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics)

AUTHORITIES

An ICRC-supported study on the compatibility of Georgian legislation with the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the translation of basic ICC documents played an important role in Georgia's ratification of the ICC Statute. It subsequently adopted a law on cooperation with the ICC, as well as a series of amendments to its national criminal legislation.

In meetings with the prime minister, ministers, the chairwoman of parliament and ministry representatives, the ICRC provided updates on its activities and explored areas of possible future collaboration.

The ICRC supported the participation of the head of the international cooperation

unit of the Georgian Ministry of Justice in a course on international criminal law held in Austria.

- 5 awareness sessions on the ICRC conducted for 45 municipality staff members

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to work closely with the Ministries of Defence and of the Interior and provided them with financial and technical advice in support of the ongoing integration of IHL into military training and education. The organization also held information sessions on its mandate and activities for the Georgian armed forces, border guard service, interior troops and national guard. In particular, the ICRC stepped up contact with the interior troop command to find out more about the humanitarian and security situation in South Ossetia. A thousand copies of a booklet on basic IHL, in Georgian and Russian, were printed, mainly for distribution at checkpoints in the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict zone.

Presentations on IHL and the ICRC were also given for armed personnel in Abkhazia, where the ICRC maintained contact with Abkhazia's officer's school in Sukhumi.

- 177 military personnel and cadets attended IHL presentations
- the deputy head of the naval faculty of the National Defence Academy of Georgia participated, with ICRC support, in an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy
- ICRC-awareness sessions held regularly for officers and civilian officials of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)
- information sessions on the ICRC's mandate and activities in Abkhazia held for officers from the local law-enforcement structures, including policemen in Gali
- presentations on the ICRC given for officers of the Samegrelo regional security service and police

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC fostered contacts with the Georgian and Abkhaz media. It produced a wide range of publications, press releases and fact sheets, and gave interviews for

radio and TV, particularly on its TB and physical rehabilitation programmes.

In Abkhazia, round-table discussions on ICRC activities were organized with local journalists, while in western Georgia, round-tables, entitled "The ICRC in western Georgia, present and future", were organized for media representatives.

Building a network of IHL experts

The ICRC continued to facilitate the inclusion of IHL in the law and journalism curricula of universities by arranging presentations and seminars for lecturers and by providing or supporting the production of teaching materials. IHL was taught as a separate subject at the Tbilisi, Batumi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Sukhumi branches of Tbilisi State University and at the Independent Diplomatic Academy. In six other faculties, it was taught as part of other subjects, such as international or medical law.

In Sukhumi and Tskhinvali, the ICRC maintained contacts with the law and journalism faculties. Law lecturers from these institutions were sent abroad to participate in advanced training courses on IHL. In Abkhazia, the ICRC organized presentations on the ICRC's mandate and activities for 150 students and five lecturers.

The ICRC pursued its cooperation with the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA) and supported it in organizing workshops and other events on IHL themes. Basic documents on the ICC were provided to the GYLA to accompany a six-month course on international humanitarian and criminal law conducted by its Legal Training and Information Centre. In cooperation with the GYLA, the ICRC organized the fourth national IHL moot-court competition in Gudauri, involving teams from the Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Batumi branches of the State University.

Elsewhere, the ICRC sponsored a team from Tbilisi State University to take part in the final round of the English-speaking session of the Jean Pictet international IHL moot-court competition held in France.

Promoting IHL in schools

The ICRC continued to support the school programme, carried out in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, which aimed to familiarize secondary-school pupils with the basic concepts of IHL and humanitarian action. During the year, 132,000 textbooks for pupils in the sixth and seventh grades – *Know Yourself* and

What Hate Destroys – were reprinted. In Abkhazia and South Ossetia, under an ICRC monitored-programme, the Russian-language versions of the fifth- and sixth-grade textbooks were used to teach some 800 pupils.

- 143,000 pupils used the ICRC-sponsored textbooks
- 882 teachers and 4 teacher trainers attended refresher courses
- programme implementation monitored in 138 schools across Georgia

NATIONAL SOCIETY

After appointing a new secretary general in April, the Red Cross Society of Georgia revised its statutes. The revision process was supported jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation and should lead to the adoption of the new statutes in 2005. The National Society also developed a two-year strategic plan for 2004–2005.

The Armenian Red Cross was invited to assist the Georgian Red Cross and the ICRC in assessing the need for and establishing a first-aid programme to be run by the Red Cross Society of Georgia.

With a view to strengthening the National Society's dissemination programme, the Georgian Red Cross and the ICRC assessed the level of knowledge of Red Cross and Red Crescent issues and IHL in regional branches. The Georgian Red Cross subsequently developed a dissemination programme approved and supported by the ICRC. Fifteen dissemination officers, one in each regional Red Cross office, underwent a three-day training course on the Red Cross and Red Crescent, as well as on project writing and planning and narrative and financial reporting.



serbia and montenegro (including kosovo)

The ICRC works throughout Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo. It supports the families of missing persons in their efforts to shed light on the fate of their relatives, providing them with the necessary psychological, legal and material assistance. In Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC intercedes with the government and donors for the most vulnerable IDPs from Kosovo to receive social security benefits and implements income-generating projects to help IDPs become self-sufficient. In Kosovo, the ICRC monitors the situation of particularly vulnerable members of minority communities, including displaced people, and makes representations on their behalf, when needed, to the relevant authorities. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC encourages the Red Cross structures in Kosovo to work together on programmes through a joint working group.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

4,098,233

Assistance

10,313,825

Preventive action

1,499,025

Cooperation with National Societies

1,575,033

General

- **▶ 17,486,116**

of which: Overheads **1,066,925**

PERSONNEL

Belgrade delegation

10 expatriates

136 national staff

Pristina mission

6 expatriates

50 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- ▶ The first meeting of the ICRC-chaired Working Group on the Missing took place, involving officials from Belgrade and Pristina; the third edition of the *Book of Missing Persons in Kosovo* was published and circulated.
- ▶ The ICRC responded quickly to the March riots, both in Kosovo and in Serbia; it built up an emergency-response capacity in Kosovo.
- ▶ A temporary cash assistance programme was implemented for the most vulnerable IDPs in Serbia and Montenegro awaiting inclusion in the social security system.
- ▶ The ICRC ceased all direct assistance programmes for IDPs at the end of the year.
- ▶ A pilot Exploring Humanitarian Law project was completed in Belgrade secondary schools; the concept was accepted by the education authorities in Kosovo.
- ▶ Visits to detainees continued; the number of detainees of ICRC concern increased following the March riots in Kosovo.

CONTEXT

The year was marked by an upsurge of ethnic violence in Kosovo in March, which left some 20 dead and 900 wounded. Around 800 mostly Kosovo Serb houses and around 30 Orthodox churches and monasteries were destroyed or damaged, and up to 4,000 people were displaced, of whom some 2,000 mostly Kosovo Serbs remained displaced at the end of 2004. The violence deepened the divisions between the two main ethnic groups in Kosovo and led to a radicalization of the Belgrade authorities' position on the Kosovo issue. While direct dialogue between officials in Pristina and Belgrade was initiated in the first quarter of the year, it remained stalled until the end of the year following the March events.

On the broader political front, 2004 saw Serbia and Montenegro enact a number of important reforms, including some aimed at modernizing and streamlining the military, the police and State security. Belgrade came under increasing pressure to overcome hurdles to the country's restoration of relations with the international community, especially regarding cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

The Serbian government implemented a number of reforms to accelerate the process of European integration. The country showed small signs of economic recovery, such as a six per cent growth in GDP. Unemployment, however, continued to hover at around 30%.

In Montenegro, a 17-month boycott ended when the opposition parties returned to parliament. Montenegro also brought in significant reforms in the army, almost halving the number of troops.

The general elections in Kosovo, held late in 2004, were largely boycotted by Kosovo Serbs. Whilst the composition of the Assembly did not alter radically, the elections led to changes within the ruling coalition. Kosovo also undertook major reforms, including the creation of three new ministries, the first transfer of full municipal authority to the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG), coinciding with the withdrawal of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) from two municipalities, and a change in the command structure of the Kosovo Police Service (KPS).

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to support families of missing persons in their quest to find out what happened to their loved ones. It also offered advice and expertise to the authorities in charge of the exhumation and identification of human remains. The third edition of the *Book of Missing Persons in Kosovo* was published and circulated. In Pristina, the ICRC chaired the first meeting of the Working Group on the Missing, which brought together official delegations from Belgrade and Pristina.

Following the March violence in Kosovo, the ICRC quickly increased its operational capacity, working with the Red Cross structures in Kosovo to distribute food and non-food aid to people affected and stepping up its activities for detainees.

After negotiating with the Ministry of Social Affairs for the inclusion of the most vulnerable IDPs from Kosovo in the social welfare system, the ICRC implemented a temporary cash assistance programme for 7,261 families (around 36,500 people) to tide them over until they could begin receiving State benefits. In addition, before the ICRC wound up all of its direct assistance programmes in the country at the end of 2004, 1,738 households (8,690 people) benefited from grants, vocational training or micro-credit schemes.

The ICRC pursued its cooperation with the National Society, including the local Red Cross structures in Kosovo, building its capacities to carry out assistance and dissemination activities. The ICRC also assisted in the restructuring of the Presevo branch in southern Serbia.

CIVILIANS

Helping to shed light on the fate of missing persons

Kosovo conflict

In 2004 the ICRC launched the third edition of the *Book of Missing Persons in Kosovo*, containing 3,272 names of people who went missing during the events that occurred in Kosovo between January 1998 and December 2000. It also included the names of people who disappeared in relation to events in southern Serbia in 1999 and between November 2000 and August 2001. The book was distributed widely in the region.

By the end of the year the ICRC still had 3,054 tracing requests on record, including 31 cases opened in 2004. It had also col-

lected 18 questionnaires containing ante-mortem data.

Since the end of 2003, the remains of 183 people exhumed from mass graves in Serbia had been returned to Kosovo, following inspection by the UNMIK Office on Missing Persons and Forensics (OMPF). Of these, 130 were identified and handed over to their families in 2004. In addition, the remains of 191 people were exhumed/identified in Kosovo and handed over to their families, including 19 from Serb and other minorities and 22 from Serbia.

The ICRC continued to offer psychological support to families of the missing and arranged for psychologists to attend information meetings in Kosovo held by OMPF for the families of the 183 people identified and transferred from Serbia to Kosovo. Together with Red Cross volunteers, the ICRC was present during reburials in Kosovo, as well as during transfers of human remains from and to Kosovo, providing support to the families and monitoring the organization of the events. On the Serbian side of the Merdare administrative border, the ICRC was there to support 23 displaced families from Kosovo when the remains of their relatives exhumed in Kosovo were handed over to them.

In March in Pristina, the ICRC chaired the first meeting of the Working Group on the Missing, in the framework of the UN-sponsored Vienna dialogue. It also welcomed the visit by a delegation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, which met families of missing persons ahead of preparing a report on the missing in the Balkans.

Meanwhile, the ICRC worked closely with associations of families of missing persons throughout the region, offering both technical and financial support and advice.

- in Kosovo, 10 psychological-support workshops held, involving 150 families of persons missing as a result of past conflicts
- in Serbia and Montenegro, 19 psychological-support workshops held, involving 396 family members of persons who went missing during the conflicts in Kosovo, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina

Croatia conflict 1991–95

The ICRC worked with the authorities to speed up the identification of bodies exhumed in Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro and their return to the families. It

was present as an observer at the exhumation of 77 bodies in Serbia. Bone samples were taken for DNA testing by the Belgrade Military Medical Academy, with experts present from Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In three cases, the identities were confirmed by the families, with a further 18 confirmed through DNA tests. In addition, the ICRC collected 290 ante-mortem questionnaires and passed them on to the authorities in Belgrade.

The ICRC continued to cooperate with associations of families of the missing as a result of past conflicts, offering psychosocial support where needed.

Protecting vulnerable civilians

The ICRC maintained its network of contacts throughout the country, monitoring the situation of particularly vulnerable people. It carried out regular visits to minority enclaves in Kosovo to assess needs. After the March riots, the ICRC distributed food, hygiene products and other essential items to people worst affected. It provided similar assistance to IDPs either directly or via the Red Cross structures in Kosovo. Throughout the year the ICRC made numerous representations to the local and international authorities concerned regarding problems faced by minority communities, mostly involving security, access to health care and the living conditions of IDPs.

Boosting economic security of IDPs

The ICRC launched a one-year cash assistance programme for destitute IDP families, providing each with 30 euros a month to tide them over until they were covered by the social welfare system. In a similar programme for the most vulnerable IDP families in Montenegro, the ICRC paid half of the 30 euros per month per family, while the other half was paid by the Montenegrin authorities.

- 5,761 IDP households (29,000 individuals) in Serbia given cash assistance
- 1,500 IDP households (7,500 individuals) in Montenegro given cash assistance

The ICRC supported three main types of income-generating project for vulnerable IDPs – in-kind grants, vocational training and micro-credit schemes – all of which were concluded at the end of 2004. Vocational training typically involved courses in driving, cosmetics, hairdressing, massage or food preparation and serving.

- ▶ in-kind grants made to 1,120 households: 563 for agricultural or livestock projects, 557 for craft or service projects
- ▶ 358 people provided with vocational training
- ▶ 260 loans made to entrepreneurial IDPs in Nis, Kragujevac and Kraljevo

Both the cash assistance and income-generating programmes were due to be evaluated in 2005.

Following the unrest in Kosovo in March, the ICRC extended its field coverage, improving living conditions for IDPs in temporary accommodation, informing them of developments, increasing security at return sites and enhancing access to utilities and health services.

- ▶ 2,500 IDPs provided with food and/or essential household items
- ▶ 8,000 vulnerable residents provided with wheat flour through the two local Red Cross structures

In late 2004 the ICRC implemented a small-scale winter assistance programme for vulnerable minority displaced families in Kosovo.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Under an agreement signed by the authorities in Belgrade and Zagreb in 2004, 42 Serbs serving sentences for war crimes in Croatian prisons were to be allowed to complete their prison terms in Serbia.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC carried out seven visits to four places of detention, registering 50 detainees, including those accused of war crimes.

In Kosovo, the ICRC conducted 31 visits to 11 places of detention. Visits were also carried out to detention centres run by the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR). Books and games were distributed in four places of detention.

The ICRC maintained close contact with the detaining authorities, especially following the March violence in Kosovo, which led to the arrest of 186 people, of whom around 20 remained in custody.

WOUNDED AND SICK

With the Basic Healthcare Services Pilot Project (BHSP), taking over the man-

agement of all 23 *ambulantas* (primary-health-care facilities) in Kraljevo, the ICRC continued to gradually hand over the project. The BHSP aimed to introduce a more modern style of health care, including concepts such as families registering with a particular practice and doctor to maintain consistency in the professional relationship, computerization of the medical records (including developing software), and an internationally recognized general practice codification in the health information service. The collaborative basis of this process was formalized in contracts signed by the Serbian Ministry of Health, the Republican Health Insurance Fund and the ICRC. Another component of the project was an initiative to help adults give up smoking.

Together with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the ICRC organized the final workshop on Health Financing in Serbia and Output-Based Contracting of Primary-Health-Care Services in Belgrade.

AUTHORITIES

In Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC kept in regular contact with high-level representatives of the national and international authorities to discuss various humanitarian issues, including the missing, detention-related activities and the cessation of the ICRC's direct assistance programmes. A meeting with the Serbian prime minister marked a breakthrough in re-establishing dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina on the missing. Following discussions in Belgrade, the relevant authorities reaffirmed their support for the ICRC's chairing of the Working Group on the Missing.

A legal study entitled *The families of the missing in Serbia and Montenegro – their needs and rights in relation to the law* was published and submitted to the authorities in Belgrade. It contained a set of recommendations for improving administrative practice and promoting legislative changes and served as a basis to launch a legal campaign on the issue.

The ICRC organized a round-table of experts and government officials in Belgrade to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

In Kosovo, meetings were held with the president of the Kosovo Assembly, the prime minister, and seniormost officials

of the PISG and UNMIK, including the special representative of the UN secretary-general. All expressed their full support for the ICRC's role in the Working Group on the Missing.

Contacts with UNMIK were strengthened, in particular through a meeting to discuss training by the ICRC of both international and local UNMIK staff.

- ▶ presentations on the ICRC, IHL and human rights law conducted for a range of audiences, including for 15 OMPF outreach officers and 13 deputy directors of civilian prisons

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Promoting IHL in the armed forces

The delegation held a series of meetings with KFOR to familiarize the force with the ICRC's mandate, working methods and activities. In addition, it gave a presentation on these topics for 40 KFOR officers in Peja/Pec.

Following the signing of a cooperation agreement between the ICRC and the Ministry of Defence of Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC, along with the Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro, organized the first IHL course for officers of the armed forces.

An expert panel on IHL decided that the ICRC should contribute to IHL courses at the National Centre for Peacekeeping Missions and that IHL would be recommended as a separate exam at the Military Academy. The Ministry of Defence agreed to distribute the IHL teaching file and the Serbian translation of the *Fight it Right* manual.

- ▶ IHL courses and presentations held for officers of the Serbian *gendarmerie*, the navy of Serbia and Montenegro and the National Centre for Peacekeeping Missions in Belgrade and for US KFOR personnel at the Camp Bondsteel military base in Kosovo
- ▶ 2 representatives of the Serbia and Montenegro Ministry of Defence attended an IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (IIHL) in San Remo, Italy

Enhancing knowledge of human rights law and IHL among the police forces

A number of training sessions on IHL and human rights law were held for members of

the different police forces in Serbia and Montenegro. These included:

- 25 police officers from the Montenegrin Border Police, Special Police and Anti-Terrorist Police and for officers serving under the Serbian Ministry of the Interior;
- 15 police officers from police districts and the Ministry of the Interior of Montenegro and 15 officers of the Serbian *gendarmerie*.

Cooperation with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) intensified, and the ICRC participated in the second round-table on police education reform in Serbia, organized by the authorities and supported by the OSCE.

The ICRC maintained good relations with the KPS, giving two presentations for over 500 police cadets and KPS students. ICRC participation in the training of future KPS Special Units was also secured for 2005.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The main focuses of the ICRC delegation's communication strategy in 2004 were: the launch of the *Book of Missing Persons in Kosovo*; the ICRC's decision to chair the Working Group on the Missing; the cash assistance programme for vulnerable IDPs; and ICRC action in relation to the March riots in Kosovo.

In Serbia and Montenegro, the ICRC held a series of four weekend workshops on IDP issues for more than 50 journalists and editors from both print and broadcast media. It also fostered contacts with the press in Kosovo and kept selected journalists updated on its activities.

Contact was maintained with the coordinator's office of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC). Two IHL training sessions were undertaken for 41 KPC officers, while a KPC officer attended an IHL course at the IIHL in San Remo.

Introducing young people to IHL

An evaluation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law pilot project, which involved some 500 students from 16 Belgrade secondary schools and a police cadet school, undertaken in December 2003, indicated that the programme had been favourably received by both students and teachers. An external evaluation of the programme, carried out by the Centre for Evaluation in Education and Belgrade University's Institute of Psychology, revealed a positive correlation

between the level of IHL knowledge and students' attitudes towards humanitarian engagement, social responsibility and concern for other people. Implementation of the programme was due to start in 2005 in the southern part of the country where Albanians and Serbs coexisted.

With the National Society, the ICRC organized a summer camp on biotechnology, weapons and humanity, involving 90 adolescents from Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia.

In Kosovo, a meeting was held with the Minister of Education, Science and Technology and other officials to push forward the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules into school curricula, as well as the drafting of a memorandum of understanding to this effect.

Promoting the study of IHL at university

The third national IHL moot-court competition, organized by the ICRC in Belgrade, brought together teams from the military and police academies, as well as students from local universities.

The first regional IHL course for advanced students and junior lecturers was also held in Belgrade. It was jointly organized by the ICRC, the Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro and Belgrade University's faculty of political science. The four-day course involved 40 students from major university centres in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro.

Selected sections of *How does law protect in War?* were translated and published in Serbian.

In Kosovo, a team of law students from Pristina University took part in the Jean Pictet moot-court competition in France, while another team participated in a regional IHL moot-court training session in Ohrid, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In addition, the ICRC maintained and developed regular contacts with academics at Pristina University, donating an IHL library to the law faculty's human rights centre.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In Belgrade, the ICRC signed an agreement with the tracing agency of the Red Cross of Serbia and Montenegro concerning its involvement in the collection of ante-

mortem data related to 140 cases from the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The National Society organized a refresher course for the emergency-response units of five branches in areas bordering Kosovo, to which the ICRC contributed financial and technical support, particularly in relation to the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*).

In Kosovo, the joint working group of the two Red Cross structures met to discuss moves towards creating a single structure (known as the "One Red Cross"). In 2004, however, the focus was reoriented to cooperation in specific programme areas. Following the violence in March, the meeting schedule was interrupted.

During and after the violence in March, the ICRC, as lead agency for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in Kosovo, ensured that the Red Cross structures in Kosovo and international Movement partners were kept informed of operational activities and security issues. Both local Red Cross structures were provided with food and non-food parcels for distribution to IDPs.

The ICRC continued to strengthen the capacities of staff and volunteers of the Red Cross of Kosovo (RCK) to provide an efficient tracing service. With ICRC support, the RCK tracing coordinator trained branch secretaries and volunteers in Kosovo. In addition, the coordinator took part in the annual meeting of National Society tracing services from Europe, North America and Australia held in Geneva in October.

To upgrade the disaster-response capacities of the RCK, the ICRC provided expertise and financial support to its Disaster Management Committee, assisted in the construction of a temporary tented warehouse and trained staff in shelter management.

The ICRC financially supported the RCK communication department to help it to enhance its communication activities on humanitarian issues, the Movement and the Fundamental Principles and to expand its team of field communication officers.

Responsibility for the mine-action programme was handed over to the RCK. Regular mine-risk education meetings took place throughout the year, run by 70 Red Cross volunteers from villages affected by mines and other explosive remnants of war.

- 33 mine-risk sessions conducted for a total of 1,213 children



ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission

budapest

The Budapest regional delegation, established in 1997, aims to develop a broad network of contacts and cooperation programmes with governments, academic circles, civil society and the media in Central Europe. It advises the authorities on the ratification of IHL treaties and their national implementation, assists the civil and military authorities in incorporating IHL into school and university curricula and military training programmes, and supports the development of the region's National Societies. In Croatia, the ICRC addresses the after-effects of the conflicts that occurred between 1991 and 1995, focusing in particular on the needs of the families of missing persons, in cooperation with the Croatia's Department for Detained and Missing Persons. It also supports, among other traditional programmes such as dissemination and tracing, the efforts of the Croatian Red Cross to raise awareness among civilians in Croatia of the danger of mines and other explosive remnants of war.

COVERING

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

491,397

Assistance

13

Preventive action

2,011,940

Cooperation with National Societies

864,846

General

28,487

► **3,396,682**

of which: Overheads **207,309**

PERSONNEL

4 expatriates

21 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary schools was implemented in Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in cooperation with the National Societies. Bulgaria and Romania were ready to start implementation of the pilot phase, while Hungary, Estonia, Slovakia and Slovenia were contemplating the programme's integration into their school curricula.
- The ICRC continued to collect tracing requests and to record reported deaths and missing persons from the conflicts that occurred in Croatia between 1991 and 1995.
- An interministerial committee on IHL was established in Poland; Romania was looking into establishing a similar body.
- Croatia, Estonia and Lithuania ratified the Ottawa Convention; Lithuania ratified Protocol V to the CCW; Slovakia and Slovenia adopted the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

CONTEXT

The most significant development in the region in 2004 was the accession to the European Union (EU) of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia on 1 May. The expansion of the EU into Central and Eastern Europe was likely to have far-reaching political and economic consequences for the new members. For the Central European countries that joined in May, the elections for the European Parliament in June represented their first major involvement in the democratic process of the Union.

Croatia also moved closer to EU membership when it was invited to start negotiations on accession, while Romania and Bulgaria remained on course for EU accession in 2007. NATO enlargement also went ahead, with the accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, a formal move which basically rubber-stamped already functioning alliances and military cooperation between these countries and existing NATO members.

In Lithuania, parliament impeached President Rolandas Paksas, who was succeeded in the subsequent elections by the former president, Valdas Adamkus. The prime minister of Latvia resigned after the coalition government collapsed over a vote against the 2005 budget. A new government was elected on 2 December.

In Poland, Prime Minister Leszek Miller resigned in May, although President Aleksander Kwasniewski's nomination of Marek Belka as a replacement was not confirmed

until mid-June. Within the region, Poland played an important mediation role during the events surrounding elections in Ukraine and acted as an intermediary between Ukraine and the EU. In Slovakia, the second round of presidential elections endorsed Ivan Gasparovic as the new president.

Following the surprise resignation of Hungarian Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy, parliament elected Ferenc Gyurcsany to the position in September.

At the end of the year presidential and parliamentary elections took place in Romania. The opposition candidate, Bucharest mayor Traian Basescu, won the presidential elections, while Călin Popescu-Tăriceanu, also a member of the opposition Democratic/Liberal coalition, was elected to head the new government.

In Slovenia, the new government, formed on the basis of the results of the parliamentary elections in October and headed by Prime Minister Janez Jansa, was inaugurated in December.

ICRC ACTION

Promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) and its national implementation continued to be the main focus of the ICRC's work in the Central European region. During the year the ICRC strengthened its dialogue with those States that had reaffirmed their commitment to implement IHL at national level. Cooperation with existing national committees – in Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia – progressed, while a national committee was created in Poland. The second regional meeting of national IHL committees and representatives of observer States, held in Bratislava under the auspices of Slovakia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reviewed progress made so far in this field and served to strengthen cooperation between committee members and the ICRC.

The ICRC continued to cooperate actively with the armed forces of the region in their efforts to integrate IHL into their training and operations and participated in regional NATO exercises.

The ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme had a productive year. Most of the region's ministers of education approved the integration of the programme into the secondary-school curriculum and welcomed the support of National Societies and the ICRC in so doing. The programme was already under way in Croatia and Lithuania, implementation began in Poland and Latvia and planning for its introduction began in Bulgaria, Estonia, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Efforts to accelerate the integration of teaching of and research in IHL in law faculties met with success. Eleven faculties agreed to begin or reinforce the teaching of IHL, with the ICRC's active support. In addition, the ICRC identified influential research institutes in targeted countries and established contacts with them.

The ICRC developed a wide network of journalists and media contacts and provided them with information on ICRC activities and advice on covering humanitarian affairs.

CIVILIANS

Shedding light on the fate of missing persons in Croatia

As part of the process of updating data on missing persons and encouraging the authorities to provide answers on their fate, the ICRC continued to collect tracing requests

and reports of death submitted by the families. Despite exhumations in Serbia and Montenegro and the ongoing process of exhumation and identification carried out by Croatia's Department for Detained and Missing Persons, the fate of 2,502 people recorded as missing by the ICRC remained unknown.

- 21 reports of death received and 260 tracing requests closed
- 73 people who had filed tracing requests for missing relatives informed of the outcome
- 227 ante-mortem forms collected in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro and Australia and passed on to the Croatian government
- 5 sessions for family members to identify human remains organized in Zagreb
- 69 families from Serbia and Montenegro assisted with transport and in obtaining entry permits to attend funerals in their native villages in Croatia

A regional conference on missing persons – under the slogan “We can and we have to come to the truth” – took place in Opatija, Croatia. Members of 22 family associations from the region, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro (including Kosovo), plus the ICRC, gathered to discuss issues of common concern.

Minimizing civilian suffering caused by mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW)

The ICRC supported three seminars for mine-risk education instructors, organized by the Croatian Red Cross, and a fourth seminar to review the work of all Red Cross branches taking part in the mine-risk education programme. It also helped finance the publication of the Croatian Red Cross mine-risk brochure in English and the printing of related promotional materials.

In addition to providing funds for the programme, the ICRC worked closely with the Croatian Red Cross mine-risk education coordinator and supported her participation in the annual mine-action workshop in Sweden. The ICRC delegation in Zagreb was heavily involved in the development of mine action best practice guidelines organized by the regional mine-action adviser and ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Family visits to detainees in Croatia

The ICRC pursued its programme to enable family members from Serbia and Montenegro to visit their relatives detained in Croatia. At the end of the year 65 people were in detention on war-crimes charges in Croatia. While the ICRC provided transport for the visits, its main concern was to ensure that even family members who had no travel documents could visit their detained relatives.

- 33 detainees in Croatia visited by relatives from Serbia and Montenegro with ICRC assistance
- 9 detainees released from prison in Croatia assisted in rejoining their families in Serbia and Montenegro
- 449 detention certificates issued

AUTHORITIES

In 2004 the ICRC continued to engage in dialogue with governments across the region to push forward the ratification of IHL treaties and the adoption of national implementing legislation. In Poland and Romania, the ICRC worked closely with the authorities on the establishment of national IHL committees; Poland established such a body by order of the prime minister.

The second regional meeting of national IHL committees, hosted by the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs, brought together such committees from Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia, plus observers from Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The ICRC highlighted the latest developments in IHL and the implications of countries joining, or in the process of joining, the EU for the implementation of IHL.

The ICRC participated in a conference on the protection of cultural property held in Warsaw, Poland, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention. During the conference, Poland's Ministry of Culture announced that ratification of the Second Protocol to the Convention had been approved. The government of Slovakia also undertook to ratify the Protocol. Other meetings in which the ICRC participated included: the OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in Warsaw; a national seminar on small arms and light weapons in Bulgaria; and a dissemination workshop on issues

such as ICRC history and principles organized by the Slovakian Red Cross.

The ICRC was increasingly asked for its assistance by National Societies and governments throughout the region in drafting laws on protection of the emblem and amendments to criminal legislation to bring it in line with the provisions of and related obligations under the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Romania and Lithuania held seminars on the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, while Estonia and Lithuania ratified the Convention. Lithuania ratified Protocol V (on explosive remnants of war) to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), and Slovakia and Slovenia ratified the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to encourage the region's governments, especially the Ministries of Defence, and the armed forces to continue integrating IHL into military training and operations and offered its cooperation in accordance with established plans of action and agreements. The organization continued to finance the training of trainers and the translation and production of relevant teaching materials. It organized seminars on IHL, offered scholarships to officers attending courses at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy, participated in national and regional military exercises and briefed contingents leaving on peace-support missions abroad.

In Croatia, IHL integration by the armed forces was given a new impetus with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Defence. The ICRC developed a dialogue with each of the new NATO countries and participated in the preparation and development of a NATO/Partnership for Peace exercise in Bulgaria.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC mapped the regional media and established working relations with a number of journalists and media outlets. It kept the growing network of journalists up to date on its activities, regularly providing them with news and background information.

A press conference was organized with the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the occasion of the second regional meeting of national IHL committees (see *Authorities*). Three "meet the press" sessions for senior editors were held in cooperation with the National Societies in Slovakia, Poland and Bulgaria. These events were designed to extend the ICRC's media network, to familiarize the participants with the ICRC and to explore opportunities for improved cooperation with the press in the countries concerned.

In cooperation with the Hungarian government and the National Society, the ICRC organized a press conference in Budapest following a donation from the Hungarian government to the ICRC operation in Iraq.

The ICRC briefed Bulgarian and Lithuanian journalists on IHL during media seminars organized by the Bulgarian and Lithuanian Red Cross Societies with ICRC support.

The ICRC also sought to maintain and enhance relations with regional research institutes and think-tanks to promote the study of IHL and raise awareness of humanitarian values in general.

Promoting the teaching of IHL in secondary schools

The past year saw a number of successes for the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in the region. Following intense negotiations with the ICRC and the National Societies concerned, the Ministries of Education in Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Romania approved implementation of the programme in secondary schools, joining Lithuania and Croatia where the programme was already under way. The ICRC pursued its dialogue on the subject with the National Societies and the Ministries of Education in Hungary, Slovakia and Slovenia.

- ▶ in Croatia, 17 teacher trainers took part in an Exploring Humanitarian Law workshop as part of the National Programme of Human Rights Education; the teaching pack was translated, along with the accompanying videos for students and teachers, and a new version produced
- ▶ in Poland, the Exploring Humanitarian Law teaching pack was translated and the pilot phase of the programme launched in 42 schools
- ▶ in Latvia, the Exploring Humanitarian Law teaching pack was translated and the programme launched with a first teacher-training seminar

- ▶ in Croatia, the ICRC helped draft and negotiate the tripartite agreement on Exploring Humanitarian Law, involving the ICRC, the Croatian Red Cross and the Ministry of Education
- ▶ in Romania, a cooperation agreement was signed by the Romanian Red Cross and the Ministry of Education regarding the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

Fostering the teaching of IHL in universities

The ICRC had signed memorandums of understanding with the law faculties of 11 universities in the region. Under the agreements, the faculties committed themselves to consolidating or integrating the teaching of IHL at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to promoting research in the area. The universities welcomed the ICRC's technical and material assistance, including the training of lecturers and the teaching and stimulation of students through regional competitions and courses, lectures and research. A network of IHL professors was developed and a first regional meeting of 26 of them took place in Budapest. The ICRC provided the faculty libraries with IHL reference works and journals.

To enhance the teaching of IHL, the ICRC invited various lecturers to attend specific training courses and sponsored advanced students on regional courses, such as the Warsaw Summer Course, the Baltic Summer Academy, the European Law Students Association course and a moot-court competition in Romania. Three university teams from the region also participated in the Jean Pictet international IHL moot-court competition held in France. In addition, 11 university teams from three countries took part in the first regional IHL moot-court competition in Budapest, which was won by the team from the University of Bucharest.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Throughout the year the ICRC continued to urge the National Societies in the region to follow through on the pledges made at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. In consultation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and partner National Societies, the ICRC provided them with financial support and expertise in a variety of areas: dissemination of IHL and the Fundamental Principles; tracing and restoring family links; conflict preparedness and the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*); and mine-risk education.

The ICRC worked closely with the National Societies of the four countries in the region that had secured places at the Euro 2004 football championship: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic and Latvia. It initiated a joint campaign with the Union of European Football Associations to highlight the effects of conflict on children and their rights during times of conflict. The Red Cross Societies of the countries concerned produced and distributed a CD ROM, linking their respective images with those of their country's football team, to raise their profiles during this highly publicized sporting event.

The ICRC lent expertise and financial support to build the tracing capacities of the region's National Societies, including their use of information technology. Eleven tracing officers from Central Europe attended a tracing round-table in Geneva.

Throughout the year the ICRC stressed the importance of the Safer Access approach in conflict preparedness. A second seminar on the Safer Access approach took place in Bulgaria for 25 disaster-preparedness coordinators from the Bulgarian Red Cross. Sessions were held on the domestic and international legal bases for conflict preparedness, and the National Society gave presentations on developments in the country.

The Croatian Red Cross continued to assume greater ownership of the mine-risk education programme, eventually running it successfully with little input from the ICRC. Mine-risk education activities continued, aimed at decreasing the number of children involved in mine accidents. The ICRC maintained its support to the programme by holding training workshops, giving presentations and providing support materials.



ICRC regional delegation

kyiv

The Kyiv regional delegation, which has been operating since 1995, concentrates on promoting IHL and encouraging the authorities in the region to implement it. The far-reaching reforms currently under way in the countries covered offer a unique opportunity for IHL to be incorporated into national legislation, university curricula and training programmes and codes of conduct of the armed, police and security forces. The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme is gradually being introduced into secondary-school curricula, with the active support of the National Societies concerned.

COVERING
Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

10,510

Assistance

-

Preventive action

1,189,431

Cooperation with National Societies

376,892

General

-

► **1,576,834**

of which: Overheads **96,239**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

10 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC maintained access to the remaining detainees of the "Ilascu group" in Transnistria.
- The armed forces of all three countries integrated IHL requirements into their planning procedures, and police and security forces regularly requested and received IHL and human rights training in their various units, including those performing peace-keeping duties abroad.
- In Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, the ICRC, in cooperation with the education authorities and National Societies, supported the incorporation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula.
- IHL was taught at universities in the three countries, with students from each country participating in national IHL essay competitions.
- The attendance of representatives of the three countries at a round-table to mark the 50th anniversary of the Hague Convention reflected the importance given to the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

CONTEXT

The year 2004 saw two of the three countries of the region undergo political and social transformation, highlighted by the events in Ukraine in November and December. The elections in Ukraine had very high stakes and were bitterly fought, with evidence of systematic fraud and an attempt on a candidate's life by poisoning. Three weeks of massive street protests finally brought about a third round of voting after the results of the second round were declared invalid by the Supreme Court. The third round, held on December 26, was won easily by Viktor Yushchenko. The victory of a pro-Western candidate strained Ukraine's relations with Russia after Moscow denounced Western interference in its traditional sphere of influence. Under the new president, Ukraine was looking to implement further reforms and pursue European integration.

The results of the Belarusian elections and referendum in October, in which the opposition won no seats and President Lukashenko received an overwhelming endorsement to stay in power beyond the constitutional limit, were also questioned by international monitors. Belarus's relations with Russia remained strong though uneasy, and the two countries continued discussions on forming a monetary union.

In Moldova, relations worsened between Chisinau and Tiraspol. Direct talks between the two sides did not resume over the period and neither side was ready to make concessions. This meant no progress was made towards drafting a new constitution

incorporating an Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) proposal aimed at bringing Moldova and the breakaway region of Transnistria together in one federal entity. Moldova also saw a heightening of political tensions as the country's ruling Communist Party nearly split ahead of the elections scheduled for March 2005.

ICRC ACTION

The process of integrating international humanitarian law (IHL) into domestic legislation and academic teaching being well advanced in the region, the ICRC concentrated on developing the capacities of its local partners to promote IHL proactively and independently. ICRC legal advisers participated in the meetings of the national committees on IHL and supported them in formulating their annual plans of action. As the armed forces had integrated IHL into the training programmes of military academies and institutions, the ICRC's focus was on strengthening operational training in IHL. Similar efforts were made to promote respect for basic IHL and human rights norms in law enforcement. The Kyiv regional delegation continued to support the incorporation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula.

Cooperation with the National Societies centred on restoring family links, dissemination of IHL (primarily through the

Exploring Humanitarian Law programme) and, in Ukraine, limited medical support to first-aid posts located in remote settlements and run by the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.

The Kyiv regional delegation expanded contacts with academics, the media, representatives of parliaments and non-governmental organizations so as to deepen their understanding of IHL and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Throughout the year the ICRC kept a close watch on the situation of security detainees and maintained access to the remaining members of the “Ilascu group” held in Transnistria in connection with the armed conflict in 1992. In May 2001 the authorities in Tiraspol freed Ilie Ilascu, but not his three fellow detainees. The ICRC last visited them in April 2004.

A survey was undertaken at three detention centres in western Ukraine holding illegal migrants. The survey’s findings on how to improve links with inmates’ families and embassies were passed on to the authorities. An ICRC-financed programme to restore family and consular links was launched in November by the Ukrainian Red Cross.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to advise the authorities of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine on accession to IHL treaties and their national implementation. To this end, it provided them with material and financial support in organizing IHL-related events and in producing reference materials and translations of IHL treaties. The protection of cultural property and repression of war crimes were central topics in 2004.

The Moldovan national committee on IHL, with ICRC support, organized a conference in Chisinau dedicated to the International Criminal Court (ICC), attended by members of parliament and the government, as well as academics. As a result, the Ministry of Justice established a working group to prepare documents to implement the 1998 Rome Statute of the ICC, to be presented to parliament with the ratification law.

The ICRC and the Ukrainian Association of International Law jointly organized a con-

ference on the national implementation of the ICC Statute, attended by 40 participants from the Ukrainian administration, the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs, the Constitutional Court and various academic institutions.

Ukraine’s national IHL committee held its first official meeting in March. On the basis of earlier talks with the ICRC, the committee discussed and approved the plan of action for 2004, including issuing a recommendation on the withdrawal of reservations to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. It furthermore examined issues on the protection of cultural property and the inclusion of IHL in the curricula of higher-education establishments. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Ukraine completed its translation of the Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols into Ukrainian.

A study on the compatibility of Ukrainian legislation with the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict was conducted by a working group set up by the Ministry of Justice. A round-table to mark the 50th anniversary of the Convention was held in Kyiv and attended by representatives of a number of different ministries, as well as experts from Belarus and Moldova. The Ukrainian Ministry of Justice also set up a working group to carry out a study of national legislation relating to missing persons.

A book entitled *IHL implementation – repression of war crimes*, written by the Belarusian vice-minister of justice and vice-president of the national IHL committee, was published with the ICRC’s financial assistance.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In all three countries covered by the Kyiv regional delegation, the ICRC pursued its cooperation programmes with the respective Defence Ministries with a view to promoting the integration of IHL into military doctrine and theoretical and practical training. This involved holding seminars on IHL for senior officers from various armed services and for lecturers and students from military academies and conducting specialized courses for IHL instructors. Cooperation with the Interior Ministries involved organizing seminars and presentations on international human rights law and humanitarian principles for

senior police officers and lecturers and for students of police academies and other educational institutions.

In Ukraine, an important aspect of the ICRC’s activities consisted in preparing police officers to take part, as instructors or participants, in UN civilian police missions across the world. In addition, the ICRC provided, produced or helped to produce a broad range of publications and training materials. The organization also completed an in-depth analysis of the level of IHL integration in the three armed services in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine.

- decree signed by the Minister of Defence of Ukraine ordering the integration of IHL into the military training curriculum and operational procedures
- 91 commanding officers of the Russian, Moldovan and Transnistrian peace-keeping contingents in Transnistria attended two IHL seminars
- 22 seminars held for IHL instructors and armed forces personnel in the three countries
- the fourth Yaroslav the Wise competition for the best knowledge of IHL among students of higher military academies held at the Odessa Army Institute, involving four teams from Ukraine, one from Armenia, one from Belarus, one from the Russian Federation and one from Moldova
- the ICRC participated as a neutral observer in the field exercise, “The Shield of Motherland – 2004”, which assessed different actions of territorial defence on Belarus
- a meeting took place with officials of the *de facto* Defence Ministry in the breakaway region of Transnistria, proposing a programme of IHL training for the region’s armed forces

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL in academic circles

The ICRC maintained contacts with selected universities in the region to promote the study of IHL as part of law, international relations and journalism courses, mainly by providing relevant literature, supporting the involvement of teachers and students as participants or organizers in IHL-related events, helping them prepare teaching and research materials and promoting academic exchange.

- ▶ Kyiv International University and the Moldovan State University each sent a team, with ICRC support, to take part in the Jean Pictet international IHL moot-court competition in France
- ▶ the second IHL moot-court competition took place in Chisinau, jointly organized by the Moldovan Independent International University and the ICRC
- ▶ 2 students from Ukraine and Moldova attended the ICRC's annual international IHL course in Warsaw
- ▶ national IHL essay competitions were held in Ukraine and Moldova and included the participation of students from Belarus
- ▶ a meeting to discuss current IHL issues and IHL teaching in Ukraine, organized by the ICRC with the Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, was attended by 22 academics from Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

Introducing young people to IHL

In Belarus and Ukraine, the ICRC, in cooperation with the education authorities and the National Societies, supported the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools. As part of the process, a meeting took place in Kyiv, bringing together representatives of the Ministries of Education of Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova and Ukraine, to discuss monitoring of the Exploring Humanitarian Law implementation process in their countries.

In Belarus, the Ministry of Education, together with the National Society, agreed on additional provisions to the existing cooperation agreement on integrating Exploring Humanitarian Law into the country's educational system. The teaching pack, together with two other Belarusian textbooks on IHL, was officially recommended as an optional resource for teachers in secondary schools.

In Moldova, the ICRC supported a seminar for teachers and students on the results of the pilot Exploring Humanitarian Law project during the 2003–04 school year. In accordance with an order of the minister of education, 52 teachers in 50 educational establishments took part the pilot project from September 2003, while cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the Moldovan Red Cross resulted in an increase in the number of schools taking part in the project.

Under a tripartite agreement on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme signed by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education,

the Ukrainian Red Cross and the ICRC, the ministry agreed to introduce the programme in the curriculum of senior schools nationwide, to integrate the modules into the curricula of basic and senior schools, to provide teacher training and to conduct monitoring and evaluation. The ministry organized a coordination meeting/training session for history-teaching methodologists from all regions with the aim of introducing Exploring Humanitarian Law in this subject area on an experimental basis in the 2004–05 academic year. The event was also attended by ICRC staff from the Tashkent regional delegation, representatives of the Ministry of Education of Moldova, including Transnistria, and Belarus.

- ▶ Exploring Humanitarian Law taught in 238 schools reaching 7,500 pupils in Belarus (and in an additional 400 schools within extracurricular activities), 50 schools reaching 1,500 pupils in Moldova and 400 schools reaching over 20,000 pupils in Ukraine
- ▶ over 1,300 teachers, education officials and Red Cross representatives attended training workshops in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
- ▶ international youth camp on Exploring Humanitarian Law, supported by the ICRC, held in Sevastopol for 83 participants from Red Cross youth clubs in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
- ▶ Exploring Humanitarian Law began to be taught in 5 pilot schools in the breakaway region of Transnistria following an offer of service by the ICRC; the Moldovan central education authorities were informed of the programme

Following an assessment mission by the ICRC and the Ukrainian Red Cross to three detention camps in western Ukraine, a joint tracing programme was initiated to help detained migrants (mainly Asian, Arab and CIS migrants) to re-establish family and consular links through a phone card and Red Cross message network. A survey was undertaken at the three camps and the findings on improving inmates' links with their families and embassies were passed on to the authorities. The programme officially started in November.

- ▶ introductory workshop on Exploring Humanitarian Law, jointly organized by the ICRC and the Moldovan Red Cross, held for chairpersons of regional branches
- ▶ training workshop, supported by the ICRC, held for newly elected Red Cross chairpersons from across Belarus
- ▶ 21,917 people, living mostly in the remote areas of the Crimean peninsula, provided with medicines by the local branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross, with ICRC support
- ▶ 35 Red Cross youth volunteers attended a seminar in Kyiv on the development of a network of Red Cross youth clubs in Ukraine

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

As in the past, the regional delegation provided expertise and financial and material support to the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, in particular for their tracing and dissemination activities, in accordance with cooperation agreements signed to this effect. All three National Societies were closely involved in the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

The ICRC continued to support the first-aid posts of the Crimean branch of the Ukrainian Red Cross. On the basis of an ICRC assessment, it was decided that this support would be reduced in 2005 and the focus shifted to the most vulnerable and isolated Tartar settlements in the Crimea.



moscow

The Moscow delegation, which was opened in 1992, combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions for other member States of the CIS. In the Russian Federation, the ICRC assists vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in Chechnya and visits people detained in connection with it. In all the countries covered, the ICRC runs long-term communication and preventive programmes to promote IHL among the authorities, the armed and security forces and civil society and to foster understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work. It supports the Russian Red Cross's tracing and dissemination activities, as well as its assistance programmes for IDPs and vulnerable residents in the northern Caucasus.

COVERING

The Russian Federation, with specialized services for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and to some extent Central Asia

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,757,769

Assistance

20,060,498

Preventive action

4,867,195

Cooperation with National Societies

1,407,136

General

8,503

► **28,101,101**

of which: Overheads **1,679,423**

PERSONNEL

30 expatriates

353 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC pursued its programmes to promote knowledge and implementation of IHL among governments, armed and security forces and education authorities.
- Mine-risk education was conducted to alert civilians, in particular children, to the dangers posed by mines and other ERW in Chechnya and parts of Daghestan.
- The ICRC assisted 12 hospitals and Grozny's central blood bank and supported the training of hospital health workers, doctors and prosthetic/orthotic technicians.
- The ICRC continued to support the rehabilitation of the water-supply and sewerage systems in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan, collective centres and hospitals in Chechnya and sanitation facilities for IDPs in Ingushetia and Daghestan.
- The ICRC provided economic assistance to some 93,000 of the most vulnerable residents in Chechnya and complementary food and other supplies to IDPs in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan.
- Until visits to places of detention were suspended in September 2004, the ICRC visited persons detained in connection with the conflict in Chechnya and gave detainees and their families the chance to exchange family news.

CONTEXT

In the northern Caucasus, the security situation worsened in 2004, with a series of bloody incidents continuing to cast a pall of uncertainty over the region. Prominent among these were the assassination of Chechen President Akhmat Kadyrov in May, the attack on Ingushetia in June and the Beslan school siege in North Ossetia in September, in which over 300 children and adults died. A number of suicide or bomb attacks in Moscow and other Russian cities, causing many civilian casualties, further contributed to the environment of insecurity.

In Chechnya, in spite of some developments that improved the daily life of the population, security remained the overriding concern, and hostilities persisted. Mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) still posed a problem for civilians as they went about their daily and seasonal activities. Hostage-taking also remained a serious threat. Conflict-related arrests continued to take place, and there were widespread reports of disappearances.

Tensions and violence increased in Ingushetia, Daghestan and Kabardino-Balkaria throughout the year, which along with arrests and identity checks continued to make life difficult for the population.

In Ingushetia and Daghestan, the issue of the return of internally displaced people (IDPs) to Chechnya came to the fore, as pressure built to close the remaining camps, despite continuing security concerns for returnees in Chechnya. Some IDPs resettled in collective centres or

private accommodation, but others faced the prospect of having to return to Chechnya. The ICRC pursued a dialogue with the authorities to advocate that any returns to Chechnya should take place on a voluntary basis.

The ICRC still had no news of its Grozny staff member, Usman Saidaliev, abducted by unidentified armed men at his home in Chechnya in August 2003.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC's large-scale operation in the northern Caucasus continued to focus on assistance and protection activities, although the implementation of projects remained hampered by the volatile security environment in the region.

Owing to the security situation, the ICRC's expatriate team remained based in Nalchik (Kabardino-Balkaria), Nazran (Ingushetia) and Khasavyurt (Daghestan), with missions to Chechnya carried out as conditions permitted. The main challenge was to manage an operation of this size by "remote control", the only possible way to work in such a context. A great deal of responsibility was placed on national staff, who were given special training. Nearly 300 national staff, including about 95 permanently based in Grozny, carried out a broad range of aid programmes throughout the region.

In 2004 the ICRC provided some 93,000 people with food and/or essential household items in the northern Caucasus. In Chechnya, the aid was for the most vulnerable residents and IDPs in the main urban centres, with selection based on economic criteria. In Daghestan, where there were very few humanitarian organizations present, the ICRC assisted about 8,000 IDPs from Chechnya. In Ingushetia, 33,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs, selected on the basis of State social criteria, were included in relief distributions.

In order to improve the living conditions of IDPs and of the resident population in Chechnya, Ingushetia and Daghestan, the ICRC continued to support the local authorities in the rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure, such as the water and sewerage networks.

Visiting people detained in connection with the conflict in Chechnya was one of the ICRC's priorities in the Russian Federation. In 2004 the ICRC faced problems in carrying out visits according to its standard procedures and was consequently obliged to suspend its visits. Until then, delegates had visited places of detention in Chechnya, Ingushetia, Daghestan, North Ossetia and southern Russia, held talks with the authorities, interviewed registered detainees in private and monitored the material and psychological conditions of detention and treatment of detainees.

The ICRC also sought to engage the authorities in a dialogue on missing persons and on respect for the civilian population, in

particular residents and IDPs in Chechnya, Daghestan and Ingushetia.

Strengthening health services in the northern Caucasus was another ongoing priority. The ICRC assisted 12 hospitals and the Grozny central blood bank and supported the training of health workers and doctors. It also helped train prosthetic/orthotic technicians at Grozny's physical rehabilitation centre and provided the centre with material assistance.

The mine-risk education programme focused on helping the civilian population in general, and children in particular, to avoid the dangers of mines and ERW in Chechnya and Daghestan.

The Moscow-based ICRC regional communication centre continued to play an important role in coordinating and supporting long-term communication and preventive programmes in the Russian Federation and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Adopting a selective approach, the ICRC targeted universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and think-tanks concerned with IHL and humanitarian issues. Furthermore, it built contacts with media and publishers that were in a position to influence leaders and decision-makers in both Russia and the CIS.

The ICRC's cooperation with the Russian Red Cross focused on strengthening the National Society's operational-response capacity by involving it closely in aid programmes in the northern Caucasus and building up its tracing and dissemination activities. Coordination with other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies and other humanitarian organizations working in the northern Caucasus remained an essential aspect of the ICRC's operation.

CIVILIANS

While high unemployment and poor social and economic conditions were widespread in the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, in Chechnya they were further exacerbated by the conflict. Reconstruction work progressed only haltingly and focused mostly on public buildings. While vulnerable Chechens benefited from regular if minimal payment of State pensions, the need for humanitarian aid and rebuilding was still huge. Security continued to be a major concern, as ongoing violence and armed

operations across the republic prevented people from resuming normal lives.

Restoring family links

There was still a need to re-establish contact between members of families separated by conflict, mostly between people in the northern Caucasus and their relatives who had settled elsewhere in the Russian Federation or abroad. In Chechnya, the ICRC's Red Cross message (RCM) service enabled people living in remote areas and elderly people whose families had left to maintain contact with relatives.

The Moscow delegation also dealt with requests for travel documents to enable refugees and asylum seekers without valid identification papers to travel to a host country where they had been accepted for resettlement. It also received a number of requests for family reunifications.

- ▶ 417 RCMs exchanged in the northern Caucasus
- ▶ 173 RCMs transmitted through the Moscow delegation
- ▶ 290 travel documents issued

The ICRC continued to receive requests for information from families regarding the whereabouts of relatives believed to have been arrested by security forces, armed opposition groups or other armed elements. The requests were passed on to the authorities for clarification.

Providing food and other aid for Chechnya's destitute

Despite prevailing security constraints, the ICRC regularly provided up to 50,159 vulnerable people with assistance (12 loaves of bread, 1 kg of sugar, 1 litre of oil, 2 bars of soap and 0.2 kg of tea each month). While the distribution of bread ceased at the end of September, the distribution of sugar, oil, tea and soap continued until the end of the year, when it was also stopped. During the fourth quarter the former beneficiaries of the bread programme were provided with blankets, towels and bed linen. Some 13,400 schoolchildren from families assisted under the bread programme were provided twice during the year with clothing and shoes/boots. The ICRC also distributed dry and fresh food, soap and other items, such as blankets and bed linen, to some 254 people in four medical and social-welfare institutions; 51 children in these institutions also received clothing.

Improving water and living conditions in Chechnya

In Chechnya's heavily damaged capital Grozny, access to water remained a major problem, owing both to years of hostilities and decay caused by lack of maintenance and investment. The ICRC continued to support the efforts of the local water board to increase its capacity to repair and maintain the water-supply network by providing it with materials and technical advice.

Safe drinking water was supplied to particular areas in Grozny by an ICRC-operated chlorinating and filling point linked to the main water network. This water was then distributed by the International Rescue Committee, the municipal housing department and private trucks. In addition, the ICRC donated pumps and other materials to the Polish Humanitarian Organization, an NGO active in this field, to operate two similar filling and chlorinating installations.

The local water board, operating in the rural areas of Chechnya, was provided with submersible pumps and electrical materials for the rehabilitation and maintenance of boreholes.

In 2004 the ICRC carried out renovation/repair work on four collective centres in Grozny and Gudermes housing some 3,100 people, completed the rehabilitation of a community-operated shower and laundry facility at a collective centre in Gudermes, and started work on a similar facility serving three collective centres in Sernovodsk.

To improve conditions in collective centres, schools and social-welfare institutions, the ICRC installed 366 gas stoves in Grozny and Chechnya's other major cities. An additional 150 stoves were donated to the Russian Red Cross, to be installed in the flats of elderly people as part of their home-care programme.

- 21,000 cubic metres (monthly average) of safe water provided for some 40,000 inhabitants of Grozny

Assisting IDPs in Ingushetia

Although the exact numbers were hard to ascertain, Ingushetia hosted the largest part of the displaced population from Chechnya. Many IDPs frequently ventured into Chechnya or moved either back to Chechnya or elsewhere in Ingushetia, as tent camps were closed down.

The ICRC continued to supply vulnerable IDPs, selected on the basis of State social

criteria, with food rations to complement the aid provided by the World Food Programme until September 2004, when the decision was taken to stop complementary food distributions and to concentrate on the provision of essential household items. Sugar for preserves was distributed before the summer, and hygiene kits were provided twice during the year. In the last quarter the IDPs were given with blankets and towels.

- up to 34,300 IDPs assisted
- 9,600 IDP children of school age provided twice during the year with clothing and shoes/boots

In Ingushetia, working in coordination with UNHCR, other NGOs and local counterparts, the ICRC continued its water and sanitation operation benefiting some 11,000 IDPs. This required maintaining and repairing storage tanks, distribution ramps and shower blocks. All water-trucking activities in Ingushetia were handed over to the International Rescue Committee, but maintenance of nine water points installed by the ICRC continued. The ICRC also began connecting its own water and sanitation points, as well as those of other organizations, to the local water network. The last two showers blocks in Ingushetia where the ICRC was still paying for the cleaning were handed over to the community, who were tasked with ensuring the cleaning and security of the installations. Finally, the water-supply project in the villages of Psedakh and Inarki, which included the rehabilitation of the pumping station and storage tanks and the extension of the network, was successfully completed. It served a total population of 10,500, including 1,900 IDPs from Chechnya, who had previously had no reliable access to water.

- 2,000 cubic metres (monthly average) of water trucked and 10,000 IDPs benefited from water and habitat programmes in Ingushetia

Assisting IDPs in Daghestan

ICRC assistance in Daghestan, one of Russia's poorest republics, focused on IDPs from Chechnya, who constituted a particularly vulnerable part of the population. Following the continuous closure of collective centres, the ICRC assisted some of the IDPs, who were squatting in empty buildings, by carrying out basic structural and electrical maintenance. At the end of 2004 the only two collective centres remaining in Daghestan were at Buratino and Topolek. In Topolek, the ICRC negotiated with the owner of the building to install showers and carry out basic rehabilitation work on the

building hosting a total of 49 families. In Buratino, a water point was installed, while stoves were donated to both centres for the most vulnerable families.

- 8,497 IDPs supplied with hygiene kits, blankets, towels and sugar for making preserves, while their food needs were covered by other organizations
- 1,800 schoolchildren from displaced families provided twice during the year with clothing and shoes/boots

Helping housebound residents and IDPs across the region

In Daghestan, Ingushetia, Chechnya and seven other republics and regions, up to 2,481 housebound residents benefited from a home-care programme carried out by the Russian Red Cross with ICRC support.

In coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continued to lend financial support to a National Society programme to provide IDPs and residents with psychological counselling and legal advice (see *National Society*).

Economic security across the northern Caucasus

- 8,004 food parcels, 1,217 million hygiene kits and/or soap, 6,124 tonnes of food, 87,657 blankets, 49,858 bed sheets and 170 beds distributed
- 24,853 sets of summer clothes, 51,337 pairs of shoes and boots and 26,484 winter jackets distributed to schoolchildren

Alerting the population to the mine threat

Landmines and ERW remained a constant threat to the resident population in Chechnya and to displaced people upon their return home. Through its mine-risk education programme, the ICRC sought to make people aware of the danger posed by landmines and ERW and to promote safe behaviour in mine-contaminated environments. To that end, it collected data on mine incidents, through hospitals receiving support from the ICRC, so as to better understand how people were put at risk, to determine what advice to give and how and to identify needs for prosthetic/orthotic assistance. To ensure that information on mines/ERW was relevant to the specific groups at risk and reached as many people as possible, the ICRC worked with key members of the community, including teachers and the media.

In February a café employing mine survivors opened in Grozny, with the aim of supporting the social reintegration of people with disabilities. The project was run jointly by the ICRC and a local NGO, Minga.

The ICRC supported various local initiatives to involve children in mine-risk education. The We Will Conquer Mines initiative was implemented in Achkhoy Martanovsky, involving all 25 schools in the region.

- 90 children trained to relay safety messages to other children
- 556 schools in Chechnya and 58 schools in Daghestan supplied with various mine-risk education materials

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Under an agreement with the Russian authorities signed in May 2000, the ICRC continued to have access to people detained in connection with the conflict in Chechnya. The ICRC sought to engage in direct, constructive dialogue with the detaining authorities and officials of the relevant ministries, to ensure that detainees were treated humanely. During each visit, detainees were given the opportunity to send RCMs to their families.

- 38 visits carried out to 28 places of detention (including 10 visits to 9 places in Chechnya)
- 493 RCMs delivered to detainees
- 3,212 detainees registered since May 2000 (including 151 in 2004)

In 2004 the ICRC faced problems in carrying out visits according to its standard procedures. It was consequently obliged to suspend its visits to places of detention in the Russian Federation in September. The ICRC was discussing the matter with the competent authorities and remained hopeful that visits to detainees could soon resume in line with its standard procedures.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Health services in the northern Caucasus remained plagued by a lack of financing, poor maintenance, outdated equipment, inadequate supplies of medicines and unevenly distributed resources. These problems, coupled with general poverty, and in the case of Chechnya, damage resulting from the conflict and lack of security, continued to make access even to basic health care difficult for the population.

The ICRC continued to supply 10 hospitals in Chechnya and one referral facility each in Ingushetia and Daghestan with medicines and surgical materials and equipment. This support was provided across the clinical service departments of surgery, medicine, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology and to the outpatient departments. In addition, laboratory capacity was upgraded in five hospitals, and consumable laboratory supplies were provided to all 12 hospitals. The Grozny central blood bank was also provided with regular supplies. Four hospitals in North Ossetia received medical equipment and supplies to cope with the needs of the hundreds of people hospitalized after the hostage-taking in Beslan.

The ICRC completed the rehabilitation of two major referral hospitals outside Grozny, in Gudermes and Nadtercheniy.

Its contingency stock of medicines and surgical equipment enabled the ICRC to step in rapidly to provide extra surgical kits to hospitals facing emergencies, for example following an influx of victims injured during the attack on Nazran in June and during the hostage crisis in Beslan.

The ICRC sponsored the participation of 27 doctors in different types of training courses organized in Moscow. Various medical textbooks and journals were distributed to all of the ICRC's 12 target hospitals.

- 12 hospitals, 5 laboratories and 1 blood bank assisted
- 90,926 patients admitted to ICRC-assisted hospitals (including 760 war-wounded, of whom 165 were mine-injured)
- 20,538 surgical operations carried out
- 2 hospital water and habitat projects completed
- 60 surgeons from CIS countries, including 40 from the northern Caucasus, attended ICRC seminars on war surgery in Moscow and Nalchik
- 27 Chechen doctors attended specialized courses

Physical rehabilitation of amputees and other disabled people

As part of its surgical programme, the ICRC continued to provide wheelchairs and crutches to patients with disabilities. In 2004, five wheelchairs and 46 pairs of crutches were distributed to patients of ICRC-supported hospitals.

To address the longer-term needs for physical rehabilitation among Chechnya's approximately 9,000 disabled people, the ICRC continued to train specialized Chechen

staff from the prosthetic/orthotic centre in Grozny, which the authorities had officially reopened in April 2003. In October 2004 eight Chechen prosthetic/orthotic technicians completed a two-year training course, which included both training in Sochi and practical work at the Grozny centre. A further seven technicians, from other centres in the region, received refresher training in specific physical rehabilitation techniques.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to strengthen relations with the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, signing in April a cooperation agreement with it on the promotion of the ratification and national implementation of IHL treaties in CIS countries. It was also agreed that the ICRC would support the Assembly in drafting model laws related to IHL. The ICRC and the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly co-organized a regional conference in St Petersburg to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

In the Russian Federation, the ICRC sponsored Russian experts to take part in national and international IHL-related events and kept the authorities informed of current IHL issues, providing them with advice and legal expertise. The ICRC supported the Russian Association of International Law in the organization of a conference on national implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), which was attended by government officials, academics and foreign experts. Among other events organized to promote IHL and its implementation were the Fourth Martens Readings and a regional round-table on IHL in Moscow.

The ICRC appointed an expert to draft a study on the compatibility of Russian legislation with IHL rules on missing persons.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC pursued cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, in particular with the working group that in 2002 had drawn up a three-year plan for IHL integration, including recommendations to ensure that key military manuals contained relevant IHL rules.

With the aim of raising the quality of IHL education for future career officers, the ICRC continued to focus on cadet training

establishments and military schools. Fourteen teams, which included 56 officer cadets and 14 instructors, from leading officer cadet schools across the CIS took part in the sixth General Skobelev competition on the laws and customs of war held at the Kazan Tank Institute. An officer cadet team from the Ryazan Military Institute of Airborne Troops, prepared and supported by the ICRC, came second out of 15 military academies from 10 countries at the third International IHL Competition for Military Academies held at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. The team from the Novosibirsk Military Command School won the fourth Yaroslav the Wise international IHL competition in Odessa, Ukraine. The officer cadet team from the Russian Ministry of Defence won the second Al-Farabi international IHL competition held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, attended by seven teams from leading officer cadet schools in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.

The ICRC remained committed to providing IHL training for troops about to be deployed in the northern Caucasus. Eighty-five senior army officers attended two three-day IHL workshops, and some 52 army and interior troop officers were trained as IHL instructors at the Senezh-Kavkaz course in Vladikavkaz, in the northern Caucasus. A further 60 senior officers responsible for civic training and information attended a three-day IHL seminar in Moscow.

The ICRC also organized three training and refresher courses for future IHL instructors for the armed forces and gave a presentation for some 100 participants ranging from senior officers of the Ministry of Defence, the Federal Border Service and the interior troops to legal advisers and instructors.

In 2004 the ICRC sponsored 10 staff officers to attend a workshop at the Golitsyno training centre in Moscow province to review compliance of combat-training programmes for ground forces, airborne troops and naval infantry with IHL and to issue recommendations accordingly.

The ICRC's cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior focused on acquainting law-enforcement personnel and interior troops of the Russian Federation with international human rights law and IHL and on helping to integrate them into their training curricula.

To ensure systematic instruction in IHL for troops of the Ministry of the Interior about

to be deployed in the northern Caucasus, the ICRC developed a special training programme and materials. It organized a total of seven courses for commanding and training officers on IHL and the integration of IHL into training.

- 225 participants, including 58 high-ranking officers of the Defence Ministry and 25 senior army legal advisers, attended 7 ICRC seminars and presentations
- 2 six-day courses on IHL and international human rights law held in September for 20 interior troops and officers and 20 other participants from police training establishments
- expertise and support provided for 3 workshops for the Ministry of Defence's working group on IHL integration, conducted at the Golitsyno training centre
- a two-week Senezh IHL course regularly conducted, with ICRC support, at the Vystrel Training Centre under the Combined Arms Academy
- 7 high-ranking officers of the Ministry of Defence took part in IHL courses at the San Remo Institute

CIVIL SOCIETY

Building contacts with the media

To promote knowledge and understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities, the regional delegation in Moscow fostered contacts with the media and produced and distributed a wide range of information materials in Russian and English. It organized events to highlight the ICRC's activities and IHL-related concerns both within the Russian Federation and internationally. The Russian-language website was launched in January. Contacts with Russian think-tanks and analysts were expanded during the mission of the ICRC political adviser to Moscow. A communication plan was developed in order to promote understanding of the protection of detainees and the ICRC's role in this respect, as well as to enhance the ICRC's reputation and credibility.

Promoting IHL concepts in schools

The ICRC continued its school programme, begun in 1995, aimed at familiarizing secondary-school pupils across the Russian Federation with the basic principles of IHL and humanitarian action. Working through a team of Russian education experts, the ICRC concentrated on intensive teacher training, impact evaluation and extension of the programme to specialized military schools. Thus, training and refresher courses

were regularly held for regional coordinators, who were responsible for ensuring that the programme was taught appropriately and effectively in schools.

The ICRC signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education in Chechnya to introduce an IHL programme for secondary-school students in grades five to eight.

Promoting IHL teaching in universities

The ICRC pursued cooperation with law, international relations and journalism faculties across the Russian Federation and with the Russian Association of International Law (RAIL). As part of a cooperation agreement with the ICRC, the RAIL organized an essay competition for law students on either the "International Criminal Court (ICC)" or "Terrorism and IHL". The seventh Martens competition, jointly organized by the ICRC and the RAIL, attracted 18 teams from law schools across the Russian Federation. Two teams from the northern Caucasus were also selected to participate in the competition, which took place in Moscow. Eighty leading scholars and representatives of RAIL took part in the "Fourth Martens Readings: contemporary problems in IHL", co-organized with St Petersburg University. Books and recently published IHL materials were donated to the Ingush National Library and to universities across the northern Caucasus.

In efforts to improve IHL teaching at universities throughout the region, the ICRC ensured that lecturers received a training update and fresh materials.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In coordination with the International Federation, the ICRC stepped up efforts to strengthen the Russian Red Cross's organizational structure and development and to explore avenues to enhance its sustainability. It provided expertise and financial support to three key positions at National Society headquarters and continued to support its tracing, dissemination and assistance programmes.

The Russian Red Cross began working on new drafts of a Red Cross law and a law protecting the emblem.

Tracing

The ICRC's support enabled the Russian Red Cross's tracing centre in Moscow to continue to deal with some 40,000 cases relating to the Second World War and to

carry on computerizing its registration card index.

Dissemination

A pilot project to improve the dissemination capacities of local Red Cross branches through youth volunteers continued. With the ICRC's support, trained volunteers presented IHL and the Movement's Fundamental Principles to audiences in 13 regions. Staff of the Russian Red Cross Museum covered similar topics in 62 presentations for more than 1,000 students. With ICRC support, four issues of the Russian Red Cross magazine were published in 2004 and sent out to all local Red Cross committees. A total of 36 Russian Red Cross staff from 35 regions took part in two IHL seminars organized by the National Society and the ICRC.

Assistance

The ICRC maintained cooperation with 14 Red Cross branches in southern Russia and the northern Caucasus, supporting first-aid training for staff, the home-care programme for housebound residents and psychological and legal counselling services for IDPs and residents.

- ▶ 2,481 housebound people regularly assisted in Chechnya and in other republics of the northern Caucasus and southern Russia, receiving complementary food parcels, hygiene products and other essential items
- ▶ 18 psychologists in 13 regions gave consultations to 2,515 people each month, while 18 legal advisers in 12 regions provided advice to an average of 1,000 people a month

In Ingushetia, the local branch of the Russian Red Cross moved the 10 ICRC-financed playrooms for children aged three to six years to new locations. They continued to supply snacks to children and provided them with toys and games, as well as the services of a psychologist. The Russian Red Cross recreation centre in Nazran, offering a library, a gym, language classes and a computer room, attracted about 280 adolescents monthly from the local resident and displaced populations.

With support from the ICRC, the Daghestan branch of the Russian Red Cross supplied 500 schoolchildren in the Novostroi region with hot meals three times a week.

Elections at the Chechen branch took place in December 2004. Russian Red Cross programmes in Chechnya, supported by the ICRC in 2004, were implemented

directly by the Russian Red Cross headquarters through its zonal office based in Nalchik (with an office in Grozny).

- ▶ 783 housebound residents in Chechnya received home care; from September 2004, this programme was reinforced and beneficiaries began to receive medicines and small home repairs
- ▶ Russian Red Cross inspectors monitored the distribution and quality of bread in 58 distribution points in Chechnya, in the framework of the ICRC bread programme, until the programme ceased in September 2004



ICRC regional delegation ICRC mission

skopje

From the beginning of the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in March 2001, the ICRC, working closely with the National Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, ran an assistance and protection programme for internally displaced people in villages and towns worst hit by the fighting. The ICRC, whose presence in the country dates back to 1993, continues to visit detainees and monitors compliance with IHL. In Albania, where it has been present since 1997, the ICRC supports the Albanian Red Cross Society in raising civilians' awareness of the danger of mines and other explosive remnants of war and in developing its tracing and dissemination capacities.

COVERING

Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

547,608

Assistance

609,648

Preventive action

1,055,655

Cooperation with National Societies

311,722

General

-

► **2,524,634**

of which: Overheads **154,086**

PERSONNEL

7 expatriates

35 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC completed its income-generating projects for people displaced as a result of the internal conflict in 2001.
- Progress was made on the issue of missing persons in the FYROM, with a number of bodies being discovered and identified.
- The Promotion of Human Values programme, bringing together young people from different ethnic backgrounds, was progressively handed over to the National Society in the FYROM but continued to receive ICRC support, in accordance with a letter of understanding signed by the two organizations.
- The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was initiated in the FYROM and pilot-tested in workshops and schools; an agreement on implementation of the programme was signed with the FYROM Ministry of Education at the end of the year.
- The ICRC supported moves by the FYROM and Albania to incorporate IHL into national legislation.
- The FYROM ratified the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention.

CONTEXT

Elections in the FYROM, following the death of President Trajkovski in a plane crash in February, went smoothly and without incident, with the prime minister, Branko Crvenkovski, being elected as the new president for a five-year term.

Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which was signed in 2001 ending the country's conflict, was effectively put on hold during the election period. In November the long-anticipated referendum on decentralization and the redrawing of municipal borders passed off almost without incident, with only 26% of eligible voters participating in the ballot. The recognition by the United States of the country's name as Macedonia (dropping the prefix "former Yugoslav Republic of") was greeted with enthusiasm in the FYROM but condemned by Greece.

The FYROM submitted its application for EU membership in March. The European Commission's annual report on the Stabilization and Association Agreements in South-East Europe acknowledged progress in the general security climate in the country.

The EU Police Mission in the FYROM (EUPOL PROXIMA) was extended for one year, although with more of an advisory and monitoring mandate than a purely operational one.

Economically, the FYROM continued to experience both low levels of GDP and foreign direct investment, although its relatively low inflation rate was one positive feature.

In Albania, the political scene was dominated by the issue of property restitution and preparations for the 2005 parliamentary elections, both of which created much debate between the governing Socialist Party of Fatos Nano and the opposition Democratic Party of Sali Berisha. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) was heavily engaged in supplying technical advice on both issues. Albania, as a partner in the Adriatic Charter, continued to lobby for NATO membership, as did the FYROM.

ICRC ACTION

Having ended direct food and material assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) in June 2003, the ICRC focused its assistance programme in the FYROM solely on income-generating projects.

Significant progress was made on the issue of missing persons in the FYROM, with DNA analysis helping to identify several bodies.

The ICRC continued to follow the cases of detainees in the FYROM over the year, maintaining contact with the prison authorities. It also worked to strengthen National Society programmes to promote international humanitarian law (IHL), conduct tracing activities and raise awareness of the dangers of mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In the FYROM, the ICRC supported the government's ratification of the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Although the country's armed forces increasingly ran IHL training programmes autonomously, the ICRC was still available to offer support and advice.

In Albania, the ICRC worked closely with the National Society on its mine-risk education programmes. The importance of these efforts was tragically underlined by two fatal mine incidents in May, in which a total of six people were killed and 12 wounded. Meanwhile, the Women Facing War photo exhibition, supported by the ICRC, was put on show in Tirana in March. The event attracted wide media interest in Albania.

The ICRC continued to participate in coordination meetings organized by international and intergovernmental organizations such as the European Union, the OSCE, the United Nations and NATO.

CIVILIANS

Assisting displaced people in the FYROM

Over the period under review, the number of IDPs in the FYROM decreased from 2,678 to 1,717. The number was constantly declining as IDPs gradually returned to their home villages. Their return was prompted by the generally improving security situation in the country and the completion of reconstruction of damaged

houses. In some cases, IDPs found a new home elsewhere. The ICRC maintained strong contacts with local leaders in the former conflict areas and ethnically mixed regions, while following developments in the country overall.

The conclusion of ICRC-supported income-generating projects for 1,044 IDPs brought to an end the organization's economic-security programme for IDPs in the FYROM. ICRC field officers visited 433 displaced families, following which 203 in-kind grants were approved and implemented. Of these, 56 involved an agricultural activity, 71 involved livestock and 76 involved a craft project. All income-generating projects were completed by the end of the year and evaluated to gauge the impact for the IDPs concerned.

Clarifying the fate of missing persons in the FYROM

Encouraging progress was made on the issue of missing persons in the FYROM in 2004, with the number of such people dropping to 23, and eight cases resolved. A number of bodies were identified through DNA analysis performed by the FYROM authorities and the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP). Ante-mortem data was also collected by the authorities from the families involved. The ICMP closed its office in the FYROM in November 2004 after collecting blood samples from relatives of all missing persons.

The ICRC focused on contact with and support to the families of missing persons, discussing the matter with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior during meetings with the families.

Minimizing civilian suffering caused by mines and ERW

In Albania, the ICRC supported the National Society's mine-awareness programme by paying the costs of 11 mine-awareness officers. It also gave a number of presentations on mines and other explosive remnants of war in the north of the country and, with the National Society, erected a number of warning billboards in mountain villages alerting the population to the dangers (see *National Societies*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC maintained good cooperation with the prison authorities in the FYROM, who provided timely information on pre-trial and sentenced detainees. The

organization continued to follow the individual cases of 11 sentenced detainees in Idrizovo Prison and obtained permission from judges to visit five pre-trial detainees. It also paid the travel expenses of families visiting their detained relatives.

- ▶ one-off assistance in the form of books, schoolbooks and winter clothes distributed in Idrizovo Prison and the Tetovo Juvenile Correctional Centre

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to enjoy a close relationship with the governmental and parliamentary authorities in the FYROM, supplying advice and information when requested on the implementation of IHL. It sponsored the participation of a special legal adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the second regional meeting of national IHL committees in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Following the FYROM's accession to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention, a new law on the protection of cultural monuments containing a provision to implement the Convention entered into force. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Hague Convention, the ICRC and the country's Blue Shield Society designed a poster and distributed it throughout the country.

In Albania, close contacts were maintained with the national authorities regarding the process of accession to the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention. Discussions were also held with the Albanian Mine Action Executive regarding further implementation of the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following the signing of a cooperation agreement by the ICRC and the FYROM Ministry of Defence in 2004, the ICRC continued to support the armed forces in implementing an IHL programme. It conducted or assisted with workshops and seminars attended by officials of the Ministry of Defence, military officers and cadets from the Military Academy. It also helped with the training in IHL of members of special forces due to be sent to Afghanistan. IHL seminars were also held for a number of police station commanders, inspectors and chiefs of sector, Tiger Special

Police Unit personnel and senior Defence Ministry officials.

Meetings took place with the Albanian authorities to pursue discussion on the IHL programme for the armed forces. A combined seminar with participants from the Commando Regiment and the Rapid Deployment Brigade was held in Tirana. The Ministry of Defence sent one army officer to attend the IHL course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Copies of the new ICRC publication *Fight it Right* were presented to the Albanian Ministry of Defence, and the teaching file for the armed forces was translated and printed.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Working with the media to promote IHL and humanitarian action

The local FYROM and international media reported on a number of humanitarian issues and activities, notably the country's ratification of the Second Protocol to the Hague Convention. A general fact sheet on ICRC activities in the FYROM was produced and distributed to the international and national media, while a draft fact sheet on the Promotion of Human Values programme (see below) was distributed during an exhibition on the programme in Vinica.

The Women Facing War photo exhibition, held in Tirana in March, attracted a good turnout and intense media attention in Albania.

Introducing IHL to younger generations in the FYROM

Following the signing of a letter of understanding with the FYROM Red Cross, the ICRC began the progressive handover of the Promotion of Human Values programme to the National Society, to be completed by 2006. Over this time, the ICRC would support one full-time position within the National Society and contribute to the programme financially, gradually decreasing over subsequent years. The handover of the programme would be guided by a coordination body in which the National Society, the Ministry of Education and the ICRC would be represented.

The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was also launched in the FYROM, following an agreement signed with the Ministry of Education on the pilot-testing of the "short path" (nine school hours) in a real school environment. While the Promotion of Human Values and Exploring

Humanitarian Values programmes were initially tested in the same workshops and in the same schools, by the end of 2004 they were conducted separately.

- 12 Promotion of Human Values workshops organized for teachers and students from different ethnic communities
- 24 Promotion of Human Values support lectures conducted, reaching around 800 students.
- 1 four-day training workshop on Exploring Humanitarian Law held for 19 teachers from Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish backgrounds and from 13 different schools
- 48 Exploring Humanitarian Law support lectures conducted in 6 schools for students of different ethnic backgrounds
- 32 teachers trained in the Promotion of Human Values and Exploring Humanitarian Law methodologies

Fostering the teaching of IHL in universities

Close contact was maintained with key professors of IHL at the law faculty of the University of Skopje and with the South-East European University in Tetovo. At the invitation of the ICRC, one postgraduate student and one assistant lecturer from the law faculty of the Skopje University and one professor and one student from the South-East European University in Tetovo participated in the first regional course on IHL in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro. In addition, the ICRC financed the participation of a law professor from Tetovo University in an IHL seminar in Geneva.

In Albania, the ICRC kept up contacts with several universities. Meetings were held with the deans of the Vlora and Shkodra law faculties, where publications on IHL and the 1949 Geneva Conventions were distributed. A training workshop was also held for Albanian-speaking law students from Kosovo and the FYROM interested in taking part in IHL moot-court competitions.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Supporting the Red Cross Society of the FYROM

The ICRC continued to play a key role in the Promotion of Human Values programme (see *Civil society*). It also supported the National Society's dissemination activities, providing advice and training to disseminators.

- 4 one-day seminars for experienced disseminators organized by the National Society with ICRC support
- 1 training seminar held for new disseminators in Struga
- 30 Red Cross youth members trained in Red Cross issues using the Promotion of Human Values methodology
- ICRC resource personnel participated in a workshop on good governance for the new executive board of the National Society

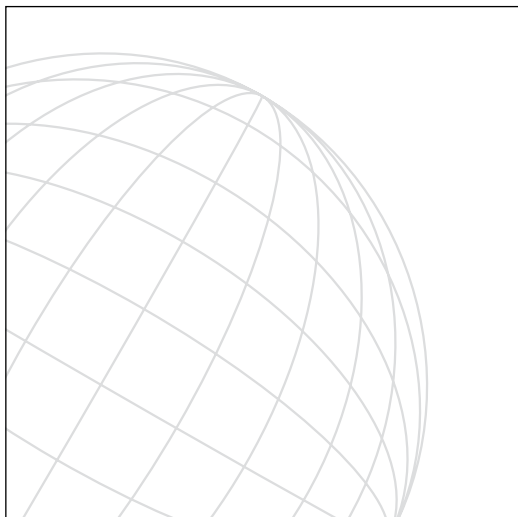
The Red Cross of the FYROM, with ICRC support, persisted in its efforts to gain acceptance in the Skopska Crna Gora region bordering Kosovo, where the 2001 conflict first flared up. A manual on conflict preparedness and response, produced by the National Society's disaster-preparedness coordinator, was printed, and an accompanying workshop held for 25 volunteers.

In the course of the year the ICRC supported 11 workshops to develop the National Society's emergency-response unit. It further assisted the National Society in its endeavours to be included in the new national legislation on crisis management.

Supporting the Albanian Red Cross

In Albania, the ICRC continued to finance the salary of a tracing officer at the National Society's headquarters and provided modest support to volunteers in 12 branches, enabling them to gather once a year in Tirana for coordination and training meetings. The ICRC also financed the salary of the mine-awareness officer at the National Society headquarters and paid the transport costs of 10 local mine-awareness officers.

The Albanian Red Cross tracing office followed up 66 tracing requests, 15 of which were submitted in 2004. Two training sessions for tracing volunteers were held in the National Society sub-branches. A total of 2,400 tracing leaflets were distributed to the 12 local branches throughout Albania. A new dissemination coordinator was appointed in December. During the year around 400 mine-awareness activities were conducted in the north of the country, including Has, Kukes and Tropoja, reaching a total of around 6,000 people. Ten billboards warning people of the danger of mines and other ERW and promoting safe behaviour were put up in four mountain villages.



ankara

On the basis of an agreement with the Turkish authorities and in direct relation to the conflict in neighbouring Iraq, the ICRC opened a temporary mission in Ankara in April 2003. ICRC activities in connection with the situation in Iraq focus mainly on protection issues. Other ICRC activities in Turkey include supporting the authorities in the promotion of IHL and assisting the armed forces in the integration of IHL into their training programmes. In addition, the ICRC conducts a number of joint programmes with the Turkish Red Crescent Society.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

29,680

Assistance

-

Preventive action

414,697

Cooperation with National Societies

287,110

General

-

► **731,487**

of which: Overheads **44,645**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

2 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC continued to focus on protection issues in connection with the situation in Iraq.
- The ICRC maintained its support to the Turkish authorities in promoting IHL and assisted the armed forces in ensuring adequate training in IHL.
- Cooperation continued with the Turkish Red Crescent Society through a number of joint programmes.

CONTEXT

In 2003 the ICRC opened its temporary mission in Ankara in response to the crisis in neighbouring Iraq, following an agreement reached with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ICRC ACTION

In 2004 the ICRC maintained its presence in the Turkish capital, strengthening relations with the national authorities and the Turkish Red Crescent Society. It also continued to promote IHL within the armed forces and academic circles.

The ICRC carried out protection activities in connection with the situation in Iraq, which included notifying the authorities of the detention of Turkish nationals. In cooperation with the Turkish Red Crescent, the ICRC repatriated a Turkish citizen who had been detained in Iraq. The mission worked closely with the National Society's tracing unit, transmitting Red Cross messages and collecting tracing requests on behalf of Turkish families with relatives detained/interned abroad. Furthermore, in accordance with its current practice, the ICRC visited three Turkish nationals previously interned at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station upon their release and repatriation to Turkey.

The ICRC kept up a dialogue with the Turkish authorities, providing them with regular updates on IHL and related topics. Having ratified the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines in 2003, Turkey became party, in 2004, to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. The authorities were also considering accession to other IHL instruments, such as the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. The ICRC provided

support and advice to them during the decision-making process. Following an official offer by the mission, to which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded favourably, the ICRC began preparing to assist the government in conducting a study on the compatibility of the domestic legal framework with obligations under IHL.

The ICRC began preparing for the launch of the handbook for parliamentarians, *Respect for International Humanitarian Law*, which it had translated into Turkish. Plans were made to distribute the handbook in 2005 to members of parliament in coordination with the Turkish Inter-Parliamentary Union Group and Turkish Grand National Assembly (parliament).

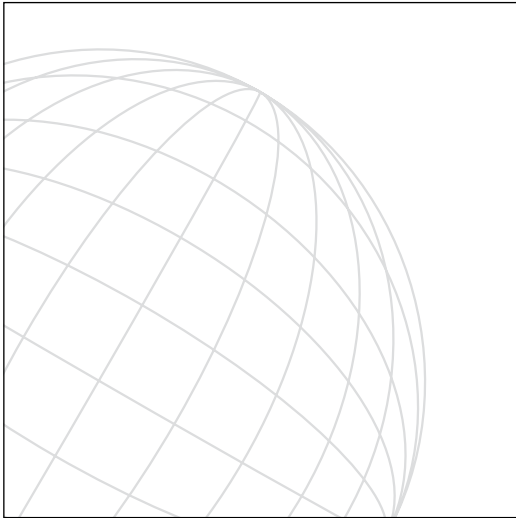
In 2004 the ICRC strengthened its cooperation with the Turkish armed forces. It continued to support the forces through dissemination and training programmes conducted within NATO, run on the basis of memoranda of understanding concluded with NATO. ICRC delegates were invited to participate in an IHL seminar held for forces of the NATO Rapid Deployment Corps, based in Istanbul, prior to their deployment in Afghanistan under the banner of the International Security Assistance Force.

Throughout the year the ICRC contributed to the activities of the Partnership for Peace training centre, offering its expertise for courses on IHL and related issues. It also provided IHL teaching materials and sponsored the participation of a number of Turkish officers in courses at the San Remo Institute of International Humanitarian Law. Furthermore, the ICRC sponsored the participation of a legal adviser from the Turkish Ministry of Defence in a regional IHL seminar.

The ICRC submitted a letter offering its services to assist the training branch of the Turkish General Staff. The head of the service expressed interest in the proposal, on the basis of which the ICRC looked at ways to lend greater support in 2005 to national programmes to integrate IHL into the doctrine, instruction and training of the armed forces.

Following an encouraging reaction from the Ministry of Education to the proposed introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary schools, the ICRC and the Turkish Red Crescent undertook to work together to achieve this goal. Plans were made to complete the translation of the relevant modules into Turkish in 2005.

In 2004 the ICRC paid special attention to preserving the independence of the Turkish Red Crescent and to supporting both its operational planning and its efforts to raise awareness of IHL. National Society representatives participated in the ninth Conference of Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Cairo in May.



brussels

The ICRC has been working in Brussels since 1999 to build strong institutional and operational relations with the EU institutions, NATO and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. The delegation aims to heighten awareness of the ICRC's mandate and to mobilize political, diplomatic and financial support for ICRC activities to ensure that victims of armed conflict receive the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under IHL. It also works to promote IHL in diplomatic, political, humanitarian and military circles.

COVERING

Institutions of the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

-

Assistance

-

Preventive action

1,266,902

Cooperation with National Societies

118,071

General

36,024

► **1,420,997**

of which: Overheads **86,728**

PERSONNEL

2 expatriates

8 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- Focusing on IHL and operational contexts and issues, the ICRC continued to strengthen its dialogue with EU institutions through the EU presidency (held by Ireland and then the Netherlands), the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, and the European Commission, and by following the work of the European Parliament.
- The ICRC further developed its dialogue with the NATO General Assembly.
- The ICRC worked to engage political, academic and humanitarian circles in a dynamic exchange on IHL and related issues.

CONTEXT

On 1 May 2004, 10 new countries joined the EU: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia. In light of ongoing developments in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, particularly in the area of crisis management, the ICRC kept a sustained focus on enhancing its dialogue with the EU institutions on operational issues and respect for IHL.

One of the ICRC's priorities in 2004 was to follow up the pledges made at the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent by the EU and its individual member States to promote dissemination of IHL among young people and armed forces. These pledges, combined with the conclusions of the 2003 European Council meeting in Thessaloniki (which supported the need for national armed forces to observe IHL and to work with the ICRC to this effect), provided a sound basis for dialogue with the 25 EU member States regarding the European Security and Defence Policy.

In view of NATO's involvement in contexts where the ICRC carries out its humanitarian tasks, the ICRC continued to foster a constructive dialogue with the organization.

In June the headquarters agreement concluded by the ICRC and the Belgian government entered into force.

ICRC ACTION

AUTHORITIES

EU institutions

In 2004 the ICRC kept up a substantive dialogue with the European Commission – in particular, the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) and the other external services of the European Commission – and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU. The aim was to ensure that the ICRC's viewpoint on specific issues of humanitarian concern was taken into account. The ICRC focused on various operational contexts in Africa (West Africa and the Horn), the Middle East, and Asia (Afghanistan). Throughout, the ICRC underlined the importance of preserving the neutrality and independence of humanitarian action.

The presidency of the EU Council was held by Ireland during the first semester and by the Netherlands during the second. The ICRC president, Jakob Kellenberger, met with the EU presidency in January and with the future EU presidency in April to discuss topics of common interest. In October he had high-level discussions with the government of Luxembourg – the country due to take over the presidency at the beginning of 2005. President Kellenberger also attended, in May and October, his twice-yearly meetings with the EU Political and Security Committee, during which he highlighted the ICRC's operational priorities.

In addition to its yearly exchange with ECHO on programme-related issues, the ICRC presented its Emergency Appeal 2004 for the first time to the external services of the European Commission. Emphasis was placed on mine-risk education and physical rehabilitation programmes and on the dissemination of IHL to the armed forces and international human rights law and humanitarian principles to security and police forces.

In March the ICRC addressed the Humanitarian Aid Committee in Dublin on the topic of humanitarian principles, their pertinence and upcoming/future challenges. In November the ICRC was invited to The Hague to present to the Committee its views on civil-military relations, the security of humanitarian personnel and the preservation of independent and neutral humanitarian action.

The ICRC specialist on small arms participated in a conference in September on revising the EU code of conduct regarding arms

exports. The conference brought together 10 EU member States, non-members that had subscribed to the code of conduct, the European Parliament and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

NATO

During the year the ICRC maintained both regular contact and dialogue with NATO officials and bilateral relationships with the member States of the Partnership for Peace. Discussions centred mainly on humanitarian concerns in Afghanistan and on security problems for humanitarian workers. President Kellenberger visited NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in May to meet the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

To deepen the dialogue with the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, ICRC delegates attended the Assembly's spring session in Bratislava, Slovakia, and its 50th General Assembly, held in Venice, Italy, in November.

The ICRC also participated in the 10th seminar of the special Mediterranean group of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in Nouakchott, Mauritania, in October. The meeting brought together members of parliament from NATO member States and those of the Mediterranean region.

In addition, the ICRC gave several briefings to civil-military cooperation officers on the ICRC's relations with the military.

Others

Cooperation continued between the ICRC and the College of Europe in Bruges, a private institute for postgraduate European studies. In September the ICRC and the College jointly organized the fifth annual Bruges Colloquium, which dealt with the need for justice and the requirements for peace and security. The colloquium was designed to encourage an open debate among the high-profile guest speakers during the panel discussions, between the speakers and the audience, and between participants in workshops tackling specific issues. The 80 participants came from the Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministries of member States or candidate countries of the EU or NATO, permanent representations to the EU and NATO, EU institutions, National Societies, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Court, national justice systems, academia, think-tanks and NGOs.

In March the ICRC organized an introductory seminar on IHL for 63 students from the College of Europe and other universities in Belgium offering a Master's degree in European studies. Also in March, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Belgian Red Cross, the ICRC participated in a three-day course on IHL for diplomats from consulates in Belgium.

At the invitation of EuropaBio, the European Association for Bioindustries, the ICRC participated in a meeting of the association's ethical committee to discuss the ICRC's Biotechnology, Weapons and Humanity initiative. EuropaBio comprised 33 member companies and 24 national biotechnology associations.

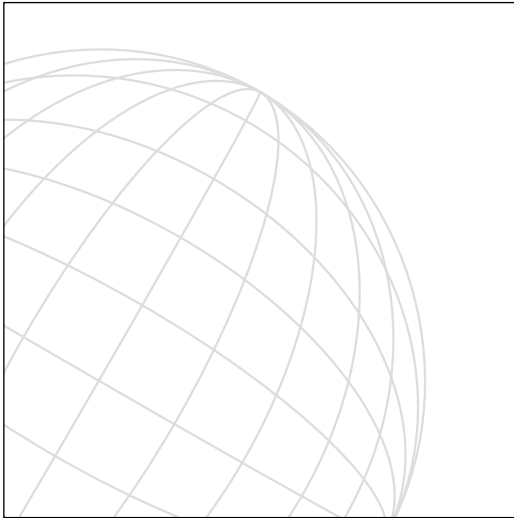
In November Belgium's interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL organized a round-table on persons unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict, in which the ICRC participated.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The Brussels delegation maintained close relations with the various components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in Brussels, through the Red Cross EU Liaison Bureau and the Belgian Red Cross. The Brussels delegation also provided the legal advisers of European National Societies with an update on developments concerning IHL within the EU.

In view of the EU's pledge to enhance the dissemination of IHL to youth, the ICRC organized a follow-up meeting in February with the Red Cross EU Liaison Bureau, as well as with the other European National Societies concerned.

The ICRC also supported and participated in the IHL moot-court competition organized by the Belgian Red Cross in March.



international tracing service

The International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, is an international institution which assembles, classifies, preserves and evaluates, for strictly humanitarian purposes, records concerning civilians persecuted during the National Socialist period in Germany (1933–45) and non-Germans displaced as a result of the Second World War up until 1952. The ITS searches for missing persons and issues certificates to civilians who suffered incarceration or forced labour and to their family members eligible for financial compensation. The institution, which derives its mandate from the Bonn Agreements of 1955, is run by an ICRC-appointed director and supervised by an international commission comprising 11 member States.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

328,170

Assistance

-

Preventive action

-

Cooperation with National Societies

-

General

-

► **328,170**

of which: Overheads **20,029**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

The mandate of the ITS is to gather, file, preserve and process personal records concerning civilians who were persecuted under the Third Reich. In particular, the ITS regularly acquires archival documents – in 2004, more than 740,000 new names were added to the central databank – and provides victims of the Nazi regime with certificates attesting to the fact that they were persecuted, for example by being deported, interned or subjected to forced labour.

The ITS grew out of the Central Tracing Bureau, which was set up by Allied Headquarters, assisted by the ICRC, at the British Red Cross in London in 1943. The Bureau moved several times before finally settling in Arolsen, Germany, in 1946. It adopted its current name on 1 January 1948. Since 1955 the ITS has been directed and administered by the ICRC and supervised by an international commission composed of representatives of the 11 member States (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and, since March 2000, Poland).

The digitization of the ITS central index of names (50 million records) was completed at the end of 1999. The databank, which became operational in the second half of 2000, makes it possible to process a considerable quantity of data electronically rather than manually, and thus to respond more quickly to requests for information and certificates. The scanning of all documentary materials from the ITS archives was started in 1999 for two reasons: to secure the information contained in the documents, which

are mostly in bad condition owing to their age and frequent handling by caseworkers, and to make electronic evaluation possible in order to expedite the processing of requests.

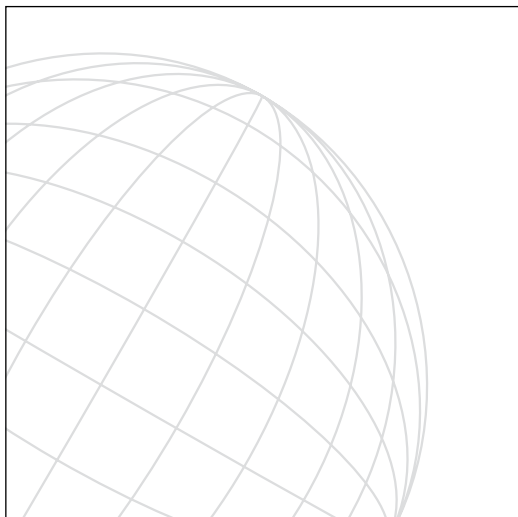
So as to preserve for future generations the historically precious documents stored in its archives – and not just the information they contain in its digital state – the ITS carries out conservation and restoration work, such as paper deacidification or delamination and the repair of mechanical damage. In 2003 the ITS began working systematically on larger stocks of concentration-camp documents, according to a list of priorities. In 2004, in cooperation with a specialized company, 247,250 single documents from the Buchenwald index were restored and deacidified, and 17,500 sheets of original list material from various concentration camps were delaminated. In total, some 985,000 documents have been treated since the start of the conservation and restoration process.

Under a German law enacted on 12 August 2000, a federal foundation entitled *Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft* (Remembrance, Responsibility and Future) was set up to provide financial compensation for persons persecuted by the Nazi regime, including those subjected to slave or forced labour. As a result, there was a surge in the number of enquiries sent to the ITS. To deal with the additional workload, the ITS developed a new system for processing requests, using standard lists. This system enables the German foundation's partner organizations (five major foundations in Central and Eastern Europe, the

Jewish Claims Conference and the International Organization for Migration in Geneva) to transfer the data contained in the requests they receive to the lists. These are then passed on to the ITS, which cross-checks the names in its central databank and enters the information it finds directly on the lists, before sending them back to the partner organizations. In 2004, under this programme, the ITS cross-checked 57,499 names sent in by the partner organizations and other bodies, such as the Migrant Service in Australia and various National Societies, as well as by individuals. By the end of 2004 the ITS had processed the majority of enquiries.

Since the ITS's stock of documentary materials was unfortunately far from complete, many enquiries could not be answered positively. To give the enquirers an additional chance to provide evidence of their persecution, the Federal Association for Information and Advice for Persecutees of National Socialism in Cologne, the Federal Archives in Koblenz and the ITS established a cooperation network whereby individual and list enquiries which could not be answered by the ITS were systematically forwarded electronically to numerous participating archives in Germany for further checks. By the end of 2004, the ITS had forwarded 409,858 such requests, 43,124 of which received a positive reply. On 31 December funding for the electronic cooperation network ended and the server was disconnected. The ITS remained, however, determined to close all cases and would continue to process any enquiries without the assistance of the electronic network.

In addition to the enquiries received in connection with the German foundation, during 2004 the ITS received 162,167 new individual requests – equal to a total of 203,525 – from 63 countries and gave 150,349 replies to these and other requests received earlier. In total, the ITS replied to 264,559 requests in 2004. At the end of the year, 443,423 requests still awaited processing.



London

Following the conclusion of a partnership agreement with the British Red Cross in October 2003, an ICRC spokesperson was stationed in London, working from the National Society's UK headquarters. Given London's importance as a global media centre, the ICRC's presence there aims to increase its access to the international media and to ensure that its views and positions on a range of humanitarian concerns are relayed to a wide audience. This is crucial at times when public attention is focused on issues of direct relevance to the ICRC, such as the treatment of detainees and the future of humanitarian action.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

-

Assistance

-

Preventive action

359,341

Cooperation with National Societies

39,404

General

-

► **398,745**

of which: Overheads **24,337**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

1 part-time assistant

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC gave regular interviews to global news networks (including CNN, the BBC, Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya), notably on the situation of detainees in Iraq.
- In cooperation with the London School of Economics, the ICRC held an international public panel discussion on "IHL in Occupied Iraq: Current problems and future perspectives".
- The ICRC representative took part in a variety of academic events, including a conference on dealing with armed groups at the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford.
- The ICRC provided input for the training of young Arab journalists at the BBC and participated in seminars on the role of the media in situations of armed conflict.
- The ICRC helped numerous television journalists conduct research for film documentaries.
- The ICRC gave presentations for British Red Cross volunteers at events organized by local branches on the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement worldwide.

CONTEXT

Over the years London has established itself as one of the world's foremost media centres. It is home to a large number of media organizations with global reach, such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), the Financial Times and the Economist, while it also hosts a high concentration of foreign media representation from all continents, including Cable News Network (CNN) and Al-Jazeera. The city is also the location of influential academic institutions with an international focus, such as the London School of Economics (LSE) and London University's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS).

Developments in digital and Internet technology have created new possibilities for organizations to publish information and led to a rise in new media outlets. This has been accompanied by a general increase in demand for content (from news items to features and research documents), which the ICRC was well placed to respond to.

In 2004 the London-based media devoted intensive coverage to issues and debates surrounding the war in Iraq, including the British government's justification for joining the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, the situation of detainees/internees held in Iraq and at the US Naval Station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the impact of the "war on terror" on States' security measures and on human rights. There was also extensive interest in the crises in Darfur (Sudan) and the Great Lakes region of Africa, but particularly in the tsunami that hit parts of Asia and East Africa in December. Images

of the latter and its devastating effects, whether taken by professional camera or home video, were broadcast around the world, prompting an exceptional outpouring of public generosity.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC developed its network of media contacts to ensure that humanitarian concerns were central to the reporting of situations of conflict. It sought to raise awareness among and gain the support of the public for the rules of international humanitarian law (IHL), particularly in their application to the treatment of certain detainees/internees held in connection with the “war on terror”.

The ICRC spokesperson in London worked closely with communication staff at the British Red Cross to complement their activities and enhance the Movement’s profile. He attended numerous seminars and discussion panels hosted by research institutes, think-tanks and universities on subjects directly related to the ICRC’s international operations. In this way the ICRC was able to relay its views and concerns to decision-makers and opinion-leaders, at length and in depth in certain cases, to enhance understanding and support for independent humanitarian action.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Working with the media

The ICRC responded to more requests than ever for information and comment on subjects of direct concern to the organization. The spokesperson in London dealt mainly with requests from international media organizations interested in issues related to conflict, while he worked closely with the British Red Cross to respond to questions from the British media on topics with an international angle.

Promoting links to academic institutions

The ICRC was invited on several occasions to participate in panels and discussion groups organized by academic institutions and think-tanks. In 2004 these discussions focused mainly on such issues as the situation of detainees in certain countries, the occupation of some countries by foreign forces, and the mass displacement of populations. Of interest to the ICRC were debates centring on humanitarian action; at each opportunity it stressed the importance of the independence of such action.

Important forums were the LSE, SOAS, Bradford University’s Department of Peace Studies and the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House). They provided the ICRC with numerous opportunities to establish contacts with

government officials, journalists and analysts and to discuss matters of direct concern to the organization. The ICRC spoke at various events organized by these institutions or by the ICRC in consort with them.

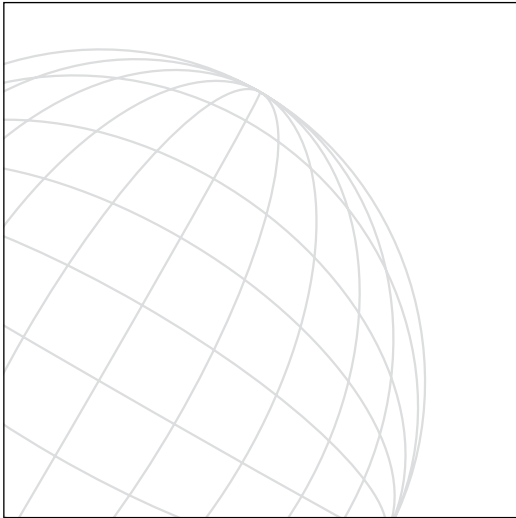
Dialogue with humanitarian actors

The ICRC had regular exchanges with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and charities working in countries where it was present, in particular regarding respect for independent humanitarian action. Several NGOs were forced during the year to pull out of countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq because they had been targeted or feared attacks. The ICRC, which had kept up its operations in these countries under tight security constraints, was keen to work with like-minded organizations to shape the future of humanitarian action and ensure its continuity in situations of extreme violence.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Cooperation with the British Red Cross

The partnership agreement between the ICRC and the British Red Cross proved beneficial for both parties. On the ICRC’s side, it provided the spokesperson with an established network and contacts on which to build and raise the Movement’s profile. The benefits to the partnership were evaluated at the end of the year and were to continue to be assessed on an annual basis.



paris

The Paris delegation, set up in 2000, focuses on facilitating ICRC operations in the field, pursuing humanitarian diplomacy and promoting IHL. Its target audiences include the French authorities, representatives of the French-speaking world, economic interest groups, the media, the diplomatic community, military and academic circles and the French Red Cross.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

-

Assistance

-

Preventive action

1,014,648

Cooperation with National Societies

41,500

General

-

► **1,056,147**

of which: Overheads **64,460**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

4 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC maintained close contacts mainly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency to discuss operations and matters of humanitarian concern.
- Contacts were also maintained with a network of individuals and established institutions in France able to influence decisions and dialogue on humanitarian action.
- The ICRC continued to promote IHL, particularly among members of the armed forces and academic circles.
- Relations with French and French-speaking media were strengthened in order to promote the principles of IHL among the general public.

CONTEXT

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, one of the architects of the European Union, an economic power and host to multinational companies, France continued to be a major player in international affairs. Given its large Arabic-speaking community and its traditionally close ties with many African countries, France was an important venue for humanitarian diplomacy, offering useful opportunities for intercession on behalf of conflict victims in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

ICRC ACTION

The Paris delegation remained a key element of the ICRC's network for humanitarian diplomacy, through which the organization sought to promote international humanitarian law (IHL), increase understanding of its mandate and stimulate debate on issues of humanitarian concern.

Throughout the year, the delegation endeavoured to position the ICRC and its viewpoint vis-à-vis the authorities, foreign opposition movements based in France, NGOs, the media and opinion-makers. It also broached operational issues with the French authorities in close cooperation with the ICRC's Geneva headquarters.

AUTHORITIES

Diplomatic ties were strengthened with the French authorities, which systematically consulted the ICRC on operational matters. The authorities were particularly concerned about the situation in Iraq and more generally the consequences of the "war on terror". Discussions also focused on specific areas of interest to France, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti.

Diplomatic advisers to the French president, the prime minister and the minister for foreign affairs regularly consulted the ICRC delegation on issues of humanitarian concern. The ICRC also maintained contacts with the Humanitarian Action Delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

On numerous occasions, the ICRC was called upon by France to make diplomatic representations regarding the armed conflicts in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Haiti, Iraq and Sudan, and in connection with prisoners held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Pursuant to the French Ministry of Defence's decision to make instruction in IHL a priority for its professional army, including the *gendarmerie*, the delegation gave presentations on IHL for French soldiers due to leave on missions abroad and for personnel from other countries taking part in military training programmes in France. For example, in September, the ICRC made its annual presentation on IHL at the Collège Interarmées de Défense. The presentation, for 320 high-ranking officers

from France and 70 other countries, dealt with IHL and the need to safeguard space for neutral and independent humanitarian action.

The delegation maintained contact with other leading military academies, such as the Officer Academy of Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan. In 2004 more than 1,800 officers attended presentations or seminars given by the ICRC on IHL and the specific nature of its mandate. In addition, close relations were established with the chief of staff.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC worked to consolidate its relationship with the French and French-speaking media, NGOs and international organizations based in Paris.

The ICRC organized a showing of its Women Facing War photographic exhibition in two Paris town halls and then in Monaco during the 44th Monte Carlo Television Festival. At the 43rd festival in 2003, the Paris delegation had created the "ICRC media prize" for the news programme that had produced the best report on the importance of the rules protecting victims in wartime. The 2004 prize was awarded to a Spanish journalist for a documentary on Peru.

The delegation began preparing for a second Estates-General meeting on IHL and humanitarian action planned for autumn 2005 in the National Assembly. The theme of the meeting, organized in partnership with Médecins Sans Frontières, Médecins du Monde, Action contre la Faim, Handicap International, Solidarités, Première Urgence and the French Red Cross, was decided on as "today's acceptance of IHL and humanitarian action in armed conflict". The first Estates-General meeting, held in 2001, centred on the principle of responsibility vis-à-vis victims of armed conflict and brought together 40 people from political, economic, and humanitarian circles, think-tanks and the media.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC remained in close contact with the French Red Cross on a broad range of issues of common concern, particularly regarding programmes to expand IHL dissemination among members of the armed forces and in universities.

The French Red Cross assisted the ICRC with the organization of the 16th Jean Pictet moot-court competition in Méjannes-le-Clap in April. Two sessions – one for French- and one for English-speaking participants – brought together 55 teams from all over the world to debate IHL issues.



colombia

The ICRC has been working in Colombia since 1969. It strives to secure greater compliance with IHL by all armed groups – particularly regarding the protection of persons not taking an active part in the conflict – and promotes the integration of IHL into the training and operational procedures of the Colombian armed forces. The ICRC also visits security detainees, provides emergency relief to displaced people and other victims of the conflict and implements public-health programmes in conflict-affected and remote areas. It works closely with the Colombian Red Cross and other members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to coordinate humanitarian activities in Colombia's conflict-affected regions.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

4,889,259

Assistance

14,417,868

Preventive action

3,896,380

Cooperation with National Societies

902,801

General

14,084

► **24,120,392**

of which: Overheads **1,472,074**

PERSONNEL

61 expatriates

245 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC distributed emergency aid to some 66,500 newly displaced people and residents and initiated 49 small-scale community-infrastructure projects for residents affected by the conflict and 10 agricultural projects for IDPs and residents.
- Wherever necessary, the ICRC improved the population's access to medical care by running mobile health units, accompanying local medical teams and directing beneficiaries to the services provided by the national health system.
- The ICRC visited some 6,600 detainees and supported collective health-education and disease-prevention programmes in prisons.
- The integration of IHL into the doctrine, manuals and training of the armed forces proceeded according to plan.
- Together with the Colombian Red Cross, the ICRC completed the integration of IHL norms into the training of police forces participating in military operations.
- The ICRC reinforced the Colombian Red Cross's tracing service and dissemination capacity and, in some areas, carried out relief operations for IDPs jointly with the National Society.

CONTEXT

Throughout 2004, the Colombian government pursued its offensive against the country's main insurgent groups, placing ever-larger swathes of territory under military control. At the same time, it kept up negotiations with paramilitary groups with a view to their demobilization.

Other developments included a sharp increase in the use of mines by armed groups, leading to a significantly higher number of mine victims, not only among weapon bearers but also among the civilian population.

According to official figures, in 2004 there were still 1.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Colombia in spite of a decline in the number of new large-scale and individual displacements. Consequences of displacement were severe: IDPs from rural areas ended up in the poverty belts surrounding large cities, unable to adapt to an urban environment and find work. Many were single women with children, or youths. According to UNICEF, 44% of IDPs were children between the ages of five and 14, and seven out of every 10 displaced children never returned to school. Indigenous people formed another particularly vulnerable group. Their identity was intimately linked to their ancestral territory and social organization. Loss of livelihood and land was thus compounded by loss of culture and language. According to the Norwegian Refugee Council and Human Rights Watch, indigenous and Afro-Colombian people represented approximately 25% of all IDPs, even though they made up only 11% of the country's population.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC reviewed its strategy in Colombia in 2004, shifting its emphasis from trying to cover large expanses of the country to focusing on “priority zones”, where needs in terms of protection, health, water, sanitation and economic security were greatest. From November 2004, the delegation in Colombia streamlined its administrative structure by reorganizing its eight sub-delegations and eight offices, retaining five sub-delegations and six offices. Staff previously dispersed in many small offices were able to regroup into multidisciplinary teams located in larger structures, ready to travel to areas of need. Apart from achieving economies of scale, such rationalization enabled the ICRC to better respond to the needs of vulnerable people in “priority zones”, while continuing to provide emergency relief to IDPs wherever necessary.

The ICRC continued to implement small-scale assistance projects for IDPs and residents and improve access to health services through a flexible gamut of options, from direct curative medical treatments to directing beneficiaries to government health structures, accompanying Ministry of Health personnel on their rounds or operating mobile health units with the support of partner National Red Cross Societies.

In spite of the changing military situation, the ICRC was able in 2004 to reach people living in the zones hardest hit by the armed conflict. It was often the only organization in Colombia with access to victims in such zones and with the ability to provide large-scale emergency assistance, a task it carried out jointly with the National Society.

The ICRC continued to visit security detainees to assess their conditions of detention and treatment and pursued efforts to gain access, so far denied, to persons held by armed opposition groups.

CIVILIANS

Protection

Serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) persisted in Colombia, the most common being targeted executions and disappearances, intimidation, and recruitment of minors. There continued to be widespread disregard for the principle of distinction, with entire communities used as pawns in the struggle to impose control over certain regions. Although still prevalent, hostage-taking was on the decline, while other methods,

such as the use of mines and the restriction of access to certain areas to control population movements and the circulation of goods, gained currency. Throughout 2004, the ICRC collected allegations of IHL violations and made oral and written representations to the parties concerned.

“Disappearances”, allegedly favoured over selective executions, increased in 2004. ASFADES, the association representing the families of the disappeared, estimated the number of cases, since the conflict began, at between 7,000 and 8,000. In addition to seeking information on the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared, in cooperation with the groups concerned, the ICRC organized an awareness-raising seminar for members of Congress and the national commission on missing persons.

Recruitment of minors

Although the number of minors incorporated into the ranks of armed groups was difficult to assess, their continued recruitment remained a concern, contributing to the displacement of families. The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) and some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) ran reintegration programmes for youngsters handed over to them after their capture or surrender. In 2004, the ICRC maintained close relations with the ICBF centres, providing medical assistance when necessary, particularly in cases of mine injuries, and helping the children to re-establish contact with their families.

Protecting the population

- 372 allegations of IHL violations collected
- 279 new cases of missing persons opened
- 114 oral representations concerning 356 persons and 28 written representations concerning 108 persons made to the armed parties allegedly responsible for their disappearance

Emergency relief for IDPs

Displacement continued to be a deliberate strategy rather than a by-product of the conflict. The ICRC's assistance programme in Colombia was essentially geared to IDPs because they represented the most vulnerable group. The ICRC assisted more than 90% of people displaced *en masse* and about 40% of those displaced individually. In 2004, the ICRC assisted 66,474 newly displaced people.

In 2004, the ICRC initiated a joint study with the World Food Programme on the needs of IDPs in Colombia. Preliminary results showed that displacement had severe and long-lasting consequences (see *Context*).

The ICRC, occasionally assisted by the Colombian Red Cross, distributed emergency assistance, consisting of food and hygiene parcels, bedding, dishes and cooking utensils, to newly displaced individuals and to people displaced *en masse*. Such assistance usually covered basic needs for three months (six months for female-headed households).

In some of the areas where the ICRC had no structure, and only where possible, the government-run Social Solidarity Network (Red de Solidaridad Social – RSS) distributed emergency aid to IDPs. The RSS managed 25 reception centres for IDPs. In 2004, the ICRC assessed 16 such centres, making recommendations where appropriate.

Community-infrastructure projects

The ICRC completed and initiated community-infrastructure projects throughout the worst-affected regions to ease the lives of residents and resettled families. They were run as delegated projects financed by the Norwegian Red Cross and involved the upgrading or construction of schools or school canteens, health posts, community latrines, gravity-fed water-supply and rainwater-collection systems and the refurbishment of a cultural centre.

The ICRC also provided emergency assistance to residents subject to restrictions who were accommodating IDPs and helped rebuild five houses damaged by armed groups.

Food security through agricultural projects

Although aid to residents was by no means the main scope of the ICRC's assistance programmes in Colombia, when dialogue with parties imposing restrictions on movement failed to bring about results, the organization resorted to small-scale agricultural projects to help affected communities achieve a measure of self-sufficiency. The projects involved not only the provision of seeds, fertilizer and tools but training as well.

- 46,156 individually displaced people and 20,318 people displaced *en masse* received emergency aid
- 1,289 residents received emergency aid
- 49 small-scale projects initiated for 37,368 residents, 25 of which completed

- ▶ 3 agricultural projects completed and another 7 initiated for 2,800 beneficiaries

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The prison population in Colombia kept expanding as arrests connected with the armed conflict continued, albeit at a slower pace in the second half of the year. Living conditions in temporary detention centres, where the prison authorities had no budgetary provisions for food and health care, were particularly worrying. Another recurrent problem was the lack of, or delay in, notification to the ICRC of detentions linked to the conflict.

The delegation stepped up its visits to places of temporary and permanent detention to monitor the living conditions and treatment of detainees. Efforts to obtain access to people held by armed opposition groups continued in 2004, without success so far.

Owing to the chronic budget deficit of INPEC, the Colombian National Penitentiary Institute, proper medical assistance for detainees was still lacking. Within the framework of a cooperation agreement, the ICRC and INPEC jointly delivered medical assistance to individual detainees, ran health brigades specialized in ophthalmology, surgery and orthopaedics and carried out health-education and disease-prevention programmes, including a diploma course for health promoters, a pilot community-health programme implemented through the medical faculty of the Pereira Technical University, and a programme to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). By July, INPEC had taken the lead in implementing many of these health programmes.

At the end of 2004, the ICRC partly rehabilitated a physiotherapy centre in a prison in Barranquilla. INPEC was due to complete the project early in 2005.

- ▶ 6,624 detainees visited and monitored individually (including 2,794 newly registered, 251 women and 23 minors) in 181 places of detention
- ▶ 2,120 detainees received ICRC-funded family visits (*pasajes* programme)
- ▶ 139 RCMs delivered and 194 collected
- ▶ 1,355 detainees received medical care through health brigades
- ▶ 390 detainees trained as health promoters

- ▶ 12,114 detainees attended information sessions on HIV/AIDS and other STDs

WOUNDED AND SICK

Access to both primary and specialized health care for communities living in conflict-affected rural areas and for IDPs living in urban settings remained difficult, owing to security conditions, lack of respect for medical staff and/or problems inherent to the national health system. Civilians in remote rural areas often were unable to reach health services, or health services were unable to reach them. Lack of access to areas controlled by armed groups significantly affected vaccination coverage, with many rural areas remaining off-limits to health brigades on national vaccination day. A yellow fever epidemic, which struck the Caribbean coast in January 2004, was quickly brought under control, but an epidemic of leishmaniasis took hold in some municipalities, while others had to cope with sporadic outbreaks of cholera, malaria, tuberculosis and chickenpox. The number of mine victims surged to 799 in 2004 (183 dead and 616 wounded), owing to a marked increase in the use of mines by armed groups, with 30 out of 32 departments experiencing some form of contamination by mines and/or other explosive remnants of war (ERW). According to the Vice-Presidency's Landmine Observatory, one-third of the victims were civilians.

The ICRC continued to assist civilians living in conflict zones, IDPs, war-wounded individuals and mine victims. To ensure they received the necessary medical care, the ICRC directed beneficiaries to the services managed by the national health system, offering financial help when necessary, and accompanied local medical teams or health brigades on their rounds. It also ran four mobile health units through projects delegated to the Red Cross Societies of Norway (two units), Canada and Sweden. The units provided preventive and curative services, including dental care, carried out vaccinations and gave technical advice to communities on hygiene, the construction of latrines, rainwater collection or water treatment.

Although in theory all civilians, including those living in conflict zones, were entitled to State medical care, in practice many people were unaware of their rights, did not have identity cards, encountered administrative difficulties when registering as beneficiaries or were refused free services in spite of being entitled to them. The ICRC

offered IDPs and residents guidance on accessing the national health system, as well as financial help to fill the gaps in the health-insurance system, covering all or part of the costs incurred, such as transport, accommodation, food, medicines, surgery or physical rehabilitation.

In 2004, 17 zones were reopened to national health services.

Accompanied by the ICRC, Ministry of Health brigades provided:

- ▶ 1,093 doses of vaccine to 741 children under five and women of childbearing age;
- ▶ 2,896 medical and 722 dental consultations;
- ▶ 687 health-promotion and disease-prevention sessions for 1,646 people.

Mobile health units provided:

- ▶ 2,341 doses of vaccine to 1,542 children under 5 and women of childbearing age;
- ▶ 6,536 medical and 1,482 dental consultations;
- ▶ 3,137 health-promotion and disease-prevention sessions for 16,976 people;
- ▶ 199 education sessions on water and sanitation issues for 1,295 people.

Financial support for specialized medical care was offered to:

- ▶ 655 IDPs;
- ▶ 397 civilian war-wounded;
- ▶ 221 residents of conflict-affected areas;
- ▶ 315 mine victims.

AUTHORITIES

Treaty ratification and implementation

Congress ratified in July the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Colombia's Constitutional Court issued a decree declaring to be constitutional the law by which Colombia approved the 2000 Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. By year end, the Foreign Affairs Ministry had finalized a draft law to ratify Amended Article 1 of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), making the Convention and its existing Protocols applicable in non-international armed conflict.

Law on the protection of the emblem

In January, Congress passed a law establishing the rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the red cross and red crescent

emblems, as well as all other emblems protected under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. At the end of the year, the Ministries of Defence and of Social Protection were in the process of approving the text of the decree specifying how the law should be enforced.

Missing persons

Congress in June approved a draft law to set up a mechanism to aid in the search for missing persons, as well as a special fund to enable the national commission on missing persons to function.

Anti-personnel mines

The ICRC initiated a study group within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to further explore the relationship between IHL and anti-personnel mines and ERW.

Dissemination and information activities

In 2004, the ICRC:

- conducted 118 dissemination sessions on the mandate and activities of the ICRC for 3,075 civil servants from the Ministry of the Interior and the prison and health authorities, as well as for local and regional judicial authorities;
- continued to promote IHL among the legal advisers to the high commissioner for peace and within the offices of the attorney general in Bogotá and Bucaramanga.

The ICRC's three-year programme to promote IHL within the Offices of the Procuraduría (the service responsible for overseeing the State's activities), the Prosecutor (*Fiscalía*) and the Ombudsman (*Defensoría del Pueblo*), culminated in August with a train-the-trainer course for selected members of the General Prosecutor's office in Bogotá and the Office of the Ombudsman of the departments of Valle and Cauca. The goal of making these institutions self-sufficient in their teaching of IHL was thus achieved.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces and IHL

At the end of 2004, the different branches of the military were on schedule in their implementation of a directive issued in 2003 to integrate IHL into their doctrine, training and operations. The ICRC continued providing technical support in matters pertaining to IHL. It held 146 information sessions on the ICRC's mandate for some 8,500 military personnel, including officers.

Good policing skills

In order to integrate IHL training into police units, the ICRC, together with the Colombian Red Cross, organized eight seminars on IHL for some 200 police instructors.

In August, the ICRC and the National Society assessed the progress of IHL integration into the training of police units participating in military operations. Three workshops took place to revise the training curriculum, marking the end of the process of IHL integration within the Colombian police. It was now up to the police to issue a directive integrating IHL permanently into its training plan.

- nearly 1,800 members of the police force posted in conflict zones attended dissemination sessions on the ICRC

Other weapon bearers

The ICRC conducted 22 dissemination sessions on its role and mandate for 450 members of insurgent and paramilitary groups and two training courses on first aid and basic humanitarian principles.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Promoting IHL in the private sector

The private sector carried increasing weight and influence in the country's social, economic and political spheres. In 2003, the ICRC delivered lectures on IHL and human rights law applicable to the use of force to companies in the petroleum sector. In 2004, the ICRC held several meetings with private-sector companies to discuss IHL and conducted seven dissemination sessions on the ICRC's role and mandate for some 300 decision-makers wielding economic power in conflict areas.

IHL and future decision-makers

The ICRC held seven seminars on IHL in four of the country's leading universities. In the Universidad Javeriana, as a first step in the integration of IHL into the curriculum, the ICRC completed IHL training for lecturers. At the Universidad Externado de Colombia, the ICRC gave lectures for students enrolled in a postgraduate diploma in IHL and human rights law. The delegation provided IHL training for professors and students of the political science department of the Universidad Nacional de Colombia in Bogotá and gave lectures on IHL and talks on the ICRC for students of the law faculty, which also provided advisory services to IDPs.

IHL and the media

The ICRC organized training workshops in the cities of Cali and Bucaramanga to familiarize 65 local journalists with basic IHL principles and the importance of reporting on the human consequences of the conflict. In July, it launched, together with the newspaper *El Tiempo*, a programme entitled "Journalism, Armed Conflict and IHL" for 35 journalists working on the Atlantic coast.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Cooperation with the Colombian Red Cross and other Movement partners

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies supported the revision of the Colombian Red Cross's National Development Plan, providing technical support to its newly established planning department. The ICRC also embarked on a joint planning and programme-implementation process in the field of health with the Canadian, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies.

In 2004, cooperation between the ICRC and the National Society was considerably reinforced. A cooperation agreement concerning a pilot project managed jointly by the Colombian Red Cross and the ICRC in Villavicencio, involving the distribution by the National Society of emergency aid to individually displaced persons, was extended for another year, owing to its success, prompting other Colombian Red Cross branches, among them Bucaramanga, to do the same. Another area of cooperation involved the implementation by the National Society of the *pasajes* programme (enabling detainees to receive ICRC-funded family visits) in towns where the ICRC had no presence.

Restoring family links

In 2004, the ICRC supported the Colombian Red Cross's protection department by training its staff, funding training in psychological support for victims and computerizing the new tracing database. It also helped the National Society produce a technical training manual on tracing and protection.

Safer Access approach

The ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross conducted regular security meetings within the general coordination framework agreement signed by the two organizations in 2001. In 2004, implementation of the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*) focused on

the decentralization of security training to branch instructors and the formation of branch security committees. The ICRC conducted several security workshops for branch presidents.

Promoting IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The ICRC provided salary support for the creation of dissemination departments in all 31 branches of the Colombian Red Cross, resulting in a major increase in capacity in the area of IHL dissemination.

The ICRC granted scholarships to several Colombian Red Cross volunteers to attend IHL degree courses in Colombian universities, thus ensuring that the National Society could host a full diploma course in IHL, using only Colombian Red Cross volunteers to facilitate the modules. Furthermore, the ICRC continued to fund the travel costs and enrolment fees of Colombian Red Cross branch disseminators chosen for a scholarship programme offering a three-month specialization in IHL at the Universidad de los Andes in Quito, Ecuador.

IHL instructor training courses were held for 177 instructors who would in turn be training some 2,000 Red Cross volunteers in their respective branches. The process became self-sustaining, with enough instructors having been trained at diploma level to form a substantial pool of trainers spread throughout Colombian Red Cross branches.

The Colombian Red Cross, together with the ICRC, finalized a project on the integration of IHL into the training of Colombian police forces participating in military operations (see *Armed forces and other bearers of weapons*).

IHL and young people

The Colombian Red Cross youth department conducted training workshops for youth leaders on how to use the *DIH Lúdico* (IHL through play) methodology in order to train volunteers in municipal branches.

Mine action

Security issues hampered the progress of a Colombian Red Cross pilot mine-risk education project. The ICRC and the National Society participated in two mine-action forums, in Medellín and Bogotá. The National Society's youth director travelled to a mine-action workshop organized by the ICRC at the Swedish Red Cross Training Centre in Gripsholm, Sweden, enabling him to use the knowledge thus acquired to

conduct a mine-action workshop in Bogotá for project coordinators. In October, in response to a request from the National Society, the ICRC sent a technical adviser to Colombia to support the development of its mine-action project. In December, the Colombian Red Cross produced a children's schoolbook highlighting the dangers of mines and a leaflet informing community leaders about mines and ERW.

ICRC ACTION

Following the establishment of a fully fledged delegation in Haiti in mid-February, staffing levels were considerably increased, from 3 delegates in January to 27 in March.

At the height of the crisis, the ICRC's main concern was to ensure that wounded civilians had access to medical services and that humanitarian convoys could reach their destinations. ICRC delegates also monitored the conditions of detention of people deprived of their freedom and endeavoured to prevent abuses against the civilian population.

To ensure that victims of violence received the necessary medical treatment, the ICRC secured, upgraded and staffed two major hospitals, one in Port-au-Prince, and the other in Les Gonaïves in the lawless northern region. The ICRC's assistance in these hospitals saved lives and enabled local doctors and nurses to be trained in triage, war surgery and post-operative techniques.

The ICRC also upgraded or helped repair several prisons damaged or destroyed during the events of February and March.

Faced with recurrent episodes of internal strife and the possibility of armed confrontations, the ICRC delegation focused on building contacts with the various armed groups scattered throughout the country, to ensure they understood basic humanitarian principles, the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the importance of respecting the red cross emblem and medical facilities.

In May, the ICRC delegation in Haiti signed a memorandum of understanding with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Haitian Red Cross and other partner National Societies present in the country, establishing the ICRC as the lead agency for the Movement in Haiti for a one-year period.

When heavy storms hit the island of Hispaniola at the end of May, causing severe flooding in the south of Haiti and killing some 2,000 people, the ICRC, pending the arrival of an International Federation team, temporarily took on the coordination of the Movement's response to the natural disaster. When Tropical Storm Jeanne hit the north and north-west of the country in mid-September, an ICRC team was one of the first to arrive in Les Gonaïves, the hardest-hit municipality, providing the local authorities with first-

aid kits, collecting bodies and setting up a tracing system together with the Haitian Red Cross.

The ICRC laid the groundwork for a water and sanitation project in Cité Soleil, the sprawling shantytown outside Port-au-Prince dominated by rival armed groups, most of whom were supporters of former President Aristide.

The ICRC continued to work closely with the Haitian Red Cross to enhance its ability to cope if faced with large numbers of victims of armed violence or natural disaster. It provided the National Society with first-aid supplies and helped it develop a radio campaign to promote its acceptance among the population. An in-depth assessment of the Haitian Red Cross's disaster-management capacity prepared the groundwork for a systematic, long-term capacity-building effort by the Movement.

CIVILIANS

Stability remained tenuous in spite of efforts by the interim government, UN contingents and the Haitian police to maintain calm. Haitians continued to suffer from all kinds of violence: politically motivated attacks, common criminality, extortion, revenge killings, arbitrary arrests, summary executions and a surge in the number of kidnappings for ransom. From 30 September to end November, clashes between the police and gangs from the poorer neighbourhoods of Port-au-Prince, alleged supporters of former President Aristide, left more than 200 people dead and some 300 wounded.

From the beginning of the crisis in February, the ICRC kept up a dialogue with the interim government, with the UN military contingent and with all the different armed groups operating throughout the country, to ensure that civilians were not targets of politically motivated violence. In the capital, the ICRC dealt with the consequences of armed violence, helping to evacuate the wounded from areas such as Cité Soleil (see *Wounded and sick*).

The ICRC, together with the local branch of the Haitian Red Cross, provided assistance in the form of kitchen utensils, mattresses and food to 113 families in the region of St. Marc (near Les Gonaïves), and to 24 families in the southern town of Petit-Goâve, whose homes had been burned down during the February disturbances.

Missing persons

Since the early 1990s, thousands of people had been unaccounted for in Haiti. With each new episode of violence or natural disaster, bodies were dumped in morgues and often left unclaimed by relatives. Often, they could not afford to pay for a decent funeral; in other instances, the bureaucratic process attached to the identification of bodies was too intimidating. In March, at the height of the crisis, as many as 700 unclaimed bodies were stacked in the capital's main morgue, some of which bore the telltale signs of summary execution. The issue of disappearances received scant attention from the authorities or the general public, and there were only three forensic doctors in the country. In 2004, the ICRC enabled one of them to attend an international conference on forensic medicine in Manila.

Improving water supply and sanitation

In Cité Soleil, gangs rival each other for control of illicit activity, including drug trafficking. The area, controlled by supporters of former President Aristide, was considered off-limits by State authorities, including the police. As a result, it was devoid of public services, hygiene was almost non-existent, there were no functioning latrines and access to drinking water was limited. Moreover, it was often the scene of outbursts of violence.

The ICRC laid the groundwork for a comprehensive water and sanitation project in Cité Soleil in cooperation with the State-run companies responsible for these sectors. In preparation for the upgrading of community latrines and the cleaning of canals and drains, the ICRC and the Haitian Red Cross distributed wheelbarrows, shovels and rakes to community leaders. Implementation of the project was delayed when Tropical Storm Jeanne devastated the northern regions, diverting manpower and resources, and a frenzy of violence gripped Cité Soleil towards the end of the year.

In April, the ICRC encouraged the inhabitants of Jubilée, one of the poorer neighbourhoods of Les Gonaïves, to clean out the town's principal open-air canal used for the evacuation of wastewater, which for years had constituted a public health hazard. The ICRC provided tools and a truck and monitored the work. The initiative enabled the local population to earn a small stipend, enough to feed a family for a day.

Responding to the devastation caused by tropical storms and flooding

When heavy rains hit the south of the country in May, the delegation assumed interim coordination of the response of the Movement, pending the reinforcement of International Federation staff in the country. The ICRC chartered a helicopter to ferry supplies and personnel to the disaster-struck area. Later, a joint ICRC/International Federation/French Red Cross team provided water-purification tablets, body bags, picks and shovels, organized local volunteers, established an emergency health post and began the grim work of recovering and burying bodies. On 1 June, the ICRC handed over the coordination of the Movement's response to the natural disaster to the International Federation.

Tropical Storm Jeanne, which hit the northern part of the country in mid-September, was even more devastating. An ICRC team was among the first to reach the area, concentrating initially on collecting and burying the dead. It later set up a tracing system to enable families in Haiti and abroad to find out what had happened to their loved ones (see *National Society*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In 2004, the ICRC conducted 189 visits to 59 places of detention. The number of security detainees rose from around 30 before the February events to 124 at the end of the year. The detaining authorities were the National Haitian Police, the prison authorities or members of the armed opposition.

During the crisis in February, all detainees were set free in the tumult. By the end of the year the prison population had risen again from zero to some 2,000, and 18 out of 22 prisons were again operational.

Improving living conditions in prisons

When prisons were emptied of their inmates, ransacked and burned at the end of February, the ICRC delegation took it as an opportunity to start with a clean slate, urging the detaining authorities to improve conditions of detention, and substantially upgrading or even rebuilding a few major prisons to alleviate the severe overcrowding in makeshift detention centres (mainly police stations).

The problem of overcrowding in police stations gradually eased as prison facilities became operational again, but following various episodes of violence, scores of new arrests were made, leading once more to congestion. Overcrowding contributed to a mutiny, which broke out on 1 December in the capital's main prison, leaving 8 detainees dead and 43 wounded. The ICRC provided surgical equipment and monitored the condition of those seriously wounded.

Tackling health and other problems in prison

Apart from overcrowding, detention-related problems included lack of adequate food and hygiene and the prevalence of skin diseases, tuberculosis (TB), sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. ICRC doctors conducted consultations for detainees, when necessary, and monitored cases of TB. Detainees received personal hygiene products and recreational items on a case-by-case basis. The ICRC supplied prisons with cleaning equipment, such as buckets, jerrycans and containers for water storage, and prison infirmaries with medical equipment such as stethoscopes. The ICRC also distributed educational materials on hygiene in prisons, in the form of comic strips, to detainees and prison guards.

Judicial guarantees for detainees remained a pressing problem. In the civilian prison of Port-au-Prince, the country's largest jail, almost 30% of detainees were still awaiting trial after nine months. The ICRC interceded with the prison authorities on behalf of detainees remanded in custody for excessive periods.

- 124 detainees monitored individually (including 122 newly registered, 5 women and 2 minors in 59 places of detention)
- 9 RCMs delivered to detainees and 42 collected

WOUNDED AND SICK

At the height of the crisis in February and March, the ICRC made representations to the relevant authorities in order to be able to carry out its work in an environment in which patients were arrested or summarily executed on hospital premises.

The ICRC upgraded the Canapé-Vert Hospital in Port-au-Prince by refurbishing a new operating room and doubling the number of beds. It seconded its own surgical team to the hospital for the duration of the crisis, took over some aspects of the

hospital's management and trained an emergency team, made up of a surgeon, an orthopaedist and an anaesthetist. In the first two weeks of March, insecurity had reached such levels that the ICRC had to rely on the UN-mandated Multinational Interim Force to protect the Canapé-Vert Hospital.

The ICRC also sent a team to the Providence Hospital of Les Gonaïves, abandoned by hospital staff during the fighting, to undertake major repairs and refurbishment work and to train the original Cuban medical team in war surgery and post-operative techniques. In so doing, the ICRC restored the hospital's capacity to function as a referral hospital for the city and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, it was severely damaged during the flooding unleashed by Tropical Storm Jeanne in September.

During the crisis, the ICRC also:

- pre-positioned surgical kits in 5 areas of the country, including 2 hospitals in the capital;
- set up blood banks at the Canapé-Vert Hospital in Port-au-Prince and in the offices of the Haitian Red Cross at Cap-Haïtien;
- surveyed 50 medical facilities throughout the country and supplied them with first-aid kits;
- provided 32 tonnes of surgical and medical supplies for the hospitals in Port-au-Prince and Les Gonaïves;
- conducted seminars on trauma surgery in hospitals in Cap-Haïtien, Les Gonaïves, Port-de-Paix and Port-au-Prince.

In the second half of the year, various crises prompted the ICRC to intervene on behalf of wounded civilians. The ICRC sent a doctor to the area struck by Tropical Storm Jeanne in mid-September and distributed gloves, body bags and masks to help with the collection of bodies. After a mutiny in Port-au-Prince's main prison, the ICRC gave surgical equipment to the emergency ward of the University Hospital, where 15 critically wounded detainees had been transported. When violence erupted in the capital's shantytowns at the end of September, resulting in hundreds of people wounded, the ICRC agreed to reimburse the costs of transporting wounded inhabitants of Cité Soleil to hospitals. In the absence of a functioning ambulance service, those who dared go to the hospital were obliged to rely on local taxis, while others accepted to be treated on the spot by ICRC and Haitian Red Cross medical teams.

Blood banks

The blood bank set up by the ICRC in Providence Hospital in Les Gonaïves functioned well until it was destroyed in the flooding. In contrast, efforts to set up a blood bank in the Canapé-Vert Hospital were constantly thwarted, while the blood bank set up in Cap-Haïtien functioned poorly. Blood-bank capacities would thus be grossly inadequate if the ICRC were to face another surgical emergency.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC maintained an ongoing dialogue with the interim government on matters as diverse as security, the role and training of the new police force, the status of the Haitian Red Cross and the role and mandate of the ICRC. It continued to press for the official publication by the Haitian government of Protocol II additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the signing of a headquarters agreement with the ICRC. After years of paralysis, no progress was made on either of these issues. More encouragingly, the interim government signed a decree recognizing *de jure* the ICRC's status as an international organization and the new statutes of the National Society, although these agreements too needed to be published in the official journal before they could be enforced.

In the framework of its water and sanitation project in Cité Soleil, the ICRC regularly met representatives of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communication, as well as the mayors of Port-au-Prince and Cité Soleil.

The ICRC also held regular meetings with the authorities in the northern region to discuss the mandate and activities of the ICRC. After the September flooding, the ICRC explained to the local authorities in Les Gonaïves and other affected areas the role of the Movement and what action would be undertaken.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

MINUSTAH

By the end of the year, MINUSTAH had some 6,000 soldiers and 1,400 civilian police (CIVPOL) stationed in Haiti, 88% of the planned deployment. One of the major challenges it faced was the disarmament of armed groups, still operating freely throughout the country. The disarmament process,

originally scheduled for September, had not yet started by December.

The ICRC was in regular contact with MINUSTAH (both the military contingent and CIVPOL) explaining at every opportunity the role and activities of the organization.

The Haitian police

The Haitian Police Force was created in 1995, following the demobilization by former President Aristide of the national army. In addition to carrying out traditional policing duties, the police were tasked with duties of a military nature. With only 2,000 to 3,000 men in 2004, the forces were severely overstretched in a country of 8 million people.

In the first half of the year, the ICRC produced 10,000 copies of a comic strip in Créole depicting the role of the Red Cross and spelling out basic humanitarian principles. The material was widely disseminated to police units throughout the country. At the end of November, the delegation gave a talk on the ICRC's mandate and activities to 32 heads of police stations and officers working for the criminal investigation department in the south of the country.

Prison guards

In December, the ICRC held half-day information sessions on its working methods and activities and the protection of vulnerable detainees, such as women, children and security detainees, for staff from the prison authorities in Cap-Haïtien and Fort Liberté.

Other weapon bearers

Haiti was confronted with a multitude of different armed groups, chief among them the 1,000-strong former armed forces. Throughout 2004, the ICRC actively sought out members of these diverse groups to promote awareness of essential humanitarian principles, distributing material in Créole. An information session was organized for 10 officers of the former armed forces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Lack of respect for medical facilities and the red cross emblem remained extremely worrying, with weapon bearers targeting hospitals and Haitian Red Cross ambulances. The general public was often unaware of the ICRC's specificity and mandate. In Haiti, where radio was the most effective means of reaching target audiences, including weapon bearers, the ICRC established strong contacts with some 30 radio stations, as well as newspapers, throughout the country. As the crisis unfolded in February and

March, radio stations broadcast daily messages put together by the delegation urging the population to respect medical facilities, including ambulances. In November, the ICRC organized a workshop in Les Cayes for 22 journalists from a dozen radio stations. A similar workshop took place in Cap-Haïtien in December. Such workshops generated interviews and radio programmes on issues of concern to the ICRC.

When Tropical Storm Jeanne left hundreds dead or unaccounted for, several radio stations accepted to broadcast lists of names of those who had survived so their families in Haiti could be informed (see *National Society*).

In July, the head of the ICRC delegation gave a talk on international humanitarian law and the respect owed to medical facilities and staff to 130 law students.

The ICRC produced information materials in Créole for schoolchildren, journalists and the general public and, together with the International Federation, created posters on the Fundamental Principles.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

Responding to emergency situations

In February and March, when violence and insecurity had reached their peak after the departure of President Aristide, Haitian Red Cross volunteers, with ICRC support, negotiated the dangerous streets of Port-au-Prince to pick up the wounded and take them to the nearest hospitals.

In the aftermath of the flooding in the north and north-west, the response capacity of the National Society's tracing department proved insufficient. The ICRC therefore focused on supporting the Haitian Red Cross in reuniting separated family members, finding the families of unaccompanied children and identifying the dead. It gave five volunteers from the Haitian Red Cross branch in Les Gonaïves intensive training in tracing techniques; another 15 volunteers from Cap-Haïtien were trained in October. Together with the ICRC, tracing volunteers from the Haitian Red Cross branches in the affected regions encouraged local radio stations and newspapers to broadcast and publish "I am alive" and "Persons sought" messages. For the benefit of Haitians living abroad, the ICRC, in cooperation with partner National Societies worldwide and the Haitian Red Cross, posted 4,184 "I am alive" and 63 "Persons sought" messages on the ICRC family-links website. The ICRC

provided fuel and paid local transport to ferry Haitian Red Cross volunteers to the different areas affected by the storm.

During the violent episodes which left scores of people wounded in Cité Soleil, the ICRC supported the local branch of the National Society by providing first-aid kits and paying for the transport of the wounded to hospitals.

Boosting the National Society's emergency response

Through a formal workshop and a series of briefings, the ICRC introduced the Safer Access (see *Glossary*) training module to the Haitian Red Cross headquarters and to all 13 regional branches. The approach provided a framework to enhance the capacity of the National Society to work in greater security in situations of conflict and violence.

With support from the British and Norwegian Red Cross Societies, in August and September the Haitian Red Cross, the ICRC and the International Federation carried out an in-depth assessment of the National Society's capacity to prepare for and respond to the human consequences of natural disasters and conflict situations. The assessment revealed considerable weaknesses, both in terms of organizational structure and technical capacities. A report, containing 71 recommendations, was handed to and discussed with the Haitian Red Cross's president and board, and later transmitted to all interested partner National Societies. Several Movement partners agreed to support the Haitian Red Cross in its restructuring process and in building its emergency-response capacity. In December, the International Federation, the ICRC and the Haitian Red Cross prepared a first draft of a plan of action to achieve this goal.

Together with the French Red Cross, the ICRC supported a project to develop the management and operational capacities of the Haitian Red Cross ambulance and first-aid services.

- 120 first-aid kits assembled locally distributed to Haitian Red Cross branches in violence-prone areas
- 100 Haitian Red Cross volunteers given first-aid training
- 2 workshops on the Safer Access approach organized for 47 participants from all Haitian Red Cross branches, including branch presidents and vice-presidents
- 3 training courses conducted for radio operators from the National Society's 13 branches
- the repair of 3 ambulances financed and a mechanic seconded to manage the National Society's fleet of vehicles
- 24 volunteers working on the dissemination of humanitarian principles countrywide attended a workshop organized jointly by the ICRC and the Haitian Red Cross



buenos aires

The ICRC regional delegation in Buenos Aires was established in 1975 to cover Latin America's *Cono Sur* (Southern Cone). Since January 2003, it has also covered Brazil. The regional delegation focuses on the national implementation of IHL and its incorporation into academic curricula and the operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of the armed forces (human rights norms in the case of the police). In addition, it promotes IHL among the authorities, schools, the media and the public. It conducts regular visits to security detainees in Chile and Paraguay. The regional delegation contributes to developing the operational capacities of the region's National Societies and supports them in their humanitarian work.

COVERING

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

138,273

Assistance

-

Preventive action

1,527,161

Cooperation with National Societies

354,210

General

-

► **2,019,644**

of which: Overheads **123,265**

PERSONNEL

2 expatriates

21 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- In Paraguay, the ICRC visited more than 600 landless farmers detained after being forcibly removed from lands they were occupying, and in Chile, it visited Mapuche indigenous activists sentenced under anti-terrorist legislation.
- The five countries in the region made great strides in the ratification and national implementation of IHL treaties.
- Police forces in Argentina and Brazil continued to integrate human rights norms applicable to policing into their manuals, operational procedures and training.
- Some 300 university lecturers in the region, previously trained by the ICRC, were teaching IHL.

CONTEXT

In all the countries of the region, social tensions were high, with indigenous and land-distribution issues taking centre stage. In Chile and Brazil, indigenous groups fought against social and economic marginalization and struggled to retain control of their ancestral lands. In Brazil, groups of landless farmers occupied non-productive agricultural properties belonging to absentee landowners to pressure the government into honouring campaign promises of land redistribution, sometimes leading to violent clashes with the police. In Paraguay, the country in the Southern Cone most affected by the economic and social turmoil of recent years, over 600 landless peasants were arrested in November and December for occupying farms (see *People deprived of their freedom*). In Argentina, disaffected workers who had lost their jobs following the economic collapse in December 2001 resorted to blocking roads and occupying public buildings to vent their anger.

These developments led some authorities in the region to send in the army to restore law and order, as was the case in the state of Minas Gerais and in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and throughout Paraguay as of October. In Brazil, a police unit specially trained to deal with organized gangs and/or situations of internal strife was created to enforce law and order in lieu of army contingents, which until then had taken on this task by default.

Spiralling crime figures in Brazil and a spate of kidnappings for ransom in Argentina seriously affected people's daily

lives. Rio's *favelas* continued to be the scene of deadly turf wars between rival gangs using machine guns, assault rifles, anti-tank mines and rocket launchers.

Authorities in the region showed a new willingness to address the issue of human rights abuses committed by former regimes. In Chile, the army officially admitted responsibility for abuses committed under General Pinochet. Moreover, most of the security detainees serving long sentences for having participated in "subversive" activities in the 1970s and 1980s were released on parole after going on an extended hunger strike. In Argentina, senior members of the military junta were arrested, while the new Uruguayan government promised to reopen cases of human rights abuses committed under military rule. In Brazil, the government decided to declassify documents relating to the military regime that ruled the country between 1964 and 1985.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC focused on promoting international humanitarian law (IHL) within the region. It was instrumental in the accession by both Chile and Argentina to Amended Article 1 of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), making the Convention and its existing Protocols applicable in non-international armed conflict. The ICRC also assisted in the ratification by Brazil of the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict and the establishment of a national IHL committee in Brazil.

The ICRC continued to have access to security detainees throughout the region, including in Paraguay. During the humanitarian crisis provoked by the prolonged hunger strike of Chile's security detainees from April to June, and following the arrest of hundreds of landless farmers in Paraguay in the last months of the year, ICRC delegates and doctors visited the detainees and made written and oral representations on their behalf to the appropriate authorities.

The growing risk of violence related to social and economic crises prompted the ICRC to emphasize to the region's police forces the importance of integrating pertinent human rights norms into training and operational procedures, particularly in Brazil and Argentina.

The ICRC Portuguese website, launched in 2004 by the ICRC's Support Centre for Communication based in Buenos Aires, became an essential tool to raise awareness of IHL and issues of humanitarian concern among the wider public, reaching beyond Brazil to other Portuguese-speaking countries.

The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme aimed at young people of secondary-school age was under way in Chile. Thanks to a network of some 300 university lecturers trained in IHL throughout the region, the ICRC made great strides in the integration of IHL into relevant curricula.

The ICRC continued to work closely with the region's National Societies, enhancing, together with its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, their capacity to respond to internal disturbances.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Chile

The ICRC visited some 30 security detainees held in four different detention centres in the metropolitan area of Santiago. Six of them, detained since the early 1990s, had been on hunger strike for 74 days to put pressure on Chile's parliament to adopt a draft law allowing a blanket reduction of their sentences. An ICRC delegate and doctor visited them several times and made written and oral representations regarding the detainees' welfare to the appropriate authorities. Although the senators voted against the draft law, the detainees ended their hunger strike after most of them were granted individual sentence reductions and were freed. However, in July eight security detainees resumed the hunger strike until parliament finally approved the draft law. In November, the ICRC visited seven security detainees who did not benefit from the draft law's provisions. The delegation also visited 12 Mapuche Indians imprisoned under Chile's anti-terrorist laws for protest acts against the exploitation by multinationals of natural resources located on ancestral lands.

In July, the ICRC organized a workshop on tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS for medical personnel working in the prison system and representatives of the Ministry of Health.

Paraguay

The ICRC visited 10 security detainees, three of whom belonged to the police force during the rule of General Alfredo Stroessner, while the other seven, including the army's chief of general staff, were held in connection with an attempted coup in 2000 and the assassination of the vice-president, Luis María Argaña, in 1999.

Beginning in October, landless farmers, frustrated by the lack of progress on land reform in spite of electoral promises, occupied farms belonging to absentee landowners. From October to December, clashes between protesters and police units backed by the army left more than 50 farmers wounded and one policeman dead. Eventually, the police and the army forcibly removed the protesters, detaining more than 600. The ICRC visited a first group of 61 in November and 621 in December, providing primary health care, hygiene items, kitchen utensils, clothing and, when necessary, medicines. During the visits, ICRC delegates gave detainees the use of mobile phones to contact their families.

The delegation also made several oral and written representations on their behalf to the appropriate authorities.

- 664 detainees visited and monitored individually (including 627 newly registered and 5 women) in 15 places of detention

AUTHORITIES

Accession to and implementation of IHL instruments

Thanks to sustained encouragement from the ICRC, Argentina became the first country in South America to adopt Amended Article 1 of the CCW making the Convention and its existing Protocols applicable in non-international armed conflict. It was followed soon after by Chile. Paraguay ratified the CCW and its five Protocols in September and became party to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.

In Brazil, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child came into force in March 2004. Moreover, Brazil amended its constitution to ensure that any international legal instruments it ratified would be constitutional. Such an amendment confirmed its willingness to submit to the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

The ICRC participated in a conference held in Brasilia to discuss the implementation of the 1998 Rome Statute of the ICC. Participants included 150 parliamentarians from Latin America, Europe and the Portuguese-speaking African countries. In Argentina, the House of Representatives approved the adoption of national implementing measures related to the ICC Statute.

In February, Brazil became the last country covered by the regional delegation to set up a national IHL committee. The ICRC provided the new committee with advice on the national implementation of the Hague Convention and its two Protocols and organized a course for committee members on the incorporation of international instruments into domestic law.

Law on the protection of the emblem

The ICRC was invited to brief Argentinian senators on the content of the draft law on the protection of the red cross and red crescent emblems, prompting them to make a public commitment to review it as soon as possible.

Thanks to the Paraguayan national IHL committee, the law on the protection of the emblem was promulgated on 23 April.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The armed forces and IHL

The Argentinian Ministry of Defence announced the creation of a new department on international human rights law and IHL within the ministry. Furthermore, the ICRC attended the first IHL course conducted entirely by military instructors trained by the ICRC. Previously, the course had been conducted by ICRC staff.

In September, the ICRC invited the armed forces of Argentina, Chile and Paraguay to undertake a study on the integration of IHL into their doctrine and standing operational procedures.

Legal advisers from the region's armed forces attended a regional meeting organized by the ICRC in Lima in April (see *Lima*).

In Brazil, the ICRC conducted three IHL courses for 348 troops and senior officers prior to their deployment to Timor-Leste and Haiti on peace-keeping missions. In addition, the ICRC continued to conduct training courses for instructors from the country's armed forces. These included:

- ▶ a one-week IHL course for 30 instructors;
- ▶ a four-day IHL seminar for 40 instructors;
- ▶ a conference on IHL for 120 senior officers and 60 military instructors.

Efforts to raise awareness of IHL continued throughout the region. The ICRC gave presentations on IHL and its mandate and activities to:

- ▶ 60 senior officers of the naval college of Argentina;
- ▶ 60 cadets from the naval college of Uruguay;
- ▶ 710 senior officers and 200 military instructors and legal advisers from the Brazilian armed forces.

Human rights norms relevant to policing

In Brazil, the integration of human rights norms into the training programmes and standing operational procedures of the police began in 1998. By the end of 2004, out of the country's 27 non-federal police forces, three had achieved full integration of human rights norms into their doctrine, training and operational procedures, while

another six were well on the way to doing so. The remaining 18 required further support to achieve this goal. In June, some 40 military police officers from 11 Brazilian states met to assess the progress accomplished since the beginning of the programme, in which 1,022 police instructors had been trained in human rights law. In Argentina, a programme to integrate human rights norms applicable to policing was launched in early 2004.

In Argentina:

- ▶ some 60 police instructors and senior police officers attended 2 ICRC courses on international human rights law and humanitarian principles related to policing.

In Brazil:

- ▶ the ICRC participated in the International Forum on Human Rights and Community Policing organized by the military police of the state of São Paulo, the 4th Latin American conference on public security and the 5th educational forum on public security organized jointly by the university of Rio Grande do Sul and the Ministry of Justice;
- ▶ some 100 police instructors from 27 states attended regional meetings organized by the ICRC on international human rights law and humanitarian principles related to policing;
- ▶ the ICRC conducted 8 workshops on the integration of human rights law into policing functions.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media and the general public

Brazil's *O Globo* television network sent a film crew to cover the ICRC's work in Colombia and the Republic of the Congo. The creation of Brazil's IHL committee received extensive national coverage. In Paraguay, the media took up the ICRC's press release on its visits to the detained landless farmers. The ICRC exhibition, *Even War Has Limits*, was shown in Buenos Aires, Brasília and Asunción. An ICRC Portuguese-language website was set up, becoming an essential communication tool and reaching beyond Brazil to other Portuguese-speaking countries. The ICRC helped the Chilean Red Cross conduct a workshop for some 20 local journalists on "Journalists in times of conflict", and the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) produce an institutional video and three TV spots on the National Society and on the emblem (see *National Societies*).

Teaching schoolchildren humanitarian principles

The management of funds for Chile's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was transferred from the Chilean Red Cross to the Ministry of Education. Two workshops were held in the capital to assess the impact of the programme, launched in 2002. Among those attending the workshops were the vice-minister of education, the president of the Chilean Red Cross, the ICRC, teachers and pupils. In 2004, the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules were taught in six regions. By year end, 225 teachers were teaching the programme to some 10,700 pupils in 107 schools.

Uruguay's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was launched in 2003. In 2004, it was taught to some 2,000 pupils in nine schools spread across six regions.

Teaching IHL to future decision-makers

In order to assess its IHL training programmes for universities, the delegation approached some 300 university lecturers in the region, many of whom had been trained in IHL by the ICRC since 1998, when a programme to consolidate academics' knowledge of IHL was launched in the Southern Cone.

The Buenos Aires delegation compiled a manual on IHL and related subjects and distributed copies to regional contacts within government and academia and to specialized libraries and institutions in Latin America, North America and Europe. The ICRC also helped prepare a group of university students representing Argentina for their participation in the Jean Pictet IHL moot-court competition. In addition, it updated the course material on IHL used by law lecturers and put together a 46-hour module on IHL for the Master's degree course on human rights at the University of La Plata in Buenos Aires. Some 60 students, mainly federal or provincial civil servants, attended the course. The delegation also gave a presentation on the ICRC to students of international law taking IHL courses at the University of Buenos Aires.

A postgraduate course in IHL for some 30 civil servants, members of the armed forces and the police, military judges, military and civilian prosecutors and law lecturers, was introduced at the University of Brasília, in cooperation with the Institute for International Law of Bochum University in Germany and the school for civil servants in Brazil. The ICRC contributed to this project by donating IHL

manuals and publications and by setting up a 20-hour module on the applicability of IHL using practical case studies. The law faculty of the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro also introduced an optional 30-hour IHL module. Furthermore, the ICRC organized a workshop in Brasilia on IHL teaching techniques for lecturers from 20 universities.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

At the regional level, the ICRC participated in the 10th meeting of South American National Societies in Montevideo. Together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, it offered to assist in the revision of the National Societies' statutes and to work with them to establish a coherent communication strategy for all components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In the second half of the year, the ICRC and the International Federation assisted the Argentinian and Chilean National Societies in reviewing their statutes and the Brazilian Red Cross in initiating the process of drafting a national development plan.

One of the topics discussed at the Montevideo meeting was the Safer Access approach developed by the ICRC to help National Societies better respond to the needs of conflict victims while enhancing the safety of their workers. The Paraguayan Red Cross became the first partner in the region to launch a Safer Access pilot project. It focused on boosting the emergency-response capacity of the Paraguayan Red Cross's first-aid department in the capital, Asunción, and included the training of its volunteers and the supply of emergency equipment. In August, the Paraguayan Red Cross was able to put this training to use when a fire broke out in a shopping mall in Asunción, killing more than 400 people. The ICRC supplied the Paraguayan Red Cross with emergency medical equipment and extra funds to pay for the transport and food of volunteers working in the rescue operation. It provided the Argentinean Red Cross with the same kind of support after a fire broke out in a discotheque at the end of December, killing some 200 people. By November, the Safer Access approach had been presented to key leaders at the Argentinian Red Cross's headquarters and staff of its 20 branches. As a follow-up, some 50 first-aid volunteers from all the branches attended a training workshop on emergency preparedness.

Promoting the emblem

Following the adoption by the Paraguayan Congress in April 2004 of a law on the protection of the emblem, the ICRC helped the Paraguayan Red Cross launch a public information campaign on the purpose and scope of the law, targeting specific groups such as civil servants, the armed and security forces, non-governmental organizations, lawyers and medical personnel.

In 2004, the ICRC:

- gave a presentation on the Movement for 120 volunteers of the Chilean Red Cross's youth section and first-aid workers;
- participated in 6 dissemination workshops with Chilean Red Cross branch offices and the training of 35 volunteers;
- helped the Paraguayan Red Cross organize a workshop on IHL and the Movement for 30 volunteers;
- assisted the Paraguayan Red Cross in producing its first institutional video on the red cross emblem.



Caracas

The ICRC's regional delegation in Caracas focuses on promoting the incorporation of IHL into national legislation, the operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of armed forces and the curricula of academic institutions. Likewise, it contributes to the permanent integration of pertinent human rights standards into the manuals and training programmes of police forces. It also helps to boost the emergency response capacity of National Red Cross Societies in the region, preparing them in particular to meet needs resulting from internal strife or tension. The regional delegation originally operated between 1971 and 1978. It reopened in 2000 and since 2001 has covered, in addition to Venezuela, the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Suriname.

COVERING

Venezuela, Suriname and the English-speaking Caribbean countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

79,556

Assistance

-

Preventive action

768,190

Cooperation with National Societies

531,125

General

-

► **1,378,872**

of which: Overheads **84,156**

PERSONNEL

2 expatriates

7 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC continued to encourage national authorities throughout the region to accede to IHL treaties and to adopt national measures to implement them; Trinidad and Tobago became the first CARICOM State to table legislation on the ICC Statute.
- The armed forces in Belize, Guyana and Venezuela continued to integrate IHL into military doctrine, tactical manuals and command procedures, with the ICRC's support.
- The Venezuelan Interior Ministry agreed on the content of a memorandum of understanding to integrate pertinent human rights norms into police manuals and training.
- The Venezuelan Red Cross, with support from the ICRC, focused on integrating emergency preparedness through the Safer Access approach.

CONTEXT

Venezuela's president, Hugo Chávez, won a referendum in August enabling him to serve out his full term of office until elections in 2006. His legitimacy was further consolidated when, in spite of a 60% abstention rate, he won regional elections in October.

Several months before the referendum, around a dozen people were killed and more than 100 injured in clashes between security forces and opponents of President Chávez. In November, political tensions rose when a prominent judge investigating issues linked to the opposition, including an attempted coup d'état in April 2002, was killed in a car bomb. A month earlier, the defence minister had narrowly escaped an assassination attempt.

Tensions along the border between Colombia and Venezuela were occasionally reported, prompted by illegal Colombian armed groups crossing into Venezuela. Moreover, more than one hundred Colombian citizens, accused by the Venezuelan authorities of being paramilitaries plotting against President Chávez, were captured near Caracas in May.

Devastating hurricanes swept Grenada, Jamaica and the Bahamas, all members of the English-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The situation in Haiti continued to dominate regional affairs, with the CARICOM governments reiterating in November their refusal to recognize Haiti's interim administration. High rates of unemployment, poverty and crime constituted major challenges for most of the English-speaking Caribbean States.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to encourage governments to incorporate the provisions of international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation and helped Venezuela conduct a study on the level of IHL implementation already achieved. It also pursued efforts to promote the teaching of IHL in universities, with the Institute of Advanced Diplomatic Studies in Caracas agreeing to include an IHL module in its upcoming curriculum.

The ICRC continued to support National Societies in the region in developing their operational capacities.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In July, the ICRC was allowed to visit 100 of the 134 Colombians captured in May by the Venezuelan armed forces, as well as people accused of involvement in the attempted coup of April 2002. It gave presentations on the ICRC for detainees and prison guards and distributed basic assistance as needed. In Grenada, the ICRC continued to visit 16 political detainees held in connection with a coup d'état in 1983.

- 126 detainees visited and monitored individually (including 126 newly registered and 1 minor) in 4 places of detention
- 56 RCMs collected from detainees and 36 delivered

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC's IHL Advisory Service for Latin America and the Caribbean, based in Mexico, offered authorities in the region technical support in acceding to various IHL treaties. In Venezuela, the ICRC continued to push forward the ratification of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW). Trinidad and Tobago became the first CARICOM State to table before parliament legislation on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

In Venezuela, an ICRC-sponsored study on the national implementation of IHL instruments was published. The ICRC gave advice to a parliamentary working group in charge of updating the criminal justice code and assisted the Venezuelan Red Cross in drafting a new law on the red cross emblem. The ICRC gave a presentation on its role and mandate for 300 judges from Venezuela's Supreme Court, as well as for journalists accredited to the Court.

In February, the ICRC organized, in collaboration with the government of St Kitts and Nevis, a two-day workshop on ratification of IHL treaties. In November, it co-organized with the British Red Cross and the government of Trinidad and Tobago a regional workshop on the implementation of IHL, attended by senior government officials from all the CARICOM States.

The ICRC sponsored two representatives from CARICOM National Societies to attend a meeting of National Society legal advisers in Geneva. It also financed the participation of three representatives of CARICOM States in a regional conference on the adaptation of national criminal law to IHL treaties organized by the ICRC and the Organization of American States in Mexico City in December.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Armed forces and IHL

The human rights and IHL departments of Venezuela's Defence Ministry continued to integrate IHL into the standing operational procedures of the armed forces. In July, 15 officers from the Venezuelan armed forces attended a workshop on IHL and the ICRC. Integration of IHL into the military doctrine of the armed forces of Belize and Guyana was under way.

Good policing

More than a year after entering discussions on the integration of international human rights law into police procedures, training and manuals, the Venezuelan Interior Ministry and the legal advisers of the National Police Coordinating Authorities agreed on the content of a memorandum of understanding with the ICRC.

The ICRC conducted a two-day workshop for members of the Jamaica Constabulary on international human rights norms pertinent to policing.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC continued to nurture a strong relationship with the Venezuelan media in general and with community radio stations in particular, giving several presentations on the organization's mandate and participating in radio programmes. In June, the ICRC and the Venezuelan Red Cross organized a workshop on the mandate and activities of the ICRC and of the National Society for 12 of the country's most prominent journalists.

In Trinidad and Tobago, the regional workshop on the implementation of IHL (see *Authorities*) was widely covered in the media.

In Caracas, some 100 law and media students attended a presentation on the ICRC.

In June, the ICRC conducted a three-day IHL teaching module in Caracas for 13 university lecturers. In the second half of the year, the participants started integrating the teaching of IHL into their courses.

In March, the ICRC delivered a lecture on IHL to students at Trinidad and Tobago's Institute of International Relations, which was also presented with a standard IHL library.

In September, the ICRC enabled a university professor to attend an IHL training seminar in Geneva.

In Venezuela and Jamaica, plans to implement the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for secondary-school pupils had to be put on hold in 2004. In Jamaica, the National Society had to divert its efforts to dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ivan, while in Venezuela, education programmes aimed at secondary-school pupils were already covering subjects contained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies continued to support the development of the region's National Societies. The ICRC focused on strengthening their capacities to disseminate IHL and the Fundamental Principles and on emergency preparedness, with emphasis on the Safer Access approach (see *Glossary*).

In order to prepare the Venezuelan Red Cross to respond to potential situations of internal strife or tension in greater security, the ICRC held workshops on the Safer Access approach for more than 70 volunteers and staff throughout the year.

With ICRC support, the Venezuelan Red Cross started drafting a new law on the emblem and launched a public information campaign to raise awareness of the issue.

In December, a tracing and communication workshop, organized jointly by the ICRC and the International Federation, was held in Port-of-Spain. The workshop focused on building capacities and skills in tracing and communication and was attended by 19 participants from CARICOM National Societies and the British Red Cross overseas branches in the Caribbean.



lima

The ICRC opened an operational delegation in Peru in 1984. It became a regional delegation covering Peru and Bolivia in 2003 and Ecuador in 2004. It monitors conditions of detention, endeavours to ascertain the fate of missing persons and assists people affected by the lingering consequences of the struggle between government forces and the remnants of insurgent groups. It promotes and supports the national implementation of IHL and its integration into academic curricula and into the doctrine, operational procedures, manuals and training programmes of the armed forces (human rights norms in the case of the police). The delegation also works to strengthen the emergency-response capacities of the region's National Societies.

COVERING
Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,423,335

Assistance

805,493

Preventive action

1,354,382

Cooperation with National Societies

581,256

General

-

► **4,164,466**

of which: Overheads **254,169**

PERSONNEL

11 expatriates

37 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- In the countries covered, the ICRC visited more than 1,500 detainees. For detainees in Peru, it facilitated family visits, provided assistance, including health care, and financed the construction of workshops for the inmates of 2 prisons.
- The ICRC developed its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for schools in Peru and encouraged the teaching of IHL at universities throughout the region.
- The ICRC supported the National Societies in performing their statutory role and in improving their capacities to respond to needs arising from situations of internal strife, mainly in Bolivia and Peru.
- The ICRC promoted the integration of IHL into the doctrine and training of the Bolivian and Peruvian armed forces and of human rights standards into the manuals and training programmes of the Peruvian police.

CONTEXT

In 2004 the situation in Peru was marked by political instability and social conflicts. The Office of the Ombudsman (Defensoría del Pueblo) identified 56 flashpoints around the country, 48 of which surfaced in 2004 alone. Security incidents occurred in many parts of the country, pitting protestors, such as agricultural workers, indigenous communities, students and teachers, truck drivers, coca farmers and people living in mining areas, against the authorities. In some cases, popular discontent focused on the perceived mismanagement and corruption of local mayors, leading sometimes to acts of extreme violence (see *Civilians*).

Congress passed a draft law extending from 8 to 30 days the period in which the armed forces could step in to assist police in areas not subject to the state of emergency.

In Bolivia, exploitation of gas reserves remained a sensitive issue and a factor in longstanding tensions with Chile. In a mid-July referendum on the extraction and export of gas, the overwhelming majority of voters opted to repeal a 1997 law granting massive concessions to foreign companies exploiting the gas, and returning ownership at source to the Bolivian State. Voters also agreed that Bolivia should use the precious natural resource as a bargaining chip in its age-old struggle with neighbouring Chile to regain access to the Pacific Ocean.

The president of Ecuador was increasingly isolated, facing protests from indigenous and farmers' organizations, as well as from health workers, teachers and employees of

the prison system. In February inmates of the García Moreno Prison in Guayaquil staged a mutiny to protest against their conditions of detention, "retaining" for three days 321 members of the public, mainly visiting relatives and friends of detainees. Similar revolts took place in other detention centres, notably in the capital Quito.

ICRC ACTION

Once the Peruvian penitentiary authorities had signed a decree in May ratifying a previous agreement on prison visits, suspended since autumn 2003, the ICRC was able to resume visits to and monitor the conditions of detainees.

In order to clarify the fate of thousands of people missing in connection with the past 20 years of violence in Peru, the ICRC supported the work of various non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on the issue, as well as the ombudsman who was put in charge of following up the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission after its mandate expired in 2003.

In 2004, the ICRC worked with the authorities in all three countries to accelerate the ratification and national implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) instruments. It also supported efforts by academic institutions in the region to make studies in IHL a permanent component of their curricula. The Peruvian Ministry of Education, which was keen to foster “constructive attitudes” among young Peruvians, readily embraced the ICRC’s Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, while Bolivia considered introducing it in its secondary schools.

In Peru and Bolivia, the integration of IHL into the doctrine, operational procedures, manuals and training of the armed forces and of human rights standards into those of the police forces, proceeded as planned.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to support the National Societies in Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru in developing statutes that conformed to the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. In July, a cold spell in southern Peru affected some 159,000 people, wiping out crops and livestock and killing 45 children. The ICRC helped the Peruvian Red Cross distribute 10 tonnes of warm clothing.

CIVILIANS

Flashpoints

In Peru, the region of Upper Huallaga, where remnants of the Shining Path guerrillas were still operating, remained tense. In June, following the ambush of a military convoy near Tingo María by alleged members of the Shining Path, in which two policemen

and a soldier were killed, the government sent reinforcements to the area.

A state of emergency was in force for most of the year in nine provinces of Peru. In spite of sporadic threats and isolated acts of violence, there were no large-scale movements of people from areas affected by the insurgency. The ICRC maintained contact with the authorities and armed groups to remind them of their responsibilities towards the civilian population under IHL.

In April, the population of Ilave, near Puno, staged a demonstration against the municipal authorities, venting their frustration at the perceived corruption of local officials by lynching the mayor and one of his advisers. The incident was repeated a month later and 50 km away in the Bolivian town of Ayo Ayo, where the population, again accusing the mayor of corruption, killed him and burned his body on the main square.

Missing persons

An estimated 10,702 persons were still unaccounted for in connection with 20 years of violence in Peru. When the mandate of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission expired in 2003, the ICRC supported the Office of the Ombudsman in its efforts to clarify the fate of thousands of missing persons, including the publication and distribution of a list of names. In 2004, the ICRC continued to support associations of families of the missing, in one instance covering the transport costs of 15 families to attend the exhumation of presumed family members in Tototos. It also covered the travel costs of a Peruvian forensic doctor participating in a regional meeting on forensic medicine organized by the ICRC in Guatemala.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Although at the end of 2004 there were still 1,300 security detainees in Peru, those numbers were clearly decreasing as more and more people captured at the beginning of the 1990s were being freed after serving their sentences. In Bolivia seven security detainees were registered with the ICRC until October 2004. As their situation did not warrant further ICRC involvement, the delegation decided, with their consent, to suspend individual monitoring. The same was true for three security detainees in Ecuador.

In May, the Peruvian authorities ratified an agreement on prison visits signed in

November 2003, enabling the ICRC to resume visits suspended since autumn of that year.

In Peru, the policy of the new prison authorities of placing detainees close to their places of origin meant that in 2004 only 605 security detainees had need of the *pasajes* programme (whereby the ICRC paid the travel costs of family members visiting relatives in detention), compared with 773 in 2003.

The ICRC distributed assistance to detainees, such as hygiene products, books, mattresses, bedding and kitchen equipment, as needed. It financed the building of two workshops in Cajamarca and Trujillo designed to offer vocational training for detainees, and supplied eight detention centres with carpentry equipment and sewing machines. Two courses were held, one on metalwork and another on sewing, for detainees in one detention centre. The ICRC funded the construction of a computer room in the women’s high security prison at Chorrillos, along with four small rooms to facilitate confidential conversations between inmates and their lawyers.

- 1, 549 detainees visited in Peru, including 1,291 monitored individually and 198 women, in 59 places of detention
- 53 detainees newly registered
- 135 RCMs between detainees and their families delivered
- 201 phone calls made to families to inform them of the transfer of a detained relative
- 605 detainees visited by relatives with ICRC financial assistance

Health in prisons

The health situation in prisons remained worrying, with overcrowding and poor hygiene hastening the spread of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB). The incidence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) was also high.

In Peru, the ICRC medical team, in addition to monitoring the health status of detainees, helped the National Penitentiary Institute (INPE) to reinforce its health structure and to integrate it into the national health system and provided training and advice on how to combat TB and STDs (including HIV/AIDS). The conclusion in July of a framework agreement between the Ministry of Health and INPE paved the way for a better integration of detainee health into

mainstream national health concerns. The ICRC helped revise a manual on TB control in prisons and participated in meetings of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In Bolivia, the ICRC continued to support health programmes and, in April, it organized jointly with the prison medical service the first national meeting of health professionals working in prisons. At the end of the year, the ICRC medical team carried out an assessment of the health situation in the country's six major prisons.

In 2004, the ICRC:

- ▶ organized 12 training workshops on HIV/AIDS for prison employees and detainees in Peru and trained 225 health promoters among the detainee population;
- ▶ enabled INPE staff in charge of TB programmes in the major Peruvian prisons to attend a workshop in Lima on the control of TB in Latin American detention centres;
- ▶ translated the *HIV in Prisons* manual into Spanish and presented it to INPE for distribution to medical teams throughout the prison system.

AUTHORITIES

Peru had ratified most major IHL instruments and was well on its way to adopting legislative measures to implement them, notably with the publication in July of a national law on the protection of the nation's cultural heritage in time of conflict. The authorities also modified the criminal justice code to enable Peru to fulfil its obligations to cooperate with the International Criminal Court. The ICRC supported the work of the Special Commission for the Revision of the Criminal Code in its efforts to draft legislation that covered offences against international human rights and IHL. It also shared its expertise in IHL implementation with the Supreme Council of Military Justice, in particular concerning the classification of serious crimes and IHL violations as part of the process of revising the military justice code.

Although Ecuador had ratified many of the IHL treaties, it had not yet ratified or amended Article 1 of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which made the Convention and its protocols applicable to non-international armed conflict, nor its Protocol V on explosive remnants of war. It also needed to introduce norms for the classification of war crimes

and enact legislation for the protection of cultural property in time of conflict. Throughout the year, the ICRC supported the authorities in conducting a study on the compatibility of national legislation and IHL, in setting up a national IHL committee and in drafting a law on the protection of the red cross emblem.

In 2004, Bolivia ratified the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

In November, the ICRC co-organized with Peru's national IHL committee a sub-regional conference in Lima on the new challenges facing the national IHL committees of the Andean region. In addition, legal experts from Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru attended in December a regional conference organized by the ICRC and the Organization of American States in Mexico City on the adaptation of national criminal law to IHL treaties.

Following the signing of a cooperation agreement between the ICRC and the Peruvian Constitutional Tribunal's Centre for Constitutional Studies, various dissemination activities on IHL were arranged for lawyers, prosecutors and judges.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL and the armed forces

In 2004, the armed forces of Peru and Bolivia began to integrate IHL into their doctrine, operational procedures, training and manuals. By the end of the year, the Peruvian armed forces had produced a general manual on IHL, while the Bolivian armed forces had organized various meetings to accelerate the integration of IHL. Ecuador had yet to embark on a similar process of IHL integration.

A regional meeting of legal advisers in the armed forces took place in Lima in April to examine their role in light of the obligation set forth in Article 82 of Protocol I additional to the Geneva Conventions. The participants made a number of recommendations to strengthen the support role of legal advisers within the military command structure, relating not only to the application of IHL but also to other norms aimed at protecting civilians in situations of internal violence.

In 2004, the ICRC:

- ▶ organized the first regional IHL seminar, with the participation of the Argentinean, Brazilian, Chilean, Colombian and Peruvian armed forces;
- ▶ organized 2 basic IHL courses in Lima for officers of the armed forces and 5 train-the-trainer courses for instructors;
- ▶ made a presentation on IHL at a training workshop on IHL, organized in La Paz by the Bolivian Ministry of Defence, for the legal advisers of the Bolivian armed forces.

Good policing

In Bolivia and Peru, the police forces signed memoranda of understanding with the ICRC and approved a detailed annual plan to integrate human rights law into their training. In Ecuador, the ICRC signed a new memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of the Interior for a period of two years, after the previous one had expired in May. The Peruvian police completed four manuals on humanitarian principles applicable to policing functions, outlining the rules on the use of force, the use of firearms and the treatment of vulnerable groups and of civilians not involved in acts of violence.

- ▶ workshops on the application of humanitarian principles to policing held in 11 regions of Peru
- ▶ train-the-trainer refresher courses for police instructors held in 4 towns in Peru; some 1,000 policemen trained by the police instructors in humanitarian principles applicable to policing
- ▶ training courses for police instructors held in 3 Bolivian cities (La Paz, Santa Cruz and Sucre)
- ▶ 11 refresher courses held for Bolivian police instructors

CIVIL SOCIETY

The media

The Peruvian media covered a wide range of subjects linked to the humanitarian work of the ICRC, focusing often on specific situations of civil unrest. Wide coverage was given to the publication by the delegation of a study, *The Missing in Peru*, launched in parallel with a photo exhibition in Lima on internally displaced people worldwide. The official newspaper, *El Peruano*, published an extended piece on the Movement, entitled "Even war has limits", in which it also touched on "forgotten" armed conflicts around the world and the work of the ICRC in the region.

In Coroico, Bolivia, the ICRC organized a first workshop on media coverage of armed conflicts or internal strife, attended by 18 journalists. The workshop prompted the country's leading newspaper to invite 30 journalists to debate on the subject.

The Ecuadorean press published articles on a photo exhibition and conference entitled "Women and War", organized jointly by the ICRC and the Ecuadorean Red Cross.

Exploring Humanitarian Law in schools

Since the official incorporation in December 2002 of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the Peruvian education system, thousands of secondary-school children had learned basic humanitarian principles through the modules. In 2004, nine of the country's regions were implementing the programme. With support from the ICRC, the Ministry of Education developed a shorter version of the programme and held a workshop to train additional teachers to expand it to the remaining schools within the nine regions. At the end of the year, teachers and educational specialists from the southern regions gathered in Arequipa to evaluate the programme.

Throughout 2004, the ICRC held discussions with the Bolivian Ministry of Education to lay the groundwork for introducing the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in schools in 2005.

Universities and IHL

In Bolivia, IHL was taught as part of five courses in various universities. The ICRC participated in a dissemination session on IHL for 80 international public law students from the Universidad Mayor San Andrés and members of international organizations.

In Ecuador, the law faculty of the Pontifical Catholic University incorporated IHL into its curriculum, while the Espíritu Santo University in Guayaquil organized a conference on basic IHL principles. The ICRC explored the possibility of incorporating IHL into the curriculum of the Diplomatic Academy.

In Peru, IHL teaching had become an integral part of the international public law and human rights course of the Pontifical University of Peru (PUP). The university organized a training session for professors teaching IHL, and presentations on IHL were held for 80 undergraduates and 30 postgraduates. Together with the PUP,

the ICRC published a monograph, *Introduction to IHL*. It also gave presentations on IHL for students from the Bausate y Mesa school of journalism. Peru's Diplomatic Academy renewed for another two years the cooperation agreement it had signed with the ICRC in 2002 and signalled its intention to incorporate IHL into its curriculum. Altogether, the teaching of IHL was part of eight courses at several Peruvian universities in 2004.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC worked closely with the National Societies of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru as they put together their National Development Plans, all of which were published at the end of 2004, and helped the National Societies in Peru and Ecuador to review their statutes.

Tracing

In February, the ICRC organized a regional tracing workshop, introducing a more effective card system for tracing activities. All three National Societies committed themselves to improving their tracing programmes. The Bolivian Red Cross tracing network was extended to six more branches.

Emergency preparedness

The recent social upheavals in the region underscored the need to reinforce emergency preparedness. With that in mind, the Bolivian Red Cross took part in a training workshop with technical support from the ICRC, the International Federation and the Colombian Red Cross. Subsequently, the Bolivian Red Cross organized a workshop for all its branches to fine-tune its contingency planning. It also decided to establish a branch in El Alto, a poor neighbourhood on the outskirts of La Paz and long a hotbed of social unrest leading to occasional episodes of violence. El Alto had previously been covered by the branch in La Paz, which made access to it impractical when demonstrators blocked its single road connecting it to the capital.

The Peruvian Red Cross beefed up its emergency preparedness by organizing, with support from the Colombian Red Cross, a training course to establish national intervention teams for disaster response. The ICRC gave a presentation to National Society staff on operational security and stress management.

The ICRC went with the Ecuadorean Red Cross to the border areas with Colombia to assess the situation of Colombian refugees who had sought shelter there.

Promotion of IHL and the Fundamental Principles

The Bolivian Red Cross, supported by the ICRC and the International Federation, organized its yearly workshop for branch volunteers on the Fundamental Principles and the history of the ICRC and the Movement.

With support from the ICRC and the International Federation, the Peruvian Red Cross held a train-the-trainer workshop for 22 branch dissemination managers.



mexico city

Officially inaugurated in June 2002, the Mexico City regional delegation – an operational delegation since 1998 – promotes the national implementation of IHL and its integration into academic curricula and the doctrine and training programmes of the armed forces (human rights norms for the police). The ICRC strengthens the capacities of the region's National Societies. It assists Colombian refugees in Panama's Darién region and local populations affected by the refugees' presence. It also monitors the conditions of detainees in Mexico and Panamá.

The Mexico City regional delegation hosts the ICRC's IHL Advisory Services for Latin America and the Caribbean, which supports ICRC delegations in the region in their work to promote the incorporation of the provisions of IHL into domestic legislation; it also serves as a focal point on legal matters for a variety of inter-American institutions, in particular the Organization of American States.

COVERING

Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,786,340

Assistance

4,012,523

Preventive action

3,609,897

Cooperation with National Societies

2,510,724

General

65,565

► **11,985,047**

of which: Overheads **697,526**

PERSONNEL

10 expatriates

35 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC assisted IDPs and residents in the Mexican state of Chiapas until June and continued to assist Colombian refugees and IDPs in the Darién province of Panama.
- In El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama the ICRC continued to support local organizations assisting the families of missing persons.
- The ICRC continued to visit Mexican prisons on an annual basis, pending a comprehensive agreement with the Mexican authorities on prison visits.
- In Mexico, the ICRC pursued its dialogue with the armed forces regarding the integration of IHL into their doctrine and training programmes.
- The Panamanian government ratified Amended Article 1 of the CCW.

CONTEXT

In Mexico, violence became more pervasive as general elections, scheduled for 2006, were approaching. The southern states of Guerrero, Oaxaca, Chiapas and Michoacán continued to be the scene of sporadic acts of violence between different communities, centred mainly on access to land and water sources. Several indigenous leaders were killed during the year. People repeatedly took to the streets of the capital to protest against social inequality, lack of government attention to rural areas and growing insecurity.

More than 500 Colombian refugees remained in Panama, most of them in the Darién jungle in the border area with Colombia. Punusa, the village closest to the border, which was emptied of its occupants in April 2003, was still off-limits to refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) wishing to resettle there.

In Guatemala, the newly elected president, Oscar Berger, reiterated his support for the peace agreement and created a commission in charge of follow-up. The former Guatemalan government had accepted in 2000 institutional responsibility for the more than 200,000 dead and missing during three decades of internal conflict, and in 2004 the president approved a national plan for reparations. Although a number of organizations were set up to monitor the human rights situation in the country, in practice a lack of political will, alarming levels of insecurity and threats against these organizations hampered any substantial progress. Congress had still to ratify an

agreement on the establishment of an office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and no progress was made on setting up a commission of inquiry into the past behaviour of army officers and other members of the security apparatus. The agrarian question, long a contentious issue, rose to the forefront in August when landless farmers occupied a farm in the department of Retalhuleu and were forcibly removed by police forces backed up by the army.

In El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, organized crime gangs or *maras*, made up largely of youths and children, perpetuated a feeling of insecurity among the urban population, fuelling popular support for heavy-handed government measures. The extra-judicial murders of children and youths remained high throughout 2004.

Following the sentencing of 75 Cuban political opponents to exceptionally heavy prison sentences in 2003, the European Union froze its diplomatic relations with the Cuban government. At the end of 2004, following a unilateral diplomatic initiative by the Spanish government, four of the prisoners were freed and 18 were allowed into hospital for medical treatment.

In Panama, the issue of explosive remnants of war left over from years of US military training and testing on Canal Zone soil, remained unresolved, with the Panamanian government reiterating its position that clearance should be the sole responsibility of the US government.

ICRC ACTION

In June 2004, the ICRC completed the smooth handover of its assistance activities in Chiapas, Mexico, to development-oriented non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and to the Mexican Red Cross. It continued to support the Panamanian Red Cross in assisting Colombian refugees and IDPs in the Darién jungle.

Within the framework of the ICRC's global initiative on missing persons, the ICRC continued to support a comparative legal study on the issue in El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama.

The ICRC continued to encourage national authorities in the region to implement international humanitarian law (IHL) and to accede to IHL treaties. It prompted the Mexican armed forces to embark on a national programme to integrate IHL into all aspects of training and operations and pursued negotiations with Mexico's federal police on a memorandum of understanding on the integration of human rights standards relevant to policing into their manuals, standing procedures and training.

The ICRC, together with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, continued to encourage greater cooperation among the different components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in order to strengthen the capacities of the region's National Societies. Those of the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Panama revised their statutes in line with Movement standards, and a cooperation agreement between the ICRC and the Guatemalan Red Cross was signed.

CIVILIANS

Refugees, IDPs and residents in the Darién

According to UNHCR, the number of Colombian refugees was down to 545 by year end. Although none had obtained refugee status, many had spouses and children of Panamanian nationality and were entitled to use public services. A smaller group of refugees located in the more remote border regions had no access to public services and depended on assistance from the Panamanian Red Cross and the ICRC, the only organizations granted access to the area. In 2004, the ICRC carried out seven assessment missions to the Darién and reported isolated protection issues to the appropriate authorities.

Restoring family links

Once contact with family members was re-established via Red Cross messages (RCMs), the ICRC provided refugees with telephone cards allowing a three-minute conversation.

- 28 RCMs collected
- 11 RCMs delivered

Assistance

Since 2002, the Panamanian Red Cross, supported by the ICRC, had been distributing school supplies to vulnerable children in 11 communities in the Darién, be they Colombian refugees, IDPs or residents. The bulk of the assistance went to some 70 families displaced from Punusa in 2003 and relocated to the upper Río Tuira area, where only the ICRC and the Panamanian Red Cross had access.

In 2004, the Panamanian Red Cross, with ICRC support, conducted workshops on primary and community health care, hygiene and the construction of latrines; distributed food, essential household items, agricultural tools and seeds; built and repaired latrines; and gave medical and dental consultations.

Communities in remote areas of Chiapas

The winding down of the ICRC's operations in Chiapas was completed, as scheduled, at the end of June.

Prior to this, the ICRC, working with the Mexican Red Cross:

- financed a rural hospital in the region of Las Cañadas until the end of May;
- financed a cold chain in 9 rural health posts to support the immunization of some 10,000 children in the region of Los Altos and provided 10 health posts in the region of Las Cañadas with adequate reproductive-health equipment for the benefit of indigenous women;
- distributed seeds to 432 families;
- vaccinated 11,800 farmyard birds belonging to 482 families;
- provided training in shop management and an initial stock of hardware goods, basic food staples, tools and clothing for the Polho community shop inaugurated at the end of May, designed to restore a degree of self-sufficiency to the community.

Mine action in Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Red Cross, with support from the ICRC, continued its mine risk-education campaign in mine-affected

communities, finalizing its programme in Waspan, near the Río Coco, and Siuna.

- 1,150 children in 2 districts (Waspan and Siuna) attended mine-risk education sessions
- HF radio transmitter and hand-held radios provided to the Nicaraguan Red Cross branch in Siuna
- 21 volunteers given first-aid training

(For physical rehabilitation programmes for mine victims, see *Wounded and sick*.)

Missing persons

An ICRC-sponsored study launched in 2004 on legislative measures pertaining to missing persons was in progress in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama. In June, the ICRC presented its project on "The Missing" in a meeting organized by the national commission of families searching for missing children. In July, the ICRC gave a presentation on how to deal with human remains to 100 participants gathered in Guatemala City for the second Latin American conference on forensic anthropology.

The ICRC continued to support Panama's Truth Commission and Ministry of Education in their efforts to implement some of the recommendations of the Lima international conference on missing persons. The Truth Commission compiled a report summarizing the events which took place during 20 years of military dictatorship and included them in the school curriculum.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Mexico and Panama, the ICRC visited detainees covered by its mandate and continued to urge the Mexican authorities to sign a comprehensive agreement on prison visits.

- 83 detainees visited and interviewed individually (including 28 newly registered) in 19 centres of detention in Mexico
- 26 detainees in Mexico received ICRC-funded monthly visits from relatives
- 3 detainees visited in Panama

WOUNDED AND SICK

In 1984, together with the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, the ICRC set up the National Prosthetics and Orthotics Centre (CENAPRORTO) in Managua for people

who had lost limbs during the civil war. In 1993, the ICRC handed over the administrative and technical management of the centre to the Ministry of Health but continued to provide orthopaedic components and staff training through its Special Fund for the Disabled (SFD). With the approval of the Ministry of Health, the SFD signed an agreement with the Polus Center for Social & Economic Development and the Walking Unidos Prosthetic Outreach Program to open a complementary prosthetic/orthotic centre, CAPADIFE, in Managua. It was inaugurated in October and started prosthetic production in November.

In 2004, CENAPRORTO produced:

- ▶ 407 prostheses;
- ▶ 788 orthoses.

In addition, the SFD reimbursed the cost of fitting and producing:

- ▶ 119 prostheses and 60 orthoses by CENAPRORTO in Managua;
- ▶ 21 prostheses and 8 orthoses by CAPADIFE in Managua;
- ▶ 26 prostheses by Walking Unidos in León.

The SFD donated:

- ▶ 97 wheelchairs;
- ▶ 167 crutches.

In most cases, reimbursement of prosthetic treatments included transport, food and accommodation.

AUTHORITIES

In March, the Central American Educational and Cultural Coordination adopted a resolution on the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict, encouraging member States to implement the 1954 Hague Convention and its two Protocols. At a meeting in June of the Central American Council of Ombudsmen, participants adopted a declaration encouraging States to implement treaty obligations related to the repression of grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and its 1977 Additional Protocol I and to ratify the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). At the meeting, the ICRC gave a presentation on IHL and war crimes. It gave a similar presentation at two seminars organized by the Coalition for an ICC of Guatemala and El Salvador.

The Honduran Red Cross finalized a draft law on the use and protection of the

emblem and submitted it to parliament, while in Mexico, the legal department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was still examining a draft law on the emblem submitted in May.

In August, Panama ratified Amended Article 1 of the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), extending the Convention's scope of application to non-international armed conflicts. In El Salvador and Guatemala, the ICRC met officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lay the groundwork for the ratification of the CCW's Amended Article 1 and Protocol V (on explosive remnants of war).

Costa Rica established a national IHL committee in November, while Honduras drafted a decree with the intention of setting one up. In Costa Rica and Guatemala, with technical and financial input from the ICRC, studies to assess the level of national implementation of IHL were completed in November. In El Salvador, the delegation met members of the legislative assembly to promote the revision of the criminal code to include criminalizing the use and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines, in preparation for the Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World (see *Nairobi*).

In December, the ICRC and the Organization of American States organized a regional conference in Mexico City on the adaptation of national criminal law to IHL treaties.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL and the armed forces

Representatives of all the armed forces of the region met in Nicaragua for the annual assessment of IHL integration in their doctrine, tactical manuals and operational procedures. Although IHL was firmly incorporated in the curriculum of military academies in the region, it was not fully integrated into tactical manuals and standing operational procedures.

In order to establish a permanent core of IHL instructors within the armed forces, the ICRC conducted several IHL courses for Mexican instructors and a refresher course for 20 IHL instructors from Guatemala.

Furthermore, in 2004, the ICRC:

- ▶ organized workshops on IHL for 31 senior officers of the Mexican army and selected officers from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua;
- ▶ delivered lectures on IHL to Mexican army and air force officers, including generals.

The Honduran armed forces incorporated the ICRC's recommendations regarding the repression of war crimes into their new code of military justice.

Human rights law and the police forces

In Mexico, the signature of a memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the federal police forces present throughout the territory was still pending at the end of the year.

- ▶ 75 police officers attended 3 train-the-trainer workshops in Mexico, and 24 police officers attended 1 train-the-trainer workshop in Panama
- ▶ 3 courses on human rights law and humanitarian principles applicable to policing were conducted for 75 police instructors in Mexico

CIVIL SOCIETY

In August, the ICRC gave a presentation on respect for economic, social and cultural rights in conflict situations for 120 civil servants, lawyers, academics and NGO staff gathered for the prestigious interdisciplinary course on human rights held yearly at the Inter-American Human Rights Institute in San José, Costa Rica. In order to enable members of National Societies, academia and the civil service to attend this course, the ICRC granted five scholarships to candidates from Costa Rica, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Peru and Mexico.

In Guatemala, some 550 municipal councilors and deputy mayors from the departments of Quiché and Huehuetenango attended workshops on humanitarian principles and the Movement. Another 10 workshops on similar subjects were organized for over 570 leaders of human rights organizations in the regions of San Marcos, Quiché, Suchitepéquez, Huehuetenango and Sololá.

In cooperation with the Guatemalan Red Cross, the ICRC organized a workshop in Guatemala City for journalists. The workshop covered issues such as the differences and similarities between human rights law

and IHL, the responsibility of the press in the reporting of armed conflicts or situations of internal violence and the respective roles of the ICRC and the Guatemalan Red Cross.

Teaching humanitarian principles to schoolchildren

The ICRC continued to seek a cooperation agreement with the Guatemalan Ministry of Education to incorporate the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into the national school curriculum. In Honduras, an Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, begun in 2003, was implemented as planned, in cooperation with the Honduran Red Cross and the Education Ministry's National Institute for Education and Research. Four workshops were held throughout the year to train facilitators in the programme. In El Salvador, an initial group of 21 teachers was trained in February to teach the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules. By November, when the first evaluation workshop was held to gauge the success of the programme, the number of participating teachers had doubled. Throughout the year, the ICRC, with strong support from the Honduran and Salvadoran National Societies, monitored and supported the work of newly trained teachers.

- 1,900 students in 21 schools in Guatemala, 1,200 students in 40 schools in Honduras and 2,900 students in 21 schools in El Salvador reached through the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme

Teaching IHL to future decision-makers

A year-end evaluation of university lecturers throughout the region trained in teaching IHL showed that, in most universities, an IHL module of at least eight hours had been introduced in law faculties.

The ICRC participated in the inauguration of a 64-hour IHL course at the Iberoamericana University and signed an agreement with the University of Chiapas to integrate IHL into the law curriculum. University lecturers from Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama attended an IHL training seminar in Mexico City.

In 2004, the ICRC conducted:

- seminars in 4 Mexican universities for over 200 law and journalism students on the ICC, IHL and refugee law, and how information is used to shape public opinion during an armed conflict;

- 2 IHL courses at the United Nations Peace University in Costa Rica for 50 students from all over the world;
- 2 courses on IHL and the role of the ICRC and the Movement for 50 Costa Rican students of international relations;
- 2 IHL courses for 85 students and teachers from the communication and journalism departments of universities in Panama and 35 journalism students in Costa Rica.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Preparing for emergencies

In March and October, the ICRC and the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster-Response Unit held workshops for the region's National Societies to help them incorporate family-links activities into their contingency plans for emergency response. Issues covered included techniques for the identification of bodies in the aftermath of natural disasters and offering tracing services to economic migrants. The ICRC provided training on tracing techniques at the regional level and helped to elaborate standard operating procedures. As a follow-up to these workshops, all the National Societies in the region began to incorporate tracing into their national disaster plans and to train their volunteers in the new techniques.

In anticipation of the general elections in the Dominican Republic in May 2004, the ICRC helped the Dominican Red Cross prepare for possible violence by incorporating tracing activities in the National Society's contingency plans and providing training, first-aid kits, medical supplies, red cross identification shirts and portable radios. Soon after, the island of Hispaniola was hit by severe flooding and the Dominican Red Cross was able to respond effectively to the disaster.

Thirty-nine trainers from the Mexican Red Cross attended pilot seminars in three different regions of the country in order to update the National Society's training course on the restoration of family links. In December, the Mexican Red Cross held a tracing simulation exercise for its tracing volunteers countrywide, inviting National Societies of the region to participate. It also revised its restoring family links training manual with ICRC support.

Raising awareness of IHL and the Movement

Regional seminars to evaluate the work accomplished by the communication and

dissemination services of National Societies, to upgrade existing knowledge and teaching methods and to plan for future activities took place in Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The region's National Societies conducted a series of workshops and presentations designed to promote IHL among Red Cross staff and volunteers, young people, teachers, students and the armed and security forces.

The ICRC helped the National Societies of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama produce their newsletters.

Movement coordination

Following a meeting organized by the International Federation and the Guatemalan Red Cross, in which all Movement partners working in Guatemala participated, a memorandum of understanding was signed, binding all components of the Movement to work together in order to support the strengthening of the Guatemalan Red Cross, both at the institutional and programme levels.

Together with the International Federation, the ICRC continued to support the National Societies of the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua and Panama in the revision of their statutes. During the year, the Dominican and Panamanian National Societies adopted new statutes, while the Nicaraguan Red Cross's new statutes were being examined by the Joint ICRC/Federation Commission on National Society Statutes, prior to being approved by the National Society's General Assembly.



ICRC regional delegation ICRC delegation

washington

Established in 1995, the ICRC's regional delegation in Washington has become an acknowledged source of information for government officials, organizations, academic institutions and other interested groups in the United States and Canada. The delegation's role is to heighten awareness of the ICRC's mandate, mobilize political and financial support for ICRC activities and secure backing for IHL implementation. Since January 2002 the ICRC has been regularly visiting persons held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in Charleston, South Carolina. The ICRC works closely with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies, with a focus on their international activities and the promotion of IHL.

COVERING

Canada, United States of America

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

1,863,796

Assistance

43,548

Preventive action

1,582,188

Cooperation with National Societies

213,408

General

22,025

► **3,724,965**

of which: Overheads **227,345**

PERSONNEL

9 expatriates

7 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC president met the US secretary of state, the national security advisor and the deputy secretary of defense to discuss issues of concern to the organization.
- The director of operations visited Washington for meetings with the State Department and the Department of Defense.
- The ICRC visited the 550 individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, spoke to them in private, collected 2,260 RCMs from them and delivered 2,260 to them.
- The ICRC visited individuals designated by the United States as "enemy combatants" and held at Charleston Navy Base.
- The delegation kept the US authorities informed of issues of humanitarian concern in Afghanistan and Iraq, and reiterated its position on the mistreatment of persons held by US forces in Iraq.
- Close contacts were maintained with the American and Canadian Red Cross Societies.

CONTEXT

The US presidential elections took centre stage on the domestic political scene in 2004, attracting unprecedented international attention. Against the backdrop of the elections, the "war on terror" and the security situation in Iraq – where insurgency continued unabated despite the installation of an Iraqi interim administration – dominated US foreign policy.

In May *The Wall Street Journal* published excerpts of a confidential ICRC detention report without the ICRC's consent. The episode drew heightened attention from the US Congress, administration and media to the ICRC's detention-related work. These developments and subsequent allegations of ill-treatment at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station in Cuba kept public debate sharply focused on IHL and its pertinence in current conflicts, and thrust the ICRC, its mandate and role into the limelight. The publication of the report also fuelled legal discussions on US places of detention associated with the so-called "war on terror", such as those at Guantanamo Bay and the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. In 2004 the US Supreme Court ruled that a number of Guantanamo internees/detainees could have their cases heard by US federal courts. The US authorities subsequently set up the Combatant Status Review Tribunal, which, they argued, met the requirements of the Supreme Court ruling.

ICRC ACTION

Throughout 2004 the ICRC pursued its strategy of advancing and intensifying its dialogue with the US administration on issues crucial to the protection of people held in relation to the “war on terror” and on the continued relevance of international humanitarian law (IHL).

In January ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger visited Washington to hold talks with Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice and Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. The talks focused on detainees/internees held at Guantanamo Bay and Bagram. In March the head of the ICRC legal division met representatives of the US State Department. The discussions centred on the US legal position on humanitarian aspects of the “war on terror” and on the military commissions the United States was putting in place to try some of the detainees/internees held at Guantanamo Bay. Later in the year the ICRC director of operations, the delegate-general for the Middle East and North Africa and the head of operations for North America and Western, Central and South-Eastern Europe travelled to Washington to continue the talks.

As part of its ongoing activities, the ICRC also met US officials in Washington to discuss the organization’s activities worldwide. On one such occasion, the ICRC head of operations for the Horn of Africa held discussions in Washington and Ottawa on the organization’s work in and concerns about Darfur.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

The ICRC regularly visited people held by the United States at Guantanamo Bay and the Charleston Navy Base. Long-term detention in the absence of a clear legal process, particularly in the cases of Guantanamo Bay and Afghanistan, remained a serious concern to the ICRC. Accordingly, the ICRC kept up a confidential working dialogue with the detaining officials and the relevant US authorities in Washington on conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees/internees in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay.

The creation of the Office for Detainee Affairs in the US Department of Defense in July 2004 provided a forum in which detention issues could be discussed in a more timely and systematic manner. Regular

meetings between the ICRC and the Office for Detainee Affairs helped enhance high-level talks on specific issues concerning ICRC activities in US places of detention.

The organization continued to voice its concerns about a number of people held by the United States at “undisclosed locations”.

Throughout 2004 the organization sustained a functioning Red Cross message (RCM) network, thereby enabling detainees/internees to restore and maintain contact with their families.

AUTHORITIES

United States

The ICRC consolidated relations with the Organization of American States in Washington, D.C., and involved representatives of its member States in efforts to strengthen support for IHL.

In all its contacts with the US authorities, the delegation consistently stressed the pertinence of IHL to the current “war on terror”. In general, the delegation intensified its dialogue with the relevant US government departments and agencies on the ICRC’s humanitarian role in conflict zones throughout the world.

Meetings were held regularly with the Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration, the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labour, legal advisers at the State Department and in key offices of the Department of Defense: the Office for Detainee Affairs (following its creation in mid-2004); the General Counsel; and policy offices. The delegation also attended periodic meetings with related units of the National Security Council at the White House.

Canada

The ICRC kept in regular contact with the Canadian authorities to brief them on its strategies and views, to discuss its activities in conflict zones across the globe and to seek their support in promoting IHL. The delegation also maintained relations with Canadian government bodies involved in international humanitarian assistance.

In its dialogue with the authorities the ICRC discussed its humanitarian concerns, and the challenges it was confronted with in the face of intensifying civil-military relations in conflict zones. The delegation also took an active part in conferences and workshops addressing this issue.

In order to stay abreast of issues of interest to the ICRC, and where necessary to promote understanding of and support for its work, the delegation closely monitored developments that had implications for the ICRC’s activities.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

An additional staff position was created at the Washington delegation in early 2004 to consolidate and enhance the organization’s longstanding institutional relations with the US and Canadian armed forces and to establish contacts with private military and security service providers based in North America.

The delegation maintained and broadened its activities with the US Marine Corps’ Training and Education Command and its subordinate training facilities. Notably, the ICRC participated in pre-deployment exercises with two marine expeditionary units (on the east and west coasts), and with Marine Corps military police on the east coast. The delegation continued to conduct guest lectures, and participated in staff exercises at the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and at the Marine Corps War College. The ICRC also took part in meetings of the Marine Corps’ Humanitarian Assistance Board and conducted tailored pre-deployment briefings on specific themes and regions at the Security Co-operation and Education Centre.

In 2004 the delegation once again conducted a three-day course on IHL for US, Canadian and Latin American students at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. It expanded its network of contacts to other training and education facilities run by the US army and gave two lectures at each of the following institutions: the Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School, the Army War College, and the Army Military Police School. It also participated in two rotations at the National Training Center, and during military field exercises there, trained role-players to simulate ICRC visits to detainees.

Other activities included lectures at the three colleges of the US National Defense University: the Industrial College of the Armed Forces; the National War College; and the Joint Forces Defense College.

In 2004 the delegation established initial contacts with leading private military and security companies and an umbrella organ-

ization for this industry, the International Peace Operations Association, at headquarters level in the United States.

Canada

The ICRC participated in four courses for the Canadian armed forces. The Canadian Red Cross recruited a former ICRC delegate to study the Canadian armed forces IHL training programme and to identify areas where the National Society and the ICRC could enhance cooperation.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The US media focused attention on ICRC activities for detainees, particularly in May when the controversy surrounding allegations of prisoner abuse by US troops in Iraq reached new heights. The leaking of a confidential ICRC detention report, without the ICRC's consent, to a major US newspaper triggered considerable media interest in the issue, and the delegation's press office responded to hundreds of requests for information. The organization's activities for detainees/internees at Guantanamo Bay also came under the media spotlight. The ICRC's working methods and principles of confidentiality and neutrality were critically examined and even challenged.

The Washington regional delegation acted as a focal point (in both the United States and Canada) for directing media interest in other international crises, such as the violence in Haiti and the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region, towards an understanding of the ICRC's response. At the same time, the ICRC endeavoured to channel media interest in some of the broader themes and debates into coverage of humanitarian action and IHL.

The controversies over detention in Iraq and at Guantanamo Bay generated considerable interest among key civil society groups in IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. The delegation became an important reference on these issues for academics, the legal community, the media, non-governmental organizations and private individuals and handled hundreds of related enquiries.

The ICRC took part in numerous roundtables and panel discussions on topics related to its mandate, operations and policy concerns. Of particular interest was IHL and its relevance to specific contexts, notably civil-military relations in humanitarian operations. The discussions were convened by various organizations, academic institutions and think-tanks, including the

Brookings Institution, the American Enterprise Institute, the Center for American Progress, Harvard University, the American Society of International Law and the US Institute of Peace.

Through its involvement in such events, the delegation was able to stay abreast of the public debate on issues of concern to the ICRC. With attention intensely focused on the ICRC in 2004, the delegation's communication department and information centre distributed a wide range of ICRC publications in response to a substantial number of requests from universities, the media and other specialized groups.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

United States

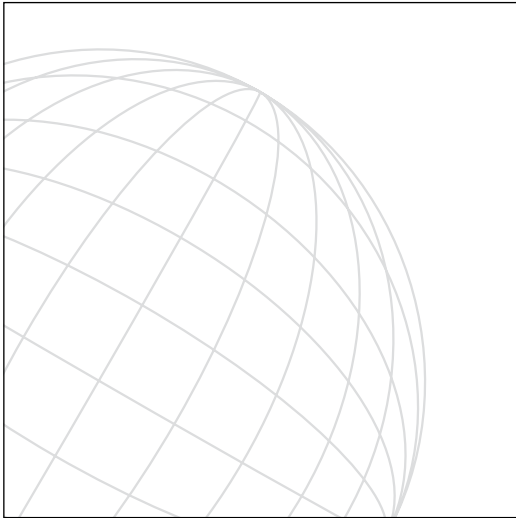
The first year of pilot-testing of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law education programme for young people was completed in 2004. Across the United States, 90 teachers were trained in the programme. They in turn taught the modules to some 6,100 secondary-school students from 29 states and gave feedback on its impact. In July 2004 the American Red Cross gave presentations at the International Education Leadership Seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Johannesburg, South Africa, where 77 representatives of Ministries of Education and National Societies from 22 countries gathered to share strategies for and lessons learned in the implementation of the programme. The American Red Cross concentrated on forging partnerships with organizations that could support the programme's development. The University of Wisconsin at River Falls worked with the American Red Cross to train teachers and lead the pilot test. The American Red Cross also gave a presentation to members of the College Board on the importance of integrating the programme into the secondary-school system.

The delegation supported the efforts of the American Red Cross to promote the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. An ICRC team was present at the National Society's annual convention in St Louis, Missouri, where it had informal discussions on ICRC matters with staff from the National Society's local chapter and representatives of its board of governors. Members of the delegation also travelled to strategic American Red Cross chapters to increase understanding of the ICRC and promote interest in the National Society's important international work.

Canada

On several occasions the ICRC discussed with the Canadian Red Cross humanitarian operations in Iraq and issues concerning the protection of civilians affected by conflict, and briefed the National Society on major developments in ICRC activities worldwide. The ICRC participated in the National Society's annual General Assembly.

The delegation held discussions with the leadership and IHL unit of the Canadian Red Cross with the aim of consolidating and increasing its support in promoting IHL and other issues of common concern.



new york

The multiple tasks and activities of the United Nations often have humanitarian implications. Opened in 1983, the delegation to the United Nations serves as a support and liaison for the ICRC's operational and legal initiatives. The delegation conveys the ICRC's viewpoint in the various forums, keeps abreast of trends and developments relating to humanitarian issues and promotes IHL.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

-

Assistance

-

Preventive action

2,072,072

Cooperation with National Societies

17,135

General

-

► **2,089,207**

of which: Overheads **127,510**

PERSONNEL

3 expatriates

5 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- To enhance knowledge of and garner support for its mandate and activities, the ICRC took part in numerous meetings organized by, or with, the UN and other organizations.
- The president of the ICRC hosted 2 informal gatherings during his visit to New York in March.

CONTEXT

The ICRC's New York delegation remained in close contact with numerous United Nations (UN) bodies, think-tanks, academic institutions and the media. It endeavoured to ensure that the UN and its various components had an accurate understanding of topical humanitarian issues and thus pave the way for the ICRC's neutral and impartial activities. The delegation's efforts were mainly geared towards securing acceptance of the ICRC's mandate and encouraging the UN to take the ICRC's specific concerns into account in any of its deliberations with direct implications for humanitarian action.

ICRC ACTION

UNITED NATIONS

UN Security Council

The delegation followed the various thematic and operational issues addressed by the Security Council in 2004. In accordance with established practice, the ICRC held monthly meetings with the president of the Security Council. In what has become an annual tradition, ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger hosted an informal dinner in New York for members of the Security Council in order to share with them the ICRC's concerns on operational developments and to discuss matters of mutual interest.

UN General Assembly

In order to keep abreast of developments of concern to the ICRC, and where necessary to promote understanding of and support for the ICRC's mandate and activities, the delegation closely followed, in its capacity as observer, the work of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies.

The ICRC attended the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a meeting on the Convention on the Safety of UN and Associated Personnel and meetings on peace-keeping operations. The organization also participated in meetings to develop a proposal for a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities.

Regarding these and other issues on the General Assembly's agenda, the delegation maintained regular contacts with Permanent Missions to the UN. Jointly with the New York University School of Law, it organized the 21st Annual Seminar on IHL for diplomats accredited to the UN.

The ICRC president hosted an informal dinner for several permanent representatives of various countries to the UN.

UN Secretariat and associated structures

The ICRC attended weekly meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In its capacity as "standing invitee", the ICRC attended working sessions on issues such as the protection

of civilians in armed conflict and preparations for the 2004 humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council. It also took part in expert group meetings chaired by the UN Mine Action Service.

Numerous bilateral meetings were held with various branches of the Secretariat to discuss issues of common concern, often related to contexts in which the UN and the ICRC were both active. The protection of vulnerable population groups in areas where peace-keeping operations were under way was one such topic. The delegation also maintained regular contacts with UNICEF, UNDP, WFP and UNHCR on various operational and thematic issues, among them activities in Colombia, Haiti, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Uganda.

OTHERS

The delegation took part in numerous round-tables, group discussions and workshops on topics related to the ICRC's mandate, operations and policy concerns, convened by various organizations and think-tanks. The Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs, the International Peace Academy, the Council on Foreign Relations, Columbia University and the City University of New York (in conjunction with Tufts University) were among the institutions that hosted such gatherings in 2004. The ICRC also attended regular open meetings of Human Rights Watch.

In addition, in what is becoming a yearly tradition, briefings on the ICRC were given at both the National High School and National Collegiate Model United Nations conferences, which brought together thousands of students from all over the world to hold mock debates on topical UN issues.

The delegation regularly published press releases on ICRC operations and responded to enquiries from the media, private organizations and individuals on issues such as the law on occupation, the protection of detainees and the safety of humanitarian personnel.



Civilians who have lost their homes receiving ICRC relief goods.

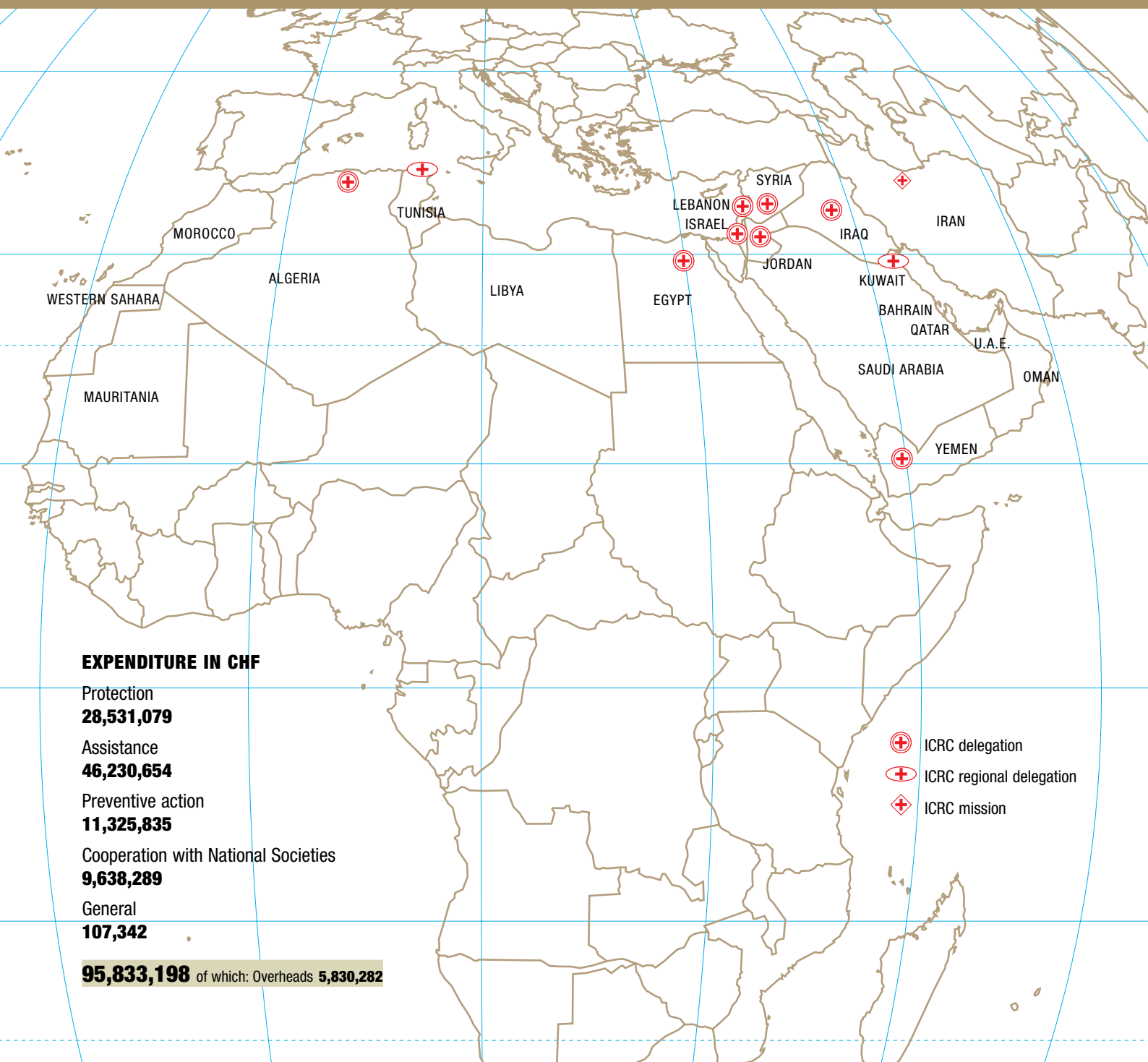
DELEGATIONS

Algeria
Egypt
Iran
Iraq
Israel, the Occupied Territories
& the Autonomous Territories
Jordan
Lebanon
Syria
Yemen

REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

Kuwait
Tunis

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

28,531,079

Assistance

46,230,654

Preventive action

11,325,835



Cooperation with National Societies

9,638,289

General

107,342

95,833,198 of which: Overheads **5,830,282**

-  ICRC delegation
-  ICRC regional delegation
-  ICRC mission

In 2004 the ICRC stood firmly by its commitment to alleviate the suffering of people whose lives had been disrupted by the chaos and destruction of ongoing and past conflicts and violence in the region and to actively promote compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL). The organization's network of country and regional delegations throughout the Middle East and North Africa was designed to ensure close working proximity to those most in need of its protection and assistance.

Particular attention was devoted to enhancing acceptance of the ICRC among State authorities, civil society and opposition groups so as to ensure its safe access to the victims of armed conflict and violence. This was particularly relevant in Iraq, where humanitarian workers continued to be kidnapped or killed in the course of their life-saving work. Although the ICRC suffered no casualties in Iraq during the year, as it had done in 2003, several other humanitarian organizations faced serious security incidents, and many decided to leave the country altogether.

The protection of people deprived of their freedom remained a key activity for the ICRC in the Middle East and North Africa. Visits to places of detention continued in Algeria, Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Qatar and to Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front, in all cases to assess their treatment and living conditions under the respective applicable legal standards. This activity was particularly intensive in Iraq and in Israel and the Palestinian territories, where the ICRC visited thousands of civilian internees and security detainees. The ICRC pursued a dialogue with the authorities in other countries of the region to secure access to places of detention it had not yet been allowed to visit.

In May *The Wall Street Journal* published, without the ICRC's consent, a confidential ICRC detention report on Iraq covering the period from April to December 2003. This occurred at a time of considerable interest worldwide in the treatment of prisoners by US troops in Iraq following the earlier publication by the media of pictures of ill-treatment of Iraqi prisoners. Subsequently, the ICRC's role, mandate and activities on behalf of people deprived of their freedom and its customary procedures became a subject of widespread public debate.

Tracing and restoring family links were other major activities for all ICRC delegations in the region. These services enabled

families to locate and re-establish contact with relatives detained or interned in their home countries or abroad, or living in countries affected by armed conflict or internal violence. They also helped refugees and asylum seekers, particularly nationals from the Horn of Africa, to stay in touch with family members left behind. For some such refugees, the provision of ICRC travel documents facilitated their resettlement in third countries.

At the advocacy or preventive level, the ICRC reinforced action to persuade and help governments in the region to harmonize their national legislation with IHL and to incorporate IHL into military training programmes and school and university curricula.

ICRC operations in Iraq and in the occupied Palestinian territories remained among the organization's largest worldwide, reflecting the high level of needs stemming from the unrelenting cycle of violence in both places. Elsewhere in the region, the ICRC pursued efforts to address unresolved humanitarian issues linked to the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, the 1990–91 Gulf War, the 1975–90 civil war in Lebanon and the 1975–91 Western Sahara conflict. This concerned, in particular, people unaccounted for in relation to these conflicts, whose fate or whereabouts still required clarification.

In Iraq, security concerns compelled the organization to work within the limits of the exceptional *modus operandi* adopted following the deaths in 2003 of four members of its staff – three of whom were killed in deliberate attacks. This led to lower expatriate staff levels inside Iraq, the closure of offices accessible to the public in central and southern Iraq and certain restrictions in terms of staff movements within and between Iraqi cities. In spite of these security-related restrictions which curtailed the ICRC's ambitions in this context, the more than 400 ICRC staff members were nevertheless able to carry out a broad range of protection and assistance activities, with a special focus on life-saving work, visits to thousands of people detained/interned in relation to the conflict, the repatriation of foreign nationals after their release from internment or detention in Iraq, and the restoration of family links. It also carried out extensive rehabilitation and maintenance work on vital health, water and sanitation infrastructure serving millions of people across Iraq. In addition, wherever possible, the ICRC provided essential aid to families displaced by hostilities.

Notwithstanding the ICRC's work accomplished in Iraq in 2004, the future of its operations there depended largely on the organization's ability to gain broad acceptance of its presence by all parties to the conflict so that it could carry out its work without endangering the lives of its staff. In Iraq, as elsewhere, a very strict adherence to the principles of independence and neutrality was again of paramount importance to the work of the ICRC.

Resolving humanitarian issues outstanding from the 1990–91 Gulf War, and others arising from the regional consequences of the current conflict in Iraq, remained central to the work of the Kuwait regional delegation covering the Gulf States. As part of this process, the ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee set up under ICRC auspices to address the issue of persons unaccounted for from the 1990–91 Gulf War. Working within this framework, Kuwaiti forensic teams exhumed and identified human remains found in graves in Iraq, in coordination with Iraq and other member parties of the Tripartite Commission. A total of 188 cases of different nationalities were resolved within the framework of the Tripartite Commission in 2004.

ICRC activities in Israel and the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories aimed to promote compliance with IHL, particularly regarding Israel's obligations towards the Palestinian population living under its occupation, in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to meet some of the most pressing needs. The ICRC responded to several emergency situations, particularly in the Gaza Strip, following some of the largest and longest Israeli military incursions into the territory in several years. As in the past, the ICRC provided basic household aid to Palestinian families made homeless by Israeli house demolitions or damage to their dwellings during military operations. It maintained an emergency water-distribution programme in West Bank areas not linked to water networks and food and other essential aid to destitute Palestinian families. The ICRC also continued to monitor the impact of Israeli restrictions on the movement of people and goods. As an absolute priority, it urged all parties concerned to make a clear distinction between combatants and unarmed civilians during hostilities.

As in 2003, Jordan served as a major logistics and supply base for ICRC operations in Iraq. Substantial quantities of food, medical

equipment and drugs, as well as spare parts for water and sanitation infrastructure and other essential relief supplies, were transported by air or overland from Amman to Iraq. Amman also remained a major hub for the delivery of relief supplies to the Palestinian territories. In Jordan itself, technical training and material support were given to the Jordanian Red Crescent to reinforce its capacities in the fields of tracing, the promotion of IHL and mine-risk education. The ICRC also facilitated the smooth running of ambulance services between Jordan and the West Bank for the transfer of emergency medical cases.

Financial and technical assistance and training continued for Algerian Red Crescent programmes providing psychological support, vocational training and psychosocial care for women and children traumatized by violence. The ICRC also maintained support for a prosthetic/orthotic production unit in Algiers providing fittings for Algerian amputees.

Working closely with the League of Arab States, the ICRC in Egypt pursued action to promote knowledge of IHL and its incorporation into national legislation throughout the Arab world. It reinforced the existing regional network of ICRC-trained experts in IHL, which increasingly acted as a focal point for the promotion of this body of law in Arab States. The regional promotion and documentation centre based in Cairo continued to produce publications and audiovisual materials related to IHL in Arabic with the aim of spreading knowledge of the subject and of the ICRC in the region. The ICRC's Arabic-language website, online since the second half of 2003, constituted an important information tool in this regard. Several regional seminars on IHL were organized by the Cairo delegation, in conjunction with the Arab League, for representatives of governments and national implementation bodies.

In Iran, the ICRC reached agreement with the authorities on a formal mechanism aimed at resolving issues outstanding from the 1980–88 Iran–Iraq war. The ICRC also teamed up with the Iranian Red Crescent in the Bam earthquake zone, where victims of the disaster received ICRC emergency aid distributed by the National Society. In addition, an extensive mine-risk education programme was started, and several training sessions were given to National Society volunteers working in this field. In another development, the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was launched in

Iran, with the participation of the Ministry of Education and the Iranian Red Crescent.

The ICRC closely monitored the situation in southern Lebanon, particularly with regard to the protection of the civilian population from the consequences of cross-border skirmishes between Israeli and Hezbollah forces. An emergency-response capacity was maintained to meet the needs of the civilian population in the event of a sudden intensification of these hostilities. The ICRC sponsored vocational training for young Palestinians to enhance their employment prospects and provided technical, material and financial aid to two physical rehabilitation centres caring for Lebanese and Palestinian amputees. Efforts were pursued to clarify the fate of Israelis reported missing in action from past conflicts in Lebanon. The ICRC participated in the German-brokered repatriation of an Israeli civilian and the remains of three Israeli soldiers handed over by Hezbollah. It also repatriated a group of Lebanese detainees after their release from Israeli detention, as well as the remains of Lebanese nationals who died in Israel. An agreement was signed with education authorities to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary-school curricula.

Operations coordinated by the ICRC delegation in Syria enabled Syrian students and pilgrims in the occupied Golan to travel to Syria proper for study or religious purposes. Similarly, it arranged for prospective marriage partners from opposite sides of the demarcation line to hold wedding ceremonies in the demilitarized zone. The ICRC also assisted in the exchange of official documents between family members living in both locations. It maintained financial, technical and material support to a physical rehabilitation centre caring for disabled Palestinians and Syrians. The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was pilot-tested for the first time in Syrian secondary schools.

ICRC delegates visited Moroccan prisoners still held by the Polisario Front in connection with the Western Sahara conflict in order to assess their living conditions and treatment and to enable them to maintain links with their families. Two hundred Moroccan prisoners released by the Polisario Front were repatriated under ICRC auspices in 2004. Consultations were held with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front aimed at clarifying the fate of combatants from both sides who went

missing during the conflict. The ICRC provided training and financial support to the education authorities in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia in integrating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula.

Dialogue was pursued with the authorities in Yemen aimed at gaining regular access to all places of detention in the country. An ongoing training programme helped to upgrade the skills of technicians at two physical rehabilitation centres using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic devices for the disabled. The ICRC provided medical care and vocational training for female detainees and subsidized specialized care for inmates held in the psychiatric sections of central prisons. ICRC relief supplies were distributed by the Yemeni Red Crescent to families displaced by the fighting in north Yemen.

The ICRC upgraded the emergency-response, tracing and mine-risk education capacities of many National Societies in the region to enhance their ability to respond to persistent needs in these fields.



algeria

The ICRC in Algeria carries out visits to people held in places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and, since 2002, to people remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries*. It cooperates closely with the Algerian Red Crescent Society, in particular in its efforts to assist women and children who have been victims of violence and to strengthen its national first-aid network. The ICRC also works to promote IHL among Algerian civil society, the authorities and the armed forces.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

580,771

Assistance

29,406

Preventive action

320,552

Cooperation with National Societies

420,143

General

-

► **1,350,871**

of which: Overheads **82,448**

PERSONNEL

2 expatriates

4 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC carried out visits to prisons, police stations and *gendarmeries* to assess the treatment and living conditions of persons detained by the Algerian authorities.
- ICRC financial, technical and training assistance was maintained for Algerian Red Crescent programmes providing psychological support, vocational training and psychosocial care for women and children traumatized by violence.
- The ICRC provided technical and financial support for a prosthetic/orthotic production unit using ICRC technology to fit Algerian amputees.
- The Algerian Red Crescent received material assistance and training to enhance its first-aid and tracing/family-links services.

CONTEXT

In April President Abdelaziz Bouteflika was re-elected to a second term of office by an 85% majority. Following his re-election, the Algerian president introduced a series of economic and social reforms and began the restructuring of the national judicial and penitentiary systems.

Attacks against civilians and clashes between government forces and armed groups persisted, although the number of civilian casualties was lower than in previous years. However, given the security situation that still prevailed in some parts of the country, the authorities maintained the state of emergency declared in 1992.

Algeria hosted several major conferences during the year, including the 6th Pan African Conference of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, a meeting of the African Parliamentary Union that focused on improving governance in African States, and an international conference of government experts to discuss ways of combating "terrorism" in Africa.

ICRC ACTION

ICRC activities in Algeria focused primarily on visits to persons deprived of their freedom to monitor their treatment and living conditions, on providing psychological support for women and children who have been victims of violence, and on strengthening the capacity of the National Society to respond to emergencies.

Families in Algeria benefited from ICRC tracing services and the Red Cross message (RCM) network to locate and maintain contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad or living in countries affected by armed conflict.

Training and technical support was maintained for a physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances for the disabled.

CIVILIANS

Alleviating the mental trauma of violence

The ICRC continued to support Algerian Red Crescent programmes for women and children suffering the effects of violence. ICRC involvement in these programmes consisted of: providing material aid to vocational training workshops for women, which also offered psychological support; financing courses to enhance the group-therapy skills of psychologists; and supporting the training of psychologists working with traumatized children in Algerian Red Crescent summer holiday camps.

Restoring family links

The ICRC tracing and RCM service enabled Algerians to locate and restore contact with family members detained/interned abroad or living in countries such as Iraq where communications remained difficult.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

The ICRC carried out visits to places of detention run by the Ministry of Justice and to persons remanded in custody in police stations and *gendarmeries* run by the Ministries of the Interior and of Defence respectively. Delegates monitored the treatment and living conditions of detainees and gave presentations on the ICRC and its activities to prison staff.

- 22 visits made to 15 places of detention holding 14,683 detainees

WOUNDED AND SICK

Amputee fittings

Technical and financial support was maintained for the Ben Aknoun physical rehabilitation centre in Algiers using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs.

- 76 physically disabled persons received fittings at the ICRC-assisted physical rehabilitation centre

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following the first seminar on international humanitarian law (IHL) organized for Algerian military instructors in 2003, the ICRC pursued efforts to promote the integration of IHL into the theoretical and practical training programmes of the Algerian armed forces.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC held meetings with the Algerian education authorities to discuss proposals to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme on an experimental basis in four schools at the start of the 2004–05 academic year. Training sessions were organized for teachers working in secondary schools selected for the pilot project. The head of the secondary-school education department attended an ICRC regional seminar on Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Pretoria in July.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC helped the Algerian Red Crescent Society to establish a nationwide tracing network after providing training in tracing and restoring family links for National Society staff and volunteers working in all of the country's 48 regions (*wilayats*). The Algerian Red Crescent tracing unit was in the process of creating a databank to store information on tracing requests received since 2001.

With ICRC support, the Algerian Red Crescent maintained its programmes offering psychological care for women and children affected by violence (see *Civilians*).

The ICRC conducted first-aid courses for Red Crescent instructors and staff and for personnel of the civil defence, health services and the *gendarmerie* to increase their capacity to respond to mass-casualty situations.



ICRC delegation

egypt

The ICRC promotes IHL and its incorporation into national legislation in Egypt and, through its cooperation with the Arab League, throughout the Arab world. It supports training in IHL organized by the authorities for the armed and security forces and for civilian and military magistrates and promotes the inclusion of IHL and related subjects in university and school curricula. These efforts are backed up by technical and academic support for implementation bodies, by the production and distribution of teaching materials and other dissemination tools, and by increasing local capacity, including that of the Egyptian Red Crescent Society, to teach IHL. Regional media communication is also carried out from Cairo. The ICRC has been in Egypt, with interruptions, since the beginning of the Second World War.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

190,870

Assistance

22,504

Preventive action

1,247,250

Cooperation with National Societies

96,554

General

26,753

► **1,583,932**

of which: Overheads **96,672**

PERSONNEL

5 expatriates

28 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC continued to work closely with the League of Arab States to promote the incorporation of IHL into the respective national legislations of Arab States.
- The ICRC conducted comparative studies in countries of the region to assess the compatibility of their respective national legislations with IHL and provided Arab governments and implementation bodies with IHL-related materials, including Arabic translations of IHL treaties.
- Progress was made towards integrating IHL into university and school curricula and into the training programmes of national armed and security forces in the region.
- ICRC travel documents were issued to refugees in Egypt seeking resettlement in third countries; refugees re-established contact with family members in their home countries through the RCM network, as did Egyptians with relatives detained/interned abroad.
- Cooperation was reinforced with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to strengthen its capacity to deliver humanitarian services.
- ICRC emergency supplies were provided to thousands of Palestinians blocked on the Egyptian side of the border with Gaza by Israeli security restrictions.

CONTEXT

Egypt remained at the forefront of regional initiatives to restore peace in the Middle East, while pursuing efforts to crack down on domestic militant groups. It also introduced measures to reduce widespread unemployment and poverty through social reforms and economic development.

The Egyptian government and the Cairo-based League of Arab States worked closely with the international community to defuse tensions in the region generated by the conflict in Iraq and the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. Egyptian officials held talks with Palestinian militant leaders to try and secure their agreement on a ceasefire as a first step towards reviving the stalled roadmap peace process. Egypt also considered assuming a possible security maintenance role in Gaza should Israel carry out its declared plan to withdraw Israeli settlements and the troops that protect them from the territory in 2005. Elsewhere, Egypt endeavoured to find a peaceful solution to the Darfur crisis and sent humanitarian assistance to the region.

Significant numbers of refugees, mainly Sudanese and other African nationals fleeing war, internal violence and economic hardship in Horn of Africa countries, continued to enter Egypt seeking asylum, refugee status or resettlement in third countries.

Security was tightened following a series of almost simultaneous bomb attacks in October at three resorts on the Sinai Peninsula that killed at least 33 people and injured many others, including many Israeli tourists. It was the most serious attack in Egypt since the 1997 massacre of 58 tourists at Luxor.

ICRC ACTION

Egypt continued to be the focal point of ICRC activities to promote greater knowledge and acceptance of international humanitarian law (IHL) in countries of the Middle East and North Africa.

Working in close cooperation with the Cairo-based League of Arab States, the ICRC in Egypt reinforced its advocacy role aimed at persuading Egyptian and other Arab governments to accede to IHL instruments or to implement those already ratified. As part of this process, the ICRC's legal advisory service conducted comparative studies in a number of Arab countries to assess the compatibility of their national legislation with IHL. The findings will help governments to modify their respective legislations where appropriate. Legal advice was also provided on request to government legislative bodies in drafting model laws incorporating the main provisions of IHL.

Regional and national seminars on IHL coordinated from Cairo across the region helped to promote the integration of the subject into university and school curricula and into the theoretical and operational training programmes of national armed and security forces in Arab League member States.

In support of these activities, the ICRC's regional documentation and promotion centre in Cairo continued to produce written and audiovisual materials on IHL, including Arabic translations of IHL treaties, for distribution to governments and national implementation bodies. The ICRC's Cairo-based Arabic website was also widely consulted as a key reference source on IHL-related issues.

Cooperation was reinforced with the Egyptian Red Crescent Society to strengthen its capacity to deliver humanitarian services in accordance with the Fundamental Principles.

As in past years, the ICRC tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service enabled Egyptians to restore and maintain contact with family members detained/interned abroad or living in countries affected by armed conflict. Refugees in Egypt were able to re-establish links with family members in their home countries by the same means. Furthermore, ICRC travel documents issued to asylum seekers and refugees – mainly nationals from countries in the Horn of Africa – facilitated their resettlement in third countries.

CIVILIANS

Aiding the resettlement of refugees

African nationals fleeing conflict or economic hardship in their home countries, mainly from Sudan and other countries in the Horn of Africa, continued to arrive in Egypt seeking asylum or refugee status. Those granted such status required travel documents in order to settle in third countries. The ICRC issued the documents in close coordination with UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries.

- ICRC travel documents issued to 6,333 mainly Sudanese nationals

Restoring family contacts

Refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt were able to re-establish and maintain contact with family members in their home countries through ICRC tracing work and the collection and distribution of RCMs, carried out either directly or in cooperation with the National Society. Links were also restored by the same means between families in Egypt and relatives either detained/interned abroad, or living in countries affected by war and internal violence, such as Iraq.

- 314 RCMs relayed between African refugees and asylum seekers in Egypt and family members in their home countries, and between Egyptian families and relatives either detained/interned abroad or located in conflict-affected countries

Assisting stranded Palestinians

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC continued to intercede with the Israeli authorities whenever security closures left Palestinians blocked in difficult circumstances on the Egyptian side of the border with Gaza. It also ensured that groups of Palestinians thus held up for lengthy periods received emergency assistance. When thousands of Palestinians were stranded at the border for nearly three weeks in the summer, the ICRC provided them with tents, food, hygiene items and ventilators through the Egyptian Red Crescent.

- some 3,000 Palestinians stranded for nearly three weeks on the Egyptian side of the border with Gaza received emergency shelter, food and other essential aid

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Three ad hoc visits were made to an Egyptian national placed in detention following his release and transfer from the US Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC focused on implementing a plan of action agreed in 2001 by Arab League member States to incorporate IHL into national legislation. Countries that had not already done so were encouraged to create national IHL committees to accelerate the process.

The ICRC legal advisory service continued to offer expertise and IHL-related documentation in Arabic to governments and implementation bodies in the region. Studies to assess the compatibility of national legislation with IHL were undertaken at the request of individual governments.

A second progress report on the implementation of IHL in the 22 member States of the Arab League was published jointly with the Arab League. The report included a regional plan of action to speed up the implementation of IHL in these countries and the integration of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in national education systems.

A draft law in Arabic on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), based on a study conducted by the ICRC, was presented to Arab League members for initial review and then submitted to their governments for follow-up. Action was also undertaken to promote the ratification and implementation of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines, and the adoption of legislation to protect the emblem.

A conference was held in Cairo in February to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Organized jointly with the Arab League, UNESCO, the Egyptian national IHL committee and the ICRC, the meeting focused on measures to promote the ratification by Arab States of the Convention and its two Protocols.

A second regional seminar on IHL, organized with the Arab League and the Egyptian Ministry of Justice, was held in Cairo in January. Magistrates representing 11 Arab

countries and the Palestinian Authority discussed the legal implications of incorporating IHL into national legislation. In February, a third regional seminar on measures to reinforce IHL implementation mechanisms was organized by the same bodies for experts representing 15 Arab countries and the Palestinian Authority.

Experts from the Ministries of Education of 17 Arab countries and five National Societies attended the third regional seminar on the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme organized by the Arab League, the Egyptian Ministry of Education and the ICRC from 27 November to 2 December. Debate centred on measures to accelerate the introduction of the programme into national education systems.

Seminars on IHL were held for hundreds of Egyptian deputy public prosecutors at the National Centre for Legal Studies. These followed several years of training in IHL for Egyptian civilian and military magistrates, as well as more recent training in the subject for members of the national IHL committee and parliamentary commissions responsible for drafting national legislation.

During talks in May with the Egyptian leadership and the Arab League Secretary General in Cairo, the ICRC president discussed Egypt's commitment to IHL and the humanitarian challenges currently faced by the ICRC in the Middle East and other parts of the world. The ICRC delegate general for the Middle East and North Africa also held talks with the Egyptian authorities during a visit to Cairo in June. Discussion centred on ICRC activities in the region and the reported possible role of Egypt should Israel implement its plan to remove its settlements and the troops protecting them from Gaza.

To promote national implementation of IHL, the ICRC:

- provided legal advisory services and IHL-related documentation in Arabic to governments and implementation bodies in the region;
- undertook studies to assess the compatibility of national legislation with IHL
- co-published with the Arab League a progress report on the implementation of IHL in Arab countries;
- submitted to Arab governments a draft law in Arabic on the ICC Statute and organized regional seminars on IHL in cooperation with the Egyptian authorities and the Arab League;
- held seminars on IHL for hundreds of Egyptian deputy public prosecutors.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

IHL has become part of the training curricula of the main military education institutes and police institutes in Egypt following years of ICRC training in the subject for officers and instructors of the military and security forces. However, it has yet to be integrated systematically into operational training.

At the request of the military authorities, follow-up courses on IHL continued to be held for armed forces training instructors and for police commanders and officers, including prison, civil defence and military police staff.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Projecting an accurate image of the ICRC as an independent, neutral and impartial organization that carries out strictly humanitarian activities remained a top institutional priority. To this end, the ICRC broadened its contacts with media circles, Islamic institutions and groups, local non-governmental organizations and other influential sectors of civil society in Egypt and throughout the region.

Progress was made towards incorporating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula. By the end of 2004 the modules were being taught on a trial basis in 320 schools across Egypt, and five local training sessions had been organized in major Egyptian governorates for schoolteachers and inspectors likely to be involved in a planned future expansion of the programme.

Relations were consolidated with Egyptian universities to promote the teaching of IHL as a separate subject in their faculties of law.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society continued to support ICRC operations, notably in the Palestinian territories. It was also mobilized on several occasions to respond to the needs of large numbers of Palestinians stranded on the Egyptian side of the border with Gaza after Israel closed the Rafah crossing point for security reasons (see *Civilians*).

ICRC support contributed to strengthening the National Society's emergency-response capacity. The ICRC provided dummies to two of the Egyptian Red Crescent's first-aid

training centres, and various materials to be used for ERCS staff training were translated into Arabic. An Egyptian Red Crescent doctor participated in a three-week training course organized by H.E.L.P. (Health Emergencies in Large Populations) in Geneva. In addition, a training course in IHL was held for Red Crescent volunteers.

The National Society helped organize a meeting marking the 50th anniversary of the Hague Convention and a seminar for Arab experts in IHL both held in Cairo in February (see *Authorities*).

In May the ICRC president attended part of the 9th Conference of Mediterranean Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Cairo.



iran

The ICRC opened a delegation in Iran in 1978, was active in the country during the Iran-Iraq war and, after a nine-year suspension, resumed its humanitarian work there in 2001. Its activities include logistical support for ICRC operations in Iraq from its supply base in Kermanshah. The ICRC is also working to clarify the fate of prisoners of war registered during the 1980–88 war with Iraq and in this respect acts as a neutral intermediary between the parties. It also focuses on strengthening its partnership with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, in particular in the fields of tracing, dissemination of IHL and raising public awareness of the dangers of mines and other explosive remnants of war.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

829,534

Assistance

-

Preventive action

837,504

Cooperation with National Societies

440,067

General

-

► **2,107,105**

of which: Overheads **128,603**

PERSONNEL

7 expatriates

43 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- With the Iranian Red Crescent, the ICRC carried out tracing activities in the wake of the Bam earthquake and provided victims of the disaster with emergency aid.
- An extensive mine-risk education programme was launched, which included several training sessions for National Society volunteers involved in raising public awareness of the dangers posed by explosive remnants of war.
- The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was initiated, with the participation of the Ministry of Education and the Iranian Red Crescent.
- The ICRC tracing and RCM service enabled Afghan and Iraqi refugees in Iran to re-establish contact with family members in their home countries and Iranian families to get in touch with relatives detained in conflict-affected countries.
- The ICRC signed an agreement with the Iranian authorities on a mechanism to resolve issues outstanding from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war.
- The ICRC developed contacts with the Iranian military and education authorities to promote the teaching and implementation of IHL.

CONTEXT

Final casualty figures released by Iran showed that the earthquake which struck the city of Bam in south-eastern Iran on 26 December 2003 had claimed more than 40,000 lives, left thousands homeless and destroyed more than 85% of the historic city's buildings. On 28 May some 40 people were killed and more than 400 injured in another powerful earthquake in the northern town of Baladeh.

The Iranian authorities announced that all Afghan refugees should be repatriated by March 2006. According to UNHCR, by the end of 2004 the number of Afghan refugees in the country had dropped to less than one million for the first time in 25 years. A decrease was also registered in the number of Iraqi refugees in Iran after many returned home voluntarily in 2004.

ICRC ACTION

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC sought to address issues outstanding from the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, particularly the fate of prisoners of war (POWs) still unaccounted for. In February the ICRC and the Iranian authorities reached an agreement on a formal mechanism for exchanging information in order to settle the cases of Iraqi POWs released by Iran who had not yet contacted the ICRC. The ICRC also encouraged Iran and Iraq to work together on resolving the cases of persons who went missing during the conflict.

After an earthquake devastated the town of Bam, the ICRC joined forces with the Iranian Red Crescent to offer tracing services to families trying to locate loved ones. Shelter and medical aid were distributed to the earthquake victims through the National Society, and tracing training was organized for Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

ICRC tracing activities, conducted in close cooperation with the Iranian Red Crescent, also enabled Iraqi and Afghan refugees in Iran to locate and re-establish links with family members in their home countries through the Red Cross message (RCM) network. In the same way, families in Iran were able to use RCMs to re-establish ties with relatives detained/interned abroad and visited by ICRC delegates.

The ICRC developed contacts with the national committee for the implementation of international humanitarian law (IHL) to encourage Iran to accede to IHL treaties it had not yet ratified and to enact implementing legislation for those already ratified. It was also active in promoting the incorporation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school education and the teaching of IHL in universities, as well as its integration into the theoretical and practical training programmes of the armed forces.

The Iranian Red Crescent and the ICRC initiated a joint mine-risk education programme, following which several training sessions were conducted for National Society volunteers in the worst-affected provinces bordering Iraq and Afghanistan.

CIVILIANS

Afghan and Iraqi refugees in Iran restored and maintained contact with family members in their home countries by means of RCMs collected and distributed in con-

junction with the Iranian Red Crescent. Beneficiaries of this service included families in Iran wishing to trace and re-establish links with relatives detained/interned abroad.

ICRC tracing experts also helped the Iranian Red Crescent to reunite family members separated by the Bam earthquake. Many of the tracing requests concerned emergency medical cases transferred from the Bam region to hospitals in other parts of the country. ICRC telephone facilities were made available to destitute Bam inhabitants to enable them to contact family members in other cities. A Farsi version of the ICRC publication *Restoring Family Links* was completed and was used as a tracing tool by Red Crescent staff and volunteers.

Substantial ICRC stocks of shelter and medical supplies were distributed by the National Society to earthquake victims.

- 212 RCMs relayed between Afghan and Iraqi refugees in Iran and relatives in their home countries
- family members separated by the Bam earthquake disaster re-established contact through joint ICRC and Iranian Red Crescent tracing activities

The ICRC maintained its logistical supply base at Kermanshah, one of two opened in western Iran early in 2003 in support of its operations in Iraq. Several relief convoys were dispatched to various Iraqi cities from the base throughout the year.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Talks with the Iranian authorities focused on issues related to POWs captured during the 1980–88 Iran-Iraq war, particularly the cases of Iraqi POWs previously released in Iran and whose fate and whereabouts remained unknown. The Iranian authorities and the ICRC formally agreed to exchange any information obtained about these cases after week-long talks in February. A follow-up working session was held later in the year in Tehran involving representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Iranian POW Commission and the ICRC, during which lists of pending cases of POWs unaccounted for in relation to the Iran-Iraq war were exchanged.

The preparation of more than 18,000 certificates of detention (in addition to more than 2,000 certificates issued by the

ICRC offices in Tehran, Kermanshah and Mashad) got under way for former Iraqi POWs who had already been repatriated to Iraq. The certificates were intended to help former POWs obtain pensions and to be presented as official documents to various offices in Iraq. Similar certificates were requested by a number of Afghan nationals, who had come to Iran after being released from internment in Afghanistan, in order to facilitate their resettlement in third countries or for family reunifications.

On 19 and 20 December, acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC repatriated 28 Iranian nationals from Iraq, where they had been staying in the Ashraf camp under the authority of the Multinational Forces in Iraq. Prior to the operation, ICRC delegates held private interviews with the men to make sure that they were returning home of their own free will. It conducted a similar operation on 14 September for an Iranian who had been in US custody at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and in Afghanistan.

Throughout 2004 families in Iran were able to restore and maintain contact with relatives detained/interned in Iraq through the RCM network.

- formal agreement reached between the Iranian authorities and the ICRC on a mechanism to exchange information on Iraqi POWs released in Iran who remained unaccounted for
- 1,243 certificates of detention issued to former Iraqi POWs
- 28 Iranian nationals repatriated from Iraq by the ICRC, as well as 1 released from US custody at Guantanamo Bay

AUTHORITIES

A dialogue with the Iranian political authorities on the humanitarian environment and ICRC activities and perspectives was further developed during the year. New contacts were established with members of parliament and community and religious leaders.

The ICRC continued to work closely with the Iranian IHL committee on the promotion and implementation of IHL in Iran, including the translation into Farsi of international treaties and texts. It participated in several meetings of the committee, including a seminar organized at Tehran University on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the application of IHL in times of armed conflict and other

situations of violence. Documentation on IHL was provided to the committee, and the ICRC agreed to finance the translation into Farsi and publication of books on IHL to assist the committee in its work.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

A round-table and several meetings with representatives of the military authorities were held to discuss introducing the teaching of IHL for members of the Iranian armed forces. The military authorities indicated an interest in cooperating with the ICRC in this field.

CIVIL SOCIETY

In December the ICRC signed a cooperation agreement with the national IHL committee and the education authorities to introduce the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme as an extracurricular subject in secondary schools. The agreement followed a presentation of the programme at a plenary session of the committee attended by representatives of six ministries, the judicial authorities and the Iranian Red Crescent. A steering committee was established to coordinate the implementation of the programme.

The ICRC pursued efforts to familiarize students at the main Iranian universities, in particular in the law faculties, with IHL and the Movement and to encourage the media to play a more prominent role in relaying information on IHL-related issues to the general public. In order to facilitate these efforts, several books and publications on IHL and the ICRC's humanitarian activities were translated into Farsi and distributed.

Contacts were established with professors of law in several leading Iranian universities, and a number of areas of potential collaboration were identified, including the provision of books and documentation on IHL to university libraries, ICRC participation in postgraduate courses in IHL, the joint promotion of IHL among external audiences and advanced training in IHL for law professors.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Iranian Red Crescent Society and the ICRC engaged in joint tracing activities following the Bam earthquake in December 2003, and Red Crescent staff received training in tracing techniques. Tracing was also

carried out in cooperation with the National Society for families in Iran wishing to restore contact with relatives living or detained in conflict-affected countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Iranian Red Crescent distributed ICRC relief, including medical supplies for up to 10,000 wounded, in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake. The ICRC also provided computer equipment to the National Society to help centralize data on the victims and facilitate tracing activities.

Both the ICRC and the Iranian Red Crescent confirmed their commitment to work together on a programme to convey basic safety messages to people in regions worst affected by the threat of explosive remnants of war (ERW), including Iraqi and Afghan refugees crossing ERW-infested border areas and Iranians living close to the Afghan and Iraqi borders. Mine-risk education workshops were held for Iranian Red Crescent volunteers from provinces where the ERW threat is greatest, and mine-awareness leaflets and posters were printed for distribution to local communities. Assessment missions were also carried out with National Society staff in some of the affected areas. Contacts were developed with local non-governmental organizations and UN agencies involved in mine action in Iran.

A special Farsi edition of the ICRC magazine *Al Insani* (The Humanitarian) entirely dedicated to Iran was published in collaboration with the national IHL committee and the Iranian Red Crescent. Copies were sent to all Red Crescent branches and distributed among academic and media circles.

- ▶ more than 200 Red Crescent volunteers took part in 6 training workshops on mine-risk education



iraq

In view of the precarious security situation in many parts of Iraq, the ICRC had to limit its operations to protection activities, notably visits to persons deprived of their freedom, and to activities to address emergency humanitarian needs arising from the current armed conflict in Iraq. The ICRC has been present in Iraq since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

9,645,723

Assistance

31,359,793

Preventive action

2,447,484

Cooperation with National Societies

1,277,250

General

-

► **44,730,249**

of which: Overheads **2,711,725**

PERSONNEL

17 expatriates

308 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- Visits were made to thousands of persons deprived of their freedom in Iraq to monitor their treatment and living conditions, and to enable them to restore contact with their families.
- Medicines, medical equipment and water were supplied to hospitals caring for the wounded.
- Food, water and household essentials were provided to families displaced by hostilities.
- ICRC engineers carried out emergency repair and maintenance at water- and sewage-treatment plants serving millions of people across the country.
- Structural rehabilitation projects were carried out in hospitals, health-care centres and water and sanitation facilities.
- Regular water deliveries were made to city communities with limited or no alternative sources of supply.

CONTEXT

The conflict in Iraq continued unabated throughout 2004, with most hostilities occurring in densely populated urban areas, causing considerable loss of life, the displacement of families fleeing the fighting and severe damage to vital infrastructure.

Towards the end of the year government and multinational forces in Iraq stepped up military operations in response to increasing attacks by armed groups ahead of general elections set for 30 January 2005. These operations targeted cities regarded by the government and multinational forces as insurgent strongholds.

The precarious security situation was exacerbated by frequent kidnappings for ransom and the abduction of foreign workers, including relief agency personnel, some of whom were killed by their captors. Security concerns severely hindered national reconstruction work and prompted many international humanitarian organizations to scale back sharply their operations in Iraq or to withdraw from the country altogether.

Public health, water and sanitation services remained far from adequate to meet the needs of the population, while unemployment and poverty levels continued to rise. A majority of Iraqis were still dependent on a national food-distribution system (formerly the UN oil-for-food programme) to meet daily needs.

In May *The Wall Street Journal* published, without the ICRC's consent, a confidential ICRC detention report covering the period from April to December 2003. This triggered considerable interest worldwide in the treatment of prisoners by US troops in Iraq and the ICRC's role, mandate and activities on behalf of people deprived of their freedom.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC maintained an effective operational platform in Iraq throughout the year and was able to carry out a broad range of protection and assistance activities. Security concerns nevertheless compelled the organization to adopt an exceptional *modus operandi* that aimed to strike a balance between the pursuit of its humanitarian role in Iraq and the safety of its staff.

ICRC activities were conducted by a team of more than 400 national staff backed up by expatriate colleagues operating from permanent bases in northern Iraq and through regular missions inside the country from Amman in neighbouring Jordan.

A primary activity was to monitor the treatment and living conditions of thousands of people in the custody of the Multinational Forces in Iraq (MNF-I) and the Iraqi authorities, and to enable them to maintain contact with their families.

As it has done since the start of the current conflict, the ICRC provided major urban hospitals treating the wounded with medical aid. In addition, regular water deliveries were made to hospitals and urban communities with limited or no alternative sources of supply, and essential aid was provided to families displaced by the hostilities.

Another priority was the rehabilitation and emergency repair of vital health, water and sanitation infrastructure serving millions of people across the country.

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee set up to address the issue of persons still unaccounted for in relation to the 1990–91 Gulf War.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians caught up in conflict

Regular contacts were maintained with the Iraqi authorities and the multinational forces, as well as with religious and community leaders in Iraq, with a view to promoting respect for international humanitarian law (IHL) by all parties.

The ICRC reminded all those involved in the armed confrontation in Iraq that IHL prohibits targeted attacks against civilians who are not taking a direct part in hostilities. The parties concerned were called upon to take every feasible precaution to spare

civilian lives and civilian property and to respect the principles of distinction and proportionality in all military operations. The ICRC also urged the belligerents to ensure unhindered access of people in need of medical care to health facilities and access of medical services to the sick and wounded.

Infrastructure rehabilitation and repair

Many vital health, water and sanitation facilities serving millions of people in central, southern and northern parts of Iraq were kept in operation by ICRC rehabilitation and emergency repair and maintenance work.

Several major rehabilitation projects in hospitals and water and sanitation plants initiated in 2003 were completed in 2004, and a number of new projects were started during the year. Alongside structural rehabilitation work, ICRC engineers carried out hundreds of “quick-fix” interventions in hospitals, primary-health-care centres and water and sanitation plants in Baghdad, Al-Qadissiyah, Najaf, Kerbala, Babil, Wasit, Diyala, Salah-el-Deen, Nainawa, Basra, Missan and Thi Qar governorates. This work was conducted in close coordination with local public-utility authorities and contributed to the prevention of an outbreak of epidemics in many parts of the country.

- ▶ a monthly average of 50 “quick-fix” repair and maintenance interventions carried out at water and sewage plants
- ▶ 30 structural rehabilitation projects initiated in hospitals, primary-health-care centres and water and sanitation facilities serving more than 7 million people
- ▶ 15 major rehabilitation projects completed at water and sanitation plants serving 4.5 million people

Responding to water shortages

From the outbreak of the conflict in Iraq in spring 2003, the ICRC delivered water to hospitals and communities in many cities inadequately served by the central water-distribution system. It focused particular attention on hospitals in major cities treating patients wounded in the ongoing violence.

Water-production and -treatment facilities remained far from adequate to meet the needs of the population as a result of years of neglect, shortages of manpower and spare parts, frequent power cuts, damage caused by the hostilities and looting, and more than 13 years of international sanctions.

In addition to making regular water deliveries, the ICRC responded on several occasions to emergency situations such as the rehabilitation of water-production infrastructure serving displaced families in camps outside Fallujah. In addition, the city’s water authorities were provided with tools and equipment to repair local water and sanitation infrastructure damaged during the hostilities. Ad hoc assistance was also provided to the water authorities in many parts of the country.

- ▶ 560,000 litres of water per day distributed to hospitals and poorly served communities in Nainawa governorate between January and August
- ▶ more than 500,000 litres of water per day delivered to hospitals and communities in Baghdad with limited or no alternative sources of supply
- ▶ 10,000 litres of water per day distributed to the two main hospitals in Basra

Emergency aid for IDPs

Large numbers of Iraqi civilians, including women, children and elderly persons, fled the fighting in several cities and took refuge in the surrounding areas. Many of them were in urgent need of assistance in the form of food, water, shelter and medical care.

In response, the ICRC provided food parcels, cooking stoves, blankets, hygiene kits, clothing and jerrycans to thousands of displaced people living in makeshift camps outside the cities of Baghdad, Basra, Baquba, Erbil, Fallujah, Muqdadiya, Najaf, Nassariyah, Samarra and Talafar. Together with the Iraqi Red Crescent, the ICRC established a camp in the Al-Khadraa neighbourhood of Baghdad to provide shelter for families who had fled the fighting in Fallujah. Sanitary facilities were installed in the camp and more than 40,000 litres of water were delivered daily for several weeks.

Household essentials were provided to associations for destitute women and social institutions in southern Iraq and to Iraqis who found themselves homeless upon their return from exile in neighbouring countries such as Iran and Syria.

- ▶ thousands of families displaced by the hostilities received essential aid
- ▶ makeshift camp established with the Iraqi Red Crescent for families who fled the fighting in Fallujah

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to persons deprived of their freedom

From the beginning of the conflict in the spring of 2003 the ICRC carried out regular visits to thousands of people held captive by the US and British forces in Iraq and to detainees held by the Kurdish regional authorities in northern Iraq. Visits were also made to people in the custody of the Iraqi interim government. The majority of detainees/internees visited were held by US forces.

The purpose of the visits was to assess the treatment and living conditions of interneers/detainees, in accordance with the ICRC's mandate under the Geneva Conventions, and to enable them to re-establish contact with their families through the Red Cross message (RCM) service. In addition, the ICRC provided assistance to thousands of detainees in the form of winter clothes and hygiene kits.

Representations were made to the detaining authorities following each visit based on the observations of ICRC delegates, including recommendations for corrective action when necessary, in compliance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Conventions and other international standards.

Several released foreign interneers were repatriated under ICRC auspices after they were interviewed to ensure that they were returning to their countries of origin of their own free will. Particularly vulnerable interneers such as women, minors and third-country nationals were monitored after their release to ensure that they had returned home safely.

Certificates of detention for former Iraqi prisoners of war released by the Kuwaiti authorities following the 1990–91 Gulf War were prepared for distribution in Iraq in cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent.

- 34 visits made to 6 places of internment under the authority of MNF-I and 7,012 interneers/detainees monitored individually
- 87 visits made to 28 places of detention under the control of the Kurdish regional authorities in northern Iraq and 1,210 people deprived of their freedom monitored individually
- 157 released foreigners repatriated under ICRC auspices
- 10,000 sets of winter clothes and hygiene kits distributed to interneers/detainees

Restoring family links

People held captive by the various detaining authorities were able to restore and maintain contact with family members in Iraq and abroad through the RCM network. Thousands of RCMs were collected and distributed throughout the country with the assistance of the Iraqi Red Crescent, which also helped to distribute notifications of capture issued by the MNF-I.

- 31,841 RCMs relayed between people deprived of their freedom and family members in Iraq or abroad

Tracing the missing

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee which addressed cases of missing persons from the 1990–91 Gulf War. Following the appointment of the Iraqi interim government on 28 June, the minister of human rights represented Iraq at these meetings.

Within the framework of the Tripartite Commission, Kuwaiti forensic teams exhumed and identified human remains at various gravesites in Iraq.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC encouraged bilateral contacts between States concerned by cases of persons unaccounted for in relation to conflicts in the region.

- 188 Tripartite Commission cases resolved

WOUNDED AND SICK

Supplying hospitals with medical aid

The ICRC provided medical materials to hospitals and other health centres treating the wounded in central, northern and southern parts of the country. It made regular visits to major urban hospitals to assess the needs. Relief efforts were closely coordinated with regional health directorates, which sometimes took delivery of supplies directly from ICRC warehouses. At times, the Iraqi Red Crescent also helped deliver ICRC medical supplies to health facilities.

Substantial quantities of medical, surgical and other essential supplies, including medicines, surgical instruments, oxygen, anaesthetics, dressing materials, wheelchairs, stretchers and bedding, were airlifted from ICRC warehouses in Jordan for distribution to hospitals and other health centres in the cities worst affected by the hostilities.

Close contacts were established with the directors of hospitals and primary-health-

care centres, enabling ICRC staff to respond swiftly to mass-casualty emergencies.

Assistance was provided to seven centres caring for the physically disabled in Baghdad, Erbil, Najaf and Mosul and producing artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances using ICRC technology and materials. Refresher training was also given to technicians at the centres, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health.

- medical aid supplied to more than 20 major urban hospitals and 4 primary-health-care centres treating the wounded
- 1,757 prostheses and 3,997 orthoses produced at 7 ICRC-supported centres for the physically disabled

AUTHORITIES

All parties to the conflict were repeatedly reminded of their obligation to take every feasible precaution to spare civilians and civilian property and to respect the principles of distinction and proportionality during hostilities.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Iraqi security forces in training in Jordan were provided with information on the ICRC and the principles of IHL (see *Jordan*). Regular contacts were also maintained with the MNF-I and Iraqi authorities to remind them of the provisions of IHL relevant to the current conflict in the country.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Four Iraqi university lecturers and students of law from universities in Mosul, Baghdad, Babil and Erbil attended an ICRC workshop on IHL held in Amman (see *Jordan*).

As part of efforts to familiarize Iraqi academic circles with the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, the Ministry of Education was invited to send three of its staff to participate in the third regional conference on the subject in Cairo (see *Egypt*). The Iraqi representatives explained that a Human Rights and Exploring Humanitarian Law Unit had been set up as a separate administrative structure within the General Directorate for School Programmes, with the aim of integrating the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into most subjects in secondary-school curricula.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

During emergencies, the ICRC provided the Iraqi Red Crescent with food and non-food items to assist victims of the hostilities in and around Najaf, Sadr City, Samarra, Telafar and Fallujah. These included 17,310 blankets, 56,284 jerrycans, 690 tents, 1,106 buckets, 606 kitchen sets, 17,310 bars of soap, 590 hygiene kits, 2,774 stoves, 1,635 heaters, 10,000 metres of cloth and 4,060 food parcels. The Red Crescent also assisted in the distribution of relief supplies provided by National Societies and charitable organizations.

Working together with the Iraqi Red Crescent, the ICRC helped establish a makeshift camp in the Al-Khadraa district of Baghdad to provide shelter for families who fled the fighting in Fallujah. The National Society and a number of local institutions distributed ICRC blankets, food parcels, hygiene kits and cooking stoves to nearly 2,000 displaced people from Fallujah who took refuge in the Al-Khadraa and eight other makeshift camps.

The ICRC maintained close cooperation with the Iraqi Red Crescent in the field of tracing and provided technical and financial support to its tracing officers at headquarters and in the branches. National Society tracing officers helped to distribute capture cards issued by the MNF-I and to relay RCMs between people detained/interned and family members.

Training in IHL was given to Iraqi Red Crescent communication officers and staff involved in mine-risk education programmes. The ICRC also funded the printing of 3,760 posters and 33,000 leaflets for distribution to branch offices in regions worst affected by the threat of mines and other unexploded remnants of war.



israel, the occupied territories and the autonomous territories

The ICRC has maintained a permanent presence in Israel and the Occupied and the Autonomous Territories since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It works towards ensuring the faithful application of and respect for IHL, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilians in times of war and occupation. In the current climate of violence, the ICRC monitors the situation of the Palestinian civilian population, carries out visits to detainees and makes representations to the relevant authorities, both Israeli and Palestinian. It provides direct assistance to Palestinians whose houses have been demolished and to people worst affected by curfews, closures and other restrictions in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. As lead agency in this context, the ICRC is coordinating the relief response of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It also supports the activities of the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the Magen David Adom.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

13,923,726

Assistance

13,571,508

Preventive action

2,697,730

Cooperation with National Societies

5,982,297

General

-

► **36,175,261**

of which: Overheads **2,207,477**

PERSONNEL

65 expatriates

180 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC visited thousands of Palestinian detainees held by Israel in order to monitor their treatment and living conditions and enable them to maintain contact with their families.
- Hundreds of Palestinian families made homeless by Israeli house demolitions or damage caused to their dwellings during military operations received emergency shelter and household kits from the ICRC.
- ICRC water deliveries were made to thousands of West Bank families in areas not linked to water-distribution networks.
- ICRC food and other essential supplies were provided to destitute Palestinian families in the West Bank.
- Improved coordination between the ICRC, the Palestine Red Crescent and the Israeli authorities facilitated ambulance access to the wounded and sick in Gaza and the West Bank.
- The ICRC continued to support the life-saving work of the Palestine Red Crescent emergency-response service in the West Bank and Gaza and intensified operational cooperation with the Magen David Adom.

CONTEXT

The year 2004 was marked by the death of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Israel's decision to dismantle its settlements in Gaza and a limited number in the West Bank, the political and legal debate over the West Bank barrier, and continuing Israeli-Palestinian hostilities.

Hostilities were particularly intense in the Gaza Strip where Israeli forces carried out several military operations in response to frequent Palestinian rocket and mortar attacks on targets in Israel. Several prominent Palestinian militants, including the spiritual leader and founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, and his successor, were killed in targeted Israeli attacks in Gaza.

Israel maintained a heavy military presence and stringent restrictions on the movement of people and goods, particularly in the West Bank, severely hindering the population's access to the workplace and basic services.

Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank and the construction of the separation barrier in and around the territory resulted in further expropriations or destruction of Palestinian housing and land. A growing number of Palestinian communities found themselves isolated on the Israeli side of the barrier in areas where its path crossed the Green Line into Palestinian territory.

Sporadic skirmishes across the Israeli-Lebanese border continued between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants, particularly in the disputed Israeli-occupied Sheeba Farms region.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC's operation in Israel and the Palestinian territories remained one of its largest worldwide, reflecting the sharp deterioration of the situation since the start of the second Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation in September 2000. ICRC action centred on providing increased protection and assistance to civilian victims of the violence and those suffering extreme hardship as a result of the hostilities.

Pursuant to its mandate, the ICRC sought greater compliance with international humanitarian law (IHL) in the face of persistent violations of its provisions by all parties engaged in the hostilities. In particular, it reminded Israel of its obligation under IHL to provide for the welfare and protection of the Palestinian population living under its occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. As an absolute priority, all parties concerned were exhorted to spare the lives of civilians not participating directly in the hostilities.

ICRC delegates visited thousands of people held by Israel to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, and to enable them to maintain contact with their families. Similar visits were made to persons held in detention centres controlled by the Palestinian Authority. In both cases, assistance was provided to detainees experiencing acute hardship.

Under an emergency water-supply programme initiated in 2002, the ICRC organized deliveries of water by tanker to rural West Bank communities not connected to water-distribution networks. It also installed cisterns to increase water-storage capacity in areas subject to chronic water shortages.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC helped speed up Israeli security clearance procedures for Palestine Red Crescent ambulances and medical staff evacuating the wounded and sick. It similarly assisted the Palestinian health authorities in transporting emergency medical supplies to hospitals and health centres.

The Red Cross message (RCM) service enabled Lebanese nationals who fled to Israel following Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000 to maintain contact with their families in Lebanon. Efforts were also pursued to clarify the fate of Israelis unaccounted for or missing in action during past conflicts in the region.

Dialogue with the Israeli armed forces, the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian militant groups was reinforced to promote better understanding of and respect for IHL. The integration of IHL into the planning, training and operational guidelines of the Israeli armed and security forces, and the incorporation of its basic principles into the academic curricula of the Israeli and Palestinian education systems, were other priorities.

The ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies stepped up support for the activities of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent and strengthened their capacities to deliver emergency humanitarian services.

CIVILIANS

Protection of the civilian population

In 2004 Israeli and Palestinian civilians were again the main victims of the failure of all parties engaged in the hostilities to make a clear distinction between the civilian population and combatants or others taking a direct part in hostilities. Fighting frequently occurred in densely populated urban areas, heightening the risk of death or injury among the civilian population.

The ICRC made repeated representations to the parties concerned to spare civilian lives and property, as well as vital infrastructure. In particular, Israel was urged to reconcile its legitimate security concerns with its overriding responsibility under IHL, most notably the Fourth Geneva Convention, to ensure the welfare and protection of the civilian population living under its occupation. Specifically, the ICRC called on Israel to ease restrictions on the movement of people and goods, which have severely eroded living standards in the Palestinian territories. The ICRC also conveyed its concern to the Israeli authorities about the legal and humanitarian implications of the West Bank barrier, particularly the destruction or expropriation of Palestinian property and land and the forced displacement and isolation of Palestinian communities living in its path or vicinity.

Economic security aid

ICRC teams conducted surveys in hundreds of communities in the West Bank and Gaza to assess local economic needs and residents' access to a means of livelihood and to essential goods and services.

In 2004 the ICRC increased the number of beneficiaries in the Hebron region receiv-

ing monthly food parcels and household essentials from 2,000 to 2,500 families. The beneficiaries were amongst the poorest families living in the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron Old City (H2) which continued to be severely affected by curfews, closures, military operations and violence between Israeli settlers and Palestinians.

Drawing on a contingency stock of emergency relief supplies, the ICRC provided food and other essential aid to Palestinian communities cut off from basic necessities during hostilities in Gaza and to destitute Palestinian families.

- ▶ 2,500 destitute families in Hebron Old City received regular food and other basic aid
- ▶ food aid provided on an ad hoc basis to destitute Palestinian families during ICRC assessments of economic needs
- ▶ hundreds of Palestinian families confined to their homes during hostilities in Gaza and destitute Palestinian households received emergency ICRC food aid

Access to clean water

Almost 40% of households in the West Bank and Gaza were not connected to water-distribution networks and relied on makeshift rooftop rainwater-harvesting systems or low-capacity underground cisterns to meet their needs through the dry summer months. With the majority of the population unemployed and poverty-stricken, few households could afford to buy tanker-delivered water when rainwater supplies ran out.

Between late May and December, in continuation of an emergency water-supply programme initiated in 2002, the ICRC ensured the delivery of water by tanker to thousands of families in rural parts of Salfit, Hebron, Nablus and Tubas worst affected by water shortages.

Rehabilitation and construction work was completed on water and sewage facilities serving several West Bank cities. This work ranged from the provision of spare parts in Bethlehem, Jenin and Tulkarem to the building of water-supply infrastructure in Nablus and Qalqiliya. The ICRC also rehabilitated or upgraded water-storage systems in areas without piped water in order to reduce their dependency on expensive tanker-delivered supplies.

Emergency repair and maintenance work was carried out on water and electricity installations damaged during hostilities in

Gaza, and emergency water supplies were delivered to communities unable to access basic needs during incursions by Israeli military forces.

The ICRC drew the attention of the Israeli civil administration and local water boards to problems identified during assessments of water needs. These included the pollution of water sources by the uncontrolled discharge of wastewater and sewage, and disputes between Israeli settlers and Palestinian communities over access to water outlets.

- 14,000 Palestinian households (80,000 people) and 3,700 schools, as well as individual hardship cases, received tankered water deliveries subsidized by the ICRC
- 110,000 Palestinians in rural areas of the West Bank benefited from the rehabilitation or construction by the ICRC of water and sewage facilities
- water-storage capacity increased for destitute families in Palestinian communities not linked to piped water facilities in order to reduce their dependency on expensive trucked water supplies
- emergency water supplies delivered to Palestinian households cut off from basic necessities during military operations

Household relief programme

Hundreds of Palestinian families were made homeless by the destruction or confiscation of their dwellings in Gaza and the West Bank. This problem was particularly acute in Gaza following confrontations between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants in the northern and southern parts of the territory. As it has for many years, the ICRC issued household kits containing mattresses, blankets, cooking equipment and hygiene items to several hundred homeless families thus affected.

- ICRC household relief kits distributed to hundreds of families whose homes had been destroyed or confiscated by Israeli forces

Restoring family links

Lebanese citizens living in Israel since the IDF withdrawal from Southern Lebanon maintained contact and exchanged official papers with family members in Lebanon through the ICRC tracing and RCM service. The remains of Lebanese nationals who had died in Israel were repatriated under ICRC auspices and handed over to their families for burial.

ICRC mediation and logistical support enabled inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied Golan to travel to Syria for study and religious purposes and engaged couples living on opposite sides of the demarcation line to wed. ICRC efforts to secure agreement from the authorities concerned to allow residents of the occupied Golan to meet family members in Syria once a month made no headway (see also *Syria*).

The ICRC interceded with the Israeli authorities on several occasions to enable Palestinians to visit or be reunited with family members living in other parts of the Palestinian territories. It remained particularly concerned about the effect of travel restrictions on Palestinian minors with specific medical needs, minors separated from both parents, single women with young children, and elderly persons and women living alone.

- 31 students and pilgrims from the Israeli-occupied Golan travelled to Syria for study or religious purposes through ICRC mediation with Israeli and Syrian authorities
- 4 weddings arranged for couples separated by the demarcation line between the occupied Golan and Syria

Clarifying the fate of the missing

The ICRC pursued efforts to shed light on the fate of Israelis still unaccounted for from past conflicts in the region and kept in regular contact with their families and the Israeli authorities. It focused on the cases of five Israelis reported missing in action, including the pilot Ron Arad.

In January the ICRC acted as a neutral intermediary during the exchange and repatriation of released prisoners and mortal remains between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon brokered by the German government. An ICRC team accompanied 22 Lebanese citizens and seven persons of various other nationalities to Germany after their release from Israeli detention. The group was handed over to the German authorities for repatriation or resettlement in third countries. The ICRC team then flew back to Israel with an Israeli citizen and the remains of three Israeli soldiers previously in the hands of Hezbollah.

In a simultaneous operation, the ICRC monitored the release of some 400 Palestinian detainees from Israeli detention to their homes in the West Bank and Gaza and repatriated the remains of 60 people from Israel to Lebanon.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

At the end of 2004 the Israeli authorities were holding 11,322 Palestinians in various places of detention in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, including interrogation centres, military detention camps, provisional detention centres, police stations and central prisons.

ICRC delegates regularly visited these detainees and others held by the Palestinian Authority to monitor their treatment and living conditions. Following the visits, they conveyed their observations to the detaining authorities with recommendations for corrective action where appropriate.

Detention visits intensified between 15 August and 2 September when more than 500 Palestinian detainees went on hunger strike to demand better living conditions. An ICRC team, which included medical doctors, made 22 visits to these detainees during and after the hunger strike to check on their state of health.

The ICRC arranged for thousands of family visits to Palestinian detainees, although these visits were occasionally disrupted by Israeli closures in parts of Gaza and the West Bank. Israel lifted a ban on visiting rights for residents of Nablus in force since the start of the intifada in September 2000. It also announced a new travel permit system which should enable numerous West Bank families to visit detained relatives for the first time.

In addition to receiving family visits, detainees were able to correspond and exchange power-of-attorney documents with their relatives through the RCM service.

Israel's widespread use of administrative detention, whereby detainees may be held for six-month renewable periods without trial, remained an issue of concern to the ICRC, as did the question of respect for judicial guarantees.

Several presentations on IHL and the mandate and work of the ICRC were given to officers and trainees of the Israeli Prison Service. Similar presentations were given to the Palestinian security forces in Gaza and the West Bank.

- 369 visits made to 19,539 Palestinian detainees held in 40 Israeli places of detention

- ▶ 279 visits made to 1,466 Palestinian detainees held in 50 places of detention under the control of the Palestinian authority
- ▶ 6,703 Palestinian detainees benefited from the ICRC family visits programme
- ▶ 34,791 RCMs and *salamat* (short greetings messages) relayed between Palestinian detainees and their families
- ▶ 3,210 power-of-attorney documents relayed between Palestinian detainees and their families
- ▶ 14,409 certificates of detention issued to Palestinian detainees after their release
- ▶ IHL presentations held for the first time for Israeli Prison Service training officers

Assistance for detainees

Sets of winter and summer clothing were issued to detainees held by both the Israeli and Palestinian authorities. The ICRC also provided newspapers, magazines, recreational items and medical appliances such as spectacles, dentures and orthopaedic devices to detainees in Israeli military camps and central prisons.

Detainees whose families were unable to assist them, either because they could not afford to or because travel restrictions prevented them from visiting, received a small monthly allowance to pay for basic necessities.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC remained at the forefront of efforts to ensure that Palestinians had access to health care and that medical service providers could reach the wounded and sick through coordination with the authorities concerned.

Medical supplies were distributed to hospitals treating the wounded during hostilities following several large-scale IDF incursions in the Gaza Strip. ICRC mediation with the Israeli authorities also enabled Palestine Red Crescent ambulances to evacuate the dead from combat zones and transport the wounded to hospitals.

Close liaison with the Israeli and Jordanian authorities facilitated the transport of patients in need of emergency medical care between the West Bank and Jordan. The remains of Palestinian militants killed during the fighting were handed over to their families for burial.

Four seminars on the latest war-surgery techniques were held in Ramallah, Nablus, Gaza City and Khan Younis for specialist medical personnel from surgical hospitals

in the West Bank and Gaza. ICRC surgeons conducted the seminars with the support of surgeons from the Palestinian Ministry of Health.

Surveys were carried out to assess the impact of movement restrictions on access by the Palestinian population and medical staff to hospitals and other health facilities.

Imitation of the Palestinian Red Crescent emblem persisted, especially among private medical and transport companies, creating confusion at checkpoints and increasing the risk of security-clearance delays for Red Crescent ambulances. To ensure the immediate identification of ambulances at checkpoints, the ICRC and the Palestine Red Crescent revised procedures for the coordination of their movements.

As in past years, the ICRC provided selected hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza with surgical and nursing journals and other relevant publications to help medical professionals keep pace with developments in their sphere of expertise. It also consulted local health authorities and hospital directors on which other medical publications and textbooks they might find useful.

- ▶ medical supplies delivered to Palestinian hospitals treating the wounded
- ▶ ambulance movements coordinated to evacuate the dead and transport the wounded to hospitals
- ▶ 180 doctors, surgeons and anaesthetists from West Bank and Gaza hospitals attended 4 war-surgery seminars organized by the ICRC

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the Israeli authorities on Israel's obligation under the Fourth Geneva Convention to provide for and protect the population of the occupied Palestinian territories. Representations were also made to the Palestinian authorities to remind them of their obligations under IHL and other applicable legal standards.

The Israeli authorities were urged to accede to IHL instruments to which Israel is not yet party and to enact implementing legislation for treaties already ratified. For its part, the Palestinian Authority was urged to incorporate IHL principles into its domestic legislation, including the adoption of a law on the protection of the emblem.

Close contacts were maintained with diplomatic missions in Israel to convey the ICRC's main concerns regarding the Israeli-Palestinian crisis and to secure the international community's continuing support for its work in this context. The ICRC regularly briefed local representatives of foreign governments and key non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on its activities in the region and participated in bi-weekly meetings chaired by the European Commission delegation in Jerusalem and attended by EU member States, donors and UN agencies.

A Hebrew translation of the 1977 Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions was completed with the Research Centre for the Interplay between International Norms and Israeli Law and the law faculty at the Management College for Academic Studies.

An IHL library was donated to the recently created Palestinian committee for the implementation of IHL.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC reinforced contacts with the IDF command structures to promote respect for the provisions of IHL concerning the protection of civilians in all circumstances. It gave presentations on the ICRC, the Palestine Red Crescent and the Magen David Adom and on the Movement's Fundamental Principles to operational commanders and other members of the Israeli armed and security forces, including border and checkpoint personnel, civil administration officials, IDF instructors and recruits and police performing prison duties.

IHL sessions were also held for members of the Palestinian security forces and newly recruited Palestinian police staff. Similar presentations were given for staff of the Palestinian General Intelligence Bureau in Hebron and for members of the Palestinian Marine Association in Gaza.

The ICRC gave presentations on IHL and the Movement to:

- ▶ more than 2,800 members of the Israeli military and security forces;
- ▶ members of the Palestinian security forces, Palestinian police recruits, Palestinian General Intelligence Bureau staff and members of the Palestinian Naval Association.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC kept the Israeli and Palestinian media abreast of its activities through briefings, newsletters and monthly reports and encouraged them to report on humanitarian issues. It also gave several presentations on its mandate and work to Palestinian journalists, Israeli and Palestinian NGOs, human rights associations and lawyers' associations, as well as to Palestinian militant leaders and representatives of Israeli settlers.

Progress was made in introducing the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in secondary-school curricula in Israel. In pursuance of this goal, a second seminar to acquaint national education supervisors with the programme was held in October 2004. The education pack was translated into Hebrew and submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Education. The programme was expected to be introduced as a pilot project during the 2005–06 school year in selected Israeli schools.

In the Palestinian territories, the programme was extended to schools in Gaza following its successful integration into West Bank secondary schools in 2003. The Palestinian education authorities decided to introduce the subject in five new schools per district during the 2004–05 school year, thus doubling the number of schools teaching the programme. Some 1,000 Palestinian teachers were due to be trained in the programme by the end of 2005.

Palestinian Ministry of Education officials participated in the third regional seminar on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme held in Cairo in November (see *Egypt*).

At the university level, the ICRC continued to promote the teaching of IHL as a separate subject in Israeli and Palestinian law faculties, and to this end professors and students in several major Israeli and Palestinian universities attended presentations on IHL. Israeli and Palestinian academic circles were also encouraged to play a more prominent role in the public discourse on IHL-related issues.

- plans finalized to extend teaching of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme to 150 schools attended by 5,600 students throughout the West Bank and Gaza
- 15 Israeli education supervisors introduced to the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme expected to be pilot-tested in Israel during the 2005–06 school year

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

As in past years, cooperation with the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent was a major component of ICRC activities in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The aim was to ensure that both these organizations possessed the means and expertise to carry out the full range of activities of a well-functioning National Society.

ICRC cooperation activities were based on agreements with the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent covering key areas such as emergency preparedness and response, tracing and mine-risk education.

In June the ICRC renewed cooperation agreements concluded with the Magen David Adom in 2003 covering training and material support for its emergency medical service (EMS), tracing, disaster response and management and the promotion of the Movement's Fundamental Principles and the basic rules of IHL.

A cooperation agreement with the Palestine Red Crescent was also signed focusing on joint operational implementation of three key ICRC programmes in the occupied territories: food distributions in Hebron, family visits to Palestinians detained by the Israeli authorities and the provision of household kits to Palestinian families made homeless by the destruction or confiscation of their property (see *Civilians*).

During Israeli military operations in the Rafah region of Gaza in May, the ICRC and the Palestine Red Crescent worked closely to ensure the wounded and sick had access to medical assistance, coordinating ambulance movements in order to speed up security clearance by the Israeli authorities.

ICRC education materials to alert young people to the dangers of explosive remnants of war were field-tested by teams of Palestine Red Crescent volunteers. The ICRC also trained the volunteers in gathering mine-victim data.

Jointly with the International Federation, the ICRC provided training and material assistance to strengthen the capacities of the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent to respond to emergencies, in particular through their ambulance services.

Also with the International Federation, the ICRC helped to coordinate the work of numerous National Societies active in the region. The two international organizations offered guidance to National Societies start-

ing new projects in the region and served as a platform for those with programmes under way to exchange information with the Magen David Adom and the Palestine Red Crescent.

ICRC logistical expertise and services helped ensure that relief supplies donated by various National Societies reached targeted beneficiaries in the Palestinian territories.

The ICRC facilitated and financed a Movement Youth Summer Camp bringing together seven National Societies and the Magen David Adom under the theme "Protecting Human Dignity: Youth Response to Disasters". Youth volunteers from the American, British, Bulgarian, Danish, Jordanian, Norwegian and Ugandan Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated in the event.



ICRC delegation ICRC warehouse

jordan

The ICRC has been permanently present in Jordan since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. Its work there largely consists of visiting detainees to monitor their treatment and conditions of detention, providing tracing and Red Cross message services to civilians and foreign detainees, and promoting IHL throughout Jordan, in close cooperation with the Jordan National Red Crescent Society. The delegation also provides logistical support for ICRC relief operations in Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories and in Iraq.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

894,863

Assistance

84,457

Preventive action

551,365

Cooperation with National Societies

94,412

General

-

► **1,625,098**

of which: Overheads **99,184**

PERSONNEL

29 expatriates

100 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC in Jordan provided substantial logistical and material support for ICRC operations in Iraq and in Israel and the Palestinian territories.
- Visits were carried out to places of detention to monitor the treatment and living conditions of detainees and to enable them to maintain contact with their families through the RCM service.
- The ICRC tracing and RCM service enabled families in Jordan to locate and restore contact with relatives detained/interned abroad and helped refugees and persons who had fled the hostilities and insecurity in Iraq keep in touch with family members.
- Jordanian nationals released from detention/internment in Iraq were repatriated under ICRC auspices.
- The ICRC helped to coordinate the smooth running of an ambulance service between Jordan and the West Bank for the transfer of emergency medical cases.
- A cooperation agreement was signed with the Jordanian Red Crescent covering tracing, mine-risk education and the promotion of IHL.

CONTEXT

Jordan pursued a policy of broad economic reform to improve living standards through measures to reduce national debt and high levels of poverty and unemployment.

King Abdullah of Jordan continued to help seek solutions to end decades of Middle East turmoil, notably through efforts to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and to stabilize the situation in Iraq.

Security remained tight in Jordan's main cities and on its borders with Iraq and the West Bank to prevent illegal entry. The heightened security came in the wake of several attacks by unidentified assailants against the Jordanian security forces and amid reports that armed groups intent on acts of violence were attempting to cross into Jordan from Iraq. In April security forces seized cars packed with explosives and arrested several suspects said to be planning attacks on the prime minister's office, the intelligence services headquarters and the US embassy in Amman.

There was an increase in the number of Iraqis entering Jordan towards the end of the year. At the beginning of December, the local press reported that 13,000 people had crossed the border in the space of two weeks.

Amman remained a key coordination centre for the operations in Iraq of many international relief organizations which had relocated to the Jordanian capital owing to the prevailing insecurity in Iraq.

ICRC ACTION

The main core of ICRC expatriates working in Iraq relocated to Amman after the bombing of the ICRC's Baghdad offices in October 2003.

Substantial quantities of food and other essentials, medical supplies and spare parts for water and sanitation infrastructure were transported by air or overland from Amman to Iraq. Amman also remained a major hub for the delivery of relief supplies to the Palestinian territories.

Demand for the ICRC tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service remained high among families in Jordan wishing to restore or maintain contact with relatives detained in Jordan or abroad, or living in conflict-affected countries such as Iraq. These services also constituted a vital means of communication for Iraqi and third-country nationals who had fled Iraq in 2003 and had since been located in a strip of no-man's-land between the Jordanian and Iraqi borders and in a camp inside Jordan.

The ICRC continued to facilitate family reunions in the event of a relative's death, injury or serious illness, by helping family members to obtain exit/entry visas from the relevant authorities to travel between Jordan and Israel and the Palestinian territories. It also issued travel documents to recognized refugees without valid identification papers upon request by UNHCR or the embassies concerned to facilitate their resettlement in third countries.

ICRC coordination with the authorities concerned helped to ensure that ambulances transporting patients or human remains between Jordan and the Palestinian territories could do so unhindered by administrative or security delays.

Further steps were taken to integrate international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation, school and university curricula and the theoretical and operational training of the armed forces. The ICRC also reinforced training and assistance to strengthen the National Society's capacities to promote IHL and to carry out tracing and mine-risk-education activities.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

Jordanian nationals restored or maintained links with family members either detained/interned or resident in Israel and the Palestinian territories or in Iraq, through the

RCM service. Jordanian families were also able to correspond with relatives held in detention facilities in Afghanistan and at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station by the same means. In addition, the service enabled families in Jordan to exchange official documents such as power-of-attorney papers and certificates of detention with relatives living or detained/interned abroad.

The RCM service was made available to several hundred mainly Iranian Kurds stranded in no-man's-land between Iraq and Jordan since they fled hostilities in Iraq in March 2003.

Tracing requests were processed for Jordanian families seeking to locate and re-establish contact with relatives reported missing in Iraq. Each case was cross-checked in ICRC databases to see whether the person concerned had been registered during ICRC visits to places of detention in Iraq. Similar requests from non-Jordanian nationals were relayed to the tracing unit of the Jordanian Red Crescent.

Official documents such as power-of-attorney papers and certificates of detention were exchanged between families in Jordan and relatives living or detained in other countries or in the Palestinian territories.

- 3,640 RCMs and 30 official documents such as power-of-attorney papers and certificates of detention relayed between families in Jordan and relatives either living or detained/interned abroad
- 36 tracing requests opened, of which 9 resolved

Aiding resettlement of refugees

ICRC travel documents were issued to facilitate the resettlement in third countries of hundreds of non-Jordanian nationals, either refugees or persons who had fled to Jordan from the fighting in Iraq. Beneficiaries included nearly 400 Iranian Kurds in the camp in the no-man's-land between Jordan and Iraq who were accepted for resettlement by Sweden.

- 616 travel documents issued to facilitate the resettlement of refugees and other non-Jordanian nationals in third countries

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

ICRC delegates visited people deprived of their freedom in various places of detention, including facilities run by the General Intelligence Directorate (GID) and correc-

tional rehabilitation centres under the authority of the Public Security Directorate (PSD). A visit was also made for the first time to the penitentiary section of the Al-Bashir civilian hospital in Amman.

In late July the ICRC resumed visits to GID facilities after a three-month suspension owing to problems of access to certain detainees.

In cooperation with the Jordanian prison services, the ICRC delivered money, clothes and letters sent to foreign detainees in Jordan by their families. It also acted as a conduit for similar assistance to Jordanian nationals detained/interned abroad, notably in Iraq, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

A seminar on IHL and the ICRC's standard procedures for visits to places of detention was organized for PSD officers.

- 39 visits made to 7,218 detainees in 11 places of detention

WOUNDED AND SICK

Whenever ambulances transporting urgent medical cases between the West Bank and Jordan encountered security-clearance delays or border closures, the ICRC interceded with the authorities concerned to speed up administrative procedures. Working closely with the Jordanian and Palestine Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC notified the authorities in advance of emergency medical evacuations to ensure rapid access to hospitals and other health-care facilities.

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC's legal advisory service continued to lend support to the national committee for the implementation of IHL. Discussions with the committee, civilian and military magistrates and the National Society focused on ways to accelerate Jordan's ratification and implementation of IHL instruments. Particular emphasis was placed on drafting laws on the protection of the emblem, on the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines and on the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). A draft law amending the law on the Jordanian Red Crescent and incorporating some provisions of the draft law on the emblem was submitted to parliament for approval.

Four Jordanian government representatives participated in the second regional meeting on the national implementation of IHL organized in Rabat in December. (See

Tunis). Two members of the national IHL committee and the head of the legal department of the armed forces attended a conference in February in Cairo to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. Members of the national IHL committee also took part in the third regional meeting of government experts on IHL held in Cairo in February (see *Egypt*). In addition, the legal adviser of the National Commission for Demining and Rehabilitation participated in a regional course on IHL and human rights law in May/June in Beirut (see *Lebanon*).

The Judicial Institute of Jordan and the ICRC organized a three-day specialized workshop on the ICC Statute attended by 29 Jordanian judges. The ICRC also provided the Institute's library with reference documents and publications on IHL for use by judges, lawyers and law students.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Significant progress was made in incorporating IHL into the teaching and training programmes of the Jordanian Armed Forces (JAF). In December the JAF training director confirmed that a decision had been taken to integrate the subject at training and operational levels. Following meetings with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other senior members of the military command structure to discuss implementation mechanisms, a committee of seven officers was created to draw up an IHL teaching programme schedule.

As part of the planned implementation process, the ICRC held seminars on IHL and its mandate and role for senior military and security officers and instructors. At the request of the Jordanian military authorities, similar presentations were given to officers of the Iraqi armed forces attending courses given by the JAF.

- ▶ 544 senior armed and security force officers and instructors attended courses on IHL
- ▶ Iraqi armed forces officers, in training by the JAF, attended a session on IHL given by the ICRC

CIVIL SOCIETY

Steps were taken to speed up the integration of IHL into the curricula of Jordanian universities and secondary schools and to

promote greater knowledge of the subject among key circles in Jordanian society such as the media.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the ICRC organized a first train-the-trainer workshop on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme for teachers and supervisors from schools selected to pilot-test the programme. The teachers were then expected to start introducing the programme into extracurricular activities.

A draft memorandum of understanding on the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval. The ICRC followed up with the Ministry on the memorandum and on the composition of the new technical committee set up to support its implementation. Four ministry officials participated in the third regional seminar on the implementation of Exploring Humanitarian Law in Cairo in November–December (see *Egypt*).

With eight Jordanian universities having incorporated IHL into their law curricula, contacts were established with a view to extending teaching of the subject to other universities throughout the country. The minister of education reasserted his support for such a move at the third regional seminar on the subject held in Amman from 29 August to 9 September.

In March the ICRC presented a paper on the legal protection of civilians in times of armed conflict at the second regional training workshop on Human Rights and Human Society for judges and lawyers, organized by the Regional Human Security Centre at the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy. At the invitation of the Amman Centre for Human Rights, the ICRC briefed its members on ICRC activities in Jordan and elsewhere in the Middle East.

From 11 to 13 May, the ICRC took part in a conference on IHL organized by Jerash University's law faculty. Around 50 law professors from different Arab universities attended.

The ICRC was increasingly sought after by local and regional Arab media to provide information on its activities in the region and on the relevance of IHL in situations of armed violence and occupation. Sustained contacts with the media provided an opportunity for the ICRC to recall the strictly independent, neutral and impartial nature of its humanitarian mission and to ensure accurate reporting of the organization's activities.

As part of an ongoing effort to promote an accurate perception of the ICRC's mandate and activities, contacts were consolidated with Islamic political and religious circles, including the Faculty of Sharia of the University of Jordan. In December the ICRC gave its first presentation to the faculty on the theme of IHL and the sharia.

The ICRC's magazine *Al Insani* (The Humanitarian), featuring articles and debate on humanitarian issues, was circulated among key sectors of Jordanian society.

- ▶ first group of 24 teachers and supervisors from 12 pilot schools trained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- ▶ 15 law professors participated in a two-day workshop on IHL

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In February the ICRC and the Jordan National Red Crescent Society signed a cooperation agreement covering tracing, dissemination and mine-risk education.

Following the launch of a joint Jordanian Red Crescent/ICRC mine-risk education programme in March, a three-day workshop was held for National Society volunteers. These volunteers then went on to raise awareness among their communities of the danger of mines and other unexploded remnants of war, with a particular focus on schools.

The ICRC conducted a four-day workshop with the Jordanian Red Crescent for National Society training staff. The workshop dealt with case studies on IHL, the Fundamental Principles, the emblem, the Seville Agreement, communications guidelines, the components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and cooperation, as well as measures to develop the National Society's capacities to raise funds and deliver humanitarian services. As part of the capacity-building process, the ICRC sponsored two Jordanian Red Crescent dissemination officers on a three-month course in computer skills.

The Jordanian Red Crescent and the Ministry of Education organized a drawing competition on IHL rules and principles in schools in different governorates to encourage them and their students to take an active part in promoting IHL. Token prizes were awarded to the winners.



Lebanon

The ICRC has been present in Lebanon since 1967. Today it focuses on gaining access to and visiting, in accordance with its standard procedures, persons detained by the Lebanese authorities. Since the end of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in May 2000, the ICRC has continued to monitor the situation of civilians living in the former occupied zone, particularly former refugees returning from Israel where they had fled following Israel's withdrawal. The ICRC also restores and maintains links between family members separated by past conflicts or occupation. Promoting IHL and working with the Lebanese Red Cross Society in the areas of first aid and mine action are other important aspects of the ICRC's work.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

391,003

Assistance

296,392

Preventive action

486,779

Cooperation with National Societies

178,158

General

-

► **1,352,333**

of which: Overheads **82,537**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

11 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC maintained a standby response capacity to meet emergency needs in the event of a sudden major escalation of cross-border violence between Hezbollah militants and Israeli forces.
- Dialogue was pursued with the Lebanese authorities on starting visits to detainees in Lebanon, in accordance with a government decree issued in 2002.
- The ICRC participated in the repatriation of 1 Israeli civilian and the remains of 3 Israeli soldiers released by Hezbollah, and repatriated Lebanese detainees after their release from Israeli detention, as well as the remains of Lebanese nationals who died in Israel.
- The tracing and RCM service enabled families in Lebanon to restore and maintain contact with their relatives in Israel.
- The ICRC sponsored the participation of young Palestinian refugees in vocational training programmes and provided Palestinian and Lebanese amputees with artificial limbs not generally available to them under the Lebanese health-care system.
- An agreement was signed with education authorities on the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula.

CONTEXT

Lebanon persevered in rebuilding its war-damaged social and economic infrastructure amidst high-profile domestic and international political debate over the continuing presence in the country of Syrian troops who deployed there as a peace-keeping force during the 1975–91 civil war.

Landmines and unexploded ordnance continued to pose a significant threat in southern Lebanon and in areas where fighting was especially intense during the civil war.

In September the UN Security Council passed a resolution calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. However, the Lebanese government contended that the presence of Syrian troops remained necessary to maintain stability. The resolution also urged Lebanon to disband armed Lebanese and non-Lebanese militia groups present in the country.

A constitutional amendment approved by parliament in September enabled President Emile Lahoud to extend by a further three years his six-year term of office that began in 1998. The vote prompted opposition protests and the resignation of Lebanon's economy minister, who narrowly escaped a car-bomb assassination attempt shortly afterwards.

Sporadic cross-border skirmishes persisted between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants seeking to end the Israeli occupation of the disputed Shebaa Farms region in the foothills of the Golan Heights.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC closely monitored the situation in southern Lebanon, particularly with regard to the protection of the civilian population from the effects of cross-border skirmishes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces. It maintained an emergency-response capacity to meet the needs of the civilian population in the event of a sudden intensification of hostilities.

Dialogue continued with the Lebanese authorities to clear the way for the implementation of a government decree published in 2002 formally authorizing the ICRC to visit all places of detention in Lebanon. However, by year's end the Lebanese detaining authorities had still not given the go-ahead for such visits to begin.

Assistance was provided to enable young Palestinian refugees in Lebanon with limited access to learning a trade or finding work to follow vocational training courses to enhance their employment prospects. ICRC technical, material and financial aid was maintained for two physical rehabilitation centres caring for Lebanese and Palestinian amputees.

Families in Lebanon continued to benefit from the RCM service to maintain contact with relatives who fled to Israel following the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000. Lebanese nationals released from detention in Israel were repatriated and issued with certificates of detention to enable them to qualify for state allowances. At the request of their families, the human remains of Lebanese nationals who died in Israel or were killed in past clashes with Israeli forces were repatriated under ICRC auspices.

The ICRC pursued efforts to clarify the fate of Israelis still reported missing in Lebanon during past conflicts. Furthermore, ICRC expertise was made available to the Lebanese authorities and to other actors involved in the exhumation and identification of human remains discovered in Lebanon, with the aim of resolving cases of missing persons.

Following the integration of international humanitarian law (IHL) into the training programmes of the Lebanese armed and security forces, the ICRC took steps to start courses on the subject for members of the Lebanese judiciary and diplomats.

The ICRC's continued close cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross Society aimed to strengthen the National Society's first-

aid structures and its capacities to promote IHL and the implementation in secondary schools of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. The ICRC also maintained support for the National Society's mine-risk education activities.

CIVILIANS

Protecting the civilian population

Sporadic cross-border hostilities between Israeli forces and Hezbollah militants continued to claim casualties and cause material damage on both sides. The ICRC's presence in the region enabled it to monitor the impact of the violence on the civilian population and compliance with IHL by the parties engaged in the fighting.

In cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross, the ICRC maintained a capacity to meet emergency needs among the civilian population in the event of a sudden intensification of the hostilities. It also continued to monitor the resettlement of Lebanese families as they returned to their homes from Israel, where they had lived in self-imposed exile since the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000.

Assistance for Palestinian refugees

Most of the nearly 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon living in 12 camps across the country remained largely excluded from mainstream Lebanese civil society because of their limited access to employment, higher education and vocational training. In response, the ICRC continued to sponsor the participation of young Palestinians living in four different refugee camps in vocational training programmes to improve their professional skills and thus enhance their employment prospects. Run by the National Association for Vocational Training and Social Services (NAVTS), the programmes covered several professional activities such as electrical engineering, computer and electronic maintenance, refrigeration engineering, multimedia and graphic design. In addition, the ICRC financed the purchase of material and equipment for an editing and multimedia course at the NAVTS centre in Ein El Helweh, and provided support for the rehabilitation of another NAVTS centre in Nahr El Bared. ICRC support for these programmes was initiated in 1982 and was terminated as planned in 2004.

Sessions on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities were held for leaders of various Palestinian factions in northern Lebanon. Contacts were also reinforced with the

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) with a view to creating a coordination unit grouping the main humanitarian actors involved in providing assistance to the Palestinian community in Lebanon.

- ▶ 250 young Palestinian refugees participated in vocational training
- ▶ training materials and equipment provided to vocational training centres for young Palestinian refugees
- ▶ more than 100 Palestinian faction leaders attended presentations on IHL and the ICRC

Keeping families in touch

Families in Lebanon continued to use the RCM service to maintain contact with relatives living in Israel where they had fled after the Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. At the end of 2004 more than 2,000 of the estimated 6,500 Lebanese nationals who went into exile in Israel at that time remained in that country.

As in past years, the remains of Lebanese nationals who died in Israel were repatriated and handed over to their families for burial.

- ▶ 331 RCMs relayed between families in Lebanon and relatives living or detained in Israel
- ▶ the remains of 61 deceased Lebanese nationals repatriated from Israel and handed over to their families for burial

Clarifying the fate of missing persons

The fate of persons unaccounted for in Lebanon as a result of past conflicts and occupation remained an issue of deep concern. The ICRC encouraged the Lebanese authorities to begin exhuming and identifying human remains discovered in Lebanon to alleviate the anxiety of the families concerned. Copies in Arabic of standard ICRC manuals on exhumation and identification procedures were made available to the authorities and to non-governmental organizations engaged in efforts to resolve cases of missing persons in Lebanon.

Also of concern was the fate of four Israelis missing in action during past conflicts, including the Israeli pilot Ron Arad. The ICRC stood ready to offer its services as a neutral intermediary to help resolve these cases.

On 29 January, as part of an exchange agreement between Israel and Hezbollah

brokered by the German authorities, the ICRC participated in the repatriation of an Israeli citizen and the remains of three Israeli soldiers. In the framework of the same agreement, the ICRC also helped to repatriate the remains of 60 persons from Israel to Lebanon and 22 Lebanese citizens and seven persons of other nationalities released from Israeli detention (see also *Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories*).

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Gaining access to detainees

Securing access to all places of detention in Lebanon, in accordance with the ICRC's mandate and in implementation of a decree issued by the Lebanese government in late 2002, remained a high priority. However, visits had still not started at the end of 2004.

ICRC certificates of detention were issued to Lebanese nationals repatriated after their release from Israeli detention to enable them to qualify for state living allowances.

WOUNDED AND SICK

Under a programme initiated in 1982, the ICRC provided technical, material and financial support for two physical rehabilitation centres in Beit Shabab and Sidon. The aim of this assistance was primarily to provide Palestinian amputees with prosthetic fittings not normally available to them through the Lebanese health-care system. It also benefited destitute Lebanese amputees and third-country nationals other than Palestinians in urgent need of artificial limb fittings.

- 144 disabled people fitted with artificial limbs and orthoses at ICRC-assisted physical rehabilitation centres

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC kept up its dialogue with the Lebanese authorities aimed at harmonizing domestic legislation with all the main IHL treaties, particularly the 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). As a means to achieve this, it urged the Lebanese authorities to create a national committee for the implementation of IHL.

Measures were initiated with the Ministry of Justice and the Institute of Judicial Studies to introduce IHL teaching in training

programmes for members of the Lebanese judiciary. It also approached the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the integration of IHL into the curricula of trainee diplomats.

Beirut was the venue of the first regional seminar on IHL and human rights law, held from 31 May to 11 June. Organized jointly by the Arab League's Council of Justice ministers and the ICRC, the seminar was attended by more than 50 government officials, senior armed forces officers, trainee judicial officers and young diplomats from most of the Arab countries. Topics discussed included the differences between IHL and human rights law, the origins and underlying principles of these instruments, their fields of application and measures to create implementation bodies.

The ICRC submitted a draft decree on the creation of a national IHL committee to the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who reaffirmed Lebanon's intention to establish such a committee in the near future.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following years of ICRC training sessions for senior members of the national armed forces, IHL had become part of the teaching programmes of the main Lebanese military training institutes. However, it had yet to be integrated systematically into military operational training.

The ICRC continued to promote knowledge and understanding of its mandate and role in situations of armed conflict among the armed and security forces. Presentations on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the ICRC were given to 70 high-ranking officers enrolled at the military Staff and Command College and to 150 new graduates of the Internal Security Force at the national Police Academy.

Close contacts were maintained with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) responsible for supervising control posts along the border between Lebanon and Israel. This ongoing dialogue served to facilitate ICRC activities in the region and to heighten awareness of IHL and the ICRC's role among the UNIFIL rank and file. Information sessions on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities in the region were held for UNIFIL troops in southern Lebanon.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC established and developed contacts with media and academic circles to spread knowledge of the ICRC, the Fundamental Principles and IHL.

A memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the Ministry of Education on the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was signed in October 2004. A joint commission, made up of representatives of the Pedagogical Centre for Research and Development and a representative of the ICRC, was created to implement the programme. Twelve schools were selected to pilot the programme and 16 teachers chosen to be trained in its implementation. Three Lebanese members of the joint commission participated in the regional meeting on the implementation of Exploring Humanitarian Law held in Cairo in November (see *Egypt*).

In anticipation of the creation of a Lebanese Red Cross committee for the promotion of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme, a second workshop on the subject was held for Red Cross volunteers.

IHL continued to be taught at various Lebanese universities as part of courses on human rights and philosophy. Contacts were developed with university professors to promote wider teaching of the subject, and ICRC publications were donated to university libraries and law professors.

The ICRC participated in a conference on IHL organized by the Arab University of Beirut. One of the recommendations adopted by the conference called on Arab countries that had not already done so to join the ICC.

The deans of the law faculties of La Sagesse and Saint-Esprit universities attended a regional seminar on IHL in Amman in August (see *Jordan*). In 2004 leading academics from three other Lebanese universities participated in a similar seminar in Syria.

Journalists from throughout the Arab world took part in a workshop organized by the ICRC in Beirut. The aim of the event was to strengthen relations with the region's media and to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the ICRC's mandate and activities.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC strengthened the operational capacities of the Lebanese Red Cross Society, particularly in the fields of tracing, first aid, mine action and the promotion of IHL and the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme.

ICRC financial support continued to bolster the infrastructure of the National Society's countrywide network of first-aid centres. This enabled the Lebanese Red Cross to acquire additional basic medical equipment for its ambulances and telecommunications tools for first-aid centres, primarily in southern Lebanon where the situation remained the most volatile.

Courses in IHL were held for Lebanese Red Cross trainers, and dissemination materials were supplied to the National Society's training department to develop its capacity to promote IHL both within and outside the National Society. In further training, Red Cross volunteers participated in a workshop on Exploring Humanitarian Law as part of initiatives to promote this programme nationwide. Teams from the Lebanese Red Cross youth section already trained in the programme continued to hold information sessions in Red Cross branches throughout the country.

The ICRC assisted training workshops for Red Cross volunteers engaged in a mine-risk education programme launched in response to the increased number of accidents caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war, particularly in southern Lebanon.

The ICRC also sponsored a film competition on voluntary work at the National Society designed to promote volunteer recruitment.



ICRC delegation

syria

Present in Syria since 1967, the ICRC acts as a neutral intermediary in matters of humanitarian concern affecting the Syrian inhabitants of the Israeli-occupied Golan protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention. In particular, the ICRC facilitates the passage of Syrian nationals, mainly students and pilgrims, who have to cross the area of separation to complete their studies at Syrian universities or perform their religious duties, and it restores and maintains links between family members separated by the demarcation line. The delegation also works to spread knowledge of IHL and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in close cooperation with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

157,523

Assistance

86,431

Preventive action

614,334

Cooperation with National Societies

155,912

General

-

► **1,014,199**

of which: Overheads **61,899**

PERSONNEL

1 expatriate

7 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC helped restore contact between people in Syria and family members interned/detained in Israel and Iraq, oversaw the repatriation of Syrians following their release from detention in Iraq and processed tracing requests for Syrians unaccounted for in Iraq and Syria.
- Travel was facilitated between the Israeli-occupied Golan and Syria proper for pilgrims and students, and for prospective marriage partners from opposite sides of the demarcation line to wed in the demilitarized zone.
- The Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was pilot-tested for the first time in Syrian secondary schools.
- ICRC travel documents were issued to asylum seekers, mainly Iraqis, to facilitate their resettlement in third countries or their family reunification.
- Financial, technical and material support was maintained for a rehabilitation centre caring for the disabled.

CONTEXT

In 2004 domestic political debate was dominated by the turmoil in neighbouring Iraq, Syrian offers to resume peace talks with Israel, and the controversy over Syria's continuing military presence in Lebanon.

In September the UN Security Council called for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. However, the Syrian and Lebanese authorities maintained that the presence of Syrian troops in Lebanon was necessary to ensure stability there. Thousands of Syrian troops had been stationed in Lebanon since they deployed there as a peace-keeping force during Lebanon's 1975–91 civil war.

Syria tightened security along its borders with Iraq, and it refuted accusations by the United States that it was allowing militants to cross into Iraq from its territory to join the insurgency there. As part of its security measures, Syria started to build a 130-km wall along its border with Iraq and deployed some 12,000 troops to control cross-border movements.

Israel rejected renewed proposals by the Syrian authorities to resume peace negotiations. The peace talks had broken down in 2000 over disagreement about the future status of the part of the Golan that Israel captured from Syria in 1967 and annexed 14 years later. Tension between the two countries mounted in October when a Hamas leader was killed in a car-bomb attack in Damascus allegedly carried out by Israel.

In the most serious incidence of internal violence for several years, Kurdish riots erupted in several cities in March after a football match brawl between rival fans in the north-eastern town of Kamishli. Further violence was reported when Syrian security forces killed two gunmen and arrested two others after they had bombed an empty building in Damascus formerly occupied by the United Nations.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC registered increased demand for its tracing services from families in Syria seeking information about relatives either unaccounted for or deprived of their freedom in Iraq. For the first time, tracing requests were also received concerning people reported as missing or held in detention in Syria.

Many Syrians and Iraqi refugees were able to restore contact with family members in Iraq through the Red Cross message (RCM) service, and a number of Syrian nationals were repatriated under ICRC auspices after their release from detention in Iraq.

Travel documents were issued to Iraqi and other refugees to facilitate their resettlement in third countries, in close cooperation with the local authorities, UNHCR and the embassies of destination countries.

The ICRC arranged for Syrian students and pilgrims in the occupied Golan to travel to Syria proper for study or religious purposes, and for engaged couples from opposite sides of the demarcation line to marry in the demilitarized zone. The ICRC also assisted in the exchange of official documents between family members living in the occupied Golan and in Syria proper.

Progress was made towards introducing the teaching of international humanitarian law (IHL) in Syrian universities and the integration of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law course into secondary-school curricula.

The ICRC's Children and War campaign, designed to raise awareness of the plight of children caught up in armed conflicts, was launched in Syria.

Financial, technical and material support was maintained for a physical rehabilitation centre caring for disabled Palestinians and Syrians.

CIVILIANS

ICRC action focused on providing assistance and protection to Syrian nationals living in the Israeli-occupied Golan, and on serving the tracing needs of Syrian families and Iraqi refugees arising from the conflict in neighbouring Iraq.

Many families in Syria were able to re-establish contact with loved ones in Iraq through the ICRC tracing and RCM service.

Syrian nationals held in Iraq were traced during ICRC visits to places of detention there. The ICRC repatriated a number of Syrians following their release from detention in Iraq after interviewing them to ensure they were returning home of their own free will.

The ICRC endeavoured to safeguard a minimum of contact between family members cut off from one another for decades by the area of separation between Syria proper and the Israeli-occupied Golan. Specifically, the ICRC pursued efforts to bring about a resumption of regular meetings between the approximately 19,000 Syrians living in the occupied Golan and family members who fled to Syria proper when the region was overrun by Israeli forces in 1967. However, although the authorities concerned agreed in 2002 on a mutually acceptable location in the area of separation for such meetings, none had yet taken place by the end of 2004.

In coordination with the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and the Israeli and Syrian authorities, the ICRC arranged for students and pilgrims from the occupied Golan to travel to Syria for limited periods to pursue their studies or to visit holy sites. Similar coordination enabled wedding ceremonies for couples separated by the demarcation line to take place in the demilitarized zone.

Syrian nationals in the occupied Golan and in Syria proper continued to rely on the ICRC to exchange official papers such as power-of-attorney documents, and birth, death and marriage certificates. These documents often enabled recipients to qualify for pensions or to settle personal issues such as inheritance or property rights.

The ICRC was requested by a number of families in the occupied Golan to act as an intermediary to transmit documents to the Syrian authorities in support of claims to property in the town of Kuneitra. The town, located in the occupied Golan, was completely destroyed by Israeli forces before being handed back to Syria in 1973. Syria announced that it intended to rebuild it.

Following Israel's decision to authorize the sale to Syria proper of apples grown in the occupied Golan, the ICRC was asked to act as an intermediary in submitting a request to the Syrian authorities and to UNDOF regarding the logistical arrangements for the transport of the apples to Syria.

- ▶ 475 RCMs relayed between families in Syria and relatives either detained or located in Iraq or living in the Israeli-occupied Golan
- ▶ 104 Syrian nationals repatriated under ICRC auspices after their release from detention/internment in Iraq
- ▶ 431 pilgrims and students from the Israeli-occupied Golan travelled to Syria for religious or study purposes under arrangements facilitated by the ICRC
- ▶ 4 couples separated by the demarcation line wed in the demilitarized zone

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

A number of former Iraqi prisoners of war travelled to Damascus to obtain ICRC certificates of detention which they were unable to obtain in Iraq because of the ICRC's limited presence there. The certificates qualified them to receive allowances from the Iraqi Ministries of Defence and Human Rights upon their return home. Certificates of detention were also issued to Syrian nationals following their release from detention in Iraq and repatriation under ICRC auspices.

Families in Syria continued to rely on the RCM network to re-establish or maintain contact with relatives held captive in Iraq and Israel. The ICRC also facilitated the transfer of Syrian government aid and family financial support to Syrian nationals detained in Israel.

For the first time the ICRC received tracing requests from Syrians seeking news of the fate or whereabouts of family members reported missing and presumed to be held in detention in Syria. These cases were brought to the attention of the Syrian authorities.

In March the remains of a Palestinian militant who died while in detention in Iraq were transferred under ICRC auspices to Syria for burial. The man was one of several Palestinian militants who carried out the 1985 attack on the *Achille Lauro* cruise ship off the coast of Egypt.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The ICRC maintained technical, financial and material support for a prosthetic/orthotic centre run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society caring for disabled Palestinians and Syrians. Many of the centre's patients lost limbs in

accidents caused by mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) that still contaminate some parts of the country.

- 70 patients treated at an ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centre caring for the disabled

AUTHORITIES

In June the Syrian prime minister published a decree establishing a national committee for the implementation of IHL, presided over by the minister of state for Red Crescent affairs and maritime law. The minister and senior members of the IHL committee were invited to ICRC headquarters in Geneva in October, where they held talks with the ICRC president and other representatives of the organization. The Syrian delegation was accompanied by the president of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent Society, senior officials of the Syrian Ministries of Defence, of the Interior and of Foreign Affairs and a Syrian parliamentary responsible for the creation of a parliamentary commission on IHL. Discussions centred on various measures to accelerate and expand the harmonization of Syrian legislation with IHL.

In its first extensive contacts with the Syrian parliament, the ICRC held a seminar on IHL for members of the parliamentary commissions for Arab and foreign affairs. Participants recommended the establishment of an interministerial committee for the implementation of IHL, and welcomed the development of relations between the Syrian parliament and the ICRC.

As part of a programme to integrate the teaching of IHL into training programmes for members of the judiciary at regional and national levels, an initial introductory course on the subject was given to trainees at the Syrian Judicial Institute under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

- Syria established a national committee for the implementation of IHL
- 20 members of the Syrian parliamentary commissions for Arab and foreign affairs participated in an ICRC seminar on IHL
- 25 trainee judges at the Syrian Judicial Institute followed an introductory course in IHL

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Following the appointment of a Syrian army brigadier to act as the ICRC's main channel of communication with the Ministry of Defence, the ICRC gave its first course in IHL in nine years to senior officers of the armed forces, and further courses were scheduled for 2005.

Plans also progressed to produce an Arabic version of the ICRC's manual, *The Law of War for Armed Forces*.

Close cooperation was maintained with the UNDOF and the UN Truce Supervision Organization, which provided logistical support for ICRC operations to transfer civilians across the separation zone between the occupied Golan and Syria proper and to unite prospective marriage partners from opposite sides of the demarcation line (see *Civilians*).

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC reinforced its relations with key sectors of Syrian civil society to promote knowledge and understanding of IHL and the organization's mandate and activities.

Following extensive preparatory work undertaken with the Syrian education authorities, the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme was introduced as a pilot project in four secondary schools. The move followed an ICRC workshop on the programme, organized jointly with the Ministry of Education, for national educators and teachers from the pilot schools, as well as for representatives of the UN Relief and Works Agency and Red Crescent volunteers.

At the request of the Syrian Ministry of Education, a workshop was held for members of its technical commission and school inspectors to study ways to integrate the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules into various study areas, including Arabic, English and French language courses and social and religious studies. Ministry officials participated in the regional meeting on the implementation of Exploring Humanitarian Law in Cairo in November (see *Egypt*).

To advance the introduction of the teaching of IHL at university level, a seminar on the subject was held for professors and postgraduates from the law faculties of the universities of Damascus and Aleppo. Participating professors and university deans

pledged to increase the teaching of IHL as a separate subject in their faculties of law.

The ICRC's Children and War campaign launched in Syria in April culminated in December in a ceremony attended by the wife of the Syrian president. The campaign, conducted with the Syrian Red Crescent, aimed to raise public awareness of the plight of children in armed conflict. In August Syria's First Lady presented prizes to the winners of an ICRC-sponsored painting and short story competition on the theme, in which students from 6,000 schools across the country participated.

A book on a symposium held in Damascus in late 2003 entitled *The International Criminal Court and Enlarging the Scope of IHL* was published in Arabic and English and distributed to university professors and students.

- 679 students in 4 secondary schools took part in a pilot test of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- 13 law professors and 8 postgraduate students from the universities of Damascus and Aleppo participated in an IHL seminar

NATIONAL SOCIETY

The ICRC assisted National Society branches in processing tracing requests for Syrian nationals unaccounted for abroad and in Syria and in relaying RCMs between Syrian families and relatives deprived of their freedom in other countries such as Iraq.

Syrian Red Crescent volunteers received training in tracing techniques, and computer equipment was provided to upgrade the National Society's tracing infrastructure. First-aid kits were also supplied to boost the National Society's capacity to respond to natural disasters and mass-casualty incidents.

The ICRC enjoyed the support of the National Society in promoting its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme. Red Crescent volunteers attended workshops to improve their knowledge of the subject and contributed to its introduction on an experimental basis in Syrian schools (see *Civil society*).

The Syrian Red Crescent also played a prominent role in helping to promote the ICRC's Children and War campaign. The

campaign included an exhibition on the theme in Damascus, which attracted thousands of visitors. A workshop on the impact of war on children was organized at one of the National Society's youth summer camps, and Red Crescent volunteers helped organize the painting competition on the theme for children throughout Syria. To mark World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day (8 May), the Aleppo branch of the Syrian Red Crescent organized a painting exhibition depicting "Childhood and war" under the patronage of the governor of Aleppo. In another event marking the same occasion, the ICRC and the Syrian Red Crescent organized a basketball match under the campaign's slogan "Let us play".

A joint Syrian Red Crescent/ICRC mine-risk education programme was proposed targeting communities in Kuneitra governorate, which was still affected by mines and other ERW left over from past conflicts in the region.

The ICRC kept up its financial and technical assistance to a physical rehabilitation centre in Damascus run by the Syrian branch of the Palestine Red Crescent Society using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances for the disabled. Computer equipment and software were supplied to the centre to enable it to improve patient care and stock inventory management. Furthermore, ICRC experts identified where further assistance could raise the quality of production of prostheses while keeping prices affordable for amputees.

- ▶ 150 first-aid kits supplied to the Syrian Red Crescent
- ▶ Syrian Red Cross volunteers trained in tracing and attended workshops on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme
- ▶ Syrian and Palestinian amputees fitted with artificial limbs at an ICRC-assisted physical rehabilitation centre
- ▶ 13 professors and 8 post-graduate students from the law faculties of the universities in Damascus and Aleppo participated in an IHL seminar
- ▶ 25 trainee magistrates at the Syrian Judicial Institute participated in an introductory course in IHL



yemen

In Yemen, the ICRC carries out activities for detainees, including vulnerable groups such as women and the mentally ill. In cooperation with the Yemen Red Crescent Society, it spreads knowledge of IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement among a range of audiences. In particular, it supports the national IHL committee and promotes the incorporation of IHL into school and university curricula and into the training programmes of the armed and police forces. Supporting the care of the physically disabled and restoring links between family members separated by conflict or detention are other key activities. The ICRC has been working in Yemen since the outbreak of the civil war in 1962.

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

346,894

Assistance

780,164

Preventive action

614,139

Cooperation with National Societies

343,618

General

-

► **2,084,816**

of which: Overheads **127,242**

PERSONNEL

4 expatriates

15 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- The ICRC's tracing and RCM service helped restore contact between Yemeni families and relatives deprived of their freedom abroad and between mainly African refugees and family members in their home countries.
- ICRC travel documents facilitated the resettlement of refugees in third countries or their family reunification; certificates of detention were issued to former detainees and prisoners of war seeking refugee status in Yemen and to Yemeni nationals imprisoned during the country's 1994 civil war.
- The ICRC extended its medical care and vocational training for women detainees from three to five central prisons; an assistance programme for mentally ill detainees was handed over to the health authorities.
- ICRC expertise helped to upgrade the skills of technicians at two physical rehabilitation centres using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances for the disabled.
- Material and technical support and training strengthened the operational capacity of the National Society and its ability to promote IHL.
- ICRC relief supplies were distributed by the Yemeni Red Crescent to families displaced by the fighting in north Yemen.

CONTEXT

In 2004 Yemen continued on its course to modernize its economic, social and health structures. The authorities also pursued efforts to contain Islamic militancy, including promoting dialogue with radical Islamic groups. In April the government declared that 90% of the al-Qaeda network in the country had been dismantled.

Six militants suspected of involvement in the bombing of the *USS Cole* in 2000 were brought to trial in July and convicted in September. Another 15 men began prison sentences in August after being convicted of criminal offences, including the bombing of a French oil tanker in 2002, a series of bomb explosions in Sana'a, planned attacks on Western embassies and a plot to kill the US ambassador in Yemen.

In June the Yemeni armed forces were deployed in force in the northern region of Saada to arrest a tribal and religious leader accused of forming an extremist movement and spreading inflammatory anti-government and anti-Western propaganda. After weeks of intense fighting that left hundreds of dead and wounded and many families displaced, the government announced in September that the rebel leader had been killed.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia settled a dispute over a security barrier that the Saudis had started to build to prevent the alleged flow of militants and weapons into Saudi Arabia. Both countries agreed to reinforce border controls after Saudi Arabia accepted Yemeni demands to dismantle the barrier.

A steady flow of refugees fleeing conflict, mostly from Somalia and other countries in the Horn of Africa, continued to enter Yemen which remained host to the Arabian Peninsula's largest non-Palestinian refugee population.

ICRC ACTION

Although the ICRC was unable to gain access to the conflict zone in the Saada region of north Yemen during the most intensive phase of the hostilities (June–September), it managed to distribute limited emergency relief to families displaced by the fighting through the Yemeni Red Crescent.

The ICRC pursued a dialogue with the authorities aimed at gaining regular access to all places of detention in Yemen, including to persons held by the Political Security department in connection with activities perceived as endangering State security.

Medical care and vocational training was arranged for women detainees and the ICRC sponsored specialized care in the psychiatric sections of three central prisons. The programme, designed to break the isolation of women detainees and to enhance their prospects for social re-insertion upon release, was extended to two more central prisons.

ICRC tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) services enabled families in Yemen to restore contact with relatives detained/interned abroad and helped refugees in Yemen to locate family members in conflict-affected countries, mainly in the Horn of Africa. Travel documents were issued to assist the resettlement of refugees in third countries, and certificates of detention were provided to former detainees of various nationalities seeking refugee status in Yemen.

Ongoing training by ICRC ortho-prosthetists helped to upgrade the skills of technicians at two physical rehabilitation centres using ICRC technology and materials to produce artificial limbs and other orthopaedic appliances for the disabled.

The ICRC took steps to accelerate the integration of international humanitarian law (IHL) into national legislation, the education system and the training programmes of the Yemeni armed forces.

The ICRC also provided material and technical support and training to develop the operational capacity of the National Society and its ability to promote international humanitarian law (IHL).

CIVILIANS

The ICRC offered its services to help meet the needs of the civilian population affected by the armed conflict that intensified

sharply in the Saada region of north Yemen in June. In September the Yemeni Red Crescent was able to enter the conflict zone for the first time since the escalation of the fighting there. The National Society distributed essential household items supplied by the ICRC to displaced families. Later, in mid-December, the ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent carried out joint field missions to the region to assess potential needs.

Refugees in Yemen, mainly from countries in the Horn of Africa, were able to restore and maintain contact with family members in their home countries through the RCM service. Most of the refugees concerned were located in community centres in Sana'a and Al-Mukalla and at the UNHCR refugee camp in Kharaz (Aden). Persons without valid identification papers were issued with ICRC travel documents to facilitate resettlement in third countries or family reunification. Certificates of detention were obtained from ICRC delegations abroad for former detainees seeking refugee status in Yemen, and were also issued to Yemeni nationals who had previously been imprisoned during Yemen's internal conflict.

- some 200 families displaced by the hostilities in northern Yemen received essential household items

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

As a priority, the ICRC pursued discussions with the Yemeni detaining authorities with a view to regaining regular access to all places of detention in the country in accordance with its standard procedures.

Two ad hoc visits were made to a Yemeni national detained by the Political Security department following his repatriation under ICRC auspices from Iraq where he had been held as a prisoner of war. In July the ICRC conducted another ad hoc visit to a former internee of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station detained by the Political Security department after his release from US custody.

The ICRC's assistance programme for women detainees in the three central prisons of Hodeida, Dhamar and Al-Mahwit was extended to the central prisons of Amran and Aden. Initiated in 2001 and run in conjunction with the Yemeni Red Crescent, the programme continued to provide women detainees with vocational training in the form of literacy and sewing courses, as well as improved medical care for them and

their children. Hygiene products were supplied to the five prisons benefiting from this programme.

Financial support and training were also maintained for a programme to provide suitable care and acceptable conditions of detention for inmates of the psychiatric sections of three central prisons. Red Crescent volunteers involved in the programme received specialized training in psychiatric care through courses sponsored by the ICRC, in cooperation with the Yemeni Mental Health Association, the Amin Nasher Institute for Health Science and the Salam Psychiatric Hospital. Responsibility for this programme was handed over to the health authorities at the end of April.

Families in Yemen were able to restore and maintain contact with relatives interned/detained abroad through the RCM network. In addition, parcels from families in Yemen were sent to their loved ones held in Iraq.

WOUNDED AND SICK

On-the-job training by two ICRC ortho-prosthetists helped to upgrade the skills of technicians at the physical rehabilitation centres in Sana'a and Al-Mukalla. As part of the training programme, the ICRC also sponsored the participation of two local technicians in a 30-month course on prosthetics and orthotics in Bangalore, India.

The Yemeni president and minister of health visited the Sana'a centre in July and expressed their gratitude to the ICRC for its support for efforts to provide artificial-limb fittings for amputees in the country.

- 363 prostheses and 1,469 orthoses produced at two ICRC-assisted physical rehabilitation centres

AUTHORITIES

Together with the Supreme Institute of Justice, the ICRC held a workshop on IHL for judges and public prosecutors as part of ongoing activities to promote greater knowledge and understanding of IHL and speed up its incorporation into national legislation. Another workshop on IHL, organized jointly with Yemen's parliamentary commission on constitutional and legal affairs, was held for members of parliament. The 1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court was a promi-

ment topic in both workshops. A draft law to adopt its provisions was still being debated by parliament. Parliament approved a draft law on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines.

Two members of the national IHL committee participated in the third meeting of Arab government experts on IHL implementation mechanisms in February (see *Egypt*).

- 44 judges and public prosecutors attended a workshop on IHL
- a workshop on IHL held for members of parliament

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

The ICRC continued to promote the sustainability of IHL training programmes for the armed forces, which over the years have become increasingly autonomous.

Excerpts from the ICRC reference manual on the law of armed conflict entitled *Fight it Right* were published in the monthly armed forces magazine *Al-Jaish* distributed free of charge to Yemeni armed forces personnel and Yemeni embassies worldwide. ICRC publications on IHL-related issues were also provided to the government's Moral Guidance Department.

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC developed contacts with the Yemeni media and academic circles to spread knowledge and understanding of the provisions of IHL applicable in armed conflicts and other situations of violence.

Progress was made towards the integration of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula. The programme, intended to familiarize young people with the basic principles of IHL, was piloted in 16 schools in Yemen's main cities and was conducted by 32 teachers previously trained in the programme by the ICRC. In October a further 16 secondary-school teachers were trained in the subject.

Towards the end of the year the Ministry of Education forwarded a formal instruction to the pilot schools in the eight governorates concerned to continue teaching the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme during the 2004–05 academic year. Schools in sev-

eral other regions were also expected to join the programme during the academic year.

Officials from the Ministry of Education participated in the third regional meeting on the implementation of Exploring Humanitarian Law in Cairo in November (see *Egypt*).

The ICRC delegation in Yemen held a seminar on IHL, the Movement and the ICRC for a group of mainly women journalists, organized in conjunction with the Yemeni NGO Women's Development Centre for Culture against Violence.

NATIONAL SOCIETY

In September the Yemen Red Crescent Society distributed supplies donated by the ICRC, including mattresses, blankets and kitchen equipment, to some 200 families displaced by the armed conflict in the Saada region.

The ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent conducted a field mission to the Saada region in mid-December to identify the most urgent needs. They visited many villages in the areas of Majazeen, Al-Jamima, Khamis Marran and Razeh and collected information on the effects of the hostilities on the civilian population and their most pressing needs.

The National Society continued to be actively involved in relaying RCMs between people in Yemen and family members deprived of their freedom abroad, and between refugees and relatives in their home countries, mostly in the Horn of Africa. National Society volunteers were also trained in restoring family links.

In November the ICRC took part in a disaster management training camp organized by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Yemeni Red Crescent.

The ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent continued to work together to provide vocational training for women detainees and better care for detainees suffering psychiatric problems (see *People deprived of their freedom*). In order to promote the sustainability of the programme for mentally ill detainees after it was handed over to the health authorities, the ICRC sponsored the participation of 21 Red Crescent volunteers in a one-year nursing course at the national health institute to qualify them for psychiatric care work in central prisons.

IHL training materials were provided to the National Society and a workshop was held in July to familiarize its staff with a new ICRC dissemination kit for use in the branches. ICRC-trained Red Crescent volunteers ran several dissemination sessions for a range of audiences, including many students, in various governorates.

The ICRC donated 30 medical kits to the Yemeni Red Crescent, and further stocks were ordered for distribution to National Society branches. It also continued to provide ad hoc financial and technical support to enable the National Society's headquarters and branch offices to produce activity reports.



ICRC regional delegation

kuwait

The ICRC's presence in the region is linked to unresolved humanitarian concerns relating to the 1990–91 Gulf War, needs arising from the armed conflict in Iraq and issues regarding detention in Kuwait and Qatar. The ICRC also works to restore family links and to promote IHL and its own role as a neutral intermediary in situations of armed conflict or violence. Reinforcing cooperation with the region's National Red Crescent Societies is another priority.

COVERING

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

793,007

Assistance

-

Preventive action

706,434

Cooperation with National Societies

193,974

General

80,588

► **1,774,003**

of which: Overheads **108,272**

PERSONNEL

4 expatriates

20 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- Efforts to elucidate the fate of persons unaccounted for since the 1990–91 Gulf War continued in the framework of the Tripartite Commission set up by the ICRC to address this issue, and 188 cases were closed.
- Families in Gulf countries re-established contact with relatives either detained/interned abroad (e.g. at Guantanamo Bay or in Iraq) or separated from them by conflict through ICRC tracing and RCM services provided in coordination with Red Crescent Societies in the region.
- The ICRC repatriated Iraqi nationals after their release from detention in Kuwait.
- ICRC delegates visited places of detention in Kuwait and Qatar to monitor detainees' treatment and living conditions.
- Further steps were taken to incorporate IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula and the theoretical and practical training programmes of the armed forces of the Gulf States.

CONTEXT

In 2004 changes in the economic, political and social environment were felt throughout the Gulf region. The increase in oil prices boosted investment and led to high budget surpluses in Gulf countries. The various State authorities discussed and introduced reforms to their respective political systems, including a new constitution in Qatar approved by the Emir and due to enter into force in 2005 and plans announced by Saudi Arabia to hold municipal elections. In Kuwait, the question of political rights for women was widely debated.

In Saudi Arabia, attacks against government institutions and foreigners and frequent shoot-outs between security forces and armed opponents caused considerable injury and loss of life. The Kuwaiti authorities arrested persons suspected of involvement in resistance activities in Iraq. As a result of these incidents, security cooperation was reinforced among States in the Arabian Peninsula. In Bahrain, discontent among opposition groups focused on a perceived lack of political reforms.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) experienced its first transition of power with the death in November of its president and founder, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan. He was succeeded by his son, Sheikh Khalifa.

ICRC ACTION

Resolving humanitarian issues outstanding from the 1990–91 Gulf War and others arising from the regional consequences of the conflict in Iraq remained the top priority of the ICRC delegation in Kuwait in 2004.

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and its Technical Sub-Committee set up under ICRC auspices to address the issue of persons unaccounted for from the 1990–91 conflict. Within this framework, Kuwaiti forensic teams assisted in exhuming and identifying human remains found in graves in Iraq, in coordination with Iraq and other member parties of the Tripartite Commission.

ICRC delegates regularly visited persons detained in Kuwait and without diplomatic representation as a consequence of the 1990–91 conflict. It also visited prisoners convicted and sentenced in Qatar in connection with the failed coup d'état there in 1996. In addition, the ICRC had regular access, until their transfer to Russia, to two Russian nationals arrested and sentenced for the assassination of a Chechen leader living in Qatar.

Iraqi nationals were repatriated under ICRC auspices following their release from detention in Kuwait. Families in Gulf countries were able to restore contact with relatives detained/interned abroad (e.g. at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station and in Iraq) through the ICRC tracing and Red Cross message (RCM) service provided in coordination with the Red Crescent Societies in the region.

Gulf States were encouraged to accede to international humanitarian law (IHL) treaties to which they were not yet party and to implement those they had already ratified. Progress was also made in incorporating IHL into national legislation, school and university curricula and the theoretical and practical training programmes of the region's armed forces.

On an official visit to Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE in April, the ICRC president held talks with the countries' leaders on humanitarian issues of mutual concern.

CIVILIANS

Resolving the fate of the missing

The ICRC continued to chair meetings of the Tripartite Commission and the Technical Sub-Committee set up to address the issue of persons unaccounted for in relation to

the 1990–91 Gulf War. The ICRC also sought the full cooperation of the parties concerned, in particular Kuwait, in elucidating cases of persons unaccounted for from the same conflict but not falling within the Commission's remit.

Two meetings of the Technical Sub-Committee were held in 2004, during which Kuwait informed the other parties of results obtained by its forensic experts, working within the framework of the Commission, to identify human remains exhumed in Iraq. By the end of November Kuwaiti forensic teams had identified the remains of 154 persons exhumed in Iraq (mostly Kuwaitis but also Saudi and other nationals and stateless persons). The Sub-Committee authorized Kuwait to continue this work in the Iraqi regions of Amarah, Kerbala and Ramadi.

Following the transfer of power in Iraq from the Coalition Provisional Authority on 28 June, Iraq was represented at the Tripartite Commission and Technical Sub-Committee meetings by members of its interim government, who requested information on potential gravesites in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Both these countries pledged to follow up on the request and to provide the Sub-Committee with any relevant information obtained. In addition, the ICRC responded to a request by Iraq to provide copies of all files available on persons listed as missing in relation to the 1990–91 conflict covering cases dealt with both within and outside the framework of the Tripartite Commission.

- 1 Tripartite Commission meeting and 2 Technical Sub-Committee sessions on the fate of persons unaccounted for from the 1990–91 Gulf War chaired by the ICRC
- 188 Tripartite Commission cases resolved in 2004 and the cases of 45 Iraqi nationals initially reported missing clarified

Restoring family links

People in Gulf countries continued to require assistance to trace and restore contact with close family members detained/interned abroad (e.g. Guantanamo Bay, Iraq) or located in countries racked by war or internal violence.

Families of persons detained/interned abroad were notified of the fate of their relatives and kept informed of any developments. They were also given the chance to establish and maintain contact with them through RCMs.

The ICRC reinforced its cooperation with the State authorities and National Societies concerned to enhance the collection and distribution of RCMs. Follow-up action was initiated in response to a request from the Saudi authorities for assistance in tracing Saudi citizens allegedly held in places of detention in Iraq.

Assisting former detainees and refugees

Persons previously detained in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq in connection with the 1990–91 Gulf War, including thousands of Iraqis repatriated under ICRC auspices in recent years, often required certificates of detention to facilitate their reintegration and to enable them to benefit from State allowances. The authorities of the countries concerned were encouraged to issue such certificates to former detainees as standard practice. Whenever this was not possible, the ICRC continued to provide the necessary document.

- 20,373 certificates of detention issued to former detainees

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to detainees

The ICRC made regular visits to detained foreigners, mainly Iraqis, Palestinians and stateless persons who had no diplomatic representation in Kuwait as a result of the 1990–91 conflict, held in central prisons and deportation centres. Delegates checked on their treatment and living conditions and offered them the opportunity to restore or maintain contact with their families abroad by means of RCMs.

A presentation on the ICRC's role, and specifically its work in places of detention, was given to staff at the central prison for men and women in Kuwait.

Visits were also made to detainees in Qatar imprisoned in connection with the failed coup d'état in 1996. In addition, the ICRC regularly visited two Russian nationals arrested and sentenced for the assassination of a Chechen leader living in Qatar until their transfer to Russia.

A number of Iraqi nationals were repatriated under ICRC auspices after being released from detention in Kuwait and subsequently interviewed by the ICRC to ensure that their return was voluntary.

- 35 visits made to 98 detainees in 3 places of detention in Kuwait
- 5 visits made to 31 detainees in 3 places of detention in Qatar
- 45 former Iraqi detainees repatriated from Kuwait under ICRC auspices

AUTHORITIES

Governments of the Gulf States were urged to adhere to IHL treaties to which they were not yet party and to incorporate into national legislation those they had already ratified. In order to accelerate this process, they were also encouraged to create national committees for the implementation of IHL and to actively promote and implement the Agenda for Humanitarian Action adopted by the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

In April the ICRC president visited Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE, where he met the leaders and senior government officials and senior officials/members of the National Societies. Discussions focused on the main challenges currently facing the ICRC in its humanitarian work in various parts of the world and the relevance of IHL in these contexts.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

ICRC experts in the application of IHL during armed conflicts carried out several missions to Gulf countries to discuss with the military authorities further steps to integrate IHL into theoretical and practical training programmes for the armed forces. To this end, seminars on IHL were held for senior officers of the armed forces in Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman.

An IHL unit was established under the International Organizations Department of the Kuwaiti Authority of Military Judgment to oversee the IHL implementation process.

- more than 150 senior officers of the armed forces of Bahrain, Kuwait and Oman attended ICRC workshops on IHL
- 15 military officers from Oman, Saudi Arabia and the UAE participated in a course at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy

CIVIL SOCIETY

In coordination with the Red Crescent Societies, exploratory meetings were held with Ministry of Education officials in several Gulf countries to promote the introduction of the ICRC's Exploring Humanitarian Law education programme in secondary schools and the teaching of IHL as a separate subject in universities.

Representatives of the Education Ministries and the Red Crescent Societies of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE participated in the third regional seminar on the implementation of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme held in Cairo in November–December (see *Egypt*). In the UAE and Bahrain, further steps were taken to incorporate the Exploring Humanitarian Law modules into school curricula.

In August university lecturers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE participated in a second regional seminar on IHL organized by the ICRC in Amman (see *Syria*). In September three of their Saudi counterparts attended an ICRC conference in Islamabad on the compatibility of IHL and Islam.

The deans of the law and political science faculties in Kuwait and Bahrain agreed to integrate regular presentations on the ICRC and the basic provisions of IHL into their curricula. In Qatar, these topics were already being taught at university. In addition, the ICRC gave presentations on IHL for students at the University of Kuwait.

Seminars on IHL were organized at the Kuwait Institute for Legal and Judicial Studies for judges, public prosecutors, university professors and government officials. The official signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ICRC and the Institute in 2004 opened the way for the organization of a first regional course on IHL in Kuwait for Arab judges and prosecutors to be held in March 2005, as well as for local courses for national judges and prosecutors.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The ICRC delegation cooperated actively with the region's National Societies to share information and prepare their possible involvement/cooperation in ICRC relief operations in Iraq, Darfur (Sudan) and the Palestinian territories, as well as for victims of the tsunami disaster in Aceh (Indonesia) and Sri Lanka. This closer partnership was provided for in the Seville Agreement and was pursued in accordance with the statutes and Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC also encouraged National Societies to play a more prominent role in spreading knowledge and understanding of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. In coordination with the region's Red Crescent Societies, the ICRC continued to relay RCMs between families living in Gulf States and their detained/interned relatives abroad, mainly at Guantanamo Bay and in Iraq.

The ICRC and the Red Crescent Societies of Bahrain and the UAE held discussions with the Ministries of Education on the integration of the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into secondary-school curricula (see *Authorities*).



ICRC regional delegation

tunis

The Tunis regional delegation, in operation since 1987, focuses on the humanitarian issues arising from the aftermath of the Western Sahara conflict. It also concentrates on promoting knowledge of IHL, its national implementation and its integration into school and university curricula and the training programmes of the armed forces in Maghreb countries. The region's National Societies are essential partners in this process.

COVERING

Libya, Mauritania, Morocco/Western Sahara, Tunisia

EXPENDITURE IN CHF

Protection

777,164

Assistance

-

Preventive action

802,263

Cooperation with National Societies

455,904

General

-

► **2,035,331**

of which: Overheads **124,222**

PERSONNEL

3 expatriates

11 national staff

KEY POINTS IN 2004

- 200 Moroccan prisoners released by the Polisario Front were repatriated under ICRC auspices.
- The ICRC visited Moroccan prisoners still detained by the Polisario Front to monitor their treatment and living conditions.
- The RCM service enabled Moroccan prisoners still held by the Polisario Front and their families in Morocco, as well as families in the region and relatives interned/detained abroad, to keep in contact.
- The ICRC continued its work to clarify the fate of combatants unaccounted for since the end of the Western Sahara conflict in 1991.
- Training and financial support was provided for the introduction of the Exploring Humanitarian Law education programme in secondary schools in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.
- Progress was made towards the integration of IHL into the training programmes of the armed forces in the region.

CONTEXT

Negotiations led by the United Nations (UN) on the future status of the Western Sahara remained deadlocked more than 13 years after the end of the conflict over the disputed territory between Morocco and the Polisario Front. In October the UN Security Council extended the mandate of peace-keeping troops in the Western Sahara until 30 April 2005. UN forces had been stationed in the territory to police the ceasefire that ended the Western Sahara conflict in 1991.

A total of 200 Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front in connection with the conflict were released and repatriated during the year under ICRC auspices. However, another 412 remained in captivity.

Tunisia hosted a summit of Arab leaders in May to discuss initiatives aimed at restoring peace and stability to the region. Tunisian President Ben Ali won a further term of office in elections held in October. In June interior ministers from western Mediterranean countries met in Tunis to discuss measures to combat terrorism, organized crime, and illegal migration from African countries to Western Europe. Illegal migration was also the topic under discussion at a meeting in Algiers in September attended by government officials from the five countries of the Maghreb and five southern European countries.

Moroccan security forces continued to arrest members of militant Islamic groups, including people suspected of involvement in the bomb attacks in Casablanca in May 2003. Arrests were also made in Mauritania in connection with several failed coup attempts by rebel military officers.

In February more than 500 people were killed and many more injured in a powerful earthquake that struck north-eastern Morocco.

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC carried out visits to Moroccan prisoners still held by the Polisario Front in connection with the Western Sahara conflict in order to assess their living conditions and treatment and to enable them to maintain links with their families through the Red Cross message (RCM) service. Medical and dental care was provided whenever required. Direct contact was maintained with the families of the prisoners to keep them informed of their relatives' welfare and any developments regarding their continued detention.

Consultations were held with the Moroccan authorities and the Polisario Front to ascertain the fate of combatants on both sides who went missing during the Western Sahara conflict.

Through ongoing discussions, the ICRC and the authorities in Tunisia explored the possibility of the ICRC starting visits to places of detention there.

The ICRC worked with the National Societies of the region to restore links between families in North African countries and relatives interned/detained abroad or present in countries affected by armed conflict or violence.

Governments in the region were encouraged to adhere to international humanitarian law (IHL) instruments to which they were not yet party and to incorporate into national legislation those they had already ratified. Countries that had not already done so were also urged to establish national committees for the implementation of IHL to facilitate and accelerate this process.

CIVILIANS

Restoring family links

Through the ICRC's tracing and RCM service, families in North African countries were able to maintain contact with relatives detained/interned abroad or located in countries where communications were disrupted by armed conflict or violence.

- 320 RCMs relayed

Tracing the missing

The ICRC pursued its dialogue with the relevant authorities with a view to clarifying the fate or whereabouts of combatants still missing from the time of the Western Sahara conflict and communicated any

information obtained to the families concerned. As part of this process, the ICRC held talks with associations of families of persons unaccounted for in connection with the conflict.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Visits to Moroccan prisoners

ICRC delegates continued to visit Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front in connection with the Western Sahara conflict in order to assess their treatment and living conditions. Prisoners received medical and dental care during the visits. The ICRC also distributed food and hygiene products to the prisoners, as well as RCMs and parcels from their families.

Two hundred Moroccan prisoners were released by the Polisario Front in 2004 and repatriated under ICRC auspices. A first group of 100 prisoners was released in February following mediation by the authorities of Qatar and 100 more were released in June following mediation by the Irish government.

ICRC delegates, including doctors, interviewed the prisoners in private beforehand in order to ensure that they were being repatriated of their own free will. They also provided medical care where needed throughout the repatriation operations.

Between 14 and 26 January 2004, as part of its efforts to help Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front to maintain links with their families, an ICRC delegate met the families of 130 of the prisoners still in captivity and some 50 former prisoners who had been repatriated by the ICRC. Organized in cooperation with the Moroccan Red Crescent, the Gendarmerie Royale, army social services and various local authorities, the meetings aimed to comfort the families by bringing them news of their detained relatives. RCMs were collected from the families to take back to the prisoners.

- 200 Moroccan prisoners released by the Polisario Front repatriated under ICRC auspices
- 2,505 RCMs relayed between Moroccan prisoners held by the Polisario Front and their families in Morocco

AUTHORITIES

The ICRC continued to support the creation of national IHL committees in North African countries and encouraged them to adhere to IHL instruments to which they were not yet party and to enact implementing legislation for those already ratified.

Legal experts representing the Ministries of Justice and national IHL committees in the Arab world gathered in Rabat in December to attend a seminar on the legislative aspects of the implementation of IHL organized by the ICRC in conjunction with the League of Arab States and the Moroccan Ministry of Justice.

A seminar on IHL was also held for members of the Moroccan IHL committee. Following a government reshuffle in June, the committee was placed under the authority of the Ministry of Justice.

The ICRC maintained a dialogue with the authorities in Tunisia with a view to starting detention visits there.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

Efforts were pursued to integrate IHL into the training programmes of the armed forces of North African countries and to develop suitable teaching materials.

In March the ICRC gave a first presentation for trainee officers at the Royal College for Advanced Military Training in Morocco on the ICRC, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the provisions of IHL related to the conduct of armed forces. In view of its success, the ICRC was invited by the college director to give similar presentations in March each year for senior military staff.

From 18 to 27 February a seminar and a training course on IHL were held for officers and military instructors of the Moroccan armed forces. Similar seminars were organized for instructors of the Tunisian armed forces.

- 67 officers and instructors of the Moroccan and Tunisian armed forces attended seminars on IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities

CIVIL SOCIETY

The ICRC made headway in incorporating its Exploring Humanitarian Law programme into school curricula in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. Cooperation agreements to this effect had already been signed with the education authorities in Mauritania and Morocco, and the conclusion of a similar accord was expected to be finalized with the Tunisian Ministry of Education after a pilot project had been successfully carried out. The Libyan education authorities also expressed interest in the programme.

Workshops on the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme were conducted for school-teachers and inspectors in Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The modules were incorporated into schoolbooks for various disciplines (Arabic, civic education, history and geography).

In Morocco, 12 teacher-trainers and 430 teachers were trained in the Exploring Humanitarian Law programme in hundreds of schools across the country. A trial run of the programme in Tunisia was extended to schools in two more regions after the success of the first pilot project in Kebili, and Exploring Humanitarian Law clubs were set up by students and teachers in various Tunisian schools. In Mauritania, a meeting was held in October with the two institutions in charge of school textbooks and curriculum development in order to facilitate the integration of the programme into the selected subjects.

In Libya, meetings were held with the dean of the law faculty in Benghazi and with professors of the law faculty in El-Beidha to raise awareness of the importance of teaching IHL at university level. Presentations on IHL were also given at both faculties.

The ICRC developed contacts with the media in the region to promote understanding and acceptance of IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities. A presentation on the current challenges facing the ICRC and the application of IHL was given in January for students at the Press and Information Sciences Institute in Tunis.

The seventh issue of the ICRC magazine *L'Humanitaire Maghreb* was published in June and widely distributed in political and civil society circles, as well as among National Societies and IHL implementation bodies.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

ICRC cooperation work focused on helping the Red Crescent Societies in North African countries to develop their activities in accordance with the Fundamental Principles. Workshops on IHL were held for National Society staff and volunteers throughout the region, and a seminar on emergency response was organized for Moroccan Red Crescent staff.

The Moroccan Red Crescent was swift to respond to emergency needs following the powerful earthquake that struck north-eastern Morocco in February. More than 300 relief workers and medical staff were mobilized, and a tent camp was set up for over 1,200 people made homeless by the disaster. Red Crescent volunteers distributed essential supplies in the earthquake zone.

STATISTICS



PROTECTION STATISTICS

| | WORLD | AFRICA | ASIA & THE PACIFIC | EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA |
|---|---------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM | | | | | |
| All categories/all statuses | | | | | |
| Detainees visited | 571,503 | 239,561 | 233,330 | 34,173 | 64,439 |
| Detainees visited and monitored individually | 123,659 | 81,230 | 13,281 | 10,281 | 18,867 |
| Detainees newly registered in 2004 | 29,076 | 4,242 | 7,379 | 4,126 | 13,329 |
| Detainees released | 29,003 | 3,329 | 5,025 | 3,053 | 17,596 |
| Number of visits carried out | 6,077 | 2,387 | 1,655 | 1,111 | 924 |
| Number of places of detention visited | 2,435 | 969 | 781 | 495 | 190 |
| Number of detainees who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme | 12,380 | 1,470 | 1,395 | 2,812 | 6,703 |
| Women | | | | | |
| Women detainees visited and monitored individually | 3,808 | 2,150 | 776 | 696 | 186 |
| Women detainees newly registered in 2004 | 1,057 | 102 | 572 | 269 | 114 |
| Women detainees released | 698 | 141 | 261 | 215 | 81 |
| Number of women who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme | 286 | 25 | 40 | 116 | 105 |
| Minors | | | | | |
| Detained minors visited and monitored individually | 3,073 | 462 | 1,704 | 49 | 858 |
| Detained minors newly registered in 2004 | 2,315 | 312 | 1,244 | 31 | 728 |
| Detained minors released | 1,202 | 176 | 530 | 15 | 481 |
| Detained minors who benefited from the ICRC's family visits programme | 290 | 3 | 128 | 0 | 159 |
| International armed conflict (Third Geneva Convention) | | | | | |
| Prisoners of war (POWs) visited | 964 | 29 | 0 | 416 | 519 |
| POWs newly registered in 2004 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| POWs released | 409 | 0 | 0 | 97 | 312 |
| of whom repatriated by/via the ICRC | 278 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 277 |
| Number of visits carried out | 39 | 4 | 0 | 12 | 23 |
| Number of places visited | 15 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 10 |
| International armed conflict (Fourth Geneva Convention) | | | | | |
| Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited | 12,700 | 56 | 0 | 1 | 12,643 |
| CIs and others newly registered in 2004 | 8,480 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 8,479 |
| CIs and others released | 14,679 | 79 | 0 | 1 | 14,599 |
| of whom repatriated or transferred by/via the ICRC | 90 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 73 |
| Number of visits carried out | 428 | 32 | 0 | 1 | 395 |
| Number of places visited | 56 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 47 |
| RESTORING FAMILY LINKS | | | | | |
| Red Cross messages (RCMs) | | | | | |
| RCMs collected | 749,867 | 666,705 | 36,283 | 8,923 | 37,956 |
| of which from detainees | 79,497 | 30,321 | 23,710 | 3,065 | 22,401 |
| of which from unaccompanied minors/separated children | 7,989 | 7,967 | 10 | 9 | 3 |
| of which from civilians | 662,381 | 628,417 | 12,563 | 5,849 | 15,552 |
| RCMs distributed | 612,491 | 532,591 | 27,758 | 8,659 | 43,483 |
| of which to detainees | 66,905 | 23,405 | 13,589 | 2,832 | 27,079 |
| of which to unaccompanied minors/separated children | 4,907 | 4,840 | 60 | 4 | 3 |
| of which to civilians | 540,679 | 504,346 | 14,109 | 5,823 | 16,401 |
| RCMs not distributed (back to sender) | 49,993 | 44,902 | 2,071 | 260 | 2,760 |
| Other means of family contact | | | | | |
| Telephone calls made to relatives (by satellite or cellular phone) | 6,244 | 1,383 | 0 | 390 | 4,471 |
| Names published in the media | 22,564 | 21,962 | 4 | 598 | 0 |
| Names published on the ICRC website | 40,567 | 16,718 | 0 | 23,846 | 3 |

| | WORLD | AFRICA | ASIA & THE PACIFIC | EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA |
|---|---------|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Reunification, transfers and repatriations | | | | | |
| People reunited with their families | 2,784 | 2,770 | 1 | 13 | 0 |
| Civilians transferred | 2,672 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 2,661 |
| Human remains transferred | 106 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 104 |
| Civilians repatriated | 848 | 819 | 0 | 0 | 29 |
| Human remains repatriated | 64 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64 |
| Tracing requests | | | | | |
| People for whom a tracing request was newly registered | 18,566 | 14,272 | 2,267 | 1,311 | 716 |
| who were women | 5,734 | 4,914 | 397 | 255 | 168 |
| who were minors at the time of disappearance | 3,429 | 2,886 | 357 | 75 | 111 |
| Tracing requests closed positively (person located) | 6,166 | 1,881 | 1,572 | 2,266 | 447 |
| Tracing requests closed negatively (person not located) | 5,236 | 2,233 | 917 | 1,907 | 179 |
| Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2004 | 65,966 | 26,044 | 9,555 | 26,438 | 3,929 |
| of which for women | 12,037 | 8,317 | 906 | 2,613 | 201 |
| of which for minors at the time of disappearance | 6,859 | 3,867 | 1,399 | 1,361 | 232 |
| Missing persons | | | | | |
| Cases of missing persons newly opened | 1,545 | 57 | 265 | 1,223 | 0 |
| who were women | 264 | 0 | 30 | 234 | 0 |
| who were minors when reported missing | 116 | 4 | 52 | 60 | 0 |
| Cases of missing persons closed positively | 2,857 | 17 | 442 | 2,193 | 205 |
| Cases of missing persons closed negatively | 1,940 | 3 | 188 | 1,749 | 0 |
| Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December 2004 | 36,956 | 554 | 8,068 | 26,318 | 2,016 |
| of whom women | 3,234 | 0 | 623 | 2,598 | 13 |
| of whom minors at the time of disappearance | 2,581 | 41 | 1,143 | 1,351 | 46 |
| Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs) | | | | | |
| UAMs/SCs newly registered | 4,480 | 4,475 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| by the ICRC | 4,426 | 4,421 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| UAMs/SCs reunited with their families | 2,564 | 2,556 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| by the ICRC | 1,915 | 1,914 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2004 | 6,264 | 6,244 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers (2) | | | | | |
| Demobilized child soldiers newly registered | 1,274 | 1,246 | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| by the ICRC | 1,221 | 1,221 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families | 1,139 | 1,132 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| by the ICRC | 810 | 810 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cases of demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December 2004 | 590 | 566 | 24 | 0 | 0 |
| DOCUMENTS ISSUED | | | | | |
| People to whom travel documents were issued | 9,695 | 1,157 | 579 | 371 | 7,588 |
| People to whom a detention attestation was issued | 39,743 | 1,072 | 325 | 616 | 37,730 |
| Other attestations issued | 1,077 | 38 | 22 | 565 | 452 |
| Documents transmitted/transferred | 3,753 | 166 | 11 | 9 | 3,567 |
| PERSONS SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD | | | | | |
| People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices | 576,663 | 99,948 | 29,666 | 32,311 | 414,738 |

- 1) Figures for missing persons are included in the figures for tracing requests above.
- 2) Figures for unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers are included in the figures for unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs) above.

PROTECTION STATISTICS– CLARIFICATION AND DEFINITIONS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees visited

During the period under consideration, the number of detainees visited, whether monitored individually or otherwise; includes detainees seen and registered for the first time, those registered previously and visited again, and groups having received aid collectively without being registered individually.

Detainees visited and monitored individually

Number of detainees visited and monitored individually, i.e. those seen for the first time and registered, and those registered previously and visited again, during the period under consideration.

Detainees newly registered in 2004

Number of detainees visited for the first time since their arrest and registered during the period under consideration.

Detainees released

Number of detainees released as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

Number of visits carried out

Number of visits made, including those to places found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

Number of places of detention visited

Number of places of detention visited, including places that were found empty when visited, during the period under consideration.

Number of detainees benefiting from the ICRC's family visits programme

Number of detainees who were visited by a relative via an ICRC-organized or -financed visit during the period under consideration.

INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT (THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION)

Prisoners of war (POWs) visited

Number of POWs visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

POWs newly registered in 2004

Number of POWs visited for the first time since capture, and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

POWs released during 2004

Number of POWs released during the period under consideration.

POWs repatriated by/via the ICRC

Number of POWs released and repatriated by/via the ICRC during the period under consideration.

Number of visits carried out

Number of visits to POWs carried out during the period under consideration.

Number of places visited

Number of places, holding or having held POWs, visited during the period under consideration.

INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT (FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION)

Civilian internees (CIs) and others visited

Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

CIs and others newly registered in 2004

Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were visited for the first time since the start of their internment and monitored individually during the period under consideration.

CIs and others released

Number of CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention who were released, as per information received from various sources, including those transferred or repatriated by the ICRC upon release, during the period under consideration.

Number of visits carried out

Number of visits carried out to places holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention during the period under consideration.

Number of places visited

Number of places, holding or having held CIs and other persons protected by the Fourth Geneva Convention, visited during the period under consideration.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

RED CROSS MESSAGES (RCMS)

RCMs collected

Number of RCMs collected regardless of the destination of the RCM during the period under consideration.

RCMs distributed

Number of RCMs distributed, regardless of the origin of the RCM during the period under consideration.

RCMs not distributed and sent back to sender

Number of RCMs which were impossible to distribute – either because the addressee could not be located or because the addressee refused to accept the RCM (for whatever reason) – and sent back to sender during the period under consideration.

REUNIFICATION, TRANSFERS AND REPATRIATION

People reunited with their families

Number of people reunited with their families under the auspices of the ICRC during the period under consideration.

Civilians transferred / human remains transferred

Number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, or human remains transferred by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

Civilians repatriated / human remains repatriated

Number of civilians, not counting those in a context of detention, or human remains repatriated by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

TRACING REQUESTS¹

People for whom a tracing request has been newly registered

Number of people for whom a tracing request was initiated during the period under consideration – e.g. because there has been no news of them, were not located by RCM, were sought by their families, were presumed to have been arrested and/or detained – and for whom the ICRC is going to take steps to locate them or clarify their fate.

Tracing requests closed positively

Number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and, during the period under consideration, were located or whose fate was established (closed positively).

Tracing requests closed negatively

Number of people for whom a tracing request had been initiated and, during the period under consideration, were not located or whose fate was not established and for whom the ICRC has exhausted its tracing possibilities (closed negatively).

Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December

Number of tracing requests still open and pending at the end of the period under consideration at 31 December.

MISSING PERSONS

Cases of missing persons newly opened

Number of people for whom a missing person file was opened during the period under consideration.

Cases of missing persons closed positively

Number of people whose case has been resolved (closed positively), i.e. people who have been located or confirmed deceased, during the period under consideration.

Cases of missing persons closed negatively

Number of people whose cases have not been resolved, and for whom the ICRC has decided not to pursue enquiries (closed negatively), during the period under consideration.

Cases of missing persons still being handled at 31 December

Number of people whose cases are still open (pending) at the end of the period under consideration.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (UAMS)²/SEPARATED CHILDREN (SCS)³/DEMobilized CHILD SOLDIERS

UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers newly registered

Number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers registered by the ICRC or by another organization and the data of which are centralized by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their family

Number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration.

Cases of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers still being handled at 31 December

Number of UAMs/SCs/demobilized child soldiers whose cases were opened but who have not yet been reunited by the ICRC or by another organization during the period under consideration; these include cases concerning either children whose parents are being sought, or children whose parents have been found but with whom they have not yet been reunited.

DOCUMENTS ISSUED

People to whom travel documents were issued

Number of beneficiaries of travel documents issued by the ICRC during the period under consideration.

People to whom a detention attestation was issued

Number of people who received a certificate testifying to their detention according to ICRC records of visits, during the period under consideration.

Other attestations issued

Number of attestations – not related to detention – issued during the period under consideration.

Documents transmitted/transferred

Number of documents – e.g. passport, power of attorney, death certificate, birth certificate, marriage certificate, and ICRC certificates such as house destruction certificates, tracing requests (other than detention certificates) – forwarded or transmitted during the period under consideration.

PEOPLE SOLICITING ICRC OFFICES IN THE FIELD

People who visited or telephoned ICRC offices

Number of people who contacted an ICRC office in the field, either in person or by telephone, during the period under consideration.

- 1) All cases regarding people being sought on the basis of information received by the ICRC as to people whose fate is not known either to their families or the ICRC and for whom the ICRC is going to undertake some kind of action to clarify their fate or to confirm their alleged fate; these can include allegations of arrest and co-detention, and tracing requests collected following unsuccessful attempts to restore family links by other means.
- 2) Child under 18 or under legal age of majority separated from both parents and from all other relatives and not being cared for by an adult who, by law or custom, is responsible for doing so.
- 3) Child under 18 or under legal age of majority who is separated from both parents or from his/her previous legal caregiver but is accompanied by another adult relative.

ASSISTANCE STATISTICS

| | WORLD | AFRICA | ASIA & THE PACIFIC | EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| STATISTICS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY (Number of beneficiaries) | | | | | |
| Internally displaced people | | | | | |
| Food | 554,453 | 356,742 | 258 | 164,039 | 33,414 |
| Essential household items | 1,248,415 | 1,021,115 | 12,246 | 171,536 | 43,518 |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 198,294 | 136,948 | - | 61,346 | - |
| Residents | | | | | |
| Food | 629,994 | 166,813 | 363,093 | 74,046 | 26,042 |
| Essential household items | 828,420 | 600,413 | 120,831 | 81,545 | 25,631 |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 922,023 | 918,367 | 2,650 | 1,006 | - |
| Refugees and returnees | | | | | |
| Food | 498 | - | - | - | 498 |
| Essential household items | 8,480 | 8,000 | - | - | 480 |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | - | - | - | - | - |
| Detainees | | | | | |
| Food | 140,083 | 135,376 | 4,600 | 107 | - |
| Essential household items | 154,484 | 116,250 | 30,627 | 607 | 7,000 |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 1,100 | 1,100 | - | - | - |
| Total all target populations | | | | | |
| Food | 1,325,028 | 658,931 | 367,951 | 238,192 | 59,954 |
| Essential household items | 2,239,799 | 1,745,778 | 163,704 | 253,688 | 76,629 |
| Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives | 1,121,417 | 1,056,415 | 2,650 | 62,352 | - |
| STATISTICS FOR WATER AND HABITAT (Number of beneficiaries) | | | | | |
| Internally displace people | | | | | |
| Water supply schemes and sanitation systems | 790,000 | 440,000 | - | - | 350,000 |
| Habitat structures | 229,000 | 229,000 | - | - | - |
| Residents | | | | | |
| Water supply schemes and sanitation systems | 16,312,000 | 9,781,500 | 410,500 | 130,000 | 5,990,000 |
| Habitat structures | 53,000 | 20,500 | 2,500 | 30,000 | - |
| Wounded and sick | | | | | |
| Water supply schemes and sanitation systems | 61,000 | 59,000 | - | 2,000 | - |
| Habitat structures | 1,722,000 | 588,000 | 35,000 | 99,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Detainees | | | | | |
| Water supply schemes and sanitation systems | 219,500 | 159,000 | 54,500 | 2,000 | 4,000 |
| Habitat structures | 15,500 | 7,000 | 7,500 | - | 1,000 |
| Total all target populations | | | | | |
| Water supply schemes and sanitation systems | 17,382,500 | 10,439,500 | 465,000 | 134,000 | 6,344,000 |
| Habitat structures | 2,019,500 | 844,500 | 45,000 | 129,000 | 1,001,000 |
| Total | 19,402,000 | 11,284,000 | 510,000 | 263,000 | 7,345,000 |

STATISTICS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH (Number of beneficiaries)**Health centres supported****Monthly average of health centres supported****200**

| | |
|---|-----|
| Africa | 149 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 22 |
| Europe and the Americas | 29 |
| Middle East and North Africa ¹ | |

Number of new health centres supported in 2004**30****Estimated population covered by these health centres (monthly average)****2,722,000****Activities**

AGE >15 AGE 5-15 AGE 0-5 TOTAL

Number of ante- and postnatal consultations**111,782**

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Africa | 111,103 |
| Asia and the Pacific | - |
| Europe and the Americas | 679 |

Number of immunization activities

107,188 14,014 433,942 555,144

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| Africa | 105,434 | 12,821 | 423,612 | 541,867 |
| Asia and the Pacific | - | - | 7,767 | 7,767 |
| Europe and the Americas | 1,754 | 1,193 | 2,563 | 5,510 |

Number of polio immunizations

4,165 499 176,419 181,083

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|---------|---------|
| Africa | 4,165 | 411 | 172,807 | 177,383 |
| Asia and the Pacific | - | - | 2,741 | 2,741 |
| Europe and the Americas | - | 88 | 871 | 959 |

Number of curative consultations**1,388,744**

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Africa | 850,735 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 44,248 |
| Europe and the Americas | 493,761 |

Number of cases referred from first- to second-line health**3,789**

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Africa | 3,223 |
| Asia and the Pacific | - |
| Europe and the Americas | 566 |

1) 7 Iraqi hospitals were supported on an ad hoc basis in 2004.

STATISTICS FOR HOSPITAL SUPPORT

Hospitals supported

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Monthly average of hospitals supported | 48 |
|---|-----------|

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| Africa | 13 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 16 |
| Europe and the Americas | 19 |
| Middle East and North Africa | - |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Number of new hospitals supported in 2004 | 22 |
|--|-----------|

Activities

Surgical

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Number of weapon-wounded admitted | 9,360 |
|--|--------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| Africa | 4,696 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 3,153 |
| Europe and the Americas | 1,511 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Number of mine injuries admitted | 1,216 |
|---|--------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Africa | 54 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 327 |
| Europe and the Americas | 835 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Number of surgical cases, non-weapon-wounded, admitted | 82,044 |
|---|---------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Africa | 15,963 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 43,909 |
| Europe and the Americas | 22,172 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Number of operations performed | 82,487 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Africa | 23,203 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 36,622 |
| Europe and the Americas | 22,662 |

Medical

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Number of medicine patients admitted | 49,851 |
|---|---------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Africa | 25,186 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 5,192 |
| Europe and the Americas | 19,473 |

Gynecological / obstetric

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Number of gynecology/obstetric patients admitted | 38,245 |
|---|---------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Africa | 12,365 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 2,788 |
| Europe and the Americas | 23,092 |

Outpatients

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Number of outpatients (OPD) treated | 503,503 |
|--|----------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| Africa | 215,255 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 285,041 |
| Europe and the Americas | 3,207 |

Paediatric

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Number of paediatric patients admitted | 74,860 |
|---|---------------|

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Africa | 59,893 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 3,305 |
| Europe and the Americas | 11,662 |

First-aid posts

| | |
|--|----------|
| Total number of first-aid posts supported in 2004 | 9 |
|--|----------|

| | WORLD | AFRICA | ASIA & THE PACIFIC | EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA |
|---|--------|--------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| STATISTICS FOR PHYSICAL REHABILITATION | | | | | |
| Activities | | | | | |
| Number of new patients fitted with prostheses (new to the ICRC) | 7,173 | 2,489 | 1,183 | 3,240 | 261 |
| Total number of prostheses delivered | 17,805 | 5,512 | 2,551 | 9,048 | 694 |
| Number of prostheses delivered to mine victims | 9,989 | 2,575 | 858 | 6,396 | 160 |
| Number of new patients fitted with orthoses (new to the ICRC) | 11,061 | 2,075 | 3,706 | 4,858 | 422 |
| Total number of orthoses delivered | 20,915 | 4,188 | 6,733 | 9,355 | 639 |
| Number of orthoses delivered to mine victims | 235 | 94 | 88 | 50 | 3 |
| Crutches and sticks delivered | 32,333 | 15,219 | 1,631 | 15,353 | 130 |
| Wheelchairs delivered | 1,671 | 369 | 64 | 1,238 | - |
| Components delivered to non-ICRC projects | | | | | |
| Artificial knees | 1,588 | | | | |
| Alignment systems | 4,802 | | | | |
| Orthotic knee joints (pairs) | 1,589 | | | | |

ASSISTANCE STATISTICS – EXPLANATIONS

STATISTICS FOR ECONOMIC SECURITY

Food: number of beneficiaries per population group assisted with one or more food commodities during the year.

Essential household items: number of beneficiaries per population group assisted with one or more essential household commodities during the year.

Agricultural and veterinary inputs and micro-economic initiatives: number of beneficiaries per population group assisted with one or more agricultural/veterinary inputs, micro-economic projects or cash during the year.

N.B. Food, essential household items, agricultural/veterinary and micro-economic assistance figures cannot be cumulated as some groups benefited from two or all three types of this aid.

STATISTICS FOR WATER AND HABITAT

Beneficiary: a person who has been assisted at least once during the year.

Beneficiaries are counted only for projects completed during the course of the year.

Beneficiaries are counted only once for recurrent projects such as water trucking or the regular supply of material (chlorine, spare parts, etc.). Given the close link between water and sanitation projects, it is not possible to differentiate between beneficiaries of the one or the other.

Water-supply schemes for all population groups comprise the following types of projects: the construction or repair of wells, boreholes, springs, dams and water-treatment plants.

Sanitation systems for all population groups comprise the following types of projects: the construction or repair of latrines, septic tanks and sewage plants, as well as vector control activities.

Habitat structures for internally displaced people (IDPs) and residents comprise the following types of projects: temporary settlements (shelters), site planning and house rehabilitation assistance.

Habitat structures for the wounded and sick comprise the following types of projects: the construction or repair of hospitals, health centres and physical rehabilitation centres.

Habitat structures for detainees comprise the following types of projects: the rehabilitation of prisons or detention centres, in particular kitchen facilities.

STATISTICS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

Monthly average number of health centres assisted: total number of first-line health services assisted during the year.

Number of immunization activities: number of doses delivered during the year.

Number of polio immunizations: included in total number of immunization activities.

STATISTICS FOR HOSPITAL SUPPORT

Monthly average number of hospitals: total number of second-line health services supported during the year.

Number of new hospitals supported in 2004: number of hospitals that were not already supported in 2003.

The number of hospitalized mine injury victims is included in the total number of admissions for weapon-wounded and non-weapon-wounded patients.

Number of operations performed: number of operations performed on weapon-wounded and non-weapon-wounded patients.

STATISTICS FOR PHYSICAL REHABILITATION

Number of new patients fitted with prostheses: includes all patients new to the ICRC who received prostheses within the year. They can either be patients fitted for the first time or patients who have already received prostheses from a centre not assisted by the ICRC.

Number of prostheses delivered to mine victims: represents the total number of prostheses delivered specifically to ERW and mine victims within the year and is included in the total number of prostheses delivered.

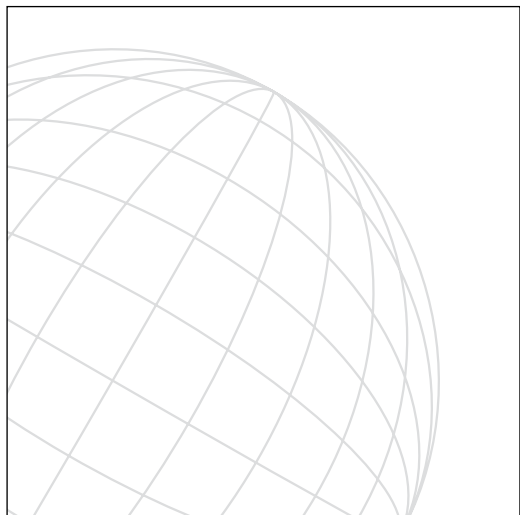
Number of new patients fitted with orthoses: includes all patients new to the ICRC who received orthoses within the year. They can either be patients fitted for the first time or patients who have already received orthoses from a centre not assisted by the ICRC.

Number of orthoses delivered to mine victims: represents the total number of orthoses delivered specifically to ERW and mine victims within the year and is included in the total number of orthoses delivered.

Components delivered to non-ICRC projects: only in Cambodia and Afghanistan where, in addition to providing fittings for its own centres, the ICRC also delivers components to other organizations producing orthoses and prostheses.

FINANCE





the financial year 2004

The ICRC's financial situation deteriorated in 2004, but in a controlled manner. Indeed, the net balance brought forward (Restricted reserve – Funding of field operations) went from an initial surplus of CHF 39.4 million, essentially for operations in Iraq, to a deficit of CHF 1.4 million.

EMERGENCY APPEALS

The initial budget for 2004 was for CHF 754.7 million, added to which were two budget extensions during the year for Haiti and Sudan, bringing the final budget to CHF 790.4 million. Total field expenditure amounted to CHF 675.9 million (compared with CHF 738.2 million in 2003), an implementation rate of 89.6% of the final budget, excluding contingency (CHF 35.9 million). The ICRC's largest operations in 2004 were conducted in Sudan (CHF 93 million), Iraq (CHF 44.7 million) and Afghanistan (CHF 42.6 million) in a constantly shifting political and security environment. Contributions to the field budget, along with other income, came to CHF 634.4 million in 2004. Thanks to the initial surplus of nearly CHF 40 million and to a significant volume of non-earmarked contributions, it was possible to limit the effects of the deficit.

HEADQUARTERS APPEAL

Despite the growing technical complexity of headquarters' support to field operations and a number of one-off infrastructure projects (security measures at headquarters, the introduction of a new IT strategy and the redistribution of IT tasks between the ICRC and subcontractors, the construction of a day-care centre and the temporary relocation of 70 work places to external premises), total headquarters expenditure (CHF 146.9 million) was below that budgeted (CHF 149.8 million) and represented a decrease over the preceding year (CHF 150.1 million). This trend can be attributed mainly to tight management of staff numbers at headquarters.

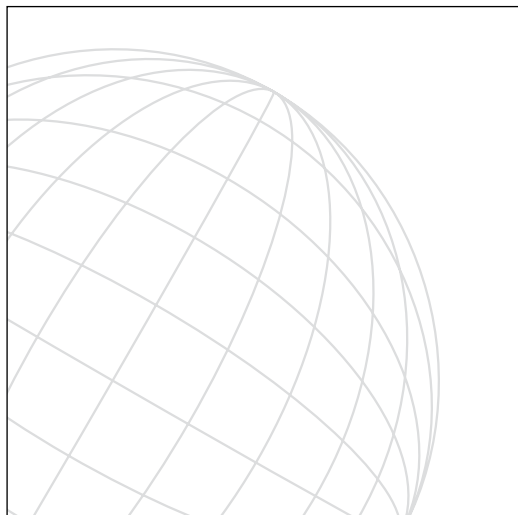
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

After consolidation of headquarters and field financial structures, as well as those of the ICRC Foundation and the Omar el Muktar and Clare R. Benedict funds, the overall deficit for operating activities stands at CHF 24.4 million, mainly owing to the field deficit in 2004. To that figure can be added the surplus in receipts of CHF 9 million for non-operating activities, making a deficit for the year of CHF 15.4 million before movements on reserves. This deficit has been offset by the movements on reserves taking account of cumulated funding, that is, the field deficit for 2004 funded by the restricted reserves, risks reserve (future operations funding reserve, self-insurance, exchange-rate fluctuations), future commitments reserve (the need to replace an old temporary building on the headquarters site with a new construction) and the reserve for special funds and foundations.

BALANCE SHEET

The total balance sheet shows a decrease of CHF 20.4 million. On the assets side, this movement is explained in a reduction of CHF 9.9 million in cash and cash equivalents held at headquarters and in the field, as well as a reduction in accounts receivable of CHF 14.2 million. Accounts receivable constitute promised contributions not yet disbursed at 31 December.

In terms of liabilities, it is important to draw attention to the reduction, under the heading "Restricted Reserves", of CHF 40.8 million for the funding of field operations. Conversely, unrestricted reserves have been increased by nearly CHF 24 million to enable the ICRC to meet the institution's future risks and commitments.



financial statements of the ICRC 2004

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1. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

(in Swiss francs ,000)

| ASSETS | Notes | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Current Assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5.3.1 | 184,417 | 194,359 |
| Securities | 5.3.2 | 52,329 | 50,036 |
| Accounts receivable and prepayments | 5.3.3 | 76,698 | 90,900 |
| Inventories | 5.3.4 | 18,821 | 20,208 |
| Total Current Assets | | 332,265 | 355,503 |
| Non-current Assets | | | |
| Property and equipment | 5.3.5 | 81,912 | 78,089 |
| Intangible assets | 5.3.5 | 5,257 | 6,303 |
| Other assets | 5.3.6 | 963 | 902 |
| Total Non-current Assets | | 88,132 | 85,294 |
| Total ASSETS | | 420,397 | 440,797 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts payable | 5.3.7 | 34,384 | 36,164 |
| Financial liabilities | 5.3.8 | 1,172 | 1,567 |
| Provisions | 5.3.9 | 354 | 1,886 |
| Employee benefit liabilities | 5.3.10 | 49,174 | 47,476 |
| Accrued expenses and prepaid contributions | 5.3.11 | 11,768 | 13,579 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 96,852 | 100,672 |
| Non-current Liabilities | | | |
| Financial liabilities | 5.3.7 | 17,178 | 17,947 |
| Employee benefit liabilities | 5.3.10 | 6,397 | 6,789 |
| Total Non-current Liabilities | | 23,575 | 24,736 |
| Total LIABILITIES | | 120,427 | 125,408 |
| Restricted Reserves | | | |
| Total Funds & Foundations | 5.4.6 | 11,987 | 10,630 |
| Funding of Field Operations | | | |
| | 5.3.12 | | |
| Field operations with temporary deficit financing | | -9,487 | -15,650 |
| Donor-restricted contributions | | 8,064 | 55,040 |
| Total Funding of Field Operations | | -1,423 | 39,390 |
| Total Restricted Reserves | | 10,564 | 50,020 |
| Unrestricted Reserves | | | |
| <i>Reserves designated by the Assembly</i> | 5.3.13 | | |
| Future operations | | 127,605 | 118,521 |
| Operational risks | | 25,000 | 19,590 |
| Assets replacement | | 99,351 | 90,315 |
| Financial risks | | 12,176 | 11,051 |
| Human resources | | 8,294 | 8,294 |
| Specific projects | | 2,580 | 3,198 |
| Total Designated Reserves | | 275,006 | 250,969 |
| Other Unrestricted Reserves | | | |
| General reserve | | 12,500 | 12,500 |
| Retained surplus at beginning of the year | | 1,900 | 1,900 |
| Total Other Unrestricted Reserves | | 14,400 | 14,400 |
| Total Unrestricted Reserves | | 289,406 | 265,369 |
| Total RESERVES | | 299,970 | 315,389 |
| Total LIABILITIES and RESERVES | | 420,397 | 440,797 |

2. STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

(in Swiss francs ,000)

| | Notes | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total CONTRIBUTIONS | 5.3.14 | 757,757 | 895,899 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURE | 5.3.15 | | |
| Staff-related costs | 5.3.10/16 | -386,956 | -390,333 |
| Mission costs | | -36,308 | -36,367 |
| Rentals | | -71,237 | -78,251 |
| Subcontracted maintenance | | -27,548 | -28,359 |
| Purchase of goods and materials | | -159,500 | -207,135 |
| General expenditure | 5.3.18 | -82,823 | -84,585 |
| Depreciation | | -17,814 | -19,710 |
| Total OPERATING EXPENDITURE | | -782,186 | -844,740 |
| NET RESULT OF OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | -24,429 | 51,159 |
| OTHER INCOME | | | |
| Contributed assets | | 959 | 1,476 |
| Financial income, net | 5.3.18 | 2,117 | 3,344 |
| Other | 5.3.19 | 16,946 | 15,092 |
| Total OTHER INCOME | | 20,022 | 19,912 |
| OTHER EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Foreign exchange loss, net | 5.3.18 | -6,452 | -1,187 |
| Impairment of assets | 5.3.5 | -239 | -411 |
| Other | 5.3.19 | -4,321 | -9,896 |
| Total OTHER EXPENDITURE | | -11,012 | -11,494 |
| NET RESULT OF NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | 9,010 | 8,418 |
| RESULT FOR THE YEAR before Transfers | | -15,419 | 59,577 |
| CHANGES TO RESERVES, NET | Table 4 | 16,776 | -58,240 |
| Change in Funds and Foundations | Table 4 | -1,357 | -1,337 |
| BALANCE after Changes | | 0 | 0 |

3. CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

(in Swiss francs ,000)

| | Notes | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|--------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash Flows from Operating Activities | | | |
| Result for the year before transfers | | -15,419 | 59,577 |
| <i>Adjustments for non-cash items:</i> | | | |
| Reclassification of other income and expenditure | | -1,500 | -1,579 |
| Depreciation of and impairment on assets | | 18,054 | 20,276 |
| Decrease in current and cash and cash equivalent provisions | | -1,863 | -966 |
| Transfers on assets | | -113 | -14 |
| (Gain) on securities, net | 5.3.18 | -237 | -1,424 |
| Gain from disposals of fixed assets, net | | -3,848 | -482 |
| Contributed assets | | -959 | -1,476 |
| Operating (deficit)/surplus before changes in working capital | | -5,885 | 73,912 |
| <i>Changes in working capital:</i> | | | |
| Decrease / (Increase) in accounts receivable and prepayments, net | | 14,107 | -23,595 |
| Decrease / (Increase) in inventories | | 1,094 | -3,132 |
| (Increase) in other assets | | -61 | -5 |
| (Decrease) / Increase in accounts payable and accrued expenses | | -1,893 | 567 |
| (Decrease) of long-term employee benefit liabilities | | -392 | - |
| Net Cash from Operating Activities | | 6,970 | 47,747 |
| Cash Flows from Investing Activities | | | |
| Acquisition of fixed assets | | -20,611 | -27,470 |
| Purchase of "securities at fair value" | | -15,851 | -12,753 |
| Proceeds from disposals of fixed assets | | 5,088 | 2,182 |
| Proceeds from sale of "securities at fair value" | | 13,795 | 13,317 |
| Interest received | 5.3.18 | 1,010 | 1,010 |
| Securities' income, net | 5.3.18 | 870 | 910 |
| Net Cash Used in Investing Activities | | -15,699 | -22,804 |
| Cash Flows from Financing Activities | | | |
| Interest paid | | -380 | -341 |
| Repayment of loan | 5.3.8 | -759 | -438 |
| Net Cash from Financing Activities | | -1,139 | -779 |
| NET (DECREASE) / INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS | | -9,868 | 24,164 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January | | 193,921 | 169,757 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December | 5.3.1 | 184,053 | 193,921 |

4. STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004

(in Swiss francs ,000)

| | Restricted | | Unrestricted | | Total |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| | Funds and foundations | Funding of field operations | Designated by the Assembly | Other unrestricted reserves | |
| Notes | 5.4.6 | 5.3.12 | 5.3.13 | | |
| Balance at 31 December 2002 | 9,293 | 48 | 232,071 | 14,400 | 255,812 |
| Net result of funds and foundations | 1,337 | | | | 1,337 |
| 2003 transfer to / from reserves | | | | | |
| Decrease of field operations with temporary deficit financing | | 4,010 | | | 4,010 |
| Increase in donor-restricted contributions for specific operations | | 35,332 | | | 35,332 |
| Use of reserves designated by the Assembly | | | -7,815 | | -7,815 |
| Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly | | | 26,713 | | 26,713 |
| Total, net | | | | | 58,240 |
| Balance after transfer | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December 2003 | 10,630 | 39,390 | 250,969 | 14,400 | 315,389 |
| Net result of funds and foundations | 1,357 | | | | 1,357 |
| 2004 transfer to / from reserves | | | | | |
| Decrease of field operations with temporary deficit financing | | 6,163 | | | 6,163 |
| Decrease in donor-restricted contributions for specific operations | | -46,976 | | | -46,976 |
| Use of reserves designated by the Assembly | | | -9,616 | | -9,616 |
| Allocation to reserves designated by the Assembly | | | 33,653 | | 33,653 |
| Total, net | | | | | -16,776 |
| Balance after transfer | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Balance at 31 December 2004 | 11,987 | -1,423 | 275,006 | 14,400 | 299,970 |

5. NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004

(In Swiss francs ,000)

5.1 ACTIVITIES

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 war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance.

It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It 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 International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. It is formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The ICRC is an independent humanitarian non-profit organization (NPO), domiciled in Switzerland and was granted observer status at the United Nations in October 1990.

The ICRC's principal tasks include :

- ▶ visits to prisoners of war and civilian detainees;
- ▶ the search for missing persons;
- ▶ transmission of messages between family members separated by conflict;
- ▶ reunification of dispersed families;
- ▶ provision of food, water and medical assistance to civilians without access to these basic necessities;
- ▶ spreading knowledge of humanitarian law;
- ▶ monitoring compliance with that law;
- ▶ drawing attention to violations and contributing to the development of humanitarian law;
- ▶ enhancing the capacity of National Societies to fulfil their own responsibilities as Red Cross and Red Crescent institutions providing humanitarian services in their own countries.

These financial statements of the ICRC for the year ended 31 December 2004 include activities of the Geneva headquarters, all ICRC delegations, three funds and one foundation.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 29 March 2005 for issue to the Assembly Council on 7 April 2005 and for approval to the Assembly on 28 April 2005.

5.2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

5.2.1 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and interpretations issued by the Standing Interpretations Committee (SIC) of the IASB, and are presented in accordance with the statutes of the ICRC and Swiss law.

Currently, IFRS do not contain specific guidelines for non-profit organizations (NPOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

concerning the accounting treatment and the presentation of the financial statements.

5.2.2 Basis of presentation

The financial statements are presented in Swiss francs, rounded to the nearest thousand.

They are prepared on the historical cost convention except that the following assets and liabilities are stated at their fair value: financial securities and derivative financial instruments. Recognized assets and liabilities that are hedged are stated at fair value in respect of the risk that is hedged.

Fair value is the amount for which a financial asset, liability or instrument could be exchanged between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

The preparation of the consolidated financial statements requires the management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. If in the future such estimates and assumptions, which are based on management's best judgment at the date of the financial statements, deviate from the actual circumstances, the original estimates and assumptions will be modified as appropriate in the year in which the circumstances change.

5.2.3 Basis of combination

SPECIAL FUNDS AND FOUNDATIONS

Regarding special funds and foundations, control exists when the ICRC has the power, directly or indirectly, to govern the financial and operating policies of a fund or foundation so as to obtain benefits from its activities. These special funds and foundations are combined from the date on which effective control is transferred.

Details on all funds and foundations are disclosed in note 5.4.6.

5.2.4 Change in accounting policy

In 2004 the limit for capitalizing intangible assets (software) was changed from CHF 500 to CHF 100 to better reflect the long term nature of assets. There was no material effect on 2003 as a result of this change. (see Note 5.2.12)

Consistent with changes in IAS 39, securities are now classified as *financial assets at fair value through profit and loss*. Previously the classification was *available for sale*, however the method of accounting by the ICRC has not changed, and thus there is no material effect on comparative figures. (see Note 5.2.9)

5.2.5 Foreign currency transactions

Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Swiss francs at the rate applicable at the year-end. Items of the statement of income and expenditure are converted at current exchange rates and any differences are included under other income and expenditure.

The principal rates of exchange are shown below:

| | Closing rate of exchange | | Average rate of exchange | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2004 | 2003 |
| USD | 1.1320 | 1.2370 | 1.2508 | 1.3496 |
| EUR | 1.5440 | 1.5590 | 1.5461 | 1.5151 |
| GBP | 2.1837 | 2.2081 | 2.2748 | 2.1982 |

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.2.6 Derivative financial instruments

The ICRC uses derivative financial instruments – forward foreign exchange contracts – to hedge its exposure to foreign exchange risks arising from financing and operational activities (for significant pledged contributions and expenditures). In accordance with its treasury policy, the ICRC does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivative financial instruments are stated at fair value. (see Note 5.2.7).

The fair value of forward exchange contracts is their market price at the balance sheet date.

5.2.7 Hedging

HEDGE OF CURRENCY RISK ON BALANCE SHEET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Where a derivative financial instrument hedges the variability in fair value of a recognized receivable or payable, any resultant gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. Further, accounts receivable are not hedged against accounts payable.

The hedged item also is stated at fair value in respect of the risk being hedged, with any gain or loss being recognized in the statement of income and expenditure.

The fair value of the hedged items, in respect of the risk being hedged, is their carrying amount at the balance sheet date translated to Swiss francs at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date.

5.2.8 Cash and cash equivalents

The ICRC considers cash on hand, amounts due from banks and short-term time deposits with banks to be cash and cash equivalents.

Bank borrowings that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the ICRC's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the statement of cash flows.

5.2.9 Securities

Securities are recorded as *financial assets at fair value through profit and loss*, and classified as current assets with any resultant gain or loss recognized in the statement of income and expenditure.

5.2.10 Accounts receivable

Receivables are stated at their cost net of a provision on the outstanding amounts to cover the risk on nonpayment (see Note 5.3.3).

The main positions of the receivables are recognized for:

- ▶ *Pledges*: at the moment of a written confirmation, except short and medium term pledges which are considered as contingent assets (see Note 5.2.21).
- ▶ *Re-invoiced costs*: at the moment when (i) the service or basic expenditure is fulfilled or (ii) the ownership of the asset is transferred.

The provision is made based upon a specific review of all significant outstanding positions. For those positions not specifically reviewed, the provision is made at differing rates, based upon the age of the receivable.

5.2.11 Inventories

Inventories held at the headquarters and at the principal regional distribution centre in Nairobi are considered as uncommitted stocks and are recorded at cost. The cost of inventories includes expenditure incurred in acquiring the inventories and bringing them to their existing location and condition.

Expenditure is recognized at the moment of the delivery or consumption of these stocks except for obsolete inventories which are written off.

Inventories held at other locations are considered as committed and are included in expenditure due to the nature of the ICRC operations.

The cost of inventories of perishable goods is based on the *first-expired first-out principle*.

The cost of other inventories is based on the *first-in first-out principle* except where goods have been specifically earmarked, in which case they are used first and therefore the costs of these items are specifically identified.

5.2.12 Property, equipment and intangibles

Assets are measured at their historical costs and are capitalized when (i) they are used for the ICRC and when (ii) the following limits are reached for individual asset amounts:

- ▶ Real estate all
- ▶ Equipment and vehicles CHF 10
- ▶ Software CHF 100*)

*) Licences for commercial software are considered as fully expensed during the year.

Contributed assets are accounted for using the same principles as for purchased assets (see Note 5.2.17).

SUBSEQUENT EXPENDITURE

Subsequent expenditure is capitalized only when it increases the future economic benefits embodied in the item of property and equipment.

All other expenditure is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an expense as incurred.

DEPRECIATION

Depreciation is calculated on the *straight line* method so as to depreciate the initial cost over the estimated useful lives, which are as follows:

| | in Switzerland | other countries |
|------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Real estate | 50 years | 10 years |
| Fixed installations | 10 years | 10 years |
| Equipment and vehicles | 5 – 8 years | 5 – 8 years |
| Hardware | 3 years | 3 years |
| Software | 5 years | 5 years |

FINANCE LEASE

Assets acquired under long term finance leases are capitalized and depreciated in accordance with the ICRC's policy on property, equipment and software. The associated obligations are included in financial liabilities.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.2.13 Impairment

The carrying amounts of the ICRC's assets, other than securities (see Note 5.2.9) and inventories (see Note 5.2.11), are reviewed at each balance sheet date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment.

An impairment loss is recognized whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is only reversed to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized.

5.2.14 Provisions

A provision is recognized in the balance sheet when the ICRC has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of assets will be required to settle the obligation.

If the effect is material, provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flow that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability.

5.2.15 Interest-bearing borrowings and loans

Interest-bearing borrowings and loans are recognized initially at fair value, less attributable transaction costs.

Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing loans are stated at amortized cost with any difference between cost and redemption value being recognized in the statement of income and expenditure over the period of the loan on an effective interest basis.

5.2.16 Reserves

FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS

Field operations with temporary deficit financing

This position relates to expenditures in the field which have not been financed by contributions received or pledged at 31 December 2004.

Donor-restricted contributions

Some contributions received by the ICRC are earmarked for specific usage. At the end of the financial year, any such funds which have not yet been spent are recorded under this heading. In case that the funds cannot be used, the ICRC either obtains agreement for a reallocation of those funds for a different usage or reimburses them to the donor in which case they are recognized as liability before the effective payment takes place.

RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE ASSEMBLY

Future operations reserve

This position contains the reserve for operational funding. The ideal amount of this reserve is estimated at two-and-a-half months of the field operational cash, kind and service expenditure over the last five years.

Operational risks reserve

This concerns reserves relating to insurance of equipment and to commercial disputes.

Assets reserve

The ICRC sets aside funds for capital expenditure on real estate and equipment, in order to be able to make investments, which are essential for its operations regardless of short-term financial fluctuations.

Financial risks reserve

This covers the risks of exchange rate and price fluctuations in securities.

Human resources reserves

This reserve is set aside to cover the exposure to future payments to management and staff under agreements for early retirements.

Specific projects reserves

Allocations for specific projects to be undertaken are made in anticipation of the events taking place; such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and studies concerning the red cross emblem.

5.2.17 Income

CONTRIBUTIONS

Pledges in cash are recognized on receipt of a written document from the donors, which relate to the current period.

Contributions that are based on contracts for specific projects (e.g. European Union, USAID, projects delegated to National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) are recognized as the expenditure is incurred.

The following contributions are recognized upon receipt of the cash collection:

- ▶ Private sources, associations and companies
- ▶ Legacies
- ▶ Gifts

Contributions in kind (goods or interests) and *in services* (in the form of staff, means of transport or rent) are recognized on the date of receipt of the goods or service and are reported as equal contributions and expenses in the income and expenditure statement.

Contributions in kind for fixed assets are recorded at fair value under other income. Depreciation of such assets is included in operational expenditure in the same manner as for purchased fixed assets.

The *value of contributions in kind* is determined by the donor's indication of the value of the goods, including the cost of transport to the final destination. The fair value may not be exceeded.

The *value of service contributions* in form of staff is estimated by determining the real cost that would have been incurred had the contribution not been made. In the case of staff seconded to the ICRC, the estimated value consists of the salary plus the social security and insurance contributions paid by the ICRC for the position concerned. From this value, all personnel costs paid by the ICRC directly to the concerned persons or its employer have been deducted to give the value of service recorded.

EARMARKING

Cash contributions restricted by donors not other than for general ICRC field operations are considered as *non-earmarked*.

Cash contributions to a given region, country or programme (worldwide) are seen as *loosely earmarked*.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

Contributions (in cash or in kind) to the programme or sub-programme of a country, project or goods are *tightly earmarked*.

The table below shows the overall framework for the earmarking level of cash contributions for the field budgets:

| Level of earmarking | Range/restrictions | Example |
|---------------------|--|---|
| none | overall ICRC field budget | <i>ICRC operations worldwide</i> |
| region | one of the five regions | <i>ICRC operations in Africa</i> |
| programme | one of the four programmes | <i>ICRC preventive action activities worldwide</i> |
| programme/region | one of the four programmes for one of the five regions | <i>ICRC protection activities in Asia and the Pacific</i> |
| operation | one of the worldwide delegations | <i>ICRC activities in Colombia</i> |

Donor-restricted contributions that exceed specific expenditure within the accounting year are carried forward to the following year (see Note 5.2.16).

In case that the ICRC meets an overfinancing due to earmarked contributions for a specific operation, the donor is asked if the contribution can be allocated to another operation or be carried forward to the following year. In case of overfinancing, the donor may also ask for a reimbursement of the donation.

5.2.18 Financial income and expenditure

The net financial result is comprised of interest payable on borrowings, interest receivable on funds invested, securities' income, foreign exchange gains and losses, and gains and losses on hedging instruments (see Note 5.2.7).

Interest income is recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as it accrues, taking into account the effective yield on the asset.

5.2.19 Employee benefits

For headquarters and expatriated employees pension obligations are covered by an independent foundation with a defined contribution plan. One third of the contributions are paid by the employees and two thirds by the ICRC.

DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

Contributions to the defined contribution pension plan are recognized as an expense in the statement of income and expenditure as incurred.

EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The ICRC has a plan, which proposes to a certain category of its staff working at headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva to have a pre-retirement at 57 instead of 62. This plan is revocable at any time.

The obligation to employees who presently benefit from this plan is shown under accrued expenses and prepaid contributions (see Note 5.3.11), discounted to its present value. The discount rate is the yield at balance sheet date on a 5 year Swiss government bond. It covers the period from the date of the ICRC retirement up to the date of Swiss legal retirement.

Allocations made towards the cost of future early retirements are included in the human resources reserve.

LOCAL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS

Personnel employed locally by the delegations receive social benefits in accordance with the legislation of the countries concerned and the local collective staff agreements.

AVENIR FOUNDATION

The AVENIR Foundation is an entity, established at the ICRC's initiative, for the benefit of staff working at the headquarters or in the field and hired in Geneva under an open-ended contract.

Its purpose is to facilitate training of professional skills, to facilitate career moves and to improve retirement benefits.

The ICRC pays fixed contributions to staff's individual accounts of the foundation depending on the length of their employment.

5.2.20 Expenditure

OPERATING LEASE PAYMENTS

Payments made under operating leases are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure as an integral part of the total lease payments made.

5.2.21 Contingent assets

The ICRC views the pledge of future donations (to be received in future financial years) as probably being receivable but given the operating environment, receipt is not virtually certain as defined in IAS 37. Consequently, the management has considered those receivables of a short and medium term nature as contingent assets which have not been accounted for in the balance sheet as at 31 December 2004. (see Note 5.4.7)

5.2.22 Presentation

Certain 2003 financial statement balances have been reclassified to conform to the presentation used in 2004.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.3 DETAILS RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

This section provides a breakdown of the main items on the balance sheet, the statement of income and expenditure, the cash flow statement and the statement of changes in reserves. All figures are in thousands of Swiss francs (CHF ,000) and represent a consolidation of the headquarters and field financial data.

5.3.1 Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Cash and bank accounts, net (1) (2) | 37,574 | 41,420 |
| Time deposits | 146,843 | 152,939 |
| Cash and bank balances | 184,417 | 194,359 |
| Bank overdrafts | -403 | -808 |
| Provisions adjustment (2) | 39 | 370 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 184,053 | 193,921 |

(1) Cash and bank accounts include balances with funds and foundations of CHF 844 (2003: CHF 1,167).

(2) Cash and bank accounts include a provision for non-reimbursement of foreign bank accounts, which needs to be excluded for the cash flow statement.

5.3.2 Securities

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Shares and bonds | 37,737 | 40,525 |
| Other financial assets | 14,592 | 9,511 |
| Total | 52,329 | 50,036 |

The securities include securities with funds and foundations of CHF 11,144 (2003: CHF 9,636).

5.3.3 Accounts receivable and prepayments

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Pledges | 64,270 | 80,857 |
| Re-invoiced costs commercial | 1,544 | 1,277 |
| National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds | 4,737 | 3,560 |
| Withholding taxes | 1,270 | 1,083 |
| Provision for accounts receivable | -4,470 | -4,730 |
| Total accounts receivable | 67,351 | 82,047 |
| Prepaid expenses | 5,669 | 5,624 |
| Social security and insurance contributions | 780 | 168 |
| Advance payments to suppliers | 73 | 228 |
| Advance payments to employees | 2,825 | 2,833 |
| Total prepayments | 9,347 | 8,853 |
| Total accounts receivable and prepayments | 76,698 | 90,900 |

The accounts receivable include withholding taxes with funds and the foundations of CHF 55 (2003: CHF 6).

5.3.4 Inventories

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Breakdown by category of goods: | | |
| Relief | 3,447 | 2,829 |
| Medical and orthopedic | 8,167 | 8,632 |
| Water and sanitation | 2,409 | 4,397 |
| Other | 4,798 | 4,350 |
| Total | 18,821 | 20,208 |

Obsolete goods of a total value of CHF 299 have been amortized in 2004 (2003: CHF 564).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.3.5 Property, equipment and intangible assets

| | Land and buildings | Equipment and vehicles | Total 2004 property & equipment | Total 2004 intangible - software |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Historical acquisition costs | | | | |
| Balance at 1 January 2004 | 57,794 | 120,345 | 178,139 | 23,171 |
| Additions | 5,653 | 13,846 | 19,499 | 2,184 |
| Disposals | -189 | -21,355 | -21,544 | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2004 | 63,258 | 112,836 | 176,094 | 25,355 |

| | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments | | | | |
| Balance at 1 January 2004 | -18,281 | -81,769 | -100,050 | -16,868 |
| Impairment losses | - | -133 | -133 | -106 |
| Depreciation charge for the year | -1,766 | -12,537 | -14,303 | -3,124 |
| Disposals | 2 | 20,302 | 20,304 | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2004 | -20,045 | -74,137 | -94,182 | -20,098 |
| Net book value as at 31 December 2004 | 43,213 | 38,699 | 81,912 | 5,257 |

| | Land and buildings | Equipment and vehicles | Total 2003 property & equipment | Total 2003 intangible - software |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Historical acquisition costs | | | | |
| Balance at 1 January 2003 | 56,179 | 111,577 | 167,756 | 20,350 |
| Additions | 1,615 | 24,510 | 26,125 | 2,821 |
| Disposals | - | -15,742 | -15,742 | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2003 | 57,794 | 120,345 | 178,139 | 23,171 |

| | | | | |
|---|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| Accumulated depreciation and value adjustments | | | | |
| Balance at 1 January 2003 | -16,745 | -81,613 | -98,358 | -12,852 |
| Impairment losses | - | -411 | -411 | - |
| Depreciation charge for the year | -1,536 | -13,801 | -15,337 | -4,016 |
| Disposals | - | 14,056 | 14,056 | - |
| Balance at 31 December 2003 | -18,281 | -81,769 | -100,050 | -16,868 |
| Net book value as at 31 December 2003 | 39,513 | 38,576 | 78,089 | 6,303 |

a. Work in progress

At 31 December 2004 assets include work in progress comprising CHF 458 for construction and renovation works for buildings (2003: CHF 1,756), CHF328 for equipment (2003: CHF 690) and CHF 2,823 software in development acquired externally or generated internally (2003: CHF 3,091).

b. Impairment loss

An assessment of the value attributed to assets caused the ICRC to write down the carrying amount by CHF 239 (2003: CHF 411).

c. Finance lease

Net equipment held under finance lease amount to CHF 1,472 at 31 December 2004 (2003: CHF 1,823).

d. Security: mortgage loan on property

At 31 December 2004 the headquarters building No.3 is subject to two mortgage notes of CHF 7,050 each to secure the interest-bearing mortgage loan (see Note 5.3.7).

e. Insurance value

The buildings owned and utilized by ICRC have a total insurance cover of CHF 104,729 (2003: CHF 105,386). The buildings that are in property of ICRC have an insurance value of CHF 69,967 (2003: CHF 69,902).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.3.6 Other assets

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--------------------|------------|------------|
| Guarantee deposits | 958 | 897 |
| Financial assets | 5 | 5 |
| Total | 963 | 902 |

5.3.7 Accounts payable

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Governments | 7,729 | 8,418 |
| National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds | 905 | 1,236 |
| Suppliers | 13,050 | 11,676 |
| Social security and insurance contributions | 12,627 | 14,696 |
| Sundry items | 73 | 138 |
| Total | 34,384 | 36,164 |

5.3.8 Financial liabilities

| Current financial liabilities | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Bank borrowings | 403 | 808 |
| Current portion of non-current financial liabilities | 769 | 759 |
| Total current financial liabilities | 1,172 | 1,567 |
| Non-current financial liabilities | 2004 | 2003 |
| Loans | | |
| Interest-bearing loan | 7,300 | 7,500 |
| Unsecured loan | 9,175 | 9,383 |
| Financial leases | | |
| Lease obligation | 1,472 | 1,823 |
| Total loans and financial leases | 17,947 | 18,706 |
| Current portion | -769 | -759 |
| Total non-current financial liabilities | 17,178 | 17,947 |

The fair value of non-current financial liabilities amounts to CHF 9,995.

| Terms and debt repayment schedule | Total | within 1 year | 2-5 years | more than 5 years |
|---|---------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Interest-bearing loan (effective rate)</i> | | | | |
| CHF – fixed at 4.43% | 7,300 | 200 | 800 | 6,300 |
| <i>Unsecured loan</i> | | | | |
| CHF – granted at 0% | 9,175 | 208 | 835 | 8,132 |
| Total | 16,475 | 408 | 1,635 | 14,432 |

The interest-bearing loan of CHF 7,300 (2003: CHF 7,500) relates to one building at the headquarters in Geneva. Interest amounted to CHF 333 in 2004 (2003: CHF 341).

The unsecured loan of initially CHF 9,800 is interest free, reimbursable during 47 years and has been granted for the training centre in Ecogia-Geneva, Switzerland. Notional interests for a contributed service of CHF 299 (2003: CHF 363) has been recorded as expenditure and as income at 3.19 % (2003: 3.78 %).

5.3.9 Provisions

CURRENT PROVISIONS

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|------------|--------------|
| for specific risks on contributions previously received | | |
| Balance at 1 January | 1,886 | 3,262 |
| Use of provisions during the year | -1,532 | -1,376 |
| Total | 354 | 1,886 |

The provision for specific risks on contributions previously received covers unsettled files of received contributions with a potential risk of reimbursement.

NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS

In 2004 there were no long term provisions (2003: nil)

5.3.10 Employee benefits

A. PERSONNEL PENSION PLAN

Under the defined contribution pension plan the ICRC paid CHF 29,959 (2003: CHF 29,245) to the pension fund.

The Pension Fund Board has by a signed agreement with the ICRC accepted the following:

1. The ICRC's level of contributions is fixed at 17% of the pensionable salary.
2. The ICRC will not be liable for any additional contributions if the fund does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits as defined in the pension fund regulations relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.
3. The ICRC will not be liable for any additional contributions if the fund does not maintain a 4% return on investment.
4. Any surplus will not be used to reduce employer contributions.

B. EARLY RETIREMENT BENEFITS

The future financial commitments due to early retirement benefits are borne by the ICRC and are included under "Employee benefits" – current liabilities in the amount of CHF 8,614 (2003: CHF 8,546) for accepted early retirements. The human resources reserve includes an accumulated allocation of CHF 4,094 (2003: CHF 4,094) towards the cost of future early retirements.

The obligation for early retirement is calculated on the basis of the following actuarial assumptions:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| Discount rate | 1.75 % | 1.96 % |
| Rate of pension increase | 0.85% | 0.86 % |

The discount rate is based on a 5-year yield Swiss government bond and the rate of pension increase on the average Swiss inflation rate for the last 10 years.

C. LOCAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

A provision for local employees benefits covers a plan for end of service indemnities (e.g. end of employment, retirement, severance pay). In 2004 allocations to the provision has been CHF 1,850 (2003: CHF 5,545), and withdraws of CHF 2,495 (2003: CHF 2,590).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

D. EXPENDITURE FOR TRAINING – AVENIR FOUNDATION

In 2004, the contribution to that foundation has been CHF 9,396 (2003: CHF 9,136) and an amount of CHF 5,782 (2003: CHF 4,028) for training purposes and professional integration outside of the ICRC and early retirements has been paid out.

In addition, the ICRC has recorded direct expenditure for professional training of its staff of CHF 1,460 (2003: CHF 2,031).

CURRENT EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Staff vacation accrual | 23,379 | 21,754 |
| Salaries due to employees | 2,842 | 2,585 |
| Early retirement | 8,614 | 8,546 |
| Local employee benefits | 20,736 | 21,380 |
| Non-current portion of current employee benefits | -6,397 | -6,789 |
| Total | 49,174 | 47,476 |

NON-CURRENT EMPLOYEE BENEFIT LIABILITIES

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Early retirement | 6,397 | 6,789 |
| Total | 6,397 | 6,789 |

5.3.11 Accrued expenses and prepaid contributions

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Accrued expenses | 7,895 | 7,717 |
| National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, organizations, foundations and funds | 1,884 | 2,524 |
| Prepaid contributions | 1,989 | 3,338 |
| Total | 11,768 | 13,579 |

5.3.13 Reserves designated by the Assembly

| | Future operations | Operational risks | Assets replacement | Financial risks | Human resources | Specific projects | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|
| Balance as at 31 December 2002 | 110,104 | 12,805 | 87,017 | 8,779 | 9,102 | 4,264 | 232,071 |
| Use/ release during 2003 | - | -1,615 | - | -1,473 | -1,808 | -2,919 | -7,815 |
| Allocations 2003 | 8,417 | 8,400 | 3,298 | 3,745 | 1,000 | 1,853 | 26,713 |
| Balance as at 31 December 2003 | 118,521 | 19,590 | 90,315 | 11,051 | 8,294 | 3,198 | 250,969 |
| Use/ release during 2004 | - | -401 | - | -4,251 | -2,401 | -2,563 | -9,616 |
| Allocations 2004 | 9,084 | 5,811 | 9,036 | 5,376 | 2,401 | 1,945 | 33,653 |
| Balance as at 31 December 2004 | 127,605 | 25,000 | 99,351 | 12,176 | 8,294 | 2,580 | 275,006 |

The future operations reserve is for insufficient operational funding, estimated at a level of the average of 2.5 months of *cash, kind and services* expenditure over the last five years including both the headquarters and field structure. The theoretical level should be CHF 168,285 (in 2003: CHF 149,734).

5.3.12 Funding of field operations**A. FIELD OPERATIONS WITH TEMPORARY DEFICIT FINANCING**

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|----------------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Loosely earmarked balances | -8,924 | -15,650 |
| Tightly earmarked balances | -563 | - |
| Total | -9,487 | -15,650 |

Field operations are considered as a deficit financing as soon as the contributions do not cover the expenditure.

B. DONOR-RESTRICTED CONTRIBUTIONS

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Loosely earmarked balances | 1,296 | 53,876 |
| Tightly earmarked balances | 6,768 | 1,164 |
| Total | 8,064 | 55,040 |

In 2004 there was no reimbursement of contributions received in previous years (2003: CHF 196).

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.3.14 Contributions

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Governments | 606,352 | 715,186 |
| European Commission | 77,899 | 79,154 |
| International organizations | 326 | 2,490 |
| Supranational organizations | 474 | 628 |
| National Societies | 39,020 | 52,965 |
| Public sources | 4,581 | 4,657 |
| Private sources | 29,105 | 40,819 |
| Total | 757,757 | 895,899 |

The position "Private sources" includes a contribution of CHF 1,106 (2003: CHF 1,039) for contributions to funds and foundations.

5.3.15 Operating expenditure by cash, kind, services and administrative costs

| Operating expenditure | Cash | Kind | Services | Total 2004 | Total 2003 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Field | | | | | |
| Staff-related costs | -272,406 | | -9,914 | -282,320 | -282,703 |
| Mission costs | -31,608 | | | -31,608 | -32,163 |
| Rentals | -68,517 | | -243 | -68,760 | -75,809 |
| Subcontracted maintenance | -24,699 | | | -24,699 | -26,931 |
| Purchase of goods and materials | -146,230 | -9,667 | | -155,897 | -202,562 |
| General expenditure | -59,202 | | | -59,202 | -60,558 |
| Depreciation | -12,758 | | | -12,758 | -13,873 |
| Total | -615,420 | -9,667 | -10,157 | -635,244 | -694,599 |
| Headquarters | | | | | |
| Staff-related costs | -104,274 | | -362 | -104,636 | -107,630 |
| Mission costs | -4,700 | | | -4,700 | -4,204 |
| Rentals | -1,322 | | -1,155 | -2,477 | -2,442 |
| Subcontracted maintenance | -2,849 | | | -2,849 | -1,428 |
| Purchase of goods and materials | -3,603 | | | -3,603 | -4,573 |
| General expenditure | -23,322 | -299 | | -23,621 | -24,027 |
| Depreciation | -5,056 | | | -5,056 | -5,837 |
| Total | -145,126 | -299 | -1,517 | -146,942 | -150,141 |

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

The following cost centres at headquarters are classified as administrative not direct programme-oriented operating expenditures:

- ▶ Presidency, directorate and management control
- ▶ Finance and administration
- ▶ Human resources
- ▶ Fundraising
- ▶ Information systems and archives

Their total cost amounts to CHF 85,034 (2003: CHF 84,247) which represents 10.9 % (2003: 10.0 %) of the overall operational expenditures.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.3.16 Staff-related costs and figures

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wages and salaries | 294,464 | 294,476 |
| Social insurance and social benefits | 82,216 | 78,709 |
| Contributed services | 10,276 | 17,148 |
| Total | 386,956 | 390,333 |

The average number of positions during 2004 (2003) was:

in the field:

- ▶ 1,383 (2003:1,325) expatriate staff (including 214 [2003:233] seconded by National Societies);
- ▶ 8,613 (2003:8,458) locally recruited employees under ICRC contract;
- ▶ 2,454 (2003:1,877) local daily workers.

at headquarters:

- ▶ 831 (2003:823) staff (including 11 [2003:9] seconded by National Societies), which represents 701 (2003:685) positions.

5.3.17 Leases**A. OPERATING LEASES AS LESSEE**

The ICRC leases warehouses, delegation buildings and means of transport under operating leases. The leases may typically run for a period up to ten years, with an option to renew the lease after that date. Lease payments are increased annually to reflect market rentals.

During the current year CHF 69,253 (2003: CHF 73,518) were recognized as rental expense in the statement of income and expenditure in respect of operating leases as follows:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Premises and equipment | 27,679 | 28,663 |
| Transport | 41,574 | 44,855 |
| Total | 69,253 | 73,518 |

Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|
| within 12 months | 4,844 | 4,645 |
| within 1 to 5 years | 7,648 | 3,344 |
| over 5 years | - | 394 |
| Total | 12,492 | 8,383 |

B. OPERATING LEASES AS LESSOR

In 2004, CHF 456 (2003: CHF 356) was recognized as income in the statement of income and expenditure in respect of subleases.

C. FINANCE LEASES AS LESSEE

Non-cancellable finance lease liabilities are as follows: 2004

| | Future value | | | Present value |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|---------------|
| | Payments | Interests | Principal | Payments |
| within 12 months | 397 | 37 | 360 | 391 |
| within 1 to 5 years | 1,159 | 47 | 1,112 | 1,100 |
| Total | 1,556 | 84 | 1,472 | 1,491 |

The difference between the future value of the minimum lease payments and their present value represents the discount on the lease obligations.

5.3.18 Financial income and expense

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Securities at fair value | | |
| Gain on securities | 237 | 1,424 |
| Securities' income, net | 870 | 910 |
| Total net income on securities | 1,107 | 2,334 |
| Interest income | 1,010 | 1,010 |
| Financial income, gross (1) | 2,117 | 3,344 |
| Interest expense (2) | -380 | -341 |
| Total financial income, net | 1,737 | 3,003 |
| Foreign exchange loss, net | -6,452 | -1,187 |

(1) The position "Financial income, gross" includes an income of CHF 346 (2003: income of CHF 515) concerning the funds and foundations.

(2) The interest expense is already included in the operating expenditure due to the appeals to donors.

5.3.19 Other income and other expenditure

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Decrease in provision for accounts receivable | 260 | - |
| Decrease in provision for specific risks, net | 1,856 | 1,376 |
| Revaluation of fixed assets | 113 | - |
| Re-invoiced costs | 4,295 | 5,650 |
| Income arising from prior period | 2,646 | 1,752 |
| Other | 5,984 | 5,130 |
| Adjustments of operations | 1,792 | 1,184 |
| Total other income | 16,946 | 15,092 |
| Increase in provision for accounts receivable | - | -870 |
| Increase in provision for specific risks, net | - | -410 |
| Expenditure arising from prior period | -120 | -866 |
| Other | -4,201 | -7,750 |
| Total other expenditure | -4,321 | -9,896 |

Adjustments of operations concern changes in the funding of field operations recorded in previous years. These comprise mainly transfer of goods between operations, and new estimates of accruals of previous years.

The position "Other expenditure" includes an amount of CHF 48 (2003: CHF 54) concerning the funds and foundations.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

5.4 ADDITIONAL NOTES

5.4.1 Taxes

The ICRC (not its staff) is exempt from taxes in Switzerland and most countries in which its delegations are based.

5.4.2 Financial instruments

A. FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

The ICRC incurs foreign currency risk on pledged contributions that are denominated in a currency other than Swiss francs. The currencies giving rise to this risk are primarily US-Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Swedish Kroner.

Hedging policy

The ICRC hedges significant pledged contributions denominated in a foreign currency on the balance sheet.

The ICRC uses *forward foreign exchange contracts* to hedge its foreign currency risk as soon as the balance sheet item is recognized. The forward exchange contracts have maturities of less than one year after the balance sheet date. Where necessary, the forward exchange contracts are swapped at maturity. No future cash-flow hedges have been contracted in 2004.

In respect of other monetary assets and liabilities held in currencies other than Swiss francs, the ICRC ensures that the net exposure is kept to an acceptable level, by buying or selling foreign currencies at *spot rates* where necessary to address short-term needs.

At the year-end, the following positions are open:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|---------|---------|
| Forward foreign exchange contracts | | |
| purchase of foreign currencies | 33,815 | 32,632 |
| sale of foreign currencies | -30,848 | -49,875 |

B. FAIR VALUE

Changes in the fair value of forward exchange contracts that hedge pledged contributions or significant expenditures are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure. They are generally offset by foreign exchange gains and losses arising on translation of the hedged item to Swiss francs at the balance sheet date.

Both the changes in fair value of the hedging instruments and the foreign exchange gains and losses relating to the hedged items are recognized as part of "net financial result" (see Note 5.3.18).

The net fair value of forward exchange contracts at the balance sheet date was a charge of CHF 297 (2003: charge of CHF 94).

C. INTEREST RATE RISK

As the ICRC has a fixed mortgage rate up to 30 June 2006, there is no short-term exposure to changes in interest rates.

D. CREDIT RISK

The receivables are mostly with governments with high credit ratings, where credit risk is low.

Investments are allowed only in liquid securities and only with counterparties that have a high credit rating.

Other positions are not material, or are covered by provisions.

5.4.3 Overhead income and expenditure

As a contribution to the costs of headquarters' support for operations in the field, an additional 6.5 % is added to the budget of each operation for cash and service movements. This support includes services essential for an operation's success such as human resources, finance, logistics, information technology and other support. The following analysis is provided as the internal allocation is not expressed separately in the statement of income and expenditure.

The reconciliation of **overhead expenditure** results as follows:

| | Head-quarters | Field | Total |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2004 | | | |
| Operational expenditure | -146,942 | -635,244 | -782,186 |
| Internal allocation to headquarters budget | - | -40,661 | -40,661 |
| Total expenditure | -146,942 | -675,905 | -822,847 |

2003

| | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Operational expenditure | -150,141 | -694,599 | -844,740 |
| Internal allocation to headquarters budget | - | -43,626 | -43,626 |
| Total expenditure | -150,141 | -738,225 | -888,366 |

The reconciliation of overhead income results in the following breakdown for the last two years:

| | Head-quarters | Field | Total |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 2004 | | | |
| Contributions | 126,477 | 630,194 | 756,671 |
| Internal allocation from field budget | 40,661 | - | 40,661 |
| Total income | 167,138 | 630,194 | 797,332 |

2003

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Contributions | 122,838 | 772,189 | 895,027 |
| Internal allocation from field budget | 43,626 | - | 43,626 |
| Total income | 166,464 | 772,189 | 938,653 |

5.4.4 Capital and contractual commitments

Capital commitments

Capital expenditures of CHF 14,407 (2003: CHF 946) have been approved but not provided for in these financial statements.

5.4.5 Related parties

A. IDENTITY OF RELATED PARTIES

The ICRC has a controlling related party relationship with four of its special funds and foundations (see Note 5.4.6).

Key management personnel are persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the ICRC. This includes the directors and senior management as well as close members of their families or households.

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC.

(in Swiss francs ,000)

The ICRC has a **conflict-of-interest policy** whereby the Assembly, the Directors, and the Senior Management must advise the Assembly or the responsible Human Resources Management of any direct or indirect interest in any transaction or relationship with the ICRC and are disqualified from participation in discussions and decisions regarding any action affecting their individual, professional, or business interests.

B. TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PARTIES

During the year the ICRC received income of CHF 20 (2003: CHF 167) from two of its funds and foundations. There were no transactions with key management personnel. With the exception of the President and the permanent Vice-president the other members of the Assembly, or any person related or connected by business to them, have not received any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

C. REMUNERATION

The salaries and benefits of the President, the permanent Vice-president, the 6 Directors (2003: 6 Directors) and the Head of Internal Audit of the ICRC are set by the Assembly. Their total compensation amounted to CHF 3,269 (2003: CHF 3,194) including employer expenses for social insurance and social benefits. No other salaries and benefits (e.g. fringe benefits, loans) were granted to them.

The non-permanent members of the Assembly, or persons related or connected by business to them, have not received any remuneration from the ICRC during the year.

| Related party remuneration | Total 2004 | Total 2003 |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Short-term employee benefits | 2,641 | 2,604 |
| Post-employment benefits | 564 | 523 |
| Other long-term benefits | 64 | 67 |
| Total income | 3,269 | 3,194 |

5.4.6 Special funds and foundations

The following funds and foundations are under the control of ICRC and have been consolidated in the financial statements: Foundation for the International Committee of the Red Cross, Clare R. Benedict Fund, Omar El Muktar Fund, Max Huber Fund.

The general purpose of the funds is to financially assist the ICRC in its humanitarian work.

5.4.7 Contingent assets

In 2004 short and medium term pledges amounting to CHF 54,455 have been considered as contingent assets.

| Contingent assets | Total 2004 |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Due within 1 year | 41,218 |
| Due between 2 – 5 years | 13,237 |
| Total | 54,455 |

5.4.8 Subsequent events

No subsequent events to report after the completion of the 2004 Financial Statements.



KPMG Fides Peat
Audit

14, Chemin De-Normandie
CH-1206 Genève

Casse postale 449
CH-1211 Genève 12

Téléphone +41 22 704 15 15
Téléfax +41 22 347 73 13
Internet www.kpmg.ch

Report of the external Auditors to the Assembly of the Members of
The International Committee of the Red Cross

As external auditors of your association, we have audited the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure, cash flow statement, statement of changes in reserves and notes) of The International Committee of the Red Cross for the year ended December 31, 2004. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Committee. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession in Switzerland and with the International Standards on Auditing, issued by the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC). Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Committee, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the International Committee of the Red Cross as of December 31, 2004, and the results of operations, the changes in reserves and the cash flows in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Furthermore, the accounting records and financial statements comply with the Swiss law and the articles of incorporation.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

KPMG Fides Peat

Stéphane Gard
Auditor in charge

Hélène Béguin

Geneva, April 12, 2005

Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure, statement of changes in reserves, cash flow statement and notes)

(in Swiss francs ,000)

6.1. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE RELATED TO THE 2004 EMERGENCY AND HEADQUARTERS APPEALS

| | BUDGET | | | EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME (Cash, kind and services) | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--|
| | 2004 Initial budget | Amendments | 2004 Final budget | Protection | Assistance | Preventive action | Cooperation with National Societies | General | 2004 Total expenditure | Overheads (already included in the opposite figures) |
| 1. EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Africa | 307,518 | 30,988 | 338,505 | 64,106 | 210,070 | 29,751 | 22,622 | 787 | 327,337 | 19,485 |
| Asia and the Pacific | 130,910 | | 130,910 | 34,098 | 52,146 | 18,673 | 13,731 | 390 | 119,037 | 7,264 |
| Europe and the Americas | 151,635 | 4,642 | 156,277 | 22,836 | 65,208 | 33,338 | 12,141 | 175 | 133,698 | 8,081 |
| Middle East and North Africa | 128,738 | | 128,738 | 28,531 | 46,231 | 11,326 | 9,638 | 107 | 95,833 | 5,830 |
| Contingency | 35,940 | | 35,940 | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD) | 754,741 | 35,630 | 790,370 | 149,571 | 373,655 | 93,088 | 58,132 | 1,458 | 675,905 | 40,661 |
| 2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL | | | | | | | | | | |
| Headquarters general | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT | | | | | | | | | | |
| Africa | 23,098 | | 23,098 | 3,109 | 11,846 | 1,294 | 830 | 5,757 | 22,836 | |
| Asia and the Pacific | 12,761 | | 12,761 | 1,951 | 5,360 | 992 | 587 | 3,006 | 11,896 | |
| Europe and the Americas | 14,277 | | 14,277 | 2,417 | 5,773 | 2,247 | 459 | 3,554 | 14,450 | |
| Middle East and North Africa | 11,639 | | 11,639 | 1,642 | 5,229 | 862 | 321 | 2,718 | 10,772 | |
| SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT | 61,775 | | 61,775 | 9,118 | 28,207 | 5,395 | 2,197 | 15,036 | 59,953 | |
| 2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES | | | | | | | | | | |
| Assembly, Presidency & Management Control | 4,321 | | 4,321 | | | 79 | | 4,770 | 4,850 | |
| Directorate | 12,349 | | 12,349 | | | 2,028 | 38 | 10,079 | 12,145 | |
| Operations | 28,667 | | 28,667 | 4,988 | 7,098 | 2,845 | 849 | 11,685 | 27,464 | |
| Law, Policy and Cooperation within the Movement | 20,168 | | 20,168 | 463 | | 8,934 | 4,601 | 5,818 | 19,816 | |
| Communication | 22,497 | | 22,497 | | | 18,442 | 936 | 1,900 | 21,278 | |
| Kind and services for buildings | | | | | | | | 1,434 | 1,434 | |
| SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES | 88,002 | | 88,002 | 5,451 | 7,098 | 32,329 | 6,423 | 35,687 | 86,989 | |
| TOTAL HEADQUARTERS | 149,777 | | 149,777 | 14,569 | 35,306 | 37,724 | 8,620 | 50,723 | 146,942 | |
| 3. TOTAL FOUNDATION AND FUNDS | | | | | | | | 45 | 45 | |
| 4. OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE (according to table 2 – Statement of income and expenditure) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total ICRC income and expenditure | 904,518 | 35,630 | 940,147 | 164,141 | 408,960 | 130,812 | 66,752 | 52,226 | 822,892 | 40,661 |
| Deduction of field non-operating income | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deduction of headquarters non-operating income | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deduction of overheads | -43,778 | -1,912 | -45,690 | -8,998 | -22,478 | -5,600 | -3,497 | -88 | -40,661 | -40,661 |
| Deduction of cross-charging (foundation and funds) | | | | | | | | -20 | -20 | |
| TOTAL ICRC OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE | 860,740 | 33,717 | 894,457 | 155,143 | 386,482 | 125,212 | 63,255 | 52,118 | 782,211 | - |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

| INCOME (Cash, kind and services) | | | | | | FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS (Balances brought forward) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Cash contributions | Cash non-operating income | Overheads | Kind contributions | Services contributions | 2004 Total income | 2003 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward | 2003 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward | Adjustments and transfers | 2004 Donor-restricted contributions | 2004 Field operations with temporary deficit financing | |
| 313,581 | 771 | | 8,070 | 5,110 | 327,532 | 2,685 | -7,001 | 1,285 | | -2,836 | 1. EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD) |
| 110,050 | 439 | | 2 | 3,467 | 113,958 | | -2,505 | 9,536 | 5,157 | -3,205 | Africa |
| 130,913 | 760 | | 1,288 | 1,320 | 134,281 | 1,031 | -3,049 | 141 | 937 | -2,230 | Asia and the Pacific |
| 55,343 | 462 | | 306 | 743 | 56,853 | 51,324 | -3,095 | -9,170 | 1,295 | -1,216 | Europe and the Americas |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Middle East and North Africa |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Contingency |
| 609,887 | 2,431 | | 9,667 | 10,641 | 632,625 | 55,040 | -15,650 | 1,792 | 7,389 | -9,487 | TOTAL EMERGENCY APPEALS (FIELD) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 2. HEADQUARTERS APPEAL |
| 124,475 | 2,855 | 40,661 | | | 167,991 | | | | | | Headquarters general |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 2.1 HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT |
| | 0 | | | | 0 | | | | | | Africa |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Asia and the Pacific |
| | | | | 16 | 16 | | | | | | Europe and the Americas |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Middle East and North Africa |
| | 0 | | | 16 | 16 | | | | | | SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD SUPPORT |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 2.2 HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES |
| | 2 | | | 9 | 11 | | | | | | Assembly, Presidency & Management Control |
| 100 | | | | 104 | 204 | | | | | | Directorate |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Operations |
| 47 | | | | 233 | 280 | | | | | | Law, Policy and Cooperation within the Movement |
| 38 | 16 | | | | 55 | | | | | | Communication |
| | | | | 1,454 | 1,454 | | | | | | Kind and services for buildings |
| 186 | 18 | | | 1,800 | 2,004 | | | | | | SUB-TOTAL HEADQUARTERS OTHER ACTIVITIES |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 124,661 | 2,873 | 40,661 | | 1,816 | 170,012 | | | | | | TOTAL HEADQUARTERS |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,106 | | | | | 1,106 | | | | | | 3. TOTAL FOUNDATION AND FUNDS |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | 4. OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE |
| 735,654 | 5,304 | 40,661 | 9,667 | 12,457 | 803,743 | | | | | | Total ICRC income and expenditure |
| | -2,431 | | | | -2,431 | | | | | | Deduction of field non-operating income |
| | -2,873 | | | | -2,873 | | | | | | Deduction of headquarters non-operating income |
| | | -40,661 | | | -40,661 | | | | | | Deduction of overheads |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Deduction of cross-charging (foundation and funds) |
| -20 | | | | | -20 | | | | | | |
| 735,634 | - | - | 9,667 | 12,457 | 757,757 | | | | | | TOTAL ICRC OPERATING ACTIVITIES RELATED CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE |

(in Swiss francs ,000)

6.2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2004 EMERGENCY APPEALS

| | BUDGET | | | EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME (Cash, kind and services) | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|--|--|--|
| | 2004 Initial budget | Amendments | 2004 Final budget | Protection | Assistance | Preventive action | Cooperation with National Societies | General | 2004 Total expenditure | Overheads (already included in the opposite figures) | | |
| Africa | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Angola | 20,150 | | 20,150 | 7,368 | 6,709 | 2,146 | 843 | | 17,067 | 1,042 | | |
| Burundi | 9,814 | | 9,814 | 1,795 | 7,089 | 918 | 180 | 38 | 10,020 | 612 | | |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 42,574 | | 42,574 | 8,026 | 19,433 | 2,399 | 2,327 | | 32,185 | 1,964 | | |
| Republic of the Congo | 10,335 | | 10,335 | 1,425 | 6,014 | 1,574 | 150 | 10 | 9,173 | 559 | | |
| Eritrea | 7,961 | | 7,961 | 1,599 | 3,732 | 477 | 708 | 14 | 6,529 | 399 | | |
| Ethiopia | 28,643 | | 28,643 | 5,459 | 15,077 | 2,535 | 1,398 | 116 | 24,584 | 1,339 | | |
| Guinea | 10,289 | | 10,289 | 3,798 | 3,067 | 1,142 | 1,278 | 2 | 9,287 | 558 | | |
| Liberia | 29,985 | | 29,985 | 5,877 | 19,288 | 632 | 1,219 | 15 | 27,033 | 1,626 | | |
| Rwanda | 19,214 | | 19,214 | 3,442 | 11,661 | 988 | 435 | 37 | 16,563 | 1,011 | | |
| Sierra Leone | 6,840 | | 6,840 | 3,410 | 953 | 771 | 1,181 | | 6,316 | 385 | | |
| Somalia | 22,747 | | 22,747 | 183 | 21,322 | 360 | 993 | 17 | 22,876 | 1,383 | | |
| Sudan | 46,280 | 30,988 | 77,268 | 10,706 | 75,601 | 3,971 | 2,657 | 62 | 92,997 | 5,412 | | |
| Uganda | 6,713 | | 6,713 | 1,000 | 5,151 | 647 | 1,025 | 9 | 7,832 | 478 | | |
| Abidjan (regional delegation) | 12,479 | | 12,479 | 2,491 | 7,453 | 2,406 | 1,819 | 123 | 14,293 | 853 | | |
| Abuja (regional delegation) | 4,622 | | 4,622 | 166 | 903 | 1,121 | 1,711 | 53 | 3,954 | 241 | | |
| Dakar (regional delegation) | 3,128 | | 3,128 | 495 | 1,036 | 1,018 | 812 | 3 | 3,364 | 205 | | |
| Harare (regional delegation) | 7,086 | | 7,086 | 2,119 | 1,626 | 914 | 838 | 30 | 5,527 | 337 | | |
| Nairobi (regional delegation) | 7,738 | | 7,738 | 1,736 | 2,017 | 1,644 | 952 | 169 | 6,518 | 398 | | |
| Pretoria (regional delegation) | 4,695 | | 4,695 | 1,282 | 44 | 2,264 | 1,153 | | 4,742 | 289 | | |
| Yaoundé (regional delegation) | 6,222 | | 6,222 | 1,728 | 1,895 | 1,824 | 943 | 88 | 6,477 | 394 | | |
| Total Africa | 307,518 | 30,988 | 338,505 | 64,106 | 210,070 | 29,751 | 22,622 | 787 | 327,337 | 19,485 | | |
| Asia and the Pacific | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Afghanistan | 47,472 | | 47,472 | 4,700 | 30,168 | 3,105 | 4,659 | 6 | 42,639 | 2,601 | | |
| Indonesia | 9,777 | | 9,777 | 1,810 | 2,558 | 1,782 | 1,330 | | 7,479 | 456 | | |
| Myanmar | 16,765 | | 16,765 | 6,846 | 6,092 | 1,085 | 850 | | 14,872 | 908 | | |
| Nepal | 7,376 | | 7,376 | 4,231 | 1,430 | 651 | 1,132 | | 7,444 | 454 | | |
| Pakistan | 4,379 | | 4,379 | 1,520 | 1,430 | 1,351 | 588 | 14 | 4,903 | 299 | | |
| Philippines | 2,469 | | 2,469 | 1,014 | 250 | 553 | 204 | | 2,022 | 123 | | |
| Sri Lanka | 10,153 | | 10,153 | 5,595 | 4,061 | 1,282 | 561 | 20 | 11,519 | 703 | | |
| Bangkok (regional delegation) | 11,267 | | 11,267 | 1,034 | 4,844 | 2,021 | 1,217 | 33 | 9,150 | 558 | | |
| Kuala Lumpur (regional delegation) | 2,431 | | 2,431 | 17 | | 1,388 | 76 | 310 | 1,790 | 109 | | |
| New Delhi (regional delegation) | 6,484 | | 6,484 | 3,047 | 235 | 2,041 | 883 | | 6,206 | 379 | | |
| Suva (regional delegation) | 3,556 | | 3,556 | 461 | 110 | 1,055 | 1,348 | 6 | 2,981 | 182 | | |
| Tashkent (regional delegation) | 8,781 | | 8,781 | 3,823 | 969 | 2,358 | 882 | | 8,031 | 490 | | |
| Total Asia and the Pacific | 130,910 | | 130,910 | 34,098 | 52,146 | 18,673 | 13,731 | 390 | 119,037 | 7,264 | | |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

| INCOME (Cash, kind and services) | | | | | | FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS (Balances brought forward) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | Cash contributions | Cash non-operating income | Kind contributions | Services contributions | 2004 Total income | | 2003 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward | 2003 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward | Adjustments and transfers | 2004 Donor-restricted contributions | 2004 Field operations with temporary deficit financing |
| | 16,585 | 123 | | 163 | 16,871 | | - 715 | 791 | | - 120 | Africa |
| | 10,120 | 34 | | 27 | 10,181 | | - 161 | | | | Angola |
| | 34,016 | 41 | | 56 | 34,113 | | - 1,926 | - 2 | | | Burundi |
| | 9,029 | 109 | 17 | 9 | 9,164 | | | 9 | | | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| | 6,334 | 8 | | 188 | 6,529 | | | | | | Republic of the Congo |
| | 21,764 | 42 | 2,646 | 81 | 24,534 | | | 51 | | | Eritrea |
| | 8,928 | 23 | 142 | 194 | 9,287 | | | | | | Ethiopia |
| | 22,159 | 18 | 393 | 729 | 23,299 | 2,466 | | 51 | | - 1,216 | Guinea |
| | 16,955 | 49 | | 78 | 17,081 | | - 633 | 115 | | | Liberia |
| | 6,183 | 20 | | 115 | 6,317 | | | - 2 | | | Rwanda |
| | 23,376 | 28 | 212 | 128 | 23,744 | | - 868 | | | | Sierra Leone |
| | 86,501 | 72 | 4,329 | 2,818 | 93,720 | 87 | - 2,358 | 48 | | - 1,500 | Somalia |
| | 7,685 | 2 | | 78 | 7,765 | | | 66 | | | Sudan |
| | 14,121 | 20 | 316 | 175 | 14,633 | | - 340 | | | | Uganda |
| | 3,952 | 2 | | | 3,954 | | | | | | Abidjan (regional delegation) |
| | 3,361 | 3 | | | 3,364 | | | | | | Abuja (regional delegation) |
| | 5,487 | 40 | | | 5,527 | | | | | | Dakar (regional delegation) |
| | 6,068 | 72 | | 222 | 6,362 | | | 156 | | | Harare (regional delegation) |
| | 4,643 | 50 | | 49 | 4,742 | | | | | | Nairobi (regional delegation) |
| | 6,314 | 16 | 14 | | 6,345 | 132 | | | | | Pretoria (regional delegation) |
| | 313,581 | 771 | 8,070 | 5,110 | 327,532 | 2,685 | - 7,001 | 1,285 | | - 2,836 | Yaoundé (regional delegation) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Total Africa |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 30,221 | 181 | 1 | 2,491 | 32,894 | | - 984 | 9,509 | | - 1,220 | Asia and the Pacific |
| | 10,321 | 40 | | 28 | 10,389 | | | | 2,910 | | Afghanistan |
| | 14,178 | 16 | | 291 | 14,485 | | - 786 | | | - 1,174 | Indonesia |
| | 6,951 | 35 | | 92 | 7,078 | | - 471 | 26 | | - 812 | Myanmar |
| | 4,894 | 9 | | 2 | 4,904 | | | - 1 | | | Nepal |
| | 1,989 | 17 | | 16 | 2,022 | | | | | | Pakistan |
| | 12,681 | 111 | | 358 | 13,150 | | | 2 | 1,634 | | Philippines |
| | 9,648 | 11 | | 104 | 9,763 | | | | 613 | | Sri Lanka |
| | 1,789 | 1 | | | 1,790 | | | | | | Bangkok (regional delegation) |
| | 6,202 | 4 | | | 6,206 | | | | | | Kuala Lumpur (regional delegation) |
| | 2,949 | 4 | | 28 | 2,981 | | | | | | New Delhi (regional delegation) |
| | 8,227 | 10 | 1 | 58 | 8,296 | | - 265 | | | | Suva (regional delegation) |
| | 110,050 | 439 | 2 | 3,467 | 113,958 | - 2,505 | 9,536 | 5,157 | | - 3,205 | Tashkent (regional delegation) |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Total Asia and the Pacific |

(in Swiss francs ,000)

6.2. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE BY DELEGATION RELATED TO THE 2004 EMERGENCY APPEALS (cont.)

| | BUDGET | | | EXPENDITURE BY PROGRAMME (Cash, kind and services) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--|
| | 2004 Initial budget | Amendments | 2004 Final budget | Protection | Assistance | Preventive action | Cooperation with National Societies | General | 2004 Total expenditure | Overheads (already included in the opposite figures) |
| Europe and the Americas | | | | | | | | | | |
| Armenia | 3,449 | | 3,449 | 591 | 1,176 | 900 | 160 | | 2,826 | 172 |
| Azerbaijan | 3,540 | | 3,540 | 1,291 | 1,038 | 849 | 144 | | 3,322 | 203 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 6,800 | | 6,800 | 2,395 | | 1,809 | 1,535 | | 5,740 | 350 |
| Georgia | 17,737 | | 17,737 | 1,115 | 12,731 | 1,291 | 169 | | 15,306 | 925 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 19,452 | | 19,452 | 4,098 | 10,314 | 1,499 | 1,575 | | 17,486 | 1,067 |
| Budapest (regional delegation) | 4,281 | | 4,281 | 491 | 0 | 2,012 | 865 | 28 | 3,397 | 207 |
| Kyiv (regional delegation) | 1,933 | | 1,933 | 11 | | 1,189 | 377 | | 1,577 | 96 |
| Moscow (regional delegation) | 35,905 | | 35,905 | 1,758 | 20,060 | 4,867 | 1,407 | 9 | 28,101 | 1,679 |
| Skopje (regional delegation) | 3,006 | | 3,006 | 548 | 610 | 1,056 | 312 | | 2,525 | 154 |
| Ankara | 922 | | 922 | 30 | | 415 | 287 | | 731 | 45 |
| Brussels | 1,294 | | 1,294 | | | 1,267 | 118 | 36 | 1,421 | 87 |
| International Tracing Service (Germany) | 351 | | 351 | 328 | | | | | 328 | 20 |
| London | 356 | | 356 | | | 359 | 39 | | 399 | 24 |
| Paris | 1,117 | | 1,117 | | | 1,015 | 41 | | 1,056 | 64 |
| Colombia | 28,380 | | 28,380 | 4,889 | 14,418 | 3,896 | 903 | 14 | 24,120 | 1,472 |
| Buenos Aires (regional delegation) | 2,553 | | 2,553 | 138 | | 1,527 | 354 | | 2,020 | 123 |
| Caracas (regional delegation) | 1,866 | | 1,866 | 80 | | 768 | 531 | | 1,379 | 84 |
| Lima (regional delegation) | 5,035 | | 5,035 | 1,423 | 805 | 1,354 | 581 | | 4,164 | 254 |
| Mexico City (regional delegation) | 7,064 | 4,642 | 11,706 | 1,786 | 4,013 | 3,610 | 2,511 | 66 | 11,985 | 698 |
| Washington (regional delegation) | 4,038 | | 4,038 | 1,864 | 44 | 1,582 | 213 | 22 | 3,725 | 227 |
| New York | 2,557 | | 2,557 | | | 2,072 | 17 | | 2,089 | 128 |
| Total Europe and the Americas | 151,635 | 4,642 | 156,277 | 22,836 | 65,208 | 33,338 | 12,141 | 175 | 133,698 | 8,081 |
| Middle East and North Africa | | | | | | | | | | |
| Algeria | 1,689 | | 1,689 | 581 | 29 | 321 | 420 | | 1,351 | 82 |
| Egypt | 1,440 | | 1,440 | 191 | 23 | 1,247 | 97 | 27 | 1,584 | 97 |
| Iran | 2,713 | | 2,713 | 830 | | 838 | 440 | | 2,107 | 129 |
| Iraq | 69,774 | | 69,774 | 9,646 | 31,360 | 2,447 | 1,277 | | 44,730 | 2,712 |
| Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories | 40,365 | | 40,365 | 13,924 | 13,572 | 2,698 | 5,982 | | 36,175 | 2,207 |
| Jordan | 2,326 | | 2,326 | 895 | 84 | 551 | 94 | | 1,625 | 99 |
| Lebanon | 1,817 | | 1,817 | 391 | 296 | 487 | 178 | | 1,352 | 83 |
| Syria | 1,219 | | 1,219 | 158 | 86 | 614 | 156 | | 1,014 | 62 |
| Yemen | 2,665 | | 2,665 | 347 | 780 | 614 | 344 | | 2,085 | 127 |
| Kuwait (regional delegation) | 2,316 | | 2,316 | 793 | | 706 | 194 | 81 | 1,774 | 108 |
| Tunis (regional delegation) | 2,414 | | 2,414 | 777 | | 802 | 456 | | 2,035 | 124 |
| Total Middle East and North Africa | 128,738 | | 128,738 | 28,531 | 46,231 | 11,326 | 9,638 | 107 | 95,833 | 5,830 |
| Contingency | 35,940 | | 35,940 | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL FIELD | 754,741 | 35,630 | 790,370 | 149,571 | 373,655 | 93,088 | 58,132 | 1,458 | 675,905 | 40,661 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

| INCOME (Cash, kind and services) | | | | | | FUNDING OF FIELD OPERATIONS (Balances brought forward) | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|---|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Cash contributions | Cash non-operating income | Kind contributions | Services contributions | 2004 Total income | | 2003 Donor-restricted contributions brought forward | 2003 Field operations with temporary deficit financing brought forward | Adjustments and transfers | 2004 Donor-restricted contributions | 2004 Field operations with temporary deficit financing | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Europe and the Americas |
| 2,821 | 2 | | 2 | 2,825 | | | 1 | | | | Armenia |
| 3,304 | 9 | | 8 | 3,322 | | | | | | | Azerbaijan |
| 5,972 | 17 | | 0 | 5,989 | | - 247 | - 1 | | | | Bosnia and Herzegovina |
| 15,780 | 19 | 143 | 181 | 16,122 | | - 638 | - 2 | 176 | | | Georgia |
| 17,698 | 46 | 5 | 212 | 17,961 | | - 471 | - 4 | | | | Serbia and Montenegro |
| 3,095 | 70 | | 54 | 3,219 | 938 | | | 761 | | | Budapest (regional delegation) |
| 1,543 | 34 | | | 1,577 | | | | | | | Kyiv (regional delegation) |
| 27,872 | 25 | 584 | 117 | 28,598 | | - 1,693 | 104 | | - 1,092 | | Moscow (regional delegation) |
| 2,422 | 4 | | 74 | 2,500 | | | 25 | | | | Skopje (regional delegation) |
| 731 | 0 | | | 731 | | | | | | | Ankara |
| 1,396 | 25 | | | 1,421 | | | | | | | Brussels |
| 91 | 237 | | | 328 | | | | | | | International Tracing Service (Germany) |
| 386 | | | 12 | 399 | | | | | | | London |
| 905 | 1 | | 150 | 1,056 | | | | | | | Paris |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22,294 | 151 | | 427 | 22,872 | 92 | | 18 | | - 1,139 | | Colombia |
| 2,012 | 8 | | | 2,020 | | | | | | | Buenos Aires (regional delegation) |
| 1,378 | 1 | | | 1,379 | | | | | | | Caracas (regional delegation) |
| 4,131 | 26 | | 8 | 4,164 | | | | | | | Lima (regional delegation) |
| 11,289 | 63 | 556 | 76 | 11,985 | | | | | | | Mexico City (regional delegation) |
| 3,711 | 14 | | | 3,725 | | | | | | | Washington (regional delegation) |
| 2,083 | 6 | | | 2,089 | | | | | | | New York |
| 130,913 | 760 | 1,288 | 1,320 | 134,281 | 1,031 | - 3,049 | 141 | 937 | - 2,230 | | Total Europe and the Americas |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Middle East and North Africa |
| 1,351 | 0 | | | 1,351 | | | | | | | Algeria |
| 1,583 | 1 | | | 1,584 | | | | | | | Egypt |
| 2,098 | 1 | | 7 | 2,107 | | | - 0 | | | | Iran |
| 3,492 | 142 | 300 | 65 | 3,999 | 51,319 | | - 9,292 | 1,295 | | | Iraq |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Autonomous Territories |
| 37,323 | 238 | 7 | 359 | 37,927 | | - 3,090 | 123 | | - 1,216 | | Jordan |
| 1,247 | 71 | | 308 | 1,625 | | | - 0 | | | | Lebanon |
| 1,350 | 2 | | | 1,352 | | | | | | | Syria |
| 1,013 | 1 | | | 1,014 | 5 | - 5 | | | | | Yemen |
| 2,080 | 1 | | 4 | 2,085 | | | | | | | Kuwait (regional delegation) |
| 1,771 | 3 | | | 1,774 | | | | | | | Tunis (regional delegation) |
| 2,035 | 1 | | | 2,035 | | | | | | | |
| 55,343 | 462 | 306 | 743 | 56,853 | 51,324 | - 3,095 | - 9,170 | 1,295 | - 1,216 | | Total Middle East and North Africa |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | Contingency |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 609,887 | 2,431 | 9,667 | 10,641 | 632,625 | 55,040 | - 15,650 | 1,792 | 7,389 | - 9,487 | | TOTAL FIELD |

7. CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2004

7.0 SUMMARY OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7.1 Governments | 116,815,256 | 480,306,617 | 1,438,608 | 598,560,481 | 6,694,849 | 1,097,038 | 606,352,368 | 742,774 | 607,095,142 |
| 7.2 European Commission | | 79,170,051 | -1,270,643 | 77,899,409 | | | 77,899,409 | | 77,899,409 |
| 7.3 International organizations | | | -128,609 | -128,609 | 454,955 | | 326,346 | 1,320 | 327,666 |
| 7.4 Supranational organizations | | 321,420 | | 321,420 | 152,430 | | 473,850 | | 473,850 |
| 7.5 National Societies | 5,085,674 | 21,897,632 | -191,531 | 26,791,775 | 2,357,957 | 9,870,514 | 39,020,245 | 69,333 | 39,089,578 |
| 7.6 Public sources | | 3,426,332 | | 3,426,332 | | 1,154,858 | 4,581,190 | | 4,581,190 |
| 7.7 Private sources | 174,537 | 27,502,959 | -532 | 27,676,965 | 6,601 | 334,666 | 28,018,231 | 145,478 | 28,163,709 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 122,075,467 | 612,625,011 | -152,706 | 734,547,773 | 9,666,791 | 12,457,076 | 756,671,640 | 958,904 | 757,630,544 |

Reconciliation between the consolidated contributions of the ICRC (chapter 5.3.14) and the summary of the contributions to the ICRC (chapter 7.0)

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Total consolidated contributions of the ICRC (chapter 7.0) | 756,671,640 |
| Contributions received from funds and foundations of the ICRC | 1,105,953 |
| Contributions of the consolidated funds and foundations of the ICRC to the ICRC's activities (chapter 7.7): | |
| Clare R. Benedict Fund | -13,712 |
| Omar El Muktar Fund | -5,851 |
| Total contributions of the consolidated accounts of the ICRC (chapter 5.3.14) | 757,758,029 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.1 GOVERNMENTS (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Algeria | 44,170 | | | 44,170 | | | 44,170 | | 44,170 |
| Andorra | 30,000 | 23,685 | | 53,685 | | | 53,685 | | 53,685 |
| Australia | 2,825,567 | 8,858,920 | | 11,684,487 | | | 11,684,487 | | 11,684,487 |
| Austria | 704,999 | 1,686,700 | - 10,512 | 2,381,186 | | | 2,381,186 | | 2,381,186 |
| Bahamas | 12,745 | | | 12,745 | | | 12,745 | | 12,745 |
| Barbados | 1,230 | | | 1,230 | | | 1,230 | | 1,230 |
| Belgium | 1,093,664 | 8,906,625 | | 10,000,289 | | | 10,000,289 | | 10,000,289 |
| Benin | 2,796 | | | 2,796 | | | 2,796 | | 2,796 |
| Bhutan | 20,150 | | | 20,150 | | | 20,150 | | 20,150 |
| Bulgaria | 35,000 | | | 35,000 | | | 35,000 | | 35,000 |
| Canada | 2,847,000 | 14,865,123 | - 23,695 | 17,688,429 | | 434,322 | 18,122,751 | | 18,122,751 |
| Chile | 31,726 | | 13,561 | 45,288 | | | 45,288 | | 45,288 |
| China | 530,000 | | | 530,000 | | | 530,000 | | 530,000 |
| Colombia | 130,292 | | | 130,292 | | | 130,292 | | 130,292 |
| Costa Rica | 19,437 | | | 19,437 | | | 19,437 | | 19,437 |
| Cyprus | 56,915 | | | 56,915 | | | 56,915 | | 56,915 |
| Czech Republic | 90,000 | 99,303 | | 189,303 | | | 189,303 | | 189,303 |
| Denmark | 2,468,040 | 7,564,907 | | 10,032,947 | 195,660 | | 10,228,607 | 214,704 | 10,443,311 |
| Estonia | | 29,122 | | 29,122 | | | 29,122 | | 29,122 |
| Finland | 1,579,000 | 10,636,629 | | 12,215,629 | 722,462 | 478,635 | 13,416,726 | | 13,416,726 |
| France | 1,314,967 | 16,578,015 | | 17,892,982 | | | 17,892,982 | | 17,892,982 |
| Germany | 1,790,100 | 21,184,070 | - 117,350 | 22,856,820 | | | 22,856,820 | | 22,856,820 |
| Greece | 350,000 | | | 350,000 | | | 350,000 | | 350,000 |
| Guyana | 3,452 | | | 3,452 | | | 3,452 | | 3,452 |
| Haiti | 11,320 | | | 11,320 | | | 11,320 | | 11,320 |
| Holy See | 12,370 | | | 12,370 | | | 12,370 | | 12,370 |
| Hungary | 129,431 | 182,111 | | 311,542 | | | 311,542 | | 311,542 |
| Iceland | | 17,380 | | 17,380 | | | 17,380 | | 17,380 |
| India | 17,633 | | | 17,633 | | | 17,633 | | 17,633 |
| Ireland | 196,950 | 2,098,355 | | 2,295,305 | | | 2,295,305 | | 2,295,305 |

7.1 GOVERNMENTS (CONT.) (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Israel | 125,400 | | | 125,400 | | | 125,400 | | 125,400 |
| Italy | 1,224,000 | 9,073,275 | | 10,297,275 | | | 10,297,275 | | 10,297,275 |
| Japan | 800,000 | 9,718,769 | | 10,518,769 | | | 10,518,769 | | 10,518,769 |
| Kuwait | | | 1,890,000 | 1,890,000 | | | 1,890,000 | | 1,890,000 |
| Lebanon | | 42,965 | | 42,965 | | | 42,965 | | 42,965 |
| Liechtenstein | 200,000 | 250,000 | | 450,000 | | | 450,000 | | 450,000 |
| Luxembourg | 696,206 | 6,510,300 | | 7,206,506 | | | 7,206,506 | | 7,206,506 |
| Malta | 16,828 | | | 16,828 | | | 16,828 | | 16,828 |
| Mauritius | 15,753 | | | 15,753 | | | 15,753 | | 15,753 |
| Mexico | 169,800 | | 189,300 | 359,100 | 9,200 | | 368,300 | | 368,300 |
| Monaco | 100,000 | | | 100,000 | | | 100,000 | | 100,000 |
| Morocco | 65,902 | | | 65,902 | | | 65,902 | | 65,902 |
| Myanmar | 18,822 | | | 18,822 | | | 18,822 | | 18,822 |
| Nepal | 600 | | | 600 | | | 600 | | 600 |
| Netherlands | 5,445,300 | 38,439,220 | 3,873 | 43,888,393 | | | 43,888,393 | | 43,888,393 |
| New Zealand | 325,000 | 81,250 | | 406,250 | | | 406,250 | | 406,250 |
| Norway | 888,960 | 25,547,309 | | 26,436,269 | 2,045,538 | | 28,481,807 | 642,753 | 29,124,560 |
| Oman | 6,185 | | | 6,185 | | | 6,185 | | 6,185 |
| Pakistan | | | 6,277 | 6,277 | | | 6,277 | | 6,277 |
| Panama | 27,409 | | | 27,409 | | | 27,409 | | 27,409 |
| Philippines | 20,788 | | 56,253 | 77,041 | | | 77,041 | | 77,041 |
| Poland | 155,000 | 25,560 | | 180,560 | | | 180,560 | | 180,560 |
| Portugal | 200,000 | 100,000 | | 300,000 | | | 300,000 | | 300,000 |
| Qatar | 129,840 | | | 129,840 | | | 129,840 | | 129,840 |
| Republic of Korea | 342,000 | | | 342,000 | | | 342,000 | | 342,000 |
| Samoa | 1,498 | | | 1,498 | | | 1,498 | | 1,498 |
| San Marino | 50,000 | | | 50,000 | | | 50,000 | | 50,000 |
| Saudi Arabia | 255,320 | | | 255,320 | | | 255,320 | | 255,320 |
| Singapore | 31,863 | | | 31,863 | | | 31,863 | | 31,863 |
| Slovakia | 35,000 | | | 35,000 | | | 35,000 | | 35,000 |
| Slovenia | 9,343 | | | 9,343 | | | 9,343 | | 9,343 |
| South Africa | 135,216 | 118,314 | | 253,530 | | | 253,530 | | 253,530 |
| Spain | 333,300 | 1,376,728 | | 1,710,028 | | | 1,710,028 | | 1,710,028 |
| Sweden | 2,556,300 | 39,975,200 | | 42,531,500 | | | 42,531,500 | | 42,531,500 |
| Switzerland | 69,475,000 | 22,500,000 | 66,300 | 92,041,300 | | 139,050 | 92,180,350 | - 114,684 | 92,065,666 |
| Tajikistan | 2,135 | | | 2,135 | | | 2,135 | | 2,135 |
| Thailand | 92,775 | | | 92,775 | | | 92,775 | | 92,775 |
| Tonga | 1,498 | | | 1,498 | | | 1,498 | | 1,498 |
| Tunisia | 8,459 | | | 8,459 | | | 8,459 | | 8,459 |
| Turkey | 100,000 | | | 100,000 | | | 100,000 | | 100,000 |
| United Arab Emirates | 57,000 | 2,280,000 | 64,920 | 2,401,920 | | | 2,401,920 | | 2,401,920 |
| United Kingdom | 1,370,100 | 82,297,950 | | 83,668,050 | | | 83,668,050 | | 83,668,050 |
| United States of America | 14,977,700 | 149,238,833 | - 1,016,761 | 163,199,772 | 3,721,989 | 45,031 | 166,966,792 | | 166,966,792 |
| Venezuela | | | 316,442 | 316,442 | | | 316,442 | | 316,442 |
| Total from governments | 116,815,256 | 480,306,617 | 1,438,608 | 598,560,481 | 6,694,849 | 1,097,038 | 606,352,368 | 742,774 | 607,095,142 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.2 EUROPEAN COMMISSION (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| DG for Development | | 13,150,230 | - 468,071 | 12,682,159 | | | 12,682,159 | | 12,682,159 |
| DG for External Relations | | 774,250 | | 774,250 | | | 774,250 | | 774,250 |
| DG Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) | | 62,981,285 | - 802,571 | 62,178,714 | | | 62,178,714 | | 62,178,714 |
| European Development Fund | | 2,264,286 | | 2,264,286 | | | 2,264,286 | | 2,264,286 |
| Total from European Commission | | 79,170,051 | - 1,270,643 | 77,899,409 | | | 77,899,409 | | 77,899,409 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.3 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| WHO | | | | | | | | 1,320 | 1,320 |
| WFP | | | - 128,609 | - 128,609 | 329,541 | | 200,932 | | 200,932 |
| Various UN | | | | | 125,414 | | 125,414 | | 125,414 |
| Total from international organizations | | | - 128,609 | - 128,609 | 454,955 | | 326,346 | 1,320 | 327,666 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.4 SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| AG Fund | | 321,420 | | 321,420 | | | 321,420 | | 321,420 |
| Médecins Sans Frontières | | | | | 143,445 | | 143,445 | | 143,445 |
| Various supranational organizations | | | | | 8,985 | | 8,985 | | 8,985 |
| Total from supranational organizations | | 321,420 | | 321,420 | 152,430 | | 473,850 | | 473,850 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.5 NATIONAL SOCIETIES (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|
| Andorra | 888 | | | 888 | | | 888 | | 888 |
| Antigua | 359 | | | 359 | | | 359 | | 359 |
| Australia | 166,597 | 384,300 | | 550,897 | | 778,250 | 1,329,147 | | 1,329,147 |
| Austria | 67,729 | 1,106,285 | - 139,482 | 1,034,532 | 180,851 | 256,210 | 1,471,593 | | 1,471,593 |
| Barbados | 763 | | | 763 | | | 763 | | 763 |
| Belgium | 128,014 | | | 128,014 | | 93,866 | 221,880 | | 221,880 |
| Bolivia | 839 | | | 839 | | | 839 | | 839 |
| Botswana | 1,468 | | | 1,468 | | | 1,468 | | 1,468 |
| Bulgaria | 1,500 | | | 1,500 | | | 1,500 | | 1,500 |
| Cambodia | 2,100 | | | 2,100 | | | 2,100 | | 2,100 |
| Canada | 100,126 | 88,471 | | 188,597 | | 824,394 | 1,012,991 | | 1,012,991 |
| Cape Verde | 1,678 | | | 1,678 | | | 1,678 | | 1,678 |
| Chile | 10,306 | | | 10,306 | | | 10,306 | | 10,306 |
| China | 78,004 | 37,470 | | 115,474 | | | 115,474 | | 115,474 |
| China / Hong Kong | | | | | | 23,199 | 23,199 | | 23,199 |
| Costa Rica | 4,412 | | | 4,412 | | | 4,412 | | 4,412 |

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Croatia | 4,613 | | | 4,613 | | | 4,613 | | 4,613 |
| Cyprus | | 153,084 | | 153,084 | | | 153,084 | | 153,084 |
| Czech Republic | 13,753 | 2,205 | | 15,958 | | | 15,958 | | 15,958 |
| Denmark | 90,585 | 885,473 | - 73,685 | 902,373 | 36,000 | 602,521 | 1,540,894 | | 1,540,894 |
| Dominica | 230 | | | 230 | | | 230 | | 230 |
| Egypt | 9,436 | 101,861 | | 111,297 | | | 111,297 | | 111,297 |
| Estonia | 3,253 | | | 3,253 | | | 3,253 | | 3,253 |
| Ethiopia | 5,662 | | | 5,662 | | | 5,662 | | 5,662 |
| Finland | 91,189 | 153,009 | | 244,198 | 69,620 | 363,046 | 676,864 | | 676,864 |
| France | 534,599 | 20,476 | | 555,075 | | 417,367 | 972,442 | | 972,442 |
| Germany | 532,817 | 2,237,584 | 42,548 | 2,812,948 | | 298,591 | 3,111,539 | | 3,111,539 |
| Greece | 50,000 | | | 50,000 | | 16,497 | 66,497 | | 66,497 |
| Honduras | 3,897 | | | 3,897 | | | 3,897 | | 3,897 |
| Hungary | 5,000 | | | 5,000 | | | 5,000 | | 5,000 |
| Iceland | 35,542 | 86,015 | | 121,557 | | 214,325 | 335,882 | | 335,882 |
| Indonesia | 6,000 | | | 6,000 | | | 6,000 | | 6,000 |
| Iran | 31,650 | | | 31,650 | | | 31,650 | | 31,650 |
| Ireland | 20,654 | 16,267 | | 36,921 | | 319,304 | 356,225 | | 356,225 |
| Italy | 305,600 | 160,800 | - 2,910 | 463,490 | | | 463,490 | | 463,490 |
| Japan | 1,388,867 | 1,501,237 | - 9,799 | 2,880,305 | | 728,140 | 3,608,445 | | 3,608,445 |
| Jordan | 839 | | | 839 | | | 839 | | 839 |
| Kenya | 1,122 | | | 1,122 | | | 1,122 | | 1,122 |
| Latvia | 2,097 | | | 2,097 | | | 2,097 | | 2,097 |
| Libya | 12,057 | | | 12,057 | | | 12,057 | | 12,057 |
| Liechtenstein | 15,098 | 67,934 | | 83,032 | | | 83,032 | | 83,032 |
| Luxembourg | 24,848 | | | 24,848 | | | 24,848 | | 24,848 |
| Malaysia | 17,552 | | | 17,552 | | | 17,552 | | 17,552 |
| Monaco | 16,565 | 31,180 | | 47,745 | | | 47,745 | | 47,745 |
| Mongolia | 826 | | | 826 | | | 826 | | 826 |
| Morocco | 1,400 | | | 1,400 | | | 1,400 | | 1,400 |
| Mozambique | 944 | | | 944 | | | 944 | | 944 |
| Nepal | 944 | | 1,500 | 2,444 | | | 2,444 | | 2,444 |
| Netherlands | 217,237 | 60,588 | | 277,825 | 773,942 | 140,747 | 1,192,514 | | 1,192,514 |
| New Zealand | 42,448 | 393,344 | | 435,792 | | 465,033 | 900,825 | | 900,825 |
| Niger | 480 | | | 480 | | | 480 | | 480 |
| Nigeria | 2,406 | | | 2,406 | | | 2,406 | | 2,406 |
| Norway | 269,466 | 7,422,092 | | 7,691,558 | 258,040 | 2,016,932 | 9,966,530 | 68,573 | 10,035,103 |
| Pakistan | 4,695 | | | 4,695 | | | 4,695 | | 4,695 |
| Papua New Guinea | 766 | | | 766 | | | 766 | | 766 |
| Paraguay | 1,992 | | | 1,992 | | | 1,992 | | 1,992 |
| Portugal | | | 50,662 | 50,662 | | | 50,662 | | 50,662 |
| Qatar | 6,916 | | | 6,916 | | | 6,916 | | 6,916 |
| Republic of Korea | 239,778 | | | 239,778 | | | 239,778 | | 239,778 |
| Romania | 11,023 | | | 11,023 | | | 11,023 | | 11,023 |
| Singapore | | 300,000 | | 300,000 | | | 300,000 | | 300,000 |
| Slovakia | 6,500 | 1,000 | | 7,500 | | | 7,500 | | 7,500 |
| Spain | | 1,491 | - 1,896 | - 405 | | 599,655 | 599,250 | | 599,250 |
| Suriname | 553 | | | 553 | | | 553 | | 553 |
| Sweden | 104,796 | 1,451,588 | | 1,556,383 | 219,910 | 569,030 | 2,345,323 | | 2,345,323 |
| Switzerland | 111,764 | 153,712 | - 60,160 | 205,316 | | 13,518 | 218,834 | | 218,834 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 6,121 | | 5,913 | 12,034 | | | 12,034 | | 12,034 |
| Thailand | 41,518 | | | 41,518 | | | 41,518 | | 41,518 |
| Tonga | 419 | | | 419 | | | 419 | | 419 |
| Tunisia | 1,249 | | 1,244 | 2,492 | | | 2,492 | | 2,492 |
| United Arab Emirates | | 138,884 | | 138,884 | 473,210 | | 612,094 | | 612,094 |
| United Kingdom | 219,330 | 4,941,283 | | 5,160,613 | 340,915 | 1,066,806 | 6,568,334 | | 6,568,334 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 463 | | | 463 | | | 463 | | 463 |
| United States of America | | | - 5,466 | - 5,466 | | 63,083 | 57,618 | | 57,618 |
| Uruguay | 110 | | | 110 | | | 110 | | 110 |
| Vietnam | 1,363 | | | 1,363 | | | 1,363 | | 1,363 |
| Zimbabwe | 1,859 | | | 1,859 | | | 1,859 | | 1,859 |
| International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies | | | | | 5,469 | | 5,469 | 760 | 6,229 |
| Total from National Societies | 5,085,674 | 21,897,632 | - 191,531 | 26,791,775 | 2,357,957 | 9,870,514 | 39,020,245 | 69,333 | 39,089,578 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.6 PUBLIC SOURCES (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Basel - Landschaft, Canton of | | 100,000 | | 100,000 | | | 100,000 | | 100,000 |
| Bellinzona | | 5,000 | | 5,000 | | | 5,000 | | 5,000 |
| Fribourg, Canton of | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | | | 30,000 | | 30,000 |
| Geneva, Canton of | | 3,000,000 | | 3,000,000 | | 677,246 | 3,677,246 | | 3,677,246 |
| Geneva, City of | | 200,000 | | 200,000 | | | 200,000 | | 200,000 |
| Jussy | | 700 | | 700 | | | 700 | | 700 |
| Lausanne, City of | | 10,000 | | 10,000 | | | 10,000 | | 10,000 |
| Molsheim, City of | | 143 | | 143 | | | 143 | | 143 |
| Parma | | 489 | | 489 | | | 489 | | 489 |
| Versoix | | | | | | 477,612 | 477,612 | | 477,612 |
| Zurich, Canton of | | 80,000 | | 80,000 | | | 80,000 | | 80,000 |
| Total from public sources | | 3,426,332 | | 3,426,332 | | 1,154,858 | 4,581,190 | | 4,581,190 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

7.7 PRIVATE SOURCES (in Swiss francs)

| | Headquarters appeal | Emergency appeals | Adjustments on previous years | Total cash | Total kind | Total services | Sub-total | Total assets | Grand total |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Direct mail fundraising campaigns | | 2,556,080 | | 2,556,080 | | | 2,556,080 | | 2,556,080 |
| Spontaneous donations from private individuals | | 4,842,781 | - 532 | 4,842,250 | | | 4,842,250 | | 4,842,250 |
| Donations from foundations/funds | | | | | | | | | |
| Benjamin and Sophie Scher Charitable Foundation | | 12,775 | | 12,775 | | | 12,775 | | 12,775 |
| Cisco Systems Foundation | | 123,700 | | 123,700 | | | 123,700 | | 123,700 |
| Clare R. Benedict Fund | | 13,712 | | 13,712 | | | 13,712 | | 13,712 |
| Felis Stiftung | | 400,000 | | 400,000 | | | 400,000 | | 400,000 |
| Fondation des immeubles pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI) | | | | | | 299,316 | 299,316 | | 299,316 |
| Lamprecht-Steiger Stiftung | | 30,000 | | 30,000 | | | 30,000 | | 30,000 |
| Noric Foundation | | 67,203 | | 67,203 | | | 67,203 | | 67,203 |
| Parthenon Trust | | 2,282,000 | | 2,282,000 | | | 2,282,000 | | 2,282,000 |
| RPH-Promotor Stiftung | | 14,000 | | 14,000 | | | 14,000 | | 14,000 |
| The Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhauser Foundation | | 11,022 | | 11,022 | | | 11,022 | | 11,022 |
| The Link Foundation | | 83,195 | | 83,195 | | | 83,195 | | 83,195 |
| Triangle Valley Trust | | 21,972 | | 21,972 | | | 21,972 | | 21,972 |
| Others and less than CHF 10,000 | 2,500 | 934,187 | | 936,687 | | | 936,687 | | 936,687 |
| Total donations from foundations/funds | 2,500 | 3,993,766 | | 3,996,266 | | 299,316 | 4,295,582 | | 4,295,582 |
| Legacies | 38,480 | 12,577,278 | | 12,615,758 | | | 12,615,758 | | 12,615,758 |
| Donations from private companies | | | | | | | | | |
| Astra Zeneca AG | | 51,600 | | 51,600 | | | 51,600 | | 51,600 |
| BMW | | | | | | | | 124,700 | 124,700 |
| Firmenich | | 50,000 | | 50,000 | | | 50,000 | | 50,000 |
| Land Rover | | | | | | 35,350 | 35,350 | | 35,350 |
| Other private companies | 33,557 | 397,061 | | 430,618 | 6,601 | | 437,219 | 20,778 | 457,997 |
| Total donations from private companies | 33,557 | 498,661 | | 532,218 | 6,601 | 35,350 | 574,168 | 145,478 | 719,646 |
| Donations from associations and service clubs | | | | | | | | | |
| Comité International Olympique | | 20,000 | | 20,000 | | | 20,000 | | 20,000 |
| MINE-EX Stiftung Rotary Schweiz-Liechtenstein | | 500,000 | | 500,000 | | | 500,000 | | 500,000 |
| MINE-EX Verein Rotary Deutschland | | 250,469 | | 250,469 | | | 250,469 | | 250,469 |
| PRO CICR | | 21,611 | | 21,611 | | | 21,611 | | 21,611 |
| Rotary Pallanza Stresa | | 14,031 | | 14,031 | | | 14,031 | | 14,031 |
| Soroptimist Netherlands | | 106,960 | | 106,960 | | | 106,960 | | 106,960 |
| Soroptimist International | | 682,673 | | 682,673 | | | 682,673 | | 682,673 |
| UEFA | 100,000 | 1,000,000 | | 1,100,000 | | | 1,100,000 | | 1,100,000 |
| Total donations from associations and service clubs | 100,000 | 2,595,744 | | 2,695,744 | | | 2,695,744 | | 2,695,744 |
| Various donors | | 438,650 | | 438,650 | | | 438,650 | | 438,650 |
| Total from private sources | 174,537 | 27,502,959 | - 532 | 27,676,965 | 6,601 | 334,666 | 28,018,231 | 145,478 | 28,163,709 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

8. CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND, IN SERVICES AND TO DELEGATED PROJECTS 2004 (in Swiss francs)

| | Donations in kind (excluding DPs) | | Donations in services (excluding DPs) | | Donations for delegated projects (DPs) | | | | Grand Total | | Number of days of employees' services |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|--|------------------|--|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Headquarters | Field | Headquarters | Field | Kind | Services | Cash | Total DPs | Total kind | Total services | |
| NATIONAL SOCIETIES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Australia | | | 19,608 | 758,642 | | | | | 778,250 | | 3,292 |
| Austria | 180,851 | | | 256,210 | | | | | 180,851 | 256,210 | 1,161 |
| Belgium | | | 8,805 | 85,061 | | | | | 93,866 | | 51 |
| Canada | | | 52,331 | 772,063 | | | | | 824,394 | | 1,266 |
| China / Hong Kong | | | | 23,199 | | | | | 23,199 | | 139 |
| Denmark | 36,000 | | | 602,521 | | | - 15,270 | - 15,270 | 36,000 | 602,521 | 1,680 |
| Finland | 69,620 | | | 363,046 | | | | | 69,620 | 363,046 | 1,495 |
| France | | | 3,077 | 364,823 | | 49,467 | 20,476 | 69,943 | 417,367 | | 152 |
| Germany | | | | 62,469 | | 236,122 | 1,642,428 | 1,878,550 | 298,591 | | 748 |
| Greece | | | | 16,497 | | | | | 16,497 | | 167 |
| Iceland | | | | 214,325 | | | | | 214,325 | | 747 |
| Ireland | | | | 319,304 | | | | | 319,304 | | 1,157 |
| Italy | | | | | | | 124,053 | 124,053 | | | 278 |
| Japan | | | | 200,847 | | 527,293 | 962,766 | 1,490,059 | 728,140 | | 2,061 |
| Netherlands | 773,942 | | | 126,728 | | 14,019 | | 14,019 | 773,942 | 140,747 | 301 |
| New Zealand | | | 4,785 | 460,248 | | | | | 465,033 | | 3,452 |
| Norway | 258,040 | | 184,791 | 856,288 | | 975,853 | 3,843,522 | 4,819,375 | 258,040 | 2,016,932 | 5,933 |
| Spain | | | | 599,655 | | | - 405 | - 405 | 599,655 | | 2,151 |
| Sweden | 219,910 | | | 517,958 | | 51,072 | 1,211,920 | 1,262,992 | 219,910 | 569,030 | 2,617 |
| Switzerland | | | | 13,518 | | | - 25,900 | - 25,900 | 13,518 | | |
| United Arab Emirates | 473,210 | | | | | | | | 473,210 | | |
| United Kingdom | 166,455 | | 88,924 | 660,771 | 174,460 | 317,111 | 151,611 ¹ | 643,182 | 340,915 | 1,066,806 | 2,894 |
| United States of America | | | | 63,083 | | | - 5,466 | - 5,466 | 63,083 | | 1 |
| International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies | | 5,469 | | | | | | | 5,469 | | |
| Sub-total | 2,183,497 | | 362,321 | 7,337,256 | 174,460 | 2,170,937 | 7,909,736 | 10,255,133 | 2,357,957 | 9,870,514 | 31,743 |
| GOVERNMENTS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada | | | | 149,141 | | 285,181 | 418,966 | 704,147 | 434,322 | | 1,498 |
| Denmark | 195,660 | | | | | | | | 195,660 | | |
| Finland | 722,462 | | | 204,637 | | 273,998 | 296,569 | 570,567 | 722,462 | 478,635 | 1,738 |
| Mexico | 9,200 | | | | | | | | 9,200 | | |
| Norway | 2,045,538 | | | | | | | | 2,045,538 | | |
| Switzerland | | | | 139,050 | | | | | | 139,050 | 405 |
| United States of America | 3,721,989 | | | 45,031 | | | | | 3,721,989 | 45,031 | |
| Sub-total | 6,694,849 | | | 537,859 | | 559,179 | 715,535 | 1,274,714 | 6,694,849 | 1,097,038 | 3,641 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

1) This amount corresponds to the Integrated Project in Sudan funded by the British Red Cross Society.

| | Donations in kind (excluding DPs) | | Donations in services (excluding DPs) | | Donations for delegated projects (DPs) | | | | Grand Total | | Number of days of employees' services |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| | Headquarters | Field | Headquarters | Field | Kind | Services | Cash | Total DPs | Total kind | Total services | |
| INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WFP | | 329,541 | | | | | | | 329,541 | | |
| Various UN | | 125,414 | | | | | | | 125,414 | | |
| Sub-total | | 454,955 | | | | | | | 454,955 | | |
| SUPRANATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Médecins Sans Frontières | | 143,445 | | | | | | | 143,445 | | |
| Various supranational organizations | | 8,985 | | | | | | | 8,985 | | |
| Sub-total | | 152,430 | | | | | | | 152,430 | | |
| PUBLIC SOURCES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Geneva, Canton of | | | 677,246 | | | | | | 677,246 | | |
| Versoir | | | 477,612 | | | | | | 477,612 | | |
| Sub-total | | | 1,154,858 | | | | | | 1,154,858 | | |
| PRIVATE SOURCES | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fondation des immeubles pour les organisations internationales (FIPOI) | | | 299,316 | | | | | | 299,316 | | |
| Land Rover | | | | 35,350 | | | | | 35,350 | | |
| Other private companies | | 6,601 | | | | | | | 6,601 | | |
| Sub-total | | 6,601 | 299,316 | 35,350 | | | | | 6,601 | 334,666 | |
| GRAND TOTAL | | 9,492,331 | 1,816,495 | 7,910,465 | 174,460 | 2,730,116 | 8,625,272 | 11,529,848 | 9,666,791 | 12,457,076 | 35,384 |

N.B. Figures in these tables are rounded off, may vary slightly from the amounts presented in other documents and may result in rounding off addition differences.

9. ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES

The statistical data in the following tables can be summarized as follows:

9.1 CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2004

All assistance supplies received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December, 2004. The figures for contributions in kind cover all material support received as a gift but do not include any services received, such as the provision of human resources and/or logistical means. The figures for assistance supply purchases comprise all procurements carried out both with non-earmarked and with earmarked financial contributions ("cash for kind"). The grand total of CHF 97,021,502 therefore corresponds to the grand total given in the table "Assistance supplies dispatched in 2004".

9.2 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2004

All assistance supplies received as contributions in kind or purchased by the ICRC and inventoried in the country of final destination between 1 January and 31 December, 2004.

9.3 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2004

All assistance supplies distributed by the ICRC in the field between 1 January and 31 December, 2004. These goods were either purchased or received in kind during 2004 or taken from stock already constituted at the end of 2003.

9.1 CONTRIBUTIONS IN KIND RECEIVED AND PURCHASES MADE BY THE ICRC IN 2004

(broken down by donors & purchases, according to stock entry date)

| Donors | Food | Seeds | Blankets | Tents | Kitchen sets | clothes | Other relief goods | Total relief * | Water & habitat | Medical ** | Grand total |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | (Tonnes) | (Tonnes) | (Units) | (Units) | (Units) | (Tonnes) | (Tonnes) | (CHF) | (CHF) | (CHF) | (CHF) |
| National Societies | 30.1 | | 1,776 | 500 | | 231.3 | 82.6 | 2,241,437 | 1,518 | 184,334 | 2,427,289 |
| Austria | | | | | | | 7.8 | 180,851 | | | 180,851 |
| Denmark | | | | | | 14.4 | | 36,000 | | | 36,000 |
| Finland | | | | | | 27.8 | | 69,620 | | | 69,620 |
| Netherlands | | | | | | 50.1 | | 773,942 | | | 773,942 |
| Norway | | | | | | 2.5 | 35.1 | 141,520 | 1,518 | 183,574 | 326,612 |
| Sweden | | | | | | 88.0 | | 219,910 | | | 219,910 |
| United Arab Emirates | 28.5 | | 1,776 | | | 43.8 | 35.6 | 473,210 | | | 473,210 |
| United Kingdom | | | | 500 | | 4.7 | 4.0 | 340,915 | | | 340,915 |
| Federation | 1.6 | | | | | | 0.1 | 5,469 | | 760 | 6,229 |
| Governments | 1,277.9 | | 17,000 | | | | 379.2 | 3,165,432 | 13,664 | 1,744,311 | 4,923,407 |
| Denmark | | | | | | | 8.4 | 226,170 | | 184,194 | 410,364 |
| Finland | 1,272.9 | | | | | | | 722,462 | | | 722,462 |
| Mexico | 5.0 | | | | | | 2.1 | 9,200 | | | 9,200 |
| Norway | | | | | | | 268.7 | 1,130,911 | 13,664 | 1,543,717 | 2,688,292 |
| Switzerland | | | | | | | | | | 16,400 | 16,400 |
| United States of America | | | 17,000 | | | | 100.0 | 1,076,689 | | | 1,076,689 |
| Various donors | 374.2 | | 4,822 | | 399 | 1.5 | 19.3 | 482,362 | 3,870 | 149,852 | 636,084 |
| United Nations (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF) | 374.2 | | | | | | | 329,541 | | 126,734 | 456,275 |
| Other donors | | | 4,822 | | 399 | 1.5 | 19.3 | 152,821 | 3,870 | 23,118 | 179,809 |
| TOTAL GIFTS IN KIND | 1,682.2 | | 23,598 | 500 | 399 | 232.8 | 481.1 | 5,889,231 | 19,052 | 2,078,497 | 7,986,780 |
| ICRC PURCHASES (non-earmarked) | 13,294.4 | 1,648.2 | 589,748 | 265 | 106,488 | 610.3 | 7,551.0 | 34,108,236 | 15,820,845 | 16,629,140 | 66,558,221 |
| ICRC PURCHASES (cash for kind) | 27,710.1 | 490.3 | 181,250 | | 53,481 | 58.1 | 455.5 | 19,067,430 | 1,956,967 | 610,838 | 21,635,235 |
| ICRC PURCHASES (delegated projects) | 0.3 | | | | | 2.7 | 14.1 | 45,682 | 415,779 | 379,805 | 841,266 |
| TOTAL ICRC PURCHASES | 41,004.8 | 2,138.5 | 770,998 | 265 | 159,969 | 671.1 | 8,020.6 | 53,221,348 | 18,193,591 | 17,619,783 | 89,034,722 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 42,687.0 | 2,138.5 | 794,596 | 765 | 160,368 | 903.9 | 8,501.7 | 59,110,579 | 18,212,643 | 19,698,280 | 97,021,502 |

* RELIEF includes, food, seed, agricultural rehabilitation & essential household items

** MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items.

9.2 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISPATCHED BY THE ICRC IN 2004

(by receiving countries, according to stock entry date)

| Countries | GIFTS IN KIND | | | PURCHASES BY THE ICRC | | | TOTAL DISPATCHED | | | Total |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Medical * (CHF) | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** (CHF) | Medical * (CHF) | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** (CHF) | Medical * (CHF) | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** (CHF) | |
| AFRICA | 1,581,123 | 15,182 | 4,754,599 | 6,775,330 | 11,562,000 | 31,579,808 | 8,356,453 | 11,577,182 | 36,334,407 | 56,268,042 |
| Angola | | | | 348,547 | 170,056 | 77,006 | 348,547 | 170,056 | 77,006 | 595,609 |
| Botswana | | | | 612 | | 5,521 | 612 | | 5,521 | 6,133 |
| Burundi | | | | 419,519 | 543,431 | 319,910 | 419,519 | 543,431 | 319,910 | 1,282,860 |
| Cameroon | | | | 322 | 4,009 | 8,568 | 322 | 4,009 | 8,568 | 12,899 |
| Central African Republic | | | | 5,560 | 780,449 | 2,637 | 5,560 | 780,449 | 2,637 | 788,646 |
| Chad | | | 14,102 | 73,496 | 344 | 53,502 | 73,496 | 344 | 67,604 | 141,444 |
| Republic of the Congo | | | 16,805 | 105,132 | 374,990 | 1,011,930 | 105,132 | 374,990 | 1,028,735 | 1,508,857 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | | | | 496,261 | 1,467,122 | 2,509,558 | 496,261 | 1,467,122 | 2,509,558 | 4,472,941 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | | | 316,426 | 452,317 | 1,410,414 | 395,648 | 452,317 | 1,410,414 | 712,074 | 2,574,805 |
| Djibouti | | | | 1,597 | | 18,796 | 1,597 | | 18,796 | 20,393 |
| Eritrea | | | | | 511,417 | 887,654 | | 511,417 | 887,654 | 1,399,071 |
| Ethiopia | 670 | | | 381,898 | 815,676 | 1,315,215 | 382,568 | 815,676 | 1,315,215 | 2,513,459 |
| Guinea | | | 142,013 | 9,345 | 289,296 | 79,168 | 9,345 | 289,296 | 221,181 | 519,822 |
| Guinea-Bissau | | | | 1,575 | | 26,298 | 1,575 | | 26,298 | 27,873 |
| Equatorial Guinea | | | | 1,294 | 4,020 | 4,000 | 1,294 | 4,020 | 4,000 | 9,314 |
| Kenya | | | | | 41,531 | 9,497 | | 41,531 | 9,497 | 51,028 |
| Lesotho | | | | | | 507 | | | 507 | 507 |
| Liberia | | | 393,356 | 464,363 | 1,344,945 | 5,022,285 | 464,363 | 1,344,945 | 5,415,641 | 7,224,949 |
| Madagascar | | | | 4,880 | 22,569 | 37,905 | 4,880 | 22,569 | 37,905 | 65,354 |
| Namibia | | | | 704 | | 13,906 | 704 | | 13,906 | 14,610 |
| Niger | | | | | 9,886 | 20,336 | | 9,886 | 20,336 | 30,222 |
| Nigeria | | | | | 3,813 | 63,008 | | 3,813 | 63,008 | 66,821 |
| Rwanda | | | | 74,898 | 520,466 | 2,451,078 | 74,898 | 520,466 | 2,451,078 | 3,046,442 |
| Senegal | | | | 18,872 | 97,074 | 59,084 | 18,872 | 97,074 | 59,084 | 175,030 |
| Sierra Leone | | | | 4 | 103,315 | 23,899 | 4 | 103,315 | 23,899 | 127,218 |
| Somalia | | | 212,292 | 854,243 | 585,609 | 2,383,895 | 854,243 | 585,609 | 2,596,187 | 4,036,039 |
| Sudan | 1,580,453 | 15,182 | 3,659,605 | 2,656,139 | 2,177,442 | 12,778,737 | 4,236,592 | 2,192,624 | 16,438,342 | 22,867,558 |
| Tanzania | | | | 59,635 | 25,753 | 6,802 | 59,635 | 25,753 | 6,802 | 92,190 |
| Uganda | | | | 231,324 | 193,902 | 1,754,270 | 231,324 | 193,902 | 1,754,270 | 2,179,496 |
| Zambia | | | | 100,499 | 64,471 | 22,022 | 100,499 | 64,471 | 22,022 | 186,992 |
| Zimbabwe | | | | 12,294 | | 217,166 | 12,294 | | 217,166 | 229,460 |
| ASIA & THE PACIFIC | 1,432 | | 510 | 4,026,358 | 1,596,250 | 2,294,444 | 4,027,790 | 1,596,250 | 2,294,954 | 7,918,994 |
| Afghanistan | 1,432 | | | 2,465,044 | 1,108,680 | 1,035,738 | 2,466,476 | 1,108,680 | 1,035,738 | 4,610,894 |
| Cambodia | | | | 289,414 | 28,822 | 46,684 | 289,414 | 28,822 | 46,684 | 364,920 |
| China | | | | 126,883 | | 198 | 126,883 | | 198 | 127,081 |
| Fiji | | | | | | 1,632 | | | 1,632 | 1,632 |
| India | | | | 48,085 | | 1,447 | 48,085 | | 1,447 | 49,532 |
| Indonesia | | | | 35,475 | 2,094 | 331,763 | 35,475 | 2,094 | 331,763 | 369,332 |
| Korea (DPRK) | | | | 259,830 | 42,918 | 7,643 | 259,830 | 42,918 | 7,643 | 310,391 |
| Kyrgyzstan | | | | 394 | 1,143 | 28,507 | 394 | 1,143 | 28,507 | 30,044 |
| Myanmar | | | | 407,333 | 214,778 | 105,136 | 407,333 | 214,778 | 105,136 | 727,247 |
| Nepal | | | | 93,990 | 13,489 | 8,432 | 93,990 | 13,489 | 8,432 | 115,911 |
| Pakistan | | | | 352 | | 175,541 | 352 | | 175,541 | 175,893 |
| Philippines | | | | 39,536 | 1,325 | 25,800 | 39,536 | 1,325 | 25,800 | 66,661 |
| Solomon Islands | | | | | | 3,674 | | | 3,674 | 3,674 |
| Sri Lanka | | | | 164,813 | 158,397 | 458,045 | 164,813 | 158,397 | 458,045 | 781,255 |
| Tajikistan | | | 510 | 54,361 | 596 | 64,012 | 54,361 | 596 | 64,522 | 119,479 |
| Thailand | | | | 38,753 | | 192 | 38,753 | | 192 | 38,945 |
| Timor-Leste | | | | | 24,008 | | | 24,008 | | 24,008 |
| Uzbekistan | | | | 2,095 | | | 2,095 | | | 2,095 |

| Countries | GIFTS IN KIND | | | PURCHASES BY THE ICRC | | | TOTAL DISPATCHED | | | Total |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| | Medical * (CHF) | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** (CHF) | Medical * (CHF) | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** (CHF) | Medical * (CHF) | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** (CHF) | |
| EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | 461,071 | | 827,330 | 5,203,067 | 658,936 | 16,363,044 | 5,664,138 | 658,936 | 17,190,374 | 23,513,448 |
| Armenia | | | | 66,808 | 27,168 | 36,972 | 66,808 | 27,168 | 36,972 | 130,948 |
| Azerbaijan | | | | 238,050 | 8,713 | 3,984 | 238,050 | 8,713 | 3,984 | 250,747 |
| Croatia | | | | 1,311 | | 2,988 | 1,311 | | 2,988 | 4,299 |
| Georgia | 4,625 | | 138,059 | 283,506 | 47,246 | 3,558,863 | 288,131 | 47,246 | 3,696,922 | 4,032,299 |
| Russian Federation | | | 584,403 | 3,503,148 | 344,761 | 6,974,274 | 3,503,148 | 344,761 | 7,558,677 | 11,406,586 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | | | 4,959 | 18,620 | 8,259 | 997,865 | 18,620 | 8,259 | 1,002,824 | 1,029,703 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | | | | | | 141,759 | | | 141,759 | 141,759 |
| Bolivia | | | | 1,717 | | | 1,717 | | | 1,717 |
| Colombia | | | | 174,046 | 76,142 | 4,497,220 | 174,046 | 76,142 | 4,497,220 | 4,747,408 |
| Haiti | 456,446 | | 99,909 | 802,433 | 40,669 | 64,592 | 1,258,879 | 40,669 | 164,501 | 1,464,049 |
| Mexico | | | | 69,312 | 16,963 | 51,485 | 69,312 | 16,963 | 51,485 | 137,760 |
| Paraguay | | | | 64 | | 3,973 | 64 | | 3,973 | 4,037 |
| Peru | | | | 4,159 | 89,015 | 26,554 | 4,159 | 89,015 | 26,554 | 119,728 |
| United States of America | | | | | | 953 | | | 953 | 953 |
| Venezuela | | | | 39,893 | | 1,562 | 39,893 | | 1,562 | 41,455 |
| MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA | | | 306,275 | 1,615,028 | 4,376,405 | 2,984,052 | 1,615,028 | 4,376,405 | 3,290,327 | 9,281,760 |
| Iraq | | | 299,674 | 1,352,725 | 3,815,076 | 373,224 | 1,352,725 | 3,815,076 | 672,898 | 5,840,699 |
| Israel (including Occupied and Autonomous Territories) | | | 6,601 | 66,340 | 561,329 | 2,586,549 | 66,340 | 561,329 | 2,593,150 | 3,220,819 |
| Jordan | | | | | | 2,584 | | | 2,584 | 2,584 |
| Lebanon | | | | 28,495 | | 426 | 28,495 | | 426 | 28,921 |
| Syria | | | | 56,463 | | | 56,463 | | | 56,463 |
| Western Sahara | | | | 15,212 | | 14,948 | 15,212 | | 14,948 | 30,160 |
| Yemen | | | | 95,793 | | 6,321 | 95,793 | | 6,321 | 102,114 |
| REGIONAL STOCKS | 34,871 | 3,870 | 517 | | | | 34,871 | 3,870 | 517 | 39,258 |
| Geneva & Nairobi (only gifts in kind) | 34,871 | 3,870 | 517 | | | | 34,871 | 3,870 | 517 | 39,258 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 2,078,497 | 19,052 | 5,889,231 | 17,619,783 | 18,193,591 | 53,221,348 | 19,698,280 | 18,212,643 | 59,110,579 | 97,021,502 |

* MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items.

** RELIEF includes, food, seed, agricultural rehabilitation & essential household items.

9.3 ASSISTANCE SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 2004

| Countries | Medical * | Water & habitat | Relief ** | | Total |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | (CHF) | (CHF) | (CHF) | (Tonnes) | (CHF) |
| AFRICA | 7,232,096 | 9,883,606 | 27,434,085 | 24,645.3 | 44,549,787 |
| Angola | 399,929 | 43,942 | 120,256 | 46.6 | 564,127 |
| Botswana | 612 | | 5,521 | 1.9 | 6,133 |
| Burundi | 371,659 | 368,076 | 313,531 | 556.4 | 1,053,266 |
| Cameroon | 322 | 4,009 | 8,568 | 4.1 | 12,899 |
| Central African Republic | 3,933 | 761,673 | 11,073 | 3.1 | 776,679 |
| Chad | 73,901 | 344 | 19,523 | 5.0 | 93,768 |
| Republic of the Congo | 51,654 | 257,930 | 1,000,183 | 226.0 | 1,309,767 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 519,395 | 1,373,294 | 2,951,155 | 1,464.4 | 4,843,844 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 442,884 | 1,410,401 | 657,727 | 510.3 | 2,511,012 |
| Djibouti | 1,597 | | 18,673 | 2.6 | 20,270 |
| Eritrea | 15,542 | 288,427 | 990,780 | 711.5 | 1,294,749 |
| Ethiopia | 395,974 | 814,733 | 1,107,587 | 686.2 | 2,318,294 |
| Guinea | 19,107 | 270,170 | 84,518 | 30.3 | 373,795 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 1,575 | | 26,298 | 6.3 | 27,873 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 1,294 | 4,020 | 4,000 | 1.5 | 9,314 |
| Kenya | | 42,901 | 10,689 | 10.7 | 53,590 |
| Lesotho | | | 507 | 0.2 | 507 |
| Liberia | 788,182 | 1,201,150 | 4,937,400 | 2,009.6 | 6,926,732 |
| Madagascar | 4,880 | 22,569 | 37,905 | 16.5 | 65,354 |
| Malawi | 634 | | | | 634 |
| Namibia | 704 | | 13,906 | 2.4 | 14,610 |
| Niger | | 9,886 | 20,336 | 8.1 | 30,222 |
| Nigeria | 11,954 | 3,813 | 79,811 | 21.6 | 95,578 |
| Rwanda | 94,380 | 500,969 | 2,398,634 | 6,457.7 | 2,993,983 |
| Senegal | 18,872 | 97,074 | 59,084 | 13.7 | 175,030 |
| Sierra Leone | 4 | 103,315 | 57,581 | 13.8 | 160,900 |
| Somalia | 816,370 | 545,356 | 2,875,447 | 1,036.3 | 4,237,173 |
| Sudan | 2,991,431 | 1,478,528 | 7,944,620 | 10,020.3 | 12,414,579 |
| Tanzania | 57,317 | 25,753 | 6,802 | 2.1 | 89,872 |
| Uganda | 46,319 | 190,802 | 1,519,417 | 567.5 | 1,756,538 |
| Zambia | 100,499 | 64,471 | 22,179 | 9.1 | 187,149 |
| Zimbabwe | 1,172 | | 130,374 | 199.5 | 131,546 |
| ASIA & THE PACIFIC | 4,725,655 | 1,211,728 | 2,740,749 | 4,220.1 | 8,678,132 |
| Afghanistan | 3,410,703 | 875,165 | 1,925,948 | 3,626.1 | 6,211,816 |
| Cambodia | 301,739 | 28,822 | 46,684 | 42.3 | 377,245 |
| China | 60,436 | | 198 | 0.1 | 60,634 |
| Fiji | | | 1,632 | 0.4 | 1,632 |
| India | 96 | | 1,447 | 0.2 | 1,543 |
| Indonesia | 35,895 | 3,930 | 93,557 | 34.5 | 133,382 |
| Korea (DPRK) | 212,593 | 42,918 | 7,643 | 2.8 | 263,154 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 394 | 1,143 | 25,401 | 11.8 | 26,938 |
| Myanmar | 417,934 | 177,802 | 102,955 | 122.9 | 698,691 |
| Nepal | 85,750 | 10,195 | 69,600 | 23.3 | 165,545 |
| Pakistan | 2,122 | | 175,938 | 214.8 | 178,060 |
| Philippines | 39,470 | 1,325 | 32,520 | 22.4 | 73,315 |
| Solomon Islands | | | 3,674 | 2.2 | 3,674 |
| Sri Lanka | 19,433 | 45,824 | 245,954 | 110.4 | 311,211 |
| Tajikistan | 99,097 | 596 | 7,406 | 5.7 | 107,099 |
| Thailand | 38,753 | | 192 | 0.2 | 38,945 |
| Timor-Leste | | 24,008 | | | 24,008 |
| Uzbekistan | 1,240 | | | | 1,240 |

| Countries | Medical * | Water & habitat (CHF) | Relief ** | | Total (CHF) |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| | | | (CHF) | (Tonnes) | |
| EUROPE & THE AMERICAS | 5,624,847 | 647,454 | 18,669,988 | 18,104.9 | 24,942,289 |
| Armenia | 74,421 | 27,168 | 48,420 | 27.4 | 150,009 |
| Azerbaijan | 179,399 | 8,713 | 5,351 | 0.3 | 193,463 |
| Croatia | 1,311 | | 2,988 | 0.3 | 4,299 |
| Georgia | 405,359 | 47,246 | 3,796,299 | 7,115.9 | 4,248,904 |
| Russian Federation | 3,481,217 | 334,983 | 8,847,582 | 6,835.7 | 12,663,782 |
| Serbia and Montenegro | 25,708 | 8,259 | 1,020,808 | 741.7 | 1,054,775 |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | | | 141,759 | 96.4 | 141,759 |
| Bolivia | 1,717 | | | | 1,717 |
| Colombia | 218,089 | 76,142 | 4,537,080 | 3,232.8 | 4,831,311 |
| Haiti | 1,109,038 | 40,669 | 159,690 | 26.1 | 1,309,397 |
| Mexico | 69,312 | 16,963 | 51,986 | 10.5 | 138,261 |
| Paraguay | 64 | | 3,973 | 1.5 | 4,037 |
| Peru | 19,319 | 87,311 | 51,537 | 15.2 | 158,167 |
| United States of America | | | 953 | 0.3 | 953 |
| Venezuela | 39,893 | | 1,562 | 0.8 | 41,455 |
| MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA | 4,067,052 | 4,223,077 | 5,737,194 | 2,651.3 | 14,027,323 |
| Iraq | 3,712,770 | 3,661,748 | 2,326,015 | 844.8 | 9,700,533 |
| Israel (including Occupied and Autonomous Territories) | 135,430 | 561,329 | 3,377,253 | 1,798.6 | 4,074,012 |
| Jordan | | | 12,231 | 4.4 | 12,231 |
| Lebanon | 51,384 | | 426 | 0.1 | 51,810 |
| Syria | 56,463 | | | | 56,463 |
| Western Sahara | 15,212 | | 14,948 | 2.1 | 30,160 |
| Yemen | 95,793 | | 6,321 | 1.3 | 102,114 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 21,649,650 | 15,965,865 | 54,582,016 | 49,621.6 | 92,197,531 |

* MEDICAL includes physical rehabilitation items.

** RELIEF includes, food, seed, agricultural rehabilitation & essential household items.

10. SPECIAL FUNDS

10.1 FOUNDATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 844 | 1,141 |
| Securities | 8,404 | 6,955 |
| Swiss withholding tax refund | 54 | 6 |
| Total assets | 9,302 | 8,102 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 51 | 177 |
| Total current liabilities | 51 | 177 |
| Reserves | | |
| RESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| Inalienable capital | 886 | 886 |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| <i>Inalienable capital designated by the Board</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 5,954 | 4,818 |
| Allocation for the year | 1,106 7,060 | 1,136 5,954 |
| <i>Financial risk reserves</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 1,086 | 908 |
| Allocation for the year/(use) during the year | 195 1,281 | 177 1,085 |
| GENERAL RESERVES | | |
| Balance brought forward | | |
| Result for the year after transfer from/to reserves | 24 24 | |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 8,365 | 7,039 |
| Total reserves | 9,251 | 7,925 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 9,302 | 8,102 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | | | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|--|--|---------------|---------------|
| Income | | | | |
| Contributions | | | 1,106 | 1,039 |
| Income from securities | | | 211 | 172 |
| Realized gain on securities | | | 26 | 176 |
| Unrealized gain on securities | | | 195 | 177 |
| Bank interest | | | 1 | 10 |
| Foreign exchange gain, net | | | | 4 |
| Total | | | 1,539 | 1,578 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Bank charges | | | -37 | -30 |
| Realized loss on securities | | | -166 | -79 |
| Fundraising charges | | | -4 | -16 |
| Audit fees | | | -5 | -6 |
| Foreign exchange loss, net | | | -2 | |
| Total | | | -214 | -131 |
| Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves | | | 1,325 | 1,447 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | | | |
| Inalienable capital designated by the Board | | | -1,106 | -1,136 |
| Financial risk reserves | | | -195 | -177 |
| Total | | | -1,301 | -1,313 |
| Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross | | | | -134 |
| Result for the year after transfer from/to reserves | | | 24 | - |

Establishment

Created on 1 May 1931; statutes and objectives revised in 2002.

Purpose

The Foundation strives to secure long-term support for the ICRC by establishing a substantial endowment fund income most of which will be freely available to the organization.

Administration

The Foundation Board is made up of representatives of business and political circles and the ICRC:

- ▶ one representative of the Swiss Confederation;
- ▶ between five and eleven members appointed by the ICRC.

In 2004:

The Foundation strengthened its contacts with the private sector, in order to develop its resources in close cooperation with the ICRC.

10.2 AUGUSTA FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds | 136 | 132 |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | | 0 |
| Total assets | 136 | 132 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Florence Nightingale Medal Fund, current account | 1 | 0 |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 1 | |
| Total current liabilities | 2 | 0 |
| Reserves | | |
| RESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| Inalienable capital | 100 | 100 |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| <i>General reserves</i> | 18 | 18 |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 14 | 9 |
| Allocation during the year | 2 | 5 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 34 | 32 |
| Total reserves | 134 | 132 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 136 | 132 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Income | | |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds | 2 | 1 |
| Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds | 2 | 5 |
| Total | 4 | 6 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Audit fees | -1 | -1 |
| Total | -1 | -1 |
| Result for the year before attribution to the F. Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/(to) reserves | 3 | 5 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | |
| Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation | -2 | -5 |
| Attribution to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund | -1 | 0 |
| Result for the year after attribution to the F. Nightingale Medal Fund and transfers from/(to) reserves | - | - |

Establishment

In 1890, at the initiative of the ICRC, to commemorate the services rendered to the Red Cross by the German Empress Augusta, wife of Wilhelm I.

Purpose

Modified on several occasions. At the Twenty-first International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Istanbul in 1969, it was decided that, pending further modification, receipts from the Augusta Fund would be allocated to the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund. This decision was confirmed at the Twenty-second Conference, held in Teheran in 1973.

Administration

In view of the above decision, the same as for the Florence Nightingale Medal Fund.

10.3 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds | 454 | 441 |
| Augusta Fund, current account | 1 | 0 |
| Stock of medals | 18 | 18 |
| Total assets | 473 | 459 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 4 | 3 |
| Total current liabilities | 4 | 3 |
| Unrestricted reserves | | |
| <i>Capital</i> | 75 | 75 |
| <i>General reserves</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 337 | 348 |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | 5 | -11 |
| Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation | | |
| Balance brought forward | 44 | 8 |
| Allocation during the year | 8 | 36 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 469 | 456 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 473 | 459 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Income | | |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds | 6 | 3 |
| Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds | 8 | 36 |
| Attribution from the Augusta Fund | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 15 | 39 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Presentation of medals, printing and dispatching circulars | | -13 |
| Audit fees | -2 | -1 |
| Total | -2 | -14 |
| Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves | 13 | 25 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | |
| Share of the increase of the provision for portfolio variation | -8 | -36 |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | 5 | -11 |

Establishment

In accordance with the recommendations of the Eighth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in London, in 1907, and with the decision of the Ninth Conference held in Washington in 1912, a Fund was established by contributions from National Red Cross Societies. The regulations were revised by the Eighteenth International Conference of the Red Cross, held in Toronto in 1952, and by the Council of Delegates, held in Budapest in 1991.

Purpose

The Fund's income is used to distribute a medal, called the "Florence Nightingale Medal", to honour the life and work of Florence Nightingale. The medal may be awarded to Red Cross

and Red Crescent nurses and voluntary aides for having distinguished themselves by their service to sick and wounded people in time of peace or war. The medal is awarded every two years by the ICRC on the basis of proposals made to it by the National Societies. Only 50 medals may be distributed at any one time.

Administration

A commission composed of five ICRC representatives, including four Committee members.

10.4 CLARE R. BENEDICT FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds | 1,869 | 1,829 |
| Total assets | 1,869 | 1,829 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 1 | 0 |
| Total current liabilities | 1 | 0 |
| Reserves | | |
| RESTRICTED RESERVE | | |
| Capital | 1,633 | 1,633 |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 182 | 180 |
| Allocation during the year | 30 212 | 2 182 |
| <i>General reserve</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 14 | 23 |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 9 23 | -9 14 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 235 | 196 |
| Total reserves | 1,868 | 1,829 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 1,869 | 1,829 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Income | | |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds | 24 | 15 |
| Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds | 30 | 2 |
| Total | 54 | 17 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Audit fees | -1 | -1 |
| Total | -1 | -1 |
| Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 53 | 16 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | |
| Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation | -30 | -2 |
| Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross | -14 | -23 |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 9 | -9 |

Establishment

1 February 1968.

Purpose

The Fund's income is attributed to assistance activities for the victims of armed conflicts, in accordance with Miss Benedict's wishes.

Administration

A commission composed of three persons appointed by the ICRC.

10.5 MAURICE DE MADRE FRENCH FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds | 4,932 | 4,786 |
| Total assets | 4,932 | 4,786 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 261 | 98 |
| Total current liabilities | 261 | 98 |
| Reserves | | |
| RESTRICTED RESERVE | | |
| Donors, restricted contributions | 15 | 29 |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| Capital | | |
| Balance brought forward | 4,183 | 4,234 |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | -86 | -51 |
| Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation | | |
| Balance brought forward | 475 | 166 |
| Allocation during the year | 84 | 310 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 4,656 | 4,659 |
| Total reserves | 4,671 | 4,688 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 4,932 | 4,786 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Income | | |
| Contributions | 17 | 66 |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds | 62 | 39 |
| Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds | 84 | 310 |
| Total | 163 | 415 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Allocations | -175 | -156 |
| Audit fees | -2 | -2 |
| Other expenses | -2 | -6 |
| Total | -179 | -164 |
| Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves | -16 | 251 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | |
| Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation | -84 | -310 |
| Use of restricted reserves | | |
| Use of donors' restricted contributions | -31 | 10 |
| Allocation to restricted reserve | | |
| Donors' restricted contributions | -17 | -2 |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | -86 | -51 |

Establishment

The Fund was set up in accordance with the Count's will and the ICRC Assembly's decision of 19 December 1974.

Purpose

To assist temporary or permanent staff, such as first-aid workers, delegates and nurses, of international or national Red Cross or Red Crescent institutions who, in the course of their work or during war operations or natural disasters, have suffered injury and thereby find themselves in straitened circumstances or in reduced health.

In the event that the persons specified above should lose their lives in the course of the said humanitarian activities, payments may be made to their families.

Administration

A Board composed of five persons appointed by the ICRC, currently:

- ▶ two ICRC members or staff;
- ▶ one representative of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- ▶ one representative of the de Madre family;
- ▶ one Swiss lawyer.

In 2004:

The Fund's Board held an official meeting on 3 May; its Secretariat handled 68 files (consisting of 125 personal cases) on Movement staff.

10.6 OMAR EL MUKTAR FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds | 871 | 852 |
| Total assets | 871 | 852 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 2 | 1 |
| Total current liabilities | 2 | 1 |
| Reserves | | |
| RESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| <i>Capital</i> | 761 | 761 |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES | | |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 84 | 49 |
| Allocation during the year | 14 | 35 |
| <i>General reserves</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 6 | 10 |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 4 | -4 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 108 | 90 |
| Total reserves | 869 | 851 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 871 | 852 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Income | | |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds | 11 | 7 |
| Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds | 14 | 35 |
| Total | 25 | 42 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Audit fees | -1 | -1 |
| Total | -1 | -1 |
| Result for the year before attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 24 | 41 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | |
| Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation | -14 | -35 |
| Attribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross | -6 | -10 |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 4 | -4 |

Establishment

Pursuant to decision No. 5 of the Executive Board of 20 November 1980, adopted by the Committee in December 1980.

Purpose

A fund in dollars, made up of one or several donations by the authorities of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, the income of which is to be used to finance the ICRC's general assistance and protection activities.

Administration

A Board composed of three ICRC representatives.

10.7 PAUL REUTER FUND (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Share of the overall capital of the special funds | 581 | 564 |
| Total assets | 581 | 564 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | 18 | 17 |
| Total current liabilities | 18 | 17 |
| Unrestricted reserves | | |
| Unrestricted reserve designated by the Assembly of the ICRC | | |
| <i>Initial capital</i> | 200 | 200 |
| <i>Share of the overall provision for portfolio variation</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 56 | 14 |
| Allocation during the year | 10 | 42 |
| <i>General reserve</i> | | |
| Balance brought forward | 291 | 304 |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | 6 | -13 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | 563 | 547 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | 581 | 564 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Income | | |
| Share of net revenue from the overall capital of the special funds | 7 | 4 |
| Share of unrealized gain from the overall capital of the special funds | 10 | 42 |
| Total | 17 | 46 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Award of 2003 Paul Reuter Prize | | -5 |
| Audit fees | -1 | -1 |
| Other expenses | | -11 |
| Total | -1 | -17 |
| Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves | 16 | 29 |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | |
| Share of the increase of the overall provision for portfolio variation | -10 | -42 |
| Result for the year after attribution to the ICRC and transfers from/(to) reserves | 6 | -13 |

Establishment

Pursuant to decision No. 1 of the Executive Board of 6 January 1983.

Purpose

The Fund's initial capital of CHF 200,000 donated by Prof. Paul Reuter (his Balzan prize) may be augmented by gifts or bequests. The Fund's purpose is to:

- ▶ use the income to encourage and promote knowledge and dissemination of international humanitarian law;
- ▶ and to that effect award a prize every two years to reward work, assist in the implementation of a project or make a publication possible.

Administration

- ▶ A committee composed of one member of the ICRC, who is its chairman, and two members of the ICRC staff, appointed by the Directorate;
- ▶ two persons from outside the ICRC who, with the Committee members, shall compose the Paul Reuter prize jury.

10.8 ICRC SPECIAL FUND FOR THE DISABLED (in Swiss francs ,000)

| BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2004 | | 2004 | 2003 |
|---|-------|--------------|--------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Current assets | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 1,756 | 1,361 |
| Securities | | 3,382 | 2,644 |
| Accounts receivable | | 143 | 626 |
| Total assets | | 5,281 | 4,631 |
| LIABILITIES AND RESERVES | | | |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| International Committee of the Red Cross, current account | | 1,354 | 808 |
| Total current liabilities | | 1,354 | 808 |
| RESTRICTED RESERVES | | | |
| <i>Donors' restricted contributions</i> | | | |
| Balance brought forward | 15 | | 156 |
| Addis Ababa project | | | -18 |
| Ho Chi Minh project | -14 | | -122 |
| Dhaka project | -1 | | -1 |
| Allocation for Tirana project | 29 | 29 | 15 |
| Total restricted reserves | | 29 | 15 |
| UNRESTRICTED RESERVES DESIGNATED BY THE BOARD | | | |
| <i>Initial capital</i> | | | |
| | | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| <i>Financial risk reserve</i> | | | |
| Balance brought forward | 154 | | 154 |
| Allocation during the year | 427 | 581 | 154 |
| <i>General reserve</i> | | | |
| Balance brought forward | 2,654 | | 2,702 |
| Addis Ababa project | -313 | | |
| Dhaka project | -136 | | |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | 112 | 2,317 | -48 |
| Total unrestricted reserves | | 3,898 | 3,808 |
| Total reserves | | 3,927 | 3,823 |
| Total liabilities and reserves | | 5,281 | 4,631 |

N.B.: Since 31 December 2004 securities are recorded at fair value, until then equities were recorded at historical value and bonds at par value.

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 | | | | | | | | 2003 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Addis Ababa project | Ho Chi Minh project | Managua project | Dhaka project | Tirana project | General | Total | Total |
| Operating activities | | | | | | | | |
| Contributions received in cash | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Governments</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Austria | | | | | 75 | | 75 | |
| Canada | | 73 | | | | | 73 | |
| Czech Republic | | | | | | | | 95 |
| Norway | 146 | 1,125 | 51 | | | | 1,322 | 1,349 |
| War victims fund/USAID | 1,306 | | | | | | 1,306 | 1,191 |
| <i>National Societies</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Germany | 8 | | | | | | 8 | |
| Monaco | 15 | | | | | | 15 | 15 |
| New Zealand | | | | | | | | 40 |
| Norway | 60 | | 87 | | | | 147 | 150 |
| United Arab Emirates | 13 | | | | | | 13 | |
| Switzerland | | | 500 | | | | 500 | |
| <i>Private sources</i> | | | | | | | | |
| CR Equipement | | | 61 | | | | 61 | 25 |
| Pro-Victimis | | | | 113 | | | 113 | 103 |
| Various donors | 6 | | | | | | 6 | 1 |
| Contributions received in services | | | | | | | | |
| <i>National Societies</i> | | | | | | | | |
| France | 17 | | | | | | 17 | |
| Norway | | | | | | | | 79 |
| Total contributions | 1,571 | 1,198 | 699 | 113 | 75 | | 3,656 | 3,048 |
| Operating expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Cash expenditure | -1,867 | -1,212 | -699 | -250 | -46 | | -4,074 | -3,110 |
| Services expenditure | -17 | | | | | | -17 | -79 |
| Total operating expenditure | -1,884 | -1,212 | -699 | -250 | -46 | | -4,091 | -3,189 |
| Net result of operating activities | -313 | -14 | - | -137 | 29 | | -435 | -141 |
| Non-operating activities | | | | | | | | |
| Financial income | | | | | | | | |
| Securities income | | | | | | 99 | 99 | 106 |
| Bank interest | | | | | | | | 6 |
| Realized gain on securities | | | | | | 59 | 59 | |
| Unrealized gain on securities | | | | | | 427 | 427 | |
| Foreign exchange gain, net | | | | | | 11 | 11 | |
| Total financial income | | | | | | 596 | 596 | 112 |
| Financial expenditure | | | | | | | | |
| Bank charges | | | | | | -52 | -52 | -47 |
| Realized loss on securities | | | | | | | | -6 |
| Audit fees | | | | | | -5 | -5 | -5 |
| Foreign exchange loss, net | | | | | | | | -102 |
| Total financial expenditure | | | | | | -57 | -57 | -160 |
| Net result of non-operating activities | | | | | | 539 | 539 | -48 |
| Result for the year before transfers from/(to) reserves | -313 | -14 | - | -137 | 29 | 539 | 104 | -189 |

| STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2004 (CONT.) | | | | | | | | 2003 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Addis Ababa project | Ho Chi Minh project | Managua project | Dhaka project | Tirana project | General | Total | Total |
| Use of restricted reserves | | | | | | | | |
| Use of donors' restricted contributions for Addis Ababa project | | | | | | | | 18 |
| Use of donors' restricted contributions for Ho Chi Minh project | | 14 | | | | | 14 | 123 |
| Use of donors' restricted contributions for Dhaka project | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 14 | | 1 | | | 15 | 141 |
| Use of unrestricted reserves | | | | | | | | |
| Use of general reserve | 313 | | | 136 | | | 449 | |
| Allocation to restricted reserves | | | | | | | | |
| Donors' restricted contributions | | | | | -29 | | -29 | |
| Allocation to unrestricted reserves | | | | | | | | |
| Allocation to financial risk reserve | | | | | | -427 | -427 | |
| Result for the year after transfers from/(to) reserves | - | - | - | - | - | 112 | 112 | -48 |

Establishment and initial objectives

1981 was declared by the United Nations "International Year for Disabled Persons". The same year, when it met in Manila, the 24th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent adopted a resolution recommending that "a special fund be formed for the benefit of the disabled and to promote the implementation of durable projects to aid disabled persons". Pursuant to the ICRC Assembly's decision No. 2 of 19-20 October 1983 the "Special Fund for the Disabled" (SFD) was subsequently established. Its objectives were twofold:

- ▶ to help finance long-term projects for disabled persons, in particular the creation of workshops for the production of artificial limbs and orthotic appliances, and centres for rehabilitation and occupational retraining;
- ▶ to participate not only in ICRC and National Society projects, but also in those of other humanitarian bodies working in accordance with ICRC criteria.

Legal status

In January 2001, the ICRC Assembly converted the SFD into an independent foundation under Swiss Law. The primary objectives of the "ICRC Special Fund for the Disabled" remained to a large extent unchanged, i.e. to ensure the continuity of ICRC programmes on behalf of the war-disabled and support physical rehabilitation centres in developing countries.

Although the SFD had thus become a more independent body, its programmes continued to be drawn up in accordance with ICRC operational policies in the countries concerned. However, the statutes of the new Foundation also allowed the opening of its Board to members of other organizations and the SFD developed its own independent fundraising and financial management structure.

Funding

In 1983, the ICRC donated an initial one million Swiss francs to set up the "Special Fund for the Disabled". Further support is since given to the SFD by various governments, a number of National Societies and from private and public sources.

11. COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET AND STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS (in Swiss francs ,000)

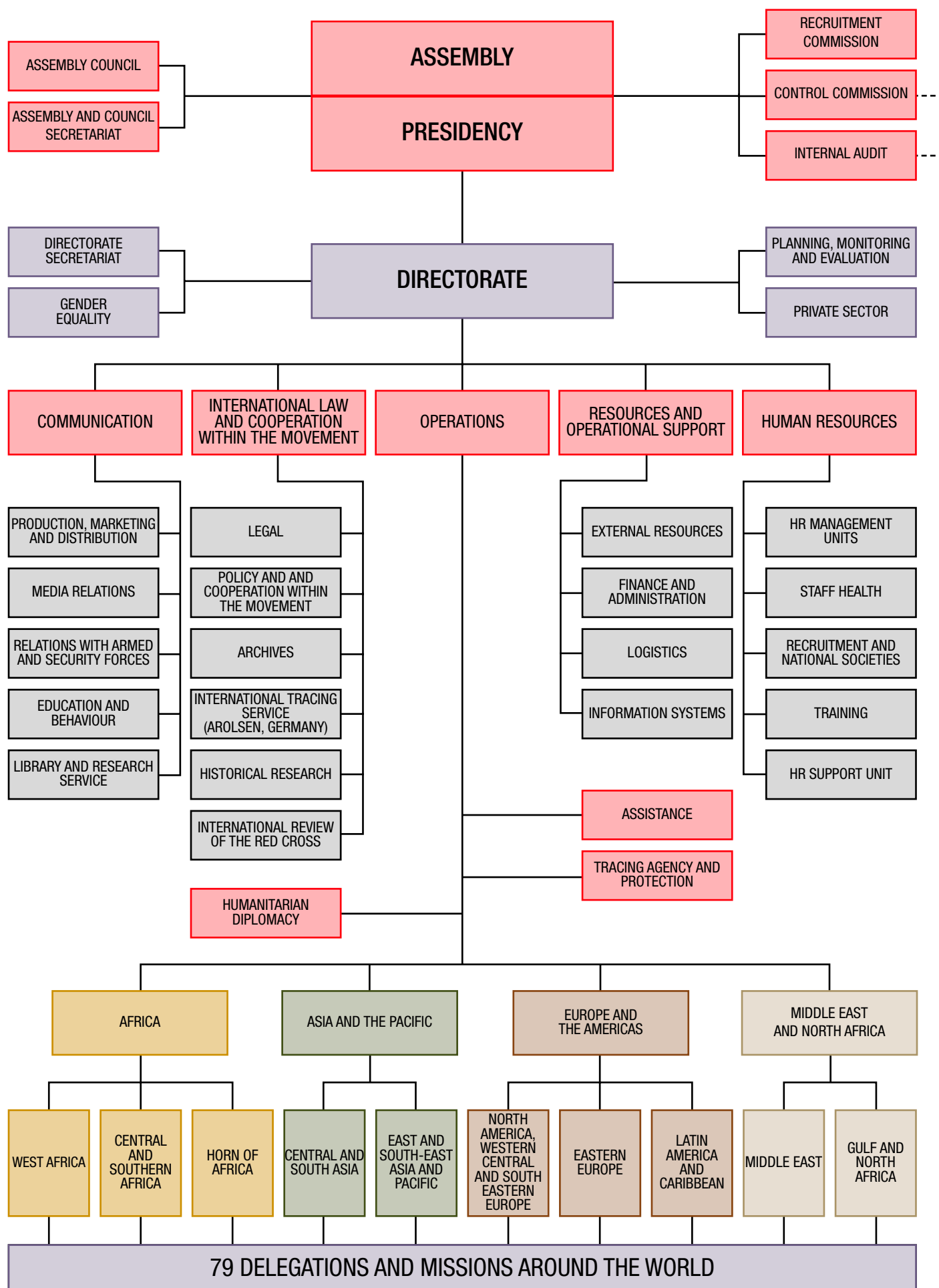
| | 2004 | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Balance sheet | | | | | |
| Current assets | 332,265 | 355,503 | 305,284 | 300,932 | 251,866 |
| Non-current assets | 88,132 | 85,294 | 76,896 | 76,514 | 80,894 |
| Total assets | 420,397 | 440,797 | 382,180 | 377,446 | 332,760 |
| Liabilities | -120,427 | -125,408 | -128,308 | -124,199 | -126,096 |
| Total net assets | 299,970 | 315,389 | 255,812 | 253,247 | 206,664 |
| Funds and foundations | 11,987 | 10,630 | 9,293 | 9,320 | 9,324 |
| Funding of current operations | -1,423 | 39,390 | 48 | 3,334 | -29,085 |
| Unrestricted reserves designated by the Assembly | 275,006 | 250,969 | 232,071 | 226,193 | 212,025 |
| Other unrestricted reserves | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 | 14,400 |
| Total reserves (equities) | 299,970 | 315,389 | 255,812 | 253,247 | 206,664 |
| Income and expenditure statement | | | | | |
| Contributions | 757,757 | 895,899 | 788,325 | 829,745 | 837,094 ¹ |
| Operational expenditures | -782,211 | -844,740 | -781,703 | -789,680 | -880,924 ¹ |
| Operational result | -24,454 | 51,159 | 6,622 | 40,065 | -43,830 |
| Net result of non-operational activities | 9,035 | 8,418 | -4,057 | 5,619 | 11,304 |
| Result for the year before transfers | -15,419 | 59,577 | 625 | 45,684 | -32,526 |
| Administrative cost | 85,034 | 84,274 | 86,440 | 85,686 | 88,016 |
| Ratios | | | | | |
| Equities in % of assets | 71.4 % | 71.5 % | 66.9 % | 67.1 % | 62.1 % |
| Administrative cost in % of operational expenditures | 10.9 % | 10.0 % | 11.1 % | 10.9 % | 10.0 % |

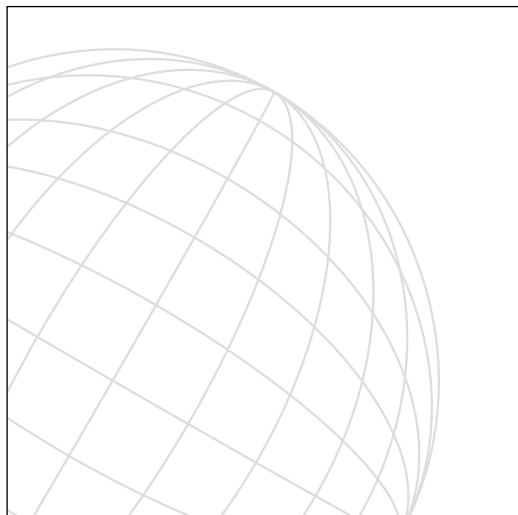
1) Including CHF 755 donation in services not recorded in 2000.

ANNEX



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS





ICRC decision-making structures¹

¹ As at 31 December 2004

COMPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (2004)

Mr Jakob Kellenberger

President, Ph.D. of the University of Zurich, former Swiss Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (1999), President since 2000.

Mrs Anne Petitpierre

Vice-President, Doctor of Laws, barrister, Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Geneva, (1987).

Mr Jacques Forster

Permanent Vice-President, Doctor of Economics, Professor at the Graduate Institute of Development Studies in Geneva (1988).

Mr Paolo Bernasconi

Bachelor of Laws, barrister, Professor of fiscal law and economic criminal law at the Universities of St. Gallen, Zurich and Milan (Bocconi), former Public Prosecutor in Lugano, (1987).

Ms Susy Bruschweiler

Nurse, former Director of the Swiss Red Cross College of Nursing in Aarau, CEO S-V Group, (1988).

Mr Jacques Moreillon

Bachelor of Laws, Doctor of Political Science, Secretary General of the World Organization of the Scout Movement, former Director General at the ICRC, (1988).

Mr Daniel Thürer

Master of Laws (Cambridge), Doctor of Laws, Professor at the University of Zurich, (1991).

Mr Eric Roethlisberger

Doctor of Political Science of the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, (1994, permanent Vice-President from 1995 to 31.7.1999).

Mr Ernst A. Brugger

Doctor of Natural Science, consultant for economic development issues, Professor at the University of Zurich, (1995).

Mr Jean-Roger Bonvin

Doctor of Economics of the University of St. Gallen, former president of the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, (1996).

Mr André von Moos

Doctor of Laws, Bachelor of Economics, SMP certificate of the Harvard Business School, former Chairman of the von Moos Group, industrialist (1998).

Mr Olivier Vodoz

Bachelor of Laws, Barrister, former Deputy in the Geneva Grand Conseil and former President of the Conseil d'État of the Republic and Canton of Geneva (1998).

Mrs Gabrielle Nanchen

Bachelor of Social Science from the University of Lausanne School of Social Studies, former member of the Swiss National Council (1998).

Mr Jean de Courten

Bachelor of Laws, former delegate and former Director of Operations at the ICRC (1998).

Mr Jean-Philippe Assal

Professor of Medicine, former head of the Division for Instruction in the Treatment of Chronic Diseases at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva (1999).

Mr Jean Abt

Diplomas in agriculture and business, Lieutenant-General of the Swiss Army (Retd.)(2001).

Mr Yves Sandoz

Doctor of Laws, Lecturer at the University of Geneva, former Director of International Humanitarian Law and Principles at the ICRC (2002).

Ms Claude Le Coultre

Professor at the faculty of medicine of the University of Geneva, vice-dean in charge of humanitarian relations and cooperation with the countries of the South and East, Geneva University Hospital delegate for humanitarian affairs (2004).

Honorary Members: Mr Peter Arbenz, Mr Jean-François Aubert, Mrs Denise Bindschedler-Robert, Mr Georges-André Cuendet, Mr Max Daetwyler, Mr Josef Feldmann, Mr Athos Gallino, Mrs Renée Guisan, Mr Rodolphe de Haller, Mr Henry Huguenin, Mr Pierre Keller, Mrs Liselotte Kraus-Gurny, Mr Pierre Languetin, Mr Jakob Nüesch, Mr Richard Pestalozzi, Ms Francesca Pometta, Mr Alain Rossier, Mr Dietrich Schindler, Mr Cornelio Sommaruga.

ASSEMBLY

The Assembly is the supreme governing body of the ICRC. It oversees all the ICRC's activities, formulates policy, defines general objectives and institutional strategy, and approves the budget and accounts. Composed of between 15 and 25 members, it is collegial in character. Its President and two Vice-Presidents are the President and Vice-Presidents of the ICRC.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Assembly Council is a subsidiary body of the Assembly, to which the latter delegates certain of its powers. It prepares the Assembly's activities and takes decisions on matters within its competence, in particular strategic options relating to general policy on funding, personnel and communication. It serves as a link between the Directorate and the Assembly, to which it reports regularly. Composed of five members elected by the Assembly, it is chaired by the President of the ICRC.

Mr Jakob Kellenberger, President

Mr Jacques Forster, permanent Vice-President

Mr Jean Abt, member of the Committee

Mr Jean de Courten, member of the Committee

Mr Jacques Moreillon, member of the Committee

PRESIDENCY

The President of the ICRC assumes primary responsibility for the organization's external relations. As President of the Assembly and of the Assembly Council, he ensures that the areas of competence of these two bodies are safeguarded. He is assisted by one permanent Vice-President and one non-permanent Vice-President.

DIRECTORATE

The Directorate is the executive body of the ICRC, responsible for applying and ensuring application of the general objectives and institutional strategy defined by the Assembly or the Assembly Council. The Directorate is also responsible for the smooth running of the ICRC and for the efficiency of its staff as a whole.

The Director-General sets the administration's general priorities, directs the decision-making process and supervises the implementation of the decisions taken. The Director-General is accountable to the Presidency and the Assembly as regards the Directorate's objectives and activities and the results achieved.

Angelo Gnaedinger

Director-General

Francois Bugnion

Director for International Law
and Cooperation within the Movement

Yves Daccord

Director of Communication

Pierre Krähenbühl

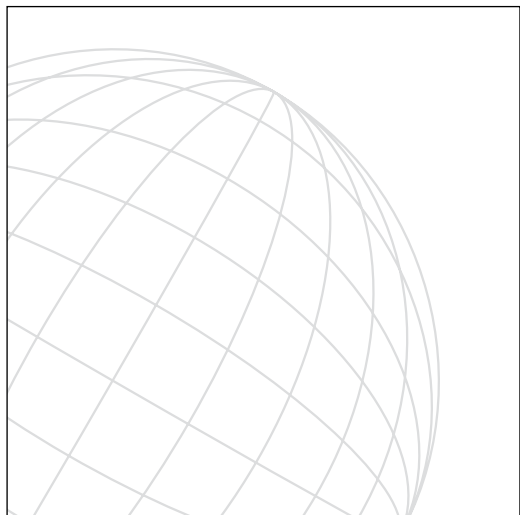
Director of Operations

Doris Pfister

Director of Resources
and Operational Support

Jacques Stroun

Director of Human Resources



international advisers

ADVISERS FOR THE PERIOD 2004–2007 (6TH GROUP)

The purpose of the Group of International Advisers, which is set up by the ICRC for a four-year period for counsel and support in its activities and policy decisions, is to seek appropriate ways to enhance respect for international humanitarian law in times of conflict, to help it better understand and deal with the political issues it encounters in carrying out its mandate and to assist it in assessing the environment for humanitarian endeavour.

The 2004–2007 Group follows on five previous groups of Advisers that have assisted the ICRC since 1984. It is composed of twelve individuals with confirmed international experience and meets twice a year for confidential discussions with the ICRC leadership.

Professor Ridwan AL-SAYYID (Lebanon)

Mr Jayantha DHANAPALA (Sri Lanka)

Ms Bineta DIOP (Senegal)

Mr Bronislaw GEREMEK (Poland)

Brigadier Titus Kamau GITHIORA (Kenya)

Mr Andrey A. KOKOSHIN (Russia)

Professor Djamchid MOMTAZ (Iran)

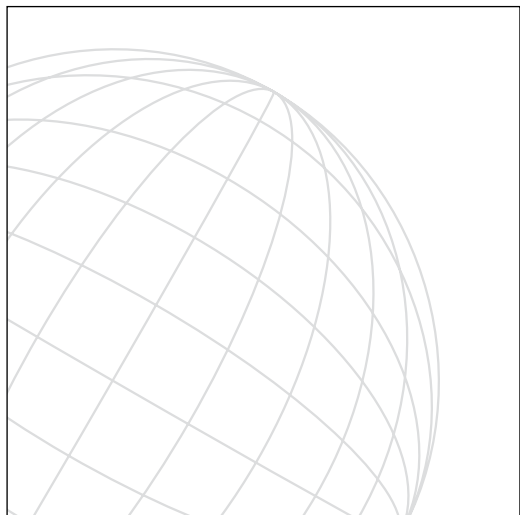
Mr George E. MOOSE (USA)

Ms Sadako OGATA (Japan)

Professor Paulo Sérgio PINHEIRO (Brazil)

Mr Ahmed RASHID (Pakistan)

General Sir (Retired) Rupert A. SMITH (UK)



the ICRC and the international red cross and red crescent movement

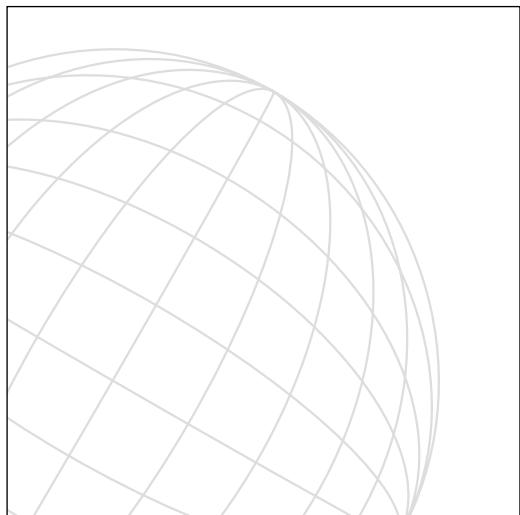
The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is made up of the National Societies, the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Although each of the Movement's components engages in different activities, they are all united by the same Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.

As the founding institution of the Movement, the ICRC has certain statutory responsibilities towards the other components. In particular, it is responsible for ensuring respect for and promoting knowledge of the Fundamental Principles, recognizing new National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies which meet the current conditions for recognition, and discharging the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

While fully respecting the International Federation's competence in the matter, the ICRC contributes to the development of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the following areas:

- ▶ dissemination of knowledge of international humanitarian law and the Fundamental Principles;
- ▶ involvement of National Societies in measures taken to promote international humanitarian law and ensure its implementation;
- ▶ preparation of the National Societies for their activities in the event of conflict;
- ▶ re-establishment of family links;
- ▶ technical and legal assistance in establishing and reconstituting National Societies;
- ▶ revision of National Society statutes, together with the International Federation.

Finally, the ICRC acts as lead agency for international relief operations conducted by the Red Cross and Red Crescent in situations of international and non-international armed conflict, internal strife and their direct results, as well as in situations of armed conflict concomitant with natural or technological disasters.



legal bases

The work of the ICRC is based on the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their two Additional Protocols of 1977, the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The ICRC's mission is to provide the victims of armed conflict with protection and assistance. To that end, the ICRC takes direct and immediate action in response to emergency situations, while at the same time promoting preventive measures, such as the dissemination and national implementation of international humanitarian law.

It was on the ICRC's initiative that States adopted the original Geneva Convention of 1864. Since then, the ICRC, with the support of the entire Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, has put constant pressure on governments to adapt international humanitarian law to changing circumstances, in particular to modern developments in the means and methods of warfare, so as to provide more effective protection and assistance for conflict victims.

Today, virtually all States are bound by the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, which, in times of armed conflict, protect wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of the armed forces, prisoners of war and civilians.

Over three-quarters of all States are currently party to the two Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions. Protocol I protects the victims of international armed conflicts, while Protocol II protects the victims of non-international armed conflicts. These instruments have in particular codified the rules protecting the civilian population against the effects of hostilities.

The legal bases of any action undertaken by the ICRC may be summed up as follows:

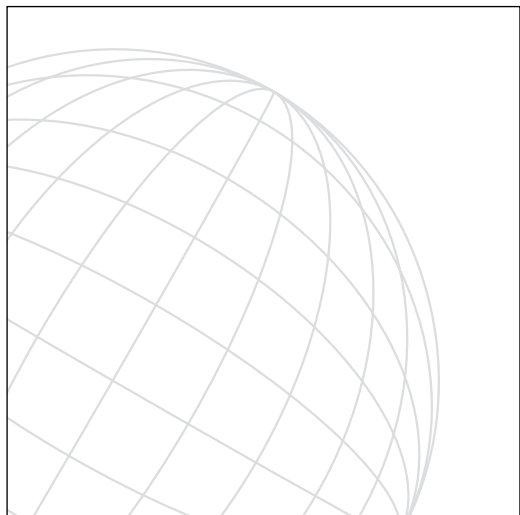
- ▶ The four Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I confer on the ICRC a specific mandate to act in the event of international armed conflict. In particular, the ICRC has the right to visit prisoners of war and civilian internees. The Conventions also give the ICRC a broad right of initiative.

- ▶ In situations of armed conflict that are not international in character, the ICRC enjoys a right of humanitarian initiative recognized by the international community and enshrined in Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions.
- ▶ In the event of internal disturbances and tensions, and in any other situation that warrants humanitarian action, the ICRC also enjoys a right of initiative, which is affirmed and recognized in the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Thus, wherever international humanitarian law does not apply, the ICRC may offer its services to governments without that offer constituting interference in the internal affairs of the State concerned.

UNIVERSAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

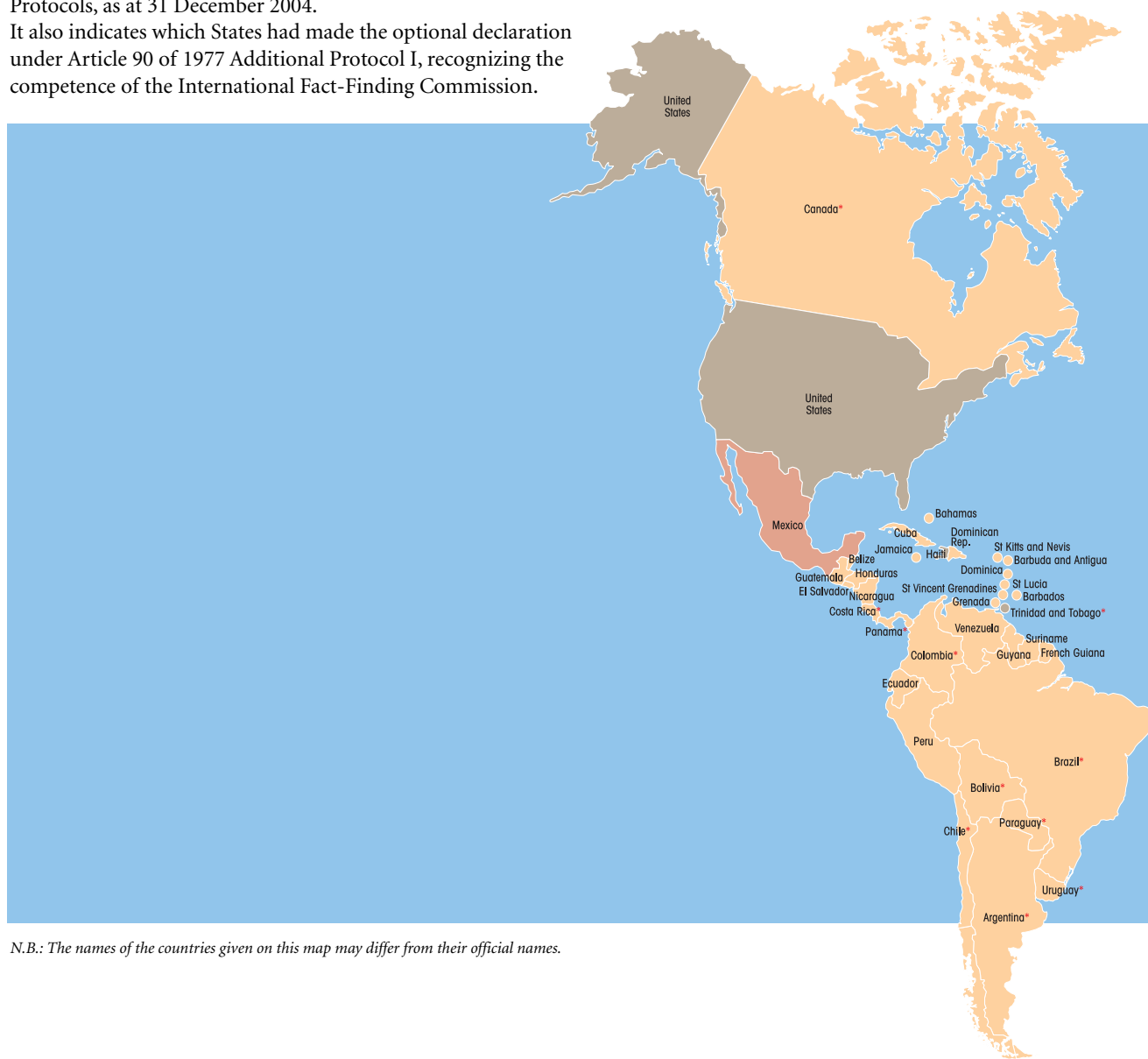
By the end of 2004, a total of 192 States were party to the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, the Marshall Islands (1 June 2004) being the most recent State to accede to the Conventions. During the year, Japan acceded to Protocols I and II additional to the Geneva Conventions (31 August 2004). This brought the number of States party to Additional Protocol I and Additional Protocol II to 162 and 157 respectively.

Article 90 of Additional Protocol I provides for the establishment of an International Fact-Finding Commission to enquire into allegations of serious violations of humanitarian law. In 2004, the Republic of Korea (16 April 2004), Burkina Faso (24 May 2004), and Japan (31 August 2004) filed the declaration recognizing the competence of the Commission, thereby bringing the number of States which had done so to 68.





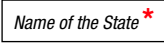
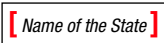


states party to the geneva conventions and their additional protocols

This map shows which States were party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to their 1977 Additional Protocols, as at 31 December 2004. It also indicates which States had made the optional declaration under Article 90 of 1977 Additional Protocol I, recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission.



N.B.: The names of the countries given on this map may differ from their official names.

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
|  | States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions: | 192 |
|  | States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol I: | 162 |
|  | States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to 1977 Additional Protocol II: | 157 |
|  | States party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and to both Additional Protocols: | 155 |
|  | States having made the declaration under Article 90 of 1997 | 68 |
|  | States not party to the Geneva Conventions and Protocols | |

- 1 Netherlands*
- 2 Luxembourg*
- 3 Switzerland*
- 4 Liechtenstein*
- 5 Slovenia*
- 6 Croatia*
- 7 Bosnia and Herzegovina*
- 8 Serbia and Montenegro*
- 9 FYR of Macedonia*



ABBREVIATIONS

R/A/S = **Ratification**: a treaty is generally open for signature for a certain time following the conference which has adopted it. However, a signature is not binding on a State unless it has been endorsed by ratification. The time limits having elapsed, the Conventions and the Protocols are no longer open for signature. The States which have not signed them may at any time accede or, in the appropriate circumstances, succeed to them.

Accession: instead of signing and then ratifying a treaty, a State may become party to it by the single act called accession.

Succession (declaration of): a newly independent State may declare that it will abide by a treaty which was applicable to it prior to its independence. A State may also declare that it will provisionally abide by such treaties during the time it deems necessary to examine their texts carefully and to decide on accession or succession to some or all of the said treaties (declaration of provisional application of the treaties). At present no State is bound by such a declaration.

R/D = **Reservation/Declaration**: unilateral statement, however phrased or named, made by a State when ratifying, acceding or succeeding to a treaty, whereby it purports to exclude or to modify the legal effect of certain provisions of the treaty in their application to that State (provided that such reservations are not incompatible with the object and purpose of the treaty).

D90 = **Declaration** provided for under article 90 of Protocol I (prior acceptance of the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission).

DATES

The dates indicated are those on which the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received the official instrument from the State that was ratifying, acceding to or succeeding to the Conventions or Protocols or accepting the competence of the Commission provided for under Article 90 of Protocol I. They thus represent neither the date on which ratification, accession, succession or acceptance of the Commission was decided upon by the State concerned nor that on which the corresponding instrument was sent.

N.B.: The dates given for succession to the Geneva Conventions by THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, JAMAICA, MADAGASCAR, MAURITANIA, NIGER, NIGERIA, RWANDA, SENEGAL, and SIERRA LEONE used to be those on which the corresponding instruments had been officially adopted. They have now been replaced by the dates on which the depositary received those instruments.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

Except as mentioned in footnotes at the end of the tables, for all States the entry into force of the Conventions and of the Protocols occurs six months after the date given in the present document; for States which have made a declaration of succession, entry into force takes place retroactively, on the day of their accession to independence. The 1949 Geneva Conventions entered into force on 21 October 1950. The 1977 Protocols entered into force on 7 December 1978.

NAMES OF COUNTRIES

The names of countries given in the following list may differ from the official names of States.

UPDATE SINCE 31.12.2003

Ratifications, accessions or successions to the four Conventions:

► Marshall Islands 01.06.2004

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol I:

► Japan 31.08.2004

Declaration under Article 90:

► Republic of Korea 16.04.2004

► Burkina Faso 24.05.2004

► Japan 31.08.2004

Ratifications, accessions or successions to Additional Protocol II:

► Japan 31.08.2004

TOTALS

Number of States Parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: 192

Number of States to the Additional Protocol I: 162

Number of States having made the declaration under Article 90: 68

Number of States Parties to the Additional Protocol II: 157

Number of States Members of the United Nations: 191

States Members of the UN or Parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, not party to the 1949 Geneva Conventions: NAURU.

STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS

| Country | GENEVA CONVENTIONS | | PROTOCOL I | | | PROTOCOL II | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----|------------|------------|-----|-------------|------------|
| | R/A/S | R/D | R/A/S | R/D | D90 | R/A/S | R/D |
| Afghanistan | 26.09.1956 | R | | | | | |
| Albania | 27.05.1957 | R | X | 16.07.1993 | A | 16.07.1993 | A |
| Algeria | 20.06.1960 | A | | 16.08.1989 | A | X | 16.08.1989 |
| | 03.07.1962 | A | | 16.08.1989 | A | X | 16.08.1989 |
| Andorra | 17.09.1993 | A | | | | | |
| Angola | 20.09.1984 | A | X | 20.09.1984 | A | X | |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 06.10.1986 | S | | 06.10.1986 | A | | 06.10.1986 |
| Argentina | 18.09.1956 | R | | 26.11.1986 | A | X | 26.11.1986 |
| Armenia | 07.06.1993 | A | | 07.06.1993 | A | | 07.06.1993 |
| Australia | 14.10.1958 | R | X | 21.06.1991 | R | X | 23.09.1992 |
| Austria | 27.08.1953 | R | | 13.08.1982 | R | X | 13.08.1982 |
| Azerbaijan | 01.06.1993 | A | | | | | |
| Bahamas | 11.07.1975 | S | | 10.04.1980 | A | | 10.04.1980 |
| Bahrain | 30.11.1971 | A | | 30.10.1986 | A | | 30.10.1986 |
| Bangladesh | 04.04.1972 | S | | 08.09.1980 | A | | 08.09.1980 |
| Barbados | 10.09.1968 | S | X | 19.02.1990 | A | | 19.02.1990 |
| Belarus | 03.08.1954 | R | | 23.10.1989 | R | | 23.10.1989 |
| Belgium | 03.09.1952 | R | | 20.05.1986 | R | X | 27.03.1987 |
| Belize | 29.06.1984 | A | | 29.06.1984 | A | | 29.06.1984 |
| Benin | 14.12.1961 | S | | 28.05.1986 | A | | 28.05.1986 |
| Bhutan | 10.01.1991 | A | | | | | |
| Bolivia | 10.12.1976 | R | | 08.12.1983 | A | | 10.08.1992 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 31.12.1992 | S | | 31.12.1992 | S | | 31.12.1992 |
| Botswana | 29.03.1968 | A | | 23.05.1979 | A | | 23.05.1979 |
| Brazil | 29.06.1957 | R | | 05.05.1992 | A | | 23.11.1993 |
| Brunei Darussalam | 14.10.1991 | A | | 14.10.1991 | A | | 14.10.1991 |
| Bulgaria | 22.07.1954 | R | | 26.09.1989 | R | | 09.05.1994 |
| Burkina Faso | 07.11.1961 | S | | 20.10.1987 | R | | 24.05.2004 |
| Burundi | 27.12.1971 | S | | 10.06.1993 | A | | 10.06.1993 |
| Cambodia | 08.12.1958 | A | | 14.01.1998 | A | | 14.01.1998 |
| Cameroon | 16.09.1963 | S | | 16.03.1984 | A | | 16.03.1984 |
| Canada | 14.05.1965 | R | | 20.11.1990 | R | X | 20.11.1990 |
| Cape Verde | 11.05.1984 | A | | 16.03.1995 | A | | 16.03.1995 |
| Central African Republic | 01.08.1966 | S | | 17.07.1984 | A | | 17.07.1984 |
| Chad | 05.08.1970 | A | | 17.01.1997 | A | | 17.01.1997 |
| Chile | 12.10.1950 | R | | 24.04.1991 | R | | 24.04.1991 |
| China | 28.12.1956 | R | X | 14.09.1983 | A | X | 14.09.1983 |
| Colombia | 08.11.1961 | R | | 01.09.1993 | A | | 17.04.1996 |
| Comoros | 21.11.1985 | A | | 21.11.1985 | A | | 21.11.1985 |
| Congo (Democratic Republic of) | 24.02.1961 | S | | 03.06.1982 | A | | 12.12.2002 |
| Congo (Republic of) | 04.02.1967 | S | | 10.11.1983 | A | | 10.11.1983 |
| Cook Islands | 11.06.2001 | S | | 07.05.2002 | A | | 07.05.2002 |
| Costa Rica | 15.10.1969 | A | | 15.12.1983 | A | | 02.12.1999 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 28.12.1961 | S | | 20.09.1989 | R | | 20.09.1989 |
| Croatia | 11.05.1992 | S | | 11.05.1992 | S | | 11.05.1992 |
| Cuba | 15.04.1954 | R | | 25.11.1982 | A | | 23.12.1999 |
| Cyprus | 23.05.1962 | A | | 01.06.1979 | R | | 14.10.2002 |
| Czech Republic | 05.02.1993 | S | X | 05.02.1993 | S | | 02.05.1995 |
| Denmark | 27.06.1951 | R | | 17.06.1982 | R | X | 17.06.1982 |
| Djibouti | 06.03.1978 | S | | 08.04.1991 | A | | 08.04.1991 |
| Dominica | 28.09.1981 | S | | 25.04.1996 | A | | 25.04.1996 |
| Dominican Republic | 22.01.1958 | A | | 26.05.1994 | A | | 26.05.1994 |
| Ecuador | 11.08.1954 | R | | 10.04.1979 | R | | 10.04.1979 |
| Egypt | 10.11.1952 | R | | 09.10.1992 | R | X | 09.10.1992 |
| El Salvador | 17.06.1953 | R | | 23.11.1978 | R | | 23.11.1978 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 24.07.1986 | A | | 24.07.1986 | A | | 24.07.1986 |
| Eritrea | 14.08.2000 | A | | | | | |
| Estonia | 18.01.1993 | A | | 18.01.1993 | A | | 18.01.1993 |
| Ethiopia | 02.10.1969 | R | | 08.04.1994 | A | | 08.04.1994 |
| Fiji | 09.08.1971 | S | | | | | |
| Finland | 22.02.1955 | R | | 07.08.1980 | R | X | 07.08.1980 |
| France | 28.06.1951 | R | | 11.04.2001 | A | X | 24.02.1984 |

STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)

| | GENEVA CONVENTIONS | | | PROTOCOL I | | | PROTOCOL II | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----|---|------------|-----|---|-------------|------------|-----|---|
| Country | R/A/S | R/D | | R/A/S | R/D | | D90 | R/A/S | R/D | |
| Gabon | 26.02.1965 | S | | 08.04.1980 | A | | | 08.04.1980 | A | |
| Gambia | 20.10.1966 | S | | 12.01.1989 | A | | | 12.01.1989 | A | |
| Georgia | 14.09.1993 | A | | 14.09.1993 | A | | | 14.09.1993 | A | |
| Germany | 03.09.1954 | A | X | 14.02.1991 | R | X | 14.02.1991 | 14.02.1991 | R | X |
| Ghana | 02.08.1958 | A | | 28.02.1978 | R | | | 28.02.1978 | R | |
| Greece | 05.06.1956 | R | | 31.03.1989 | R | | 04.02.1998 | 15.02.1993 | A | |
| Grenada | 13.04.1981 | S | | 23.09.1998 | A | | | 23.09.1998 | A | |
| Guatemala | 14.05.1952 | R | | 19.10.1987 | R | | | 19.10.1987 | R | |
| Guinea | 11.07.1984 | A | | 11.07.1984 | A | | 20.12.1993 | 11.07.1984 | A | |
| Guinea-Bissau | 21.02.1974 | A | X | 21.10.1986 | A | | | 21.10.1986 | A | |
| Guyana | 22.07.1968 | S | | 18.01.1988 | A | | | 18.01.1988 | A | |
| Haiti | 11.04.1957 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Holy See | 22.02.1951 | R | | 21.11.1985 | R | X | | 21.11.1985 | R | X |
| Honduras | 31.12.1965 | A | | 16.02.1995 | R | | | 16.02.1995 | R | |
| Hungary | 03.08.1954 | R | X | 12.04.1989 | R | | 23.09.1991 | 12.04.1989 | R | |
| Iceland | 10.08.1965 | A | | 10.04.1987 | R | X | 10.04.1987 | 10.04.1987 | R | |
| India | 09.11.1950 | R | | | | | | | | |
| Indonesia | 30.09.1958 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 20.02.1957 | R | X | | | | | | | |
| Iraq | 14.02.1956 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Ireland | 27.09.1962 | R | | 19.05.1999 | R | X | 19.05.1999 | 19.05.1999 | R | X |
| Israel | 06.07.1951 | R | X | | | | | | | |
| Italy | 17.12.1951 | R | | 27.02.1986 | R | X | 27.02.1986 | 27.02.1986 | R | |
| Jamaica | 20.07.1964 | S | | 29.07.1986 | A | | | 29.07.1986 | A | |
| Japan | 21.04.1953 | A | | 31.08.2004 | A | X | 31.08.2004 | 31.08.2004 | A | |
| Jordan | 29.05.1951 | A | | 01.05.1979 | R | | | 01.05.1979 | R | |
| Kazakhstan | 05.05.1992 | S | | 05.05.1992 | S | | | 05.05.1992 | S | |
| Kenya | 20.09.1966 | A | | 23.02.1999 | A | | | 23.02.1999 | A | |
| Kiribati | 05.01.1989 | S | | | | | | | | |
| Korea (Democratic People's Republic) | 27.08.1957 | A | X | 09.03.1988 | A | | | | | |
| Korea (Republic of) | 16.08.1966 | A | X | 15.01.1982 | R | X | 16.4.2004 | 15.01.1982 | R | |
| Kuwait | 02.09.1967 | A | X | 17.01.1985 | A | | | 17.01.1985 | A | |
| Kyrgyzstan | 18.09.1992 | S | | 18.09.1992 | S | | | 18.09.1992 | S | |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 29.10.1956 | A | | 18.11.1980 | R | | 30.01.1998 | 18.11.1980 | R | |
| Latvia | 24.12.1991 | A | | 24.12.1991 | A | | | 24.12.1991 | A | |
| Lebanon | 10.04.1951 | R | | 23.07.1997 | A | | | 23.07.1997 | A | |
| Lesotho | 20.05.1968 | S | | 20.05.1994 | A | | | 20.05.1994 | A | |
| Liberia | 29.03.1954 | A | | 30.06.1988 | A | | | 30.06.1988 | A | |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | 22.05.1956 | A | | 07.06.1978 | A | | | 07.06.1978 | A | |
| Liechtenstein | 21.09.1950 | R | | 10.08.1989 | R | X | 10.08.1989 | 10.08.1989 | R | X |
| Lithuania | 03.10.1996 | A | | 13.07.2000 | A | | 13.07.2000 | 13.07.2000 | A | |
| Luxembourg | 01.07.1953 | R | | 29.08.1989 | R | | 12.05.1993 | 29.08.1989 | R | |
| Madagascar | 18.07.1963 | S | | 08.05.1992 | R | | 27.07.1993 | 08.05.1992 | R | |
| Malawi | 05.01.1968 | A | | 07.10.1991 | A | | | 07.10.1991 | A | |
| Malaysia | 24.08.1962 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Maldives | 18.06.1991 | A | | 03.09.1991 | A | | | 03.09.1991 | A | |
| Mali | 24.05.1965 | A | | 08.02.1989 | A | | 09.05.2003 | 08.02.1989 | A | |
| Malta | 22.08.1968 | S | | 17.04.1989 | A | X | 17.04.1989 | 17.04.1989 | A | X |
| Marshall Islands | 01.06.2004 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Mauritania | 30.10.1962 | S | | 14.03.1980 | A | | | 14.03.1980 | A | |
| Mauritius | 18.08.1970 | S | | 22.03.1982 | A | | | 22.03.1982 | A | |
| Mexico | 29.10.1952 | R | | 10.03.1983 | A | | | | | |
| Micronesia | 19.09.1995 | A | | 19.09.1995 | A | | | 19.09.1995 | A | |
| Moldova (Republic of) | 24.05.1993 | A | | 24.05.1993 | A | | | 24.05.1993 | A | |
| Monaco | 05.07.1950 | R | | 07.01.2000 | A | | | 07.01.2000 | A | |
| Mongolia | 20.12.1958 | A | | 06.12.1995 | R | X | 06.12.1995 | 06.12.1995 | R | |
| Morocco | 26.07.1956 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Mozambique | 14.03.1983 | A | | 14.03.1983 | A | | | 12.11.2002 | A | |
| Myanmar | 25.08.1992 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Namibia | 22.08.1991 | S | | 17.06.1994 | A | | 21.07.1994 | 17.06.1994 | A | |
| Nepal | 07.02.1964 | A | | | | | | | | |
| Netherlands | 03.08.1954 | R | | 26.06.1987 | R | X | 26.06.1987 | 26.06.1987 | R | |

| Country | GENEVA CONVENTIONS | | | PROTOCOL I | | | PROTOCOL II | | |
|---|--------------------|-----|---|------------|-----|---|-------------|------------|-----|
| | R/A/S | R/D | | R/A/S | R/D | | D90 | R/A/S | R/D |
| New Zealand | 02.05.1959 | R | X | 08.02.1988 | R | X | 08.02.1988 | 08.02.1988 | R |
| Nicaragua | 17.12.1953 | R | | | | | | | |
| Niger | 21.04.1964 | S | | 08.06.1979 | R | | | 08.06.1979 | R |
| Nigeria | 20.06.1961 | S | | 10.10.1988 | A | | | 10.10.1988 | A |
| Norway | 03.08.1951 | R | | 14.12.1981 | R | | 14.12.1981 | 14.12.1981 | R |
| Oman | 31.01.1974 | A | | 29.03.1984 | A | X | | 29.03.1984 | A X |
| Pakistan | 12.06.1951 | R | X | | | | | | |
| Palau | 25.06.1996 | A | | 25.06.1996 | A | | | 25.06.1996 | A |
| Panama | 10.02.1956 | A | | 18.09.1995 | R | | 26.10.1999 | 18.09.1995 | R |
| Papua New Guinea | 26.05.1976 | S | | | | | | | |
| Paraguay | 23.10.1961 | R | | 30.11.1990 | A | | 30.01.1998 | 30.11.1990 | A |
| Peru | 15.02.1956 | R | | 14.07.1989 | R | | | 14.07.1989 | R |
| Philippines | 06.10.1952 | R | | | | | | 11.12.1986 | A |
| Poland | 26.11.1954 | R | X | 23.10.1991 | R | | 02.10.1992 | 23.10.1991 | R |
| Portugal | 14.03.1961 | R | X | 27.05.1992 | R | | 01.07.1994 | 27.05.1992 | R |
| Qatar | 15.10.1975 | A | | 05.04.1988 | A | X | 24.09.1991 | | |
| Romania | 01.06.1954 | R | | 21.06.1990 | R | | 31.05.1995 | 21.06.1990 | R |
| Russian Federation | 10.05.1954 | R | X | 29.09.1989 | R | X | 29.09.1989 | 29.09.1989 | R X |
| Rwanda | 05.05.1964 | S | | 19.11.1984 | A | | 08.07.1993 | 19.11.1984 | A |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 14.02.1986 | S | | 14.02.1986 | A | | | 14.02.1986 | A |
| Saint Lucia | 18.09.1981 | S | | 07.10.1982 | A | | | 07.10.1982 | A |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 01.04.1981 | A | | 08.04.1983 | A | | | 08.04.1983 | A |
| Samoa | 23.08.1984 | S | | 23.08.1984 | A | | | 23.08.1984 | A |
| San Marino | 29.08.1953 | A | | 05.04.1994 | R | | | 05.04.1994 | R |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 21.05.1976 | A | | 05.07.1996 | A | | | 05.07.1996 | A |
| Saudi Arabia | 18.05.1963 | A | | 21.08.1987 | A | X | | 28.11.2001 | A |
| Senegal | 18.05.1963 | S | | 07.05.1985 | R | | | 07.05.1985 | R |
| Seychelles | 08.11.1984 | A | | 08.11.1984 | A | | 22.05.1992 | 08.11.1984 | A |
| Sierra Leone | 10.06.1965 | S | | 21.10.1986 | A | | | 21.10.1986 | A |
| Singapore | 27.04.1973 | A | | | | | | | |
| Slovakia | 02.04.1993 | S | X | 02.04.1993 | S | | 13.03.1995 | 02.04.1993 | S |
| Slovenia | 26.03.1992 | S | | 26.03.1992 | S | | 26.03.1992 | 26.03.1992 | S |
| Solomon Islands | 06.07.1981 | S | | 19.09.1988 | A | | | 19.09.1988 | A |
| Somalia | 12.07.1962 | A | | | | | | | |
| South Africa | 31.03.1952 | A | | 21.11.1995 | A | | | 21.11.1995 | A |
| Spain | 04.08.1952 | R | | 21.04.1989 | R | X | 21.04.1989 | 21.04.1989 | R |
| Sri Lanka | 28.02.1959 | R | | | | | | | |
| Sudan | 23.09.1957 | A | | | | | | | |
| Suriname | 13.10.1976 | S | X | 16.12.1985 | A | | | 16.12.1985 | A |
| Swaziland | 28.06.1973 | A | | 02.11.1995 | A | | | 02.11.1995 | A |
| Sweden | 28.12.1953 | R | | 31.08.1979 | R | X | 31.08.1979 | 31.08.1979 | R |
| Switzerland | 31.03.1950 | R | | 17.02.1982 | R | X | 17.02.1982 | 17.02.1982 | R |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 02.11.1953 | R | | 14.11.1983 | A | X | | | |
| Tajikistan | 13.01.1993 | S | | 13.01.1993 | S | | 10.09.1997 | 13.01.1993 | S |
| Tanzania (United Republic of) | 12.12.1962 | S | | 15.02.1983 | A | | | 15.02.1983 | A |
| Thailand | 29.12.1954 | A | | | | | | | |
| The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia | 01.09.1993 | S | X | 01.09.1993 | S | X | 01.09.1993 | 01.09.1993 | S |
| Timor-Leste | 08.05.2003 | A | | | | | | | |
| Togo | 06.01.1962 | S | | 21.06.1984 | R | | 21.11.1991 | 21.06.1984 | R |
| Tonga | 13.04.1978 | S | | 20.01.2003 | A | | 20.01.2003 | 20.01.2003 | A |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 24.09.1963 | A | | 20.07.2001 | A | | 20.07.2001 | 20.07.2001 | A |
| Tunisia | 04.05.1957 | A | | 09.08.1979 | R | | | 09.08.1979 | R |
| Turkey | 10.02.1954 | R | | | | | | | |
| Turkmenistan | 10.04.1992 | S | | 10.04.1992 | S | | | 10.04.1992 | S |
| Tuvalu | 19.02.1981 | S | | | | | | | |
| Uganda | 18.05.1964 | A | | 13.03.1991 | A | | | 13.03.1991 | A |
| Ukraine | 03.08.1954 | R | X | 25.01.1990 | R | | 25.01.1990 | 25.01.1990 | R |
| United Arab Emirates | 10.05.1972 | A | | 09.03.1983 | A | X | 06.03.1992 | 09.03.1983 | A X |
| United Kingdom | 23.09.1957 | R | X | 28.01.1998 | R | X | 17.05.1999 | 28.01.1998 | R |
| United States of America | 02.08.1955 | R | X | | | | | | |
| Uruguay | 05.03.1969 | R | X | 13.12.1985 | A | | 17.07.1990 | 13.12.1985 | A |
| Uzbekistan | 08.10.1993 | A | | 08.10.1993 | A | | | 08.10.1993 | A |

STATES PARTY TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND THEIR ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS (cont.)

| Country | GENEVA CONVENTIONS | | | PROTOCOL I | | D90 | PROTOCOL II | |
|------------|--------------------|-----|---|------------|-----|------------|-------------|-----|
| | R/A/S | R/D | | R/A/S | R/D | | R/A/S | R/D |
| Vanuatu | 27.10.1982 | A | | 28.02.1985 | A | | 28.02.1985 | A |
| Venezuela | 13.02.1956 | R | | 23.07.1998 | A | | 23.07.1998 | A |
| Vietnam | 28.06.1957 | A | X | 19.10.1981 | R | | | |
| Yemen | 16.07.1970 | A | X | 17.04.1990 | R | | 17.04.1990 | R |
| Yugoslavia | 16.10.2001 | S | | 16.10.2001 | S | 16.10.2001 | 16.10.2001 | S |
| Zambia | 19.10.1966 | A | | 04.05.1995 | A | | 04.05.1995 | A |
| Zimbabwe | 07.03.1983 | A | | 19.10.1992 | A | | 19.10.1992 | A |

NOTES**Djibouti**

Djibouti's declaration of succession in respect of the First Convention was dated 26.01.78.

France

On accession to Protocol II, France made a communication concerning Protocol I.

Ghana

Entry into force of Protocols I and II on 07.12.78.

Namibia

An instrument of accession to the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols was deposited by the United Nations Council for Namibia on 18.10.83. In an instrument deposited on 22.08.91, Namibia declared its succession to the Geneva Conventions, which were previously applicable pursuant to South Africa's accession on 31.03.52.

Palestine

On 21 June 1989, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs received a letter from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva informing the Swiss Federal Council "that the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, entrusted with the functions of the Government of the State of Palestine by decision of the Palestine National Council, decided, on 4 May 1989, to adhere to the Four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the two Protocols additional thereto".

On 13 September 1989, the Swiss Federal Council informed the States that it was not in a position to decide whether the letter constituted an instrument of accession, "due to the uncertainty within the international community as to the existence or non-existence of a State of Palestine".

Philippines

The First Geneva Convention was ratified on 7.03.1951.

Republic of Korea

The Geneva Conventions entered into force on 23.09.66, the Republic of Korea having invoked Art.62/61/141/157 common respectively to the First, Second, Third and Fourth Conventions (immediate effect).

Sri Lanka

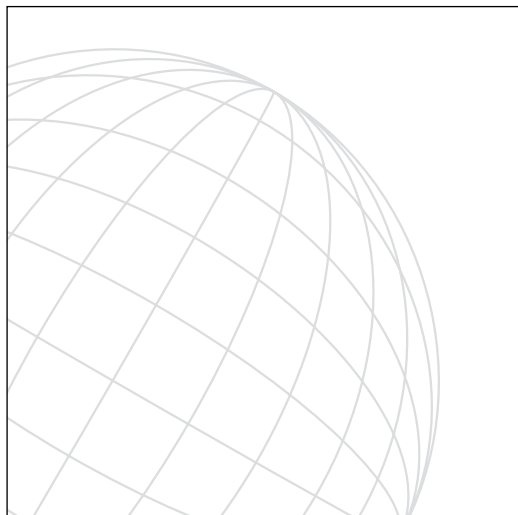
Accession to the Fourth Geneva Convention on 23 February 1959 (Ceylon had signed only the First, Second, and Third Conventions).

Switzerland

Entry into force of the Geneva Conventions on 21.10.50.

Trinidad and Tobago

Accession to the First Geneva Convention on 17.03.1963.



glossary

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|
| A | AIDS | acquired immune deficiency syndrome |
| | ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| | AU | African Union |
| | | |
| C | CIS | Commonwealth of Independent States |
| | CHF | Swiss francs |
| | | |
| D | DOTS | Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course |
| | | |
| E | ECHO | European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office |
| | EU | European Union |
| | EHL | “Exploring Humanitarian Law” (ICRC programme) |
| | ERW | explosive remnants of war |
| | | |
| F | FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| | Fundamental Principles | Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, universality |
| | | |
| G | GDP | gross domestic product |
| | | |
| H | HF | high-frequency |
| | HIV | human immunodeficiency virus |
| | | |
| I | ICC | International Criminal Court |
| | ICRC | International Committee of the Red Cross |
| | IDPs | internally displaced people |
| | International Federation | International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies |
| | IHL | international humanitarian law |
| | ILO | International Labour Organization |
| | IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| | IOM | International Organization for Migration |

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------|--|
| M | Movement | International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement |
| | MSF | Médecins Sans Frontières |
| N | NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| | NCO | non-commissioned officer |
| | NGO | non-governmental organization |
| O | OAS | Organization of American States |
| | OAU | Organization of African Unity, now known as the African Union (AU) |
| | OCHA | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs |
| | OECD | Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development |
| | OIC | Organization of the Islamic Conference |
| | OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| | OPEC | Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries |
| | Ottawa Convention | The Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, 18 September 1997 (also known as the 1997 Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-personnel Mines) |
| P | POWs | prisoners of war |
| R | RCMs | Red Cross messages |
| S | Safer Access approach | developed by the ICRC to help National Societies better respond to the needs of conflict victims while enhancing the safety of their workers. |
| | San Remo | The International Institute of Humanitarian Law, in San Remo, Italy, – a non-governmental organization set up in 1970 to spread knowledge and promote the development of IHL. The institute specializes in organizing courses on IHL for military personnel from around the world. |
| | Seville Agreement | The Seville Agreement of 1997 provides a framework for effective cooperation and partnership between the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. |
| | SCF | Save the Children Fund |
| U | UEFA | Union of European Football Associations |
| | UN | United Nations |
| | UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| | UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| | UNFPA | United Nations Fund for Population Activities |
| | UNHCHR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| | UNHCR | Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees |
| | UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| V | UXO | Unexploded ordnance |
| | VHF | very-high-frequency |
| W | WFP | World Food Programme |
| | WHO | World Health Organization |



MISSION

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 war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It 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 International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

