

FACTS AND FIGURES, COVID-19

# ICRC DELEGATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – COVID19 RESPONSE

APRIL 2020



Nathan Buisasi/CICR

A summary of the ICRC’s contribution to the COVID19 response in the DRC since the pandemic reached the country.

## SUMMARY OF ICRC ACTIVITIES\*



Delivered **79 handwashing kits** plus soap and cleaning / disinfection supplies to **12 prisons**.



Provided ICRC-supported prison clinics with **43,000 gloves**, **2,500 surgical masks**, **40 ThermoFlash thermometers** and **masks and protective clothing** to wear when treating people suspected of being infected.



Provided infection protection kits to **6 hospitals** to **insure the continuity of war surgery programs**. **542 people** sensitized during **46 infection prevention and control (PCI) sessions** on Covid 19.



Delivered **405 kg of chlorine**, more than **900 bars of soap** and **143 handwashing kits** to ICRC-supported health facilities.



Supported the **DRC Red Cross** by donating handwashing kits to **26 water points** in Kinshasa, plus two tents for managing dead bodies.



Distributed **800 guides** on the **behaviour of police forces to police stations** in Kinshasa, in French and Lingala.

Donated infection protection and control kits to **31 Kinshasa police stations**.

\* Period from April 1-26



## PROTECTION

- **Intensified dialogue with prison and judicial authorities** on respect for detainees' rights and judicial guarantees.
- **Asked the authorities to release vulnerable detainees**, especially those who are old or ill, who are at greater risk from COVID19.
- **Provided medical personnel working in prisons** with PPE such as gloves, surgical masks and masks and protective clothing to wear when treating people suspected of being infected, plus ThermoFlash thermometers.
- **Continued to support victims of violence** – including sexual violence – in ICRC-supported facilities.
- **Distributed COVID19 information, education and awareness**–raising materials in places of detention.
- **Installed water points and handwashing kits**, and set up other anti-infection measures, in **12 counselling centres and six centres for unaccompanied children**.



## PREVENTION

- **Launched radio campaigns** in 22 towns, with a potential audience of 5 million people in five provinces. Messages on such topics as health care in danger and respect for the Red Cross Emblem are being broadcast several times a day.
- **Talked to the armed forces and security forces** about respect for human rights and the rules governing the use of force during public order operations.



## WATER AND HABITAT

- **Supported DRC Red Cross first-aid teams** and donated handwashing kits, soap, chlorine and sprayers **for 26 hygiene points in Kinshasa**.
- **Contributed to the set up of handwashing facilities** in places of detention, for use by detainees and staff.



## COOPERATION

- **Played an active role in the efforts** of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent to support the DRC Red Cross response to the pandemic.
- Provided **training in preventive measures for DRC Red Cross volunteers** who are supporting the work of hospitals.
- Provided **technical support to the Movement's COVID19 response**, and in particular to the DRC Red Cross.
- **Donated tents** for the management of dead bodies.
- **Helped the DRC Red Cross produce** key messages, radio broadcasts, posters and materials on preventing the spread of COVID19.



## HEALTH

- Implementation of **triage and isolation measures at hospitals** in Bukavu, Beni and Goma. Donated tents for screening in hospitals and prisons.
- **Donated thermometers, masks, gloves and protective clothing** to Bukavu and Goma Hospitals, where the ICRC was already supporting war surgery programmes, and installed water points at these hospitals.
- Continued to **provide extra food in prisons**.



## ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **Continued work** in the areas of food production, nutrition, living conditions and income-generating activities.



## FURTHER INFORMATION:

- [The ICRC's response to DRC prisons](#)
- [In Goma, the protection measures quickly adopted](#)
- [COVID19 myth busting in the DRC](#)

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