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# FIELD OPERATIONS

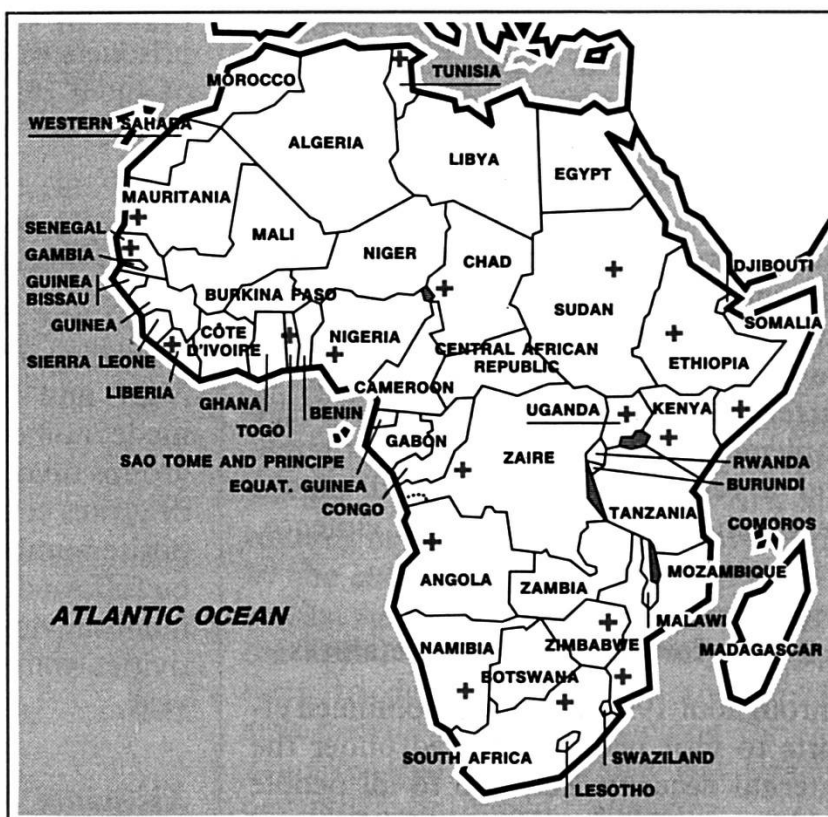
## AFRICA

*Africa's vulnerability to conflict only worsened in 1990, despite deep changes in South Africa and the independence of Namibia. Wars continued to rage throughout the continent, leaving thousands dead, thousands more injured, and millions displaced or seeking refuge in other countries. Internal strife spread through a host of countries. Finally, first in Liberia and then in Rwanda, internal conflicts broke out, ravaging these small countries and destabilizing two sub-regions.*

*At the beginning of 1990, the ICRC had operational delegations in 10 places:*

*Addis Ababa, Kampala, Khartoum, Luanda, Maputo, Mogadishu, Nairobi-Lokichokio, N'Djamena, Pretoria and Windhoek. Later in the year, given the surge in needs for humanitarian assistance mentioned above, delegations were established in Monrovia and Kigali. The ICRC also maintained regional delegations in Dakar, Harare, Kinshasa, Lagos, Lomé and Nairobi. They were especially instrumental in carrying out the institution's mandate in the context of change which marked the continent in 1990.*

*The budget for 1990 operations in Africa, approved at the end of 1989, was originally set at 180,015,300 Swiss francs. By the end of the year, taking into account budget extensions and special appeals, it reached 218,445,600 francs. Total ICRC expenditure in Africa in 1990 was 149,561,300 francs. Not all programmes were carried out in their entirety due to major operational difficulties.*



## Southern Africa

### **SOUTH AFRICA**

Intensified unrest in the townships caused greater humanitarian needs in 1990, as the disturbances in Natal worsened and spread to other regions as well, first extending down the Indian Ocean coast, and then reaching the townships around Johannesburg. Thousands died, thousands more were wounded, and there was widespread destruction of homes and property. The ICRC, in cooperation with the National Society, acted to relieve the suffering of the victims of this strife by implementing a family relief programme and a relief programme for displaced people in areas affected by the violence.

#### **Representations and activities for prisoners and detainees**

Throughout 1990, the ICRC continued efforts to visit people detained under the Internal Security Act, and to all people held for unrest-related reasons in facilities under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Law and Order. Talks aimed at gaining access to these detainees and sentenced prisoners continued through the end of the year.

ICRC delegates visited security prisoners held by the authorities in Transkei (considered an independent country by the South African authorities) in January. ICRC delegates visited seven security prisoners, including one whose case was then being heard, at a prison under the jurisdiction of the military council in Transkei.

After the 6 August agreement between the government and the ANC<sup>1</sup> regarding a plan to release prisoners held in connec-

<sup>1</sup> African National Congress.

tion with the conflict, the ICRC set up an exceptional assistance programme for released prisoners. The programme began on 1 September and provided the prisoners with basic supplies worth a total of about 16,000 Swiss francs to help them reintegrate into society.

#### **Activities for the population in townships and rural areas**

Regarding the high level of violence prevailing in the townships (mainly in the Natal and Reef areas), ICRC delegates made numerous representations to the groups involved. On these occasions, the delegates continuously reminded their opposite numbers of the very basic rules to be followed in order to spare the lives of innocent victims. These dissemination activities were intensified throughout the year.

#### **Assistance for prisoners' families**

A major area of ICRC activity concerned the provision of assistance to the families of prisoners sentenced under the Internal Security Act or for other unrest-related reasons. This aid aimed at avoiding material hardship caused by the imprisonment of a family member. Families of prisoners also received travel vouchers to permit them to visit the prisoners in detention.

Relief was provided to a monthly average of 220 families through food vouchers, and the delegation assisted in the transport of approximately 400 people per month to visit family members in detention.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Pretoria handled 171 Red Cross messages mainly for people with a family member in a country at war (Angola, for instance).

### **Family relief programmes**

In Natal, the ICRC's activity centred around a joint ICRC-South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) programme which supplied food and non-food items such as kitchen sets, jerrycans and blankets on a one-off, case-by-case basis to displaced people and to families who had lost their breadwinner. In 1990, as violence spread to other areas of the country, the ICRC began similar programmes with Red Cross regional branches in the Reef area near Johannesburg and in Transkei, where many families of migrant workers killed in the strife near Johannesburg were left in need.

### **Programmes for Mozambican refugees**

Refugees from war-torn Mozambique continued to enter South Africa by the thousands through the homelands of Gazankulu and Kangwane. Although they were not considered refugees by the South African authorities, the ICRC counted these people and provided soap, blankets and kitchen sets to them through three relief committees in the homelands. This assistance was provided to refugees for a period of three months after arrival. The delegation also made representations to the authorities on several occasions regarding attacks or alleged mistreatment of some Mozambican refugees, and to ensure that they were not subject to arbitrary arrest and expulsion.

### **Relief programmes for displaced people**

Throughout 1990 the ICRC assisted people displaced because of violence, including fighting between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha. It provided one-off help consisting of blankets, food, cooking utensils and first-aid kits to people fleeing violence-stricken areas.

The delegation distributed about 33 tonnes of assistance, including food

packages, 4,772 blankets, 674 kitchen sets and other goods, to families and displaced people affected by the violence in Transvaal. Other groups, including Natal families and displaced people, families of victims of the violence in Transkei and Mozambican refugees, received over 40 tonnes of assistance in similar programmes.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

The ICRC worked with the National Society in implementing the family assistance programmes and in providing assistance to displaced people in Natal, in Southern Transvaal and in Transkei. The ICRC and the Southern Transvaal regional branch of the National Society set up a joint programme for first-aid training in black townships in November; by the end of the year, over 400 people had taken part in the course. In addition, the ICRC encouraged the National Society to develop similar activities. It also provided financial backing for the Transkei Red Cross, which was largely dependent on outside financing.

## **ANGOLA**

The fighting in Angola's 15-year-old internal conflict worsened in 1990, making it a particularly bleak year for the civilian population. Among the most affected people were those on the Planalto, or central highland, and in the south-east, where droughts and irregular rainfall disturbed food production for the third consecutive year.

In June, the ICRC submitted to the parties to the conflict a memorandum in which it proposed various means of extending its work throughout Angola.

In mid-year, the two sides agreed to permit the ICRC to transport goods and per-

sonnel for humanitarian reasons between areas controlled by UNITA<sup>1</sup> and those held by the government, and from other countries into Angola. This also represented a logistic milestone, as it was the first time in many years that roads could be used to reach the Planalto. The institution sent a number of convoys and small plane-loads of relief and medical goods from Namibia to Cunene and Cuando Cubango, from the coast to Huambo (on the Planalto) and from the Planalto to Likwa, south-east Angola, in October and November.

In December, ICRC field operations throughout the country were temporarily stopped at the request of the parties to the conflict. At the end of the year, the ICRC was engaged in talks with them with a view to resuming activities.

#### **Activities for prisoners and detainees**

The Luanda delegation continued to hold talks with the authorities aimed at gaining access to various categories of prisoners as defined in the ICRC's June 1989 offer of services, i.e., people held for security reasons or for reasons connected with the conflict. In 1990 access to these prisoners was still not granted.

#### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Luanda resolved tracing requests involving 704 people and assisted 392 people in family reunifications in 1990. These family reunifications concerned only people who had to be transferred from one government-held area to another; none were between UNITA and government zones. It also distributed 1,183 Red Cross messages, nearly all between people in Angola and Angolans living in Namibia.

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<sup>1</sup> National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

#### **Medical activities**

Throughout 1990, ICRC medical programmes provided assistance to people both on the central highlands and in the south-east. ICRC medical staff on the Planalto and in Cunene province gave or supervised consultations in local clinics in 1990, and the delegation evacuated more than 2,500 wounded or sick people from isolated villages for treatment in district hospitals. Delegates also organized the vaccination of women and children against six childhood diseases as part of the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

On the Planalto, the ICRC maintained two orthopaedic centres, in Bomba-Alta and Kuito, producing 1,575 prostheses, fitting 859 patients with prostheses and making nearly 1,700 pairs of crutches. In addition, these centres carried out over 1,800 major repairs to prostheses during the year. ICRC orthopaedic staff also travelled to other areas of the country to help care for those who had lost the use of limbs due to the conflict. An ICRC sanitation engineer worked on the Planalto year-round, sinking new wells and ensuring the cleanliness of water sources in villages where the ICRC operates. Sanitation work done by the delegation helped thousands of people to have a more reliable source of water in 1990.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

To fight the severe malnutrition noted in many parts of the Planalto, the ICRC concentrated its relief efforts in the first part of the year (until the April harvest) on emergency food distributions in this region. The situation had been made worse by over-use of the limited land available for cultivation: much of the area was off limits to farmers owing to land mines and lack of security.

With the arrival of the main April harvest, the delegation slowed the pace of general food distributions while continuing other activities, such as agricultural programmes (including in the south-east), medical assistance and tracing activities.

Many of the 25 or 30 communities in the area covered by the ICRC on the Planalto were hit by famine in early 1990, with as much as 30 per cent of the population suffering serious malnutrition in some places. The delegation therefore brought over 3,300 tonnes of food to the Planalto in early 1990, reaching nearly 130,000 people per month. The ICRC also opened five feeding centres in one of the hardest-hit towns, Ganda, reaching up to 1,900 people per day and helping hundreds of seriously malnourished children to avoid starvation.

The amount of food distributed was reduced from a monthly average of over 1,000 tonnes in the period from January to April to about 90 tonnes per month in mid-year, after the main harvest in April.

It later climbed to 681 tonnes in November, before the ICRC was forced to cancel food distributions in December when operations were stopped.

Between May and August 72,000 families on the Planalto received seed enabling them to plant *nacas* fields; these were fields irrigated by streams and rivers, which could be used for food production even during the dry season. Later in the year (September-November), the delegation distributed seed to about 200,000 people on the Planalto for fields dependent on rainfall, or *lavras* fields. The harvest from this crop represented the main source of food on the Planalto.

Just before the middle of the year, the delegation distributed blankets and other non-food items to 117,000 people on the

Planalto in preparation for the cold season.

Toward the end of the year, as the cycle of food shortages started once again on the Planalto, the ICRC resumed general food distributions there. It also initiated a programme in Cuando Cubango. From September to November, over 1,195 tonnes of food were distributed to 120,000 people. At the beginning of December, the ICRC was forced to stop general food distributions on the Planalto at the very peak of the lean season because it did not have the necessary authorizations from the parties to the conflict.

#### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The Angolan Ministry of Defence and the ICRC organized a seminar for about 40 army officers on the law of war in early April.

Dissemination programmes for the general public made use of publications and radio spots.

The ICRC, together with the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, assisted in running the Macolocolo mother and infant primary health care centre in Huambo, which opened in January. In addition, an ICRC tracing delegate worked closely with the National Society, especially in the provinces, to improve the Angola Red Cross tracing services, with mixed results. The ICRC also provided assistance for the ARC's blood donation programme and furnished relief supplies to the National Society.

#### **Logistics**

The opening of cross-line and cross-border operations in October enabled the ICRC to use road transport for the first time in seven years between Lobito and the Planalto, and to transport goods and

personnel from Namibia into the south and the south-east. Before that, virtually the only way to carry goods to the Planalto and between *municípios* there was by air.

Even while using road transport late in the year, it was still imperative for the ICRC to keep a minimum number of aircraft for use on the Planalto and to maintain communication with the south-east. The parties to the conflict authorized the ICRC to use roads only in certain places and their authorization was granted only temporarily, subject to extremely detailed prior notification; therefore, to keep up its ability to reach conflict victims in the most isolated areas, the ICRC continued to use aircraft.

### *South-east Angola*

In January, ICRC delegates saw, for tracing purposes, 235 prisoners held by UNITA and in October carried out a complete visit to 206 prisoners. Early in the year, the ICRC was able for the first time to exchange Red Cross messages between people in UNITA zones and government-held areas. Also for the first time, Red Cross messages were exchanged between government soldiers held by UNITA and members of their families.

In Cuando Cubango province, the ICRC delegation included a medical team stationed at Luangundu hospital. A general practitioner, a midwife and a nurse were there year-round, and an ICRC surgeon was sent to reinforce the team when the caseload was particularly high. The ICRC also provided medication and technical support at other hospitals and clinics in the area.

In April, May and June the ICRC supplied seed for 26,000 people who fled battles in the Mavinga area, and clothing and blankets for about 4,000 displaced peo-

ple from the same region. Seed, tools and non-food items were also supplied to people near the Zambian and Namibian borders.

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

The ICRC continued activities in a variety of fields in Mozambique in 1990. The delegation extended the scope of its visits to prisons, helped set up a specialized course for local orthopaedists, and opened a sub-delegation in Xai-Xai and an office in Chimoio. In addition to the local work of the Maputo delegation and the ICRC's four sub-delegations, delegates assessed the situation in government-controlled areas of Tete, Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Inhambane provinces, where the ICRC had no permanent presence. However, many of the ICRC's relief and medical activities in the field, and especially those in areas under the control of the opposition and in contested regions, were suspended or reduced for months at a time because of security constraints or owing to lack of authorization from RENAMO<sup>1</sup>. Despite these constraints, the ICRC continued year-round to provide relief and medical assistance to conflict victims in the field.

Beginning in mid-November 1989, the ICRC was forced to stop using surface transport because of security considerations. In January 1990, after RENAMO reaffirmed that it would respect ICRC personnel, vehicles and aircraft, the delegation resumed the use of roads and waterways and opened the sub-delegation in Xai-Xai, thus extending the ICRC's operational capacity in Gaza province.

Delegates surveyed the situation in RENAMO-held areas in Nampula and Zambezia provinces and reported large-

<sup>1</sup> Mozambican National Resistance Movement.

scale needs for non-food assistance, including medical supplies.

During a survey in RENAMO-held areas of Zambezia province in early June, two delegates were unable to return to their base for three weeks due to security considerations. They continued their evaluations in RENAMO-held territories until 19 June, when they were able to return to Quelimane.

In July, the opposition asked the ICRC to curtail relief operations in the field while entering into discussions with it on ICRC activity in the country. The delegation thus stopped all surveys, relief and medical assistance activities in RENAMO-held areas and in areas subject to attack, while it held talks with RENAMO representatives overseas. ICRC relief assistance continued throughout the country via the National Society and various institutions.

In September, the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Albert Chissano, visited the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva and held talks with the ICRC President and several members of the Committee.

The government and RENAMO later began negotiations which led in early December to an agreement regarding humanitarian questions and specifically the role of the ICRC. It reaffirmed the parties' authorization for the ICRC to provide humanitarian assistance to all Mozambicans anywhere in the country, and it guaranteed respect for the ICRC's personnel, facilities and emblem.

### **Visits to detained people**

In 1990, as in 1988 and 1989, the ICRC was granted access to facilities run by the SNASP<sup>1</sup>. Beginning in February, the

<sup>1</sup> People's National Security Service, part of the Ministry of Security.

ICRC also visited sentenced prisoners transferred from SNASP prisons to civilian prisons (those run by the Ministry of Justice). Such prisoners began to be transferred after the courts resumed consideration of their cases.

During visits to SNASP prisons in 1988, 1989 and most of 1990, delegates did not visit prisoners whose cases were in the "preliminary investigation" stage, but were given their names, in accordance with an agreement between the government and the delegation. The ICRC continued negotiating to gain access to these prisoners. Finally, in October, delegates were granted access to them. This represented a major breakthrough in protection activities; for the first time, delegates were able to take steps to improve the conditions of detention of these inmates and to help them re-establish contact with their families.

ICRC delegates visited 755 people in 15 places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Security or the Ministry of Justice. They registered 382 prisoners after having visited them for the first time.

### **Visits to people held by the army**

The delegation continued to request access to people arrested in connection with the conflict and held by the armed forces, but without success.

### **Assistance for prisoners and detainees**

ICRC tracing and medical staff regularly worked in prisons visited by the delegation. Sanitation staff ensured the provision of clean water and appropriate drainage in detention facilities, and the ICRC carried out relief distributions when necessary. Upon release, prisoners received parcels with food and non-food relief goods.



### **Tracing Agency**

Many of the Red Cross messages handled by the Maputo tracing office were either to or from prisoners visited by ICRC delegates as part of protection activities in prisons. The National Society carried out most of the field work in close cooperation with ICRC staff. In 1990, 174 tracing requests were resolved, and ICRC and National Society staff distributed 2,723 Red Cross messages.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC evacuated the sick and wounded from isolated areas to provincial medical centres, supported local medical facilities with basic medicine, food and other supplies, and carried out sanitation work in villages and prisons, building latrines and ensuring supplies of safe drinking water. Medical staff participated in all prison visits and monitored the medical and nutritional status of inmates.

ICRC planes flew Ministry of Health employees and over 35 tonnes of medical supplies to isolated areas. The ICRC evacuated 243 people to health facilities from isolated areas in 1990.

### **Orthopaedic programme**

The ICRC maintained four orthopaedic workshops in Maputo, Beira, Quelimane and Nampula, built accommodation facilities for patients at two of these centres, initiated a specialized training course for local orthopaedists and constructed a training workshop for this programme in Beira.

Production of prostheses remained stable at the ICRC's four orthopaedic workshops, while the number of repairs to prostheses grew by 25 per cent as compared with 1989. In August, the Maputo workshop began using polypropylene to produce artificial legs, since that material

had proven more resilient and safer than plastics used in the past for the moulding of prostheses. This technique was later adopted by the other three workshops as well.

The ICRC's four orthopaedic workshops produced 784 prostheses and fitted 362 patients with prostheses. They also put out 1,966 pairs of crutches and 34 wheelchairs, and carried out 390 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Orthopaedic staff from the ICRC workshops travelled to other areas of the country to assist disabled people in remote or isolated districts.

### **Training programme**

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Beira Institute of Science and Health, established a three-and-a-half-year intermediate training course for approximately 40 Mozambican students. Five Angolan students joined the programme as well. The course, which began in April, aimed at increasing Mozambique's self-sufficiency by preparing local supervisory staff to manage orthopaedic centres after the departure of expatriate personnel.

### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The ICRC concentrated its assistance programme on the most vulnerable groups, institutions and displaced people. This assistance was generally carried out by the delegation in cooperation with the National Society. The delegation gradually reduced relief distributions from a monthly average of 230 tonnes at the beginning of 1990 to an average of about 65 tonnes at the end of the year, as other agencies were then able to cover much of the need for general food distributions in areas where the ICRC was working.

### *General food distributions*

After nutritional surveys indicated a large-scale need for food assistance in Nipiode and Mucuaba, near Ile (Zambezia province) in January, the ICRC began general food distributions for about 15,000 people. These distributions continued through May. Another 4,000 people received ICRC food assistance in Nampevo in June.

### *Institutions and displaced people*

Through the Mozambican Red Cross Society, the ICRC regularly supported health institutions, orphanages, social welfare cases and returnee transit centres throughout the country. The ICRC and the National Society distributed food and non-food assistance to people forced to flee their villages owing to attacks.

All told, the ICRC and the Mozambican Red Cross distributed 1,780 tonnes of relief supplies in Mozambique, the bulk of which (over 1,500 tonnes) consisted of maize, beans and oil. About 140 tonnes of the overall figure was made up of soap, blankets and clothing.

### **Dissemination**

Throughout the year, the ICRC held talks on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles for thousands of members of the army and police, as well as civilians, party officials, and Red Cross staff. The delegation also used other means of reaching the general public, including radio broadcasts in Portuguese and a number of local languages. Much of the delegation's dissemination work was done in close cooperation with the Mozambican Red Cross Society.

In addition, the delegation organized a number of special seminars for high-ranking military officers and government officials, including sessions on the law of

war, international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles. These included representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Security, Justice and the Interior as well as instructors from the Mozambican People's Police.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

The National Society was involved in nearly all ICRC activities in 1990, as activities in opposition-held areas, which are carried out exclusively by ICRC staff, were extremely limited by the constraints mentioned above. The ICRC provided training in tracing activities and first aid for National Society employees.

## **NAMIBIA**

The main area of ICRC activity in Namibia remained the northern border region, where the institution assisted people affected by the conflict in neighbouring Angola. Late in the year, the delegation also set up the logistic base necessary to carry out cross-border operations into south-eastern and southern Angola.

In March, the ICRC President went to Namibia to participate in ceremonies marking the country's accession to independence. While there, he met a number of leaders, including the presidents or heads of state of Angola, Congo, Egypt, Mozambique, South Africa, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners and detainees**

From January to April, the ICRC visited prisoners in three places of detention a total of four times. Eight prisoners, some of whom were security prisoners and others who claimed to be UNITA soldiers, were seen.

In addition, the ICRC made representations to the authorities to ensure the protection of people arrested as illegal immigrants in the Caprivi Strip.

The ICRC distributed about 62,600 Swiss francs worth of relief goods to people in detention and to families of ex-prisoners. Prisoners' families received 1,244 food vouchers.

The ICRC Tracing Office in Namibia resolved cases involving 640 people and exchanged 1,771 Red Cross messages, mainly for refugees from Angola.

### **Angolan refugees**

Angolan refugees in the north, children in a state hospital in Oshakati, patients at Rundu State Hospital and various other needy groups received about three ton-

nes of assistance, including food and blankets, from the delegation.

### **Dissemination**

Dissemination activities intensified toward the end of the year, when the delegation began holding sessions for military personnel in Oshakati and at the Namibia Defence Forces Military School and the Osona Military Base in Windhoek.

### **Cooperation with the Namibian Red Cross**

The ICRC and the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies worked together to develop the Namibian Red Cross as it took steps to become a recognized National Society and member of the League.

## ***Central and West Africa***

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### **LIBERIA**

The conflict that broke out in Nimba county, in the north, late in December 1989 slowly spread to the capital during the first half of 1990, leading a growing number of refugees to flee the country. In January, the ICRC set up a delegation in Monrovia to provide assistance within Liberia. The institution also quickly established tracing offices for Liberian refugees in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and later set up another tracing office in Sierra Leone. The ICRC's regional delegations also provided assistance to the National Societies of the neighbouring countries as they dealt with the influx of refugees.

In the middle of the year, Monrovia, besieged by rebel forces, was the scene of acute human suffering, as the forces

of two rebel groups — the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) led by Charles Taylor and the Independent National Patriotic Front of Liberia (INPFL) headed by Prince Johnson — became bogged down in their attempts to take the capital from the Armed Forces of Liberia, led by President Doe.

The ICRC set up protection centres for vulnerable groups in the capital, one of which was brutally attacked in late July (see details below). The security situation in the capital deteriorated to the point where it was no longer possible for the ICRC delegation to work. On 30 July, the ICRC issued an appeal to all the parties to the conflict to respect the physical and mental integrity of the population and expressed its concern at the serious exactions committed against civilians in Monrovia. The ICRC pulled out of Monrovia in early August.

After the closing of the Monrovia delegation, the ICRC continued work begun in early April in areas of Liberia held by the NPFL. At the end of October, having been assured that conditions in the capital permitted resumption of activities, the ICRC reopened the Monrovia delegation.

**Protection of the civilian population:  
ICRC efforts run up against a terrible  
human tragedy**

The fighting had already taken on an ethnic dimension since the beginning of the year, pitting Mano and Gio people against the late President's tribe, the Krahn. With the deadlocked military situation and the worsening tension around the capital in the middle of the year, many people were subjected to attacks for ethnic reasons in Monrovia in May, June and July. They and others congregated in about 20 accommodation centres in various parts of Monrovia, including churches, schools and embassies.

Prompted by the population's need for protection, in June the ICRC and the Liberian Red Cross Society extended the protection of the Red Cross emblem to five centres for vulnerable groups in the capital. For three weeks, these centres provided shelter, medical attention and food for up to 6,000 people in serious danger because of their ethnic origin.

On 30 July, in the early morning, a group of armed men broke into the Lutheran Church, one of the centres under the protection of the Red Cross, and went on a killing spree which left hundreds dead. The ICRC was forced soon thereafter to leave Monrovia. Given the absolute lack of respect in the city for international humanitarian law and for the Red Cross emblem, the institution's work had become impossible. Despite its appeal of 30 July, the ICRC remained absent from Monrovia for three months.

**Visits to people in detention**

Delegates continually requested access to people held in connection with the conflict in talks with all those participating in the fighting. In December, the ICRC gained access to 18 NPFL prisoners held by the Military Observer Group of the ECOWAS<sup>1</sup> (ECOMOG)<sup>2</sup> in Monrovia. Civilians interned by the NPFL during the war represented another major concern for the ICRC, and the institution was able to obtain the NPFL's permission to visit interned Liberians and foreign nationals at the end of December.

People in detention received about four tonnes of assistance from the ICRC in 1990, including three tonnes of food.

**Tracing Agency**

Early in the year, the ICRC quickly established tracing offices and agencies in Monrovia and in various places where large numbers of Liberian refugees had fled (Nzerekore in Guinea, Man in Côte d'Ivoire, and later Freetown in Sierra Leone).

With the three-month closing of the Monrovia delegation, tracing activities were made practically impossible, as the ICRC was not present in the capital. The ICRC tracing service thus adapted to the lack of a delegation in Monrovia by sending copies of all tracing requests to all tracing offices involved in assisting Liberians in the region. At the end of the year, the ICRC tracing service was once again operational on both sides of the front, and the number of Red Cross messages distributed grew accordingly, as did the number of tracing requests resolved.

<sup>1</sup> Economic Community of West African States.

<sup>2</sup> Economic Community Monitoring Group.

In 1990, ICRC tracing agencies in Monrovia, Man and Freetown resolved 209 tracing requests and processed 5,027 Red Cross messages.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC distributed medical supplies throughout 1990 to hospitals and first-aid posts in both Monrovia and in NPFL-held areas. The ICRC also handed over medical material to the ECOMOG medical service once it began working in Monrovia in September, and to the Liberian Red Cross clinic in Kakata.

Monrovia had serious sanitation problems, especially regarding the water supply for its estimated 300,000 inhabitants, near the end of the year. In November and December, the ICRC maintained a sanitation team to clean up the city, bury the dead and try to improve the supply of clean water in the Monrovia area.

The total value of medical material provided by the ICRC in Liberia in 1990 was 152,288 Swiss francs.

### **Relief**

Early in the year, the ICRC provided food and other relief goods to people displaced by the conflict in the north. As the front progressed south, assistance was given on both sides of the front line. After the temporary closing of the Monrovia delegation, the ICRC continued to provide relief goods to displaced people in rural Liberia. With the delegation's reopening at the end of October, the ICRC resumed relief distributions for vulnerable groups in the capital.

## **RWANDA**

In October, when the conflict broke out in northern Rwanda, an ICRC team

reached that country within a day of the first reports of incidents, and provided about ten tonnes of supplies (mainly food) to hospitals and displaced people through the Rwandan Red Cross. Delegates began a series of visits to people arrested in connection with the events on 13 October. By the end of the year, they had visited 5,341 prisoners in 27 places of detention (18 Ministry of Justice facilities, eight gendarmerie installations and one military camp). During these visits, delegates provided about three tonnes of food, cleaning equipment, jerrycans, clothing and educational material to the prisoners. The ICRC also processed 3,550 Red Cross messages in Rwanda in 1990.

Earlier in the year, the Kinshasa delegation had carried out a series of visits to Rwandan prisons (*see below, under Kinshasa regional delegation*).

## **CHAD**

In Chad, the ICRC delegation continued efforts to gain access to Libyan prisoners of war held by the Hissène Habré government, and also carried out orthopaedic and dissemination work.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners of war**

Throughout 1990, the ICRC continued to request access to all Libyan prisoners of war held by the Chadian government, as it had done for the previous two years. In January, the ICRC issued a memorandum to the States party to the Geneva Conventions asking them to ensure that the provisions of the Third Geneva Convention be respected in the case of these prisoners.

In the end, with the exception of 53 Libyan prisoners of war visited in March 1990, the ICRC was not allowed to visit

about one thousand others captured by the Chadians in late 1986 and in 1987. The group of 53 prisoners was visited in preparation for their repatriation, which never took place under the Habré government. No other prisoners were seen until the change of government. This was a clear violation of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions.

After the fall of the Habré government in December, the Libyan prisoners, including the 53 seen in March, were released and later repatriated or transferred to other countries without having been interviewed by delegates.

In late December, ICRC delegates visited a group of 594 prisoners who had been transferred to Kamina, southern Zaire aboard aircraft chartered by the US government. Delegates also went to Libya and visited another group of former POWs who had been repatriated directly from Chad in the beginning of December.

The N'Djamena delegation also issued certificates of detention for people who were visited by ICRC delegates in the late 1970s and 1980s. In 1990, 138 such requests were received. The Tracing Agency also handled Red Cross messages from the 53 Libyan prisoners visited by delegates; one of the prisoners received a reply, which was sent through the postal system.

### **Medical activities**

ICRC prosthetists/orthotists continued to work at the Kabalaya orthopaedic centre in N'Djamena, participating in the training of local staff and in the production of prostheses, orthoses and crutches. The centre produced 214 prostheses and 118 orthoses, fitting 101 and 71 patients, respectively. It also made 146 pairs of crutches and carried out 165 major repairs to prostheses.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

In the first half of the year, the ICRC and the Red Cross of Chad held dozens of dissemination sessions reaching some 30,000 journalists, schoolchildren, students, civil servants and Red Cross staff throughout southern Chad. Beginning in July, the ICRC delegation progressively handed over all dissemination equipment, documentation and material to the National Society, which was due to assume full responsibility for this programme in January 1991.

In addition to the hand-over of dissemination material and equipment, the ICRC also helped the National Society to develop a shelter and integration centre for street children in N'Djamena.

## ***East Africa***

### **ETHIOPIA**

Once again in 1990, northern Ethiopia was the scene of heavy fighting and much human suffering. The armed conflict continued and tension increased during the year. In February, the port of Massawa changed hands after a major battle,

leaving Asmara, the capital of Eritrea, dependent on air transport for communications with the rest of the country. Further south, major clashes were reported within 150 kilometres of the capital. Heavy fighting took place near Dessie (Wollo province) and Bahr Dar (a town in northern Gojjam province, near Lake Tana).

In 1990, after an absence of one and a half years from the north, the ICRC started surgical activities in that region. Following the withdrawal of foreign medical personnel in late 1989 and early 1990, there was an acute shortage of surgeons, anaesthetists and specialized nurses throughout the country. In June and July, the ICRC began sending surgical teams, equipment, medication and other supplies for three general hospitals (in Bahr Dar, Dessie and Asmara) near the front.

The number of families displaced by the conflict was estimated at over 150,000, and thousands of families had been separated by the fighting. Hundreds of prisoners were held in connection with the conflict both by rebel groups and the government. The fighting brought a growing number of casualties. There were regular reports of violations of international humanitarian law by the combatants, including ill-treatment of civilians and the bombing of villages and towns. In addition, Ethiopia still hosted some 760,000 refugees from the Sudan and northern Somalia at year's end.

#### **Activities for prisoners and refugees**

Several representations were made, without results, to the parties to the conflict in Ethiopia, with a view to allowing the ICRC to visit the thousands of members of the Ethiopian armed forces captured by the EPLF<sup>1</sup> and the TPLF/EPRDF<sup>2</sup> and to visit political detainees held by the Ethiopian government.

Beginning in July 1990, the ICRC participated in the repatriation from Boroma, north-western Somalia, to Babile, Ethiopia of Ethiopian people who had sought

refuge in Somalia during the Ogaden crisis of the 1970s. The ICRC provided logistic and technical means for their transport, in cooperation with UNHCR<sup>3</sup> and other agencies. While the area around Babile had not suffered from fighting in recent years, Ethiopian refugees in Somalia were caught up in the conflict in the Somali north-west. The National Societies of the two countries also took part in this operation. By the end of September, some 3,300 refugees had returned to Ethiopia. After a three-month pause in repatriation activities owing to the hazardous situation, the ICRC organized one more convoy at the end of December for more than 500 refugees.

Working closely with the National Society, the ICRC Tracing Agency in Addis Ababa resolved 813 tracing requests in 1990, almost all for Somali refugees in camps in Ethiopia. No work was carried out for victims of the internal conflict because the ICRC was not permitted to work on both sides of the front.

#### **Medical activities**

##### *Surgical assistance*

Three Ministry of Health general hospitals were forced to enlarge their surgical facilities because of a heavy influx of wounded soldiers in early 1990. Besides caring for the war wounded, these hospitals provided surgical services for the general population of nearly 1 million civilians living near Asmara, Bahr Dar and Dessie. Following a survey in June, the ICRC deployed three full surgical teams at the hospitals in these towns and set up sub-delegations in the three cities. The surgical teams performed over 2,500 operations through the end of the year. In addition, the sub-delegation in Asmara

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<sup>1</sup> Eritrean People's Liberation Front.

<sup>2</sup> Tigrean People's Liberation Front/Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front.

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<sup>3</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

assisted the National Society towards the end of the year in ensuring that vulnerable groups (about 10,000 families) received adequate supplies of clean water.

### *Orthopaedic programme*

The delegation continued technical orthopaedic work at the Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre and stepped up its cooperation with the Prosthetic-Orthotic Centre in Addis Ababa. The ICRC prosthetists/orthotists also supported the orthopaedic centres in Asmara and Harar. In the latter, a large group of Somali refugee patients received treatment. All told, the centres at Debre Zeit and Addis Ababa produced 750 prostheses and fitted 566 patients with prostheses, made 202 orthoses and fitted 146 patients with orthoses, and produced over 12,000 pairs of crutches. They also put out 123 wheelchairs and carried out 83 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Orthopaedic activities at the Debre Zeit rehabilitation centre were based on an agreement of June 1989 between the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (ERCS), which called for the ICRC to provide technical and material support to the centre.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The ICRC held dissemination sessions for the Presidential Guard Special Forces Brigade in October. Throughout the year, the ICRC and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society held joint dissemination sessions in Wollo, Shoa, Gojjam, Sidamo and Hararghe, reaching tens of thousands of soldiers, militiamen, government and party officials and members of the general public.

Under the terms of an agreement signed on 19 June between the ERCS, the

Ministry of Health and the ICRC, National Society staff played a key role in the ICRC surgical programme launched in June in the north, providing essential services such as blood bank management and ambulance support, and assisting in contacts with the authorities.

## **UGANDA**

The ICRC extended the scope of its protection activities, set up an emergency first-aid medical post with surgical facilities for one month to care for people wounded in the Sudan conflict, and implemented a major relief programme for 85,000 displaced people in camps near Kumi. The delegation also assisted victims of the Rwandan conflict by participating in the repatriation of 214 Ugandans, including 52 children, from Kigali and by temporarily supporting refugees in the border region.

Activities in various parts of Uganda, especially those near Gulu and Soroti, where the civilian population was still affected by internal conflict, were blocked or disrupted for several months in 1990 owing to security reasons or problems in obtaining authorizations. In the beginning of the year, the delegation was forced to suspend field activities at the Soroti sub-delegation because of extremely stringent restrictions imposed on it, reportedly for security reasons. These restrictions were lifted in mid-June, and the ICRC resumed activities in the region. From April to October, the ICRC sub-delegation in Gulu was forced to curtail field work and concentrate on activities such as visits to prisoners and assistance for people within the town itself because of serious security incidents in the north and north-east.

The ICRC President visited Uganda from 24 to 27 March and held talks with high-



ranking officials in the government and in the National Society. During his visit, the ICRC President emphasized the specific mandate of the ICRC as a humanitarian organization which, although not engaged in development work, strived to help populations affected by war regain their self-sufficiency. He also called on all African leaders to avoid relegating humanitarian assistance programmes to the back burner while seeking the prior solution of international or internal problems, and declared that the ICRC was concerned about the growing number of cases of misuse of the emblem throughout the world.

The ICRC President also met the President of Uganda and addressed the question of Uganda's ratification of the Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions.

### Visits to prisoners

ICRC delegates visited people arrested and detained in relation with the armed conflict or for reasons of state security in Ugandan civilian prisons throughout the year. In January the ICRC was granted access to all persons detained in connection with the ongoing internal conflict or for security reasons. This included detainees held in military barracks. The visits were stopped by the authorities in February. After lengthy negotiations, visits to detainees held in military barracks resumed in October, but only for civilians and sentenced soldiers. Negotiations aimed at gaining access to soldiers not yet sentenced continued through the end of the year. In addition, throughout 1990 delegates regularly visited a number of police stations and prisons in search of prisoners who came within the ICRC's mandate.

Delegates carried out a total of 75 visits to 13 government prisons, four military

facilities and nine police stations, seeing 1,433 prisoners, including 1,237 for the first time. There were mass releases of prisoners in January and April.

The prisoners released in January and in late April received one-off food and non-food assistance from the ICRC, mainly consisting of blankets, hoes, clothing and soap.

Delegates registered the released detainees during the above-mentioned mass releases. The delegates then took measures to verify their safe return home.

In addition, when delegates noted vital needs for food or other supplies in facilities visited by the delegation, the ICRC distributed relief goods and medical supplies. The delegation did not assume the regular responsibility of caring for people deprived of their liberty; such tasks remained the responsibility of the authorities. Distributions were thus carried out on an *ad hoc* basis, and were limited in duration. The ICRC distributed a total of more than nine tonnes of such assistance in 1990.

### Tracing Agency

ICRC tracing staff were active in the north and in West Nile Province, where there were large numbers of Sudanese refugees.

In 1990, the ICRC Tracing Agency in Kampala resolved tracing requests involving 204 people and handled 17,238 Red Cross messages.

In December the ICRC organized a convoy to repatriate by road a group of 214 Ugandans who were unable to leave Rwanda for security reasons from Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, after the authorities of both countries asked for the institution's help.

### Medical activities

When large numbers of people wounded in the conflict in southern Sudan began arriving in West Nile Province in January, the ICRC sent a medical team to survey the situation and later opened the Moyo first-aid medical post. A surgical team was sent from the ICRC hospital in Lokichokio (Kenya) to Moyo for one month in February.

During their one-month stay, the ICRC medical staff in Moyo carried out 44 operations and admitted 99 patients, 19 of whom were eventually transferred to Lokichokio for further treatment.

Other ICRC medical activities included 150,000 Swiss francs worth of support for local health facilities, evacuation of about 150 sick and wounded people from conflict areas to district hospitals, vaccination campaigns for about 17,000 people and nutritional evaluations. ICRC medical staff also took part in all visits to prisoners.

### Orthopaedic activities

In the beginning of the year, the ICRC added a prosthetist/orthotist to the staff at the orthopaedic centre run jointly by the British Red Cross, the Ugandan Red Cross and the Ministry of Health. At the end of the year, the ICRC's involvement in this project came to an end. The British Red Cross continued assisting in the centre.

Production of prostheses at the centre reached 180, and 175 patients were fitted with prostheses. Some 280 orthoses were produced and 257 patients were fitted with orthoses. The centre put out 1,843 pairs of crutches and 338 wheelchairs, and carried out 55 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

### Assistance for the civilian population

The ICRC distributed a total of 5,934 tonnes of relief goods, including 5,291 tonnes of food, in 1990.

After a major offensive against rebel positions near Kumi in February, up to 85,000 displaced people in ten camps near the town required assistance. At first, the ICRC provided non-food relief goods such as blankets, cooking pots, plastic sheeting, soap, shovels and jerrycans for the camps' inhabitants, while other organizations supplied their food. ICRC nutritional staff closely monitored the nutritional status in the camps from February on. When, in June, nutritional surveys indicated a serious need for an improvement in the food distribution system, the ICRC registered the camps' inhabitants and assumed responsibility for general food distributions for a period of three months from July to October, supplying 5,102 tonnes of food, most of which had been handed over to the ICRC logistic base in Mbale by the World Food Programme. From July to November, delegates distributed rations to the 85,000 camp residents. Finally, toward the end of the year, when many of the camp residents were able to return to their homes, the ICRC continued providing food assistance for them. This was necessary because of the disruption to the food system caused by their absence.

About 14,000 families who returned to their villages from the camps in the middle of the year received some 53 tonnes of seed as well as agricultural tools to assist in their resettlement in August and September. Later in the year, an ICRC agronomist surveyed the food production capacity of other villages which had recently received returnees, and reported that these people would be dependent on food aid until at least the next harvest, in June 1991. The report on this survey

was the basis for an agricultural tool and seed distribution carried out in early 1991 to enhance local production.

A similar programme was implemented for about 41,000 families near Gulu.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

Seminars and presentations on the law of war and the Red Cross principles reached thousands of soldiers, policemen and prison personnel. Special seminars and talks were held for about 850 armed forces officers, prison wardens and senior officers of the Uganda Police Forces. Other dissemination activities were aimed at local officials, medical staff, members of the clergy, teachers, students and Red Cross members throughout the country.

The delegation provided training and technical assistance for local staff.

Beginning in late 1989, the ICRC financed a series of four first-aid courses for Ugandan Red Cross staff. The delegation also participated in the financing of two quarterly reviews, *Reach Out Magazine* and *Youth Bulletin*, both put out by the National Society and each with a circulation of over 1,000.

## **SOMALIA**

In 1990, the ICRC was the only humanitarian organization with a regular presence in northern Somalia, where the conflict between government forces and the SNM<sup>1</sup> continued unabated. The fighting compounded ethnic tensions, leading to an extremely complicated situation where the various Somali tribes in the area found themselves aligned with the combatant

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<sup>1</sup> Somali National Movement.

groups; the circumstances of the conflict were rendered still more complex by the presence of thousands of Ethiopian refugees in the area.

In early October, delegates began surveying the situation in areas held by the Somali National Movement. In December, the ICRC finally was able to reach SNM-held areas directly by plane.

One by one, assistance agencies and organizations pulled out their expatriates from the north in 1990, mainly for security reasons. While maintaining its presence at the Berbera sub-delegation, the ICRC was forced to cut back drastically its field operations in October after a number of security incidents. During one such incident, on 6 October, an ICRC delegate was killed. As a consequence, additional security measures were taken to protect ICRC staff and operations in early December.

### **Representations and activities for the protection of people in detention**

Throughout the year, the ICRC kept up contacts with the Custodial Corps aimed at gaining access to people detained for security reasons. In September, the ICRC submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of the Interior on ICRC protection activities.

### **Tracing Agency**

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Mogadishu resolved tracing cases involving 976 persons and assisted in family reunifications involving 61 people. It processed 1,412 Red Cross messages in 1990.

### **Medical activities**

The war led to a situation where medical facilities were practically non-existent. The ICRC and the Somali Red Crescent

refurbished a hospital in Berbera in mid-1989 to assist victims of the conflict, and the ICRC also took other action to support medical facilities in the north and evacuate the wounded to the Berbera facility.

The ICRC added a surgical team to the one based at the Berbera surgical hospital in February 1990, when the number of wounded reached a high level; by then the hospital's capacity had grown from 50 to over 80 beds. ICRC aircraft and vehicles evacuated patients to this facility throughout the year. The hospital staff included a physiotherapist as from the middle of the year. In addition, the ICRC provided medical supplies and assistance to district hospitals in six towns affected by the conflict in the north-west (Boroma, Burao, Las Anod, Hargeisa, Erigawo and Sheik), and the delegation carried out sanitation work (principally ensuring clean sources of water) in institutions in the major towns of the north.

The ICRC surgical hospital in Berbera admitted 1,115 patients, 617 of whom were evacuated by the sub-delegation, and performed a total of 2,611 operations.

In addition to about 730,000 Swiss francs' worth of medical material used at the Berbera hospital, the ICRC provided over 190,000 francs' worth of medical material to various health facilities in Berbera, Boroma, Burao, Hargeisa, Las Anod and Mogadishu.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The fragile economy of the north-west suffered greatly from the war, leaving many people dependent on outside assistance. Beginning in May, the Berbera sub-delegation was able to use roads in the area, and the ICRC began providing food and non-food assistance for over 15,000 displaced people in the Awdal

region, near Boroma. The sub-delegation continued to use convoys to reach Hargeisa, Boroma, the Awdal region and Burao throughout the middle of the year, distributing food and non-food assistance to needy people throughout the region.

#### **Displaced people**

After an ICRC survey in the Awdal region (north of Boroma) found urgent needs among some displaced people and nomads, the ICRC began general food distributions there in March, eventually reaching up to 15,000 people in the region.

A growing number of newly displaced people arrived in Berbera at the beginning of the year. The ICRC continued to provide food and non-food assistance such as blankets, clothing, soap and kitchen sets for displaced people, social welfare cases and institutions (such as orphanages, hospitals and centres for the handicapped).

In total, the ICRC distributed over 2,300 tonnes of relief goods in Somalia in 1990, most of which was food (wheat, rice, beans, lentils, cooking oil, sugar, etc.). The delegation also distributed about 35 tonnes of non-food assistance comprising blankets, soap and clothing.

#### **Activities for Ethiopian refugees**

Tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees had come to northern Somalia as a result of the 1977 war between the two countries. Efforts were undertaken throughout 1990 to facilitate the repatriation of this group, which was caught up in the war. By June, UNHCR had obtained the approval of the Ethiopian and Somali authorities for the repatriation of about 5,000 of the tens of thousands of Ethiopian refugees living in north-western Somalia. The ICRC, in its role as neutral intermediary and in cooperation with

UNHCR local staff, registered returnees and transported them to the Ethiopian government's accommodation centre for returning refugees in Babile, Ethiopia.

### **Repatriation**

In October, the ICRC repatriation programme for Ethiopian refugees in the north-west was temporarily halted for security reasons, but it resumed in late December, when an eighth convoy arrived in Babile. A total of 3,864 people were repatriated thanks to this programme.

### **Assistance**

At the beginning of 1990, after the United Nations halted its assistance programme for refugees, the ICRC directly assisted over 17,000 people in the Bihin refugee camp south of Berbera and provided food for therapeutic feeding centres in refugee camps in Boroma. The delegation also provided 475 tonnes of food to ELU/CARE<sup>1</sup> for redistribution in camps near Boroma.

In February, with the beginning of the six-month United Nations Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme (UN-EIEP) for Ethiopian refugees in northern Somalia, the ICRC curtailed its assistance for refugees. However, when the EIEP drew to an end in August, the ICRC was once again the only agency able to assist Ethiopian refugees, and the delegation resumed limited emergency assistance to the camps in September.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

The delegation held dissemination sessions in the north and in the area around the capital, reaching about 5,000 army

officers, policemen, political and traditional leaders, and members of the general public.

Special dissemination sessions were held for members of the Custodial Corps and army and navy officers.

The ICRC provided material support, including vehicles, radio sets, generators and garage equipment for the Somali Red Crescent in Mogadishu and Berbera.

### **Logistics**

In the first half of the year, the only means of transporting relief goods, personnel and wounded people to and from the towns in the north-west was by small plane. At the end of May, the ICRC began using truck convoys to haul relief goods to Boroma via Hargeisa, and in August, began reaching Sheik and Burao by road as well. The delegation still required small aircraft to ferry supplies from Mogadishu to the Berbera surgical hospital, to evacuate the wounded and to reach isolated areas.

## **SUDAN**

From the beginning of 1990, the institution's activities grew steadily in southern Sudan. Delegates used road transport to reach Bor, and later descended the Nile to Shambe and Adok, the port towns for Yirol and Leer.

In April, following a suspension of seven months, the ICRC resumed flights to three government-held towns (Malakal, Juba and Wau) and three places in areas held by the SPLA<sup>1</sup> (Kongor and Leer, with Bor serving as a logistic stop-over point). Relief activities, once resumed, in-

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<sup>1</sup> CARE Emergency Logistical Unit.

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<sup>1</sup> Sudan People's Liberation Army.

cluded support for vulnerable groups in southern towns, distributions of seed and non-food items and general food distributions in Leer and Malakal, as well as veterinary vaccination campaigns. At the same time, ICRC medical activities in the region picked up, and the ICRC kept up efforts to visit people held in connection with the conflict.

In October ICRC flights were again blocked by the Sudanese authorities pending an agreement between the government and the SPLA on how to use the Red Cross II, a barge donated by the Norwegian government for ICRC activities in southern Sudan.

### **Representations and activities for people in detention**

From May to October, ICRC delegates paid three visits in a government place of detention in Juba, to a total of 11 prisoners. In September and November, delegates visited 64 people who had reportedly surrendered to the authorities in Malakal, at the Malakal military headquarters. In October, delegates visited 35 government soldiers held captive in an SPLA camp.

The ICRC submitted an offer of services to the government in 1990, and also continued efforts aimed at ensuring access to all people held by the SPLA, including those visited in 1989 and the 35 seen in early 1990. At the end of the year, negotiations were continuing to allow the ICRC to visit all people detained as a result of the conflict in the Sudan.

### **Tracing Agency**

Much of the volume of tracing work in Sudan centred around the transmission of Red Cross messages between Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda and their families in Juba and other areas. The

ICRC tracing office received over 500 Red Cross messages and distributed over 650 for this group in 1990. The delegation also handled an increasing number of tracing requests and messages between Ethiopian refugees and Ethiopians living abroad. There was also significant growth in the number of Red Cross messages exchanged between SPLA-held areas and places held by the government, although the overall number of such messages remained relatively low.

The number of people traced by the ICRC in southern Sudan rose from 127 in 1989 to 797 in 1990. Similarly, the number of Red Cross messages distributed by the ICRC grew from 1,470 to 5,308. However, the great majority of these were sent between the capital and Juba.

Overall, the ICRC resolved tracing requests involving 1,233 people in Sudan in 1990 (including the 797 in the south). The Tracing Agency also processed 7,861 Red Cross messages.

After the port of Massawa, in Ethiopia, changed hands, a large number of Ethiopian refugees and unaccompanied minors began arriving in Port Sudan. The tracing office in Sudan received tracing requests concerning over 300 people for this group.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC maintained two surgical teams at the surgical hospital in Lokichokio, northern Kenya, for the treatment of victims of the southern Sudan conflict. The ICRC's Lokichokio surgical hospital admitted 777 people in 1990 and hospital staff performed 1,700 operations. In February, one of the teams was sent to Moyo, northern Uganda, where the ICRC had established a first-aid medical post on an emergency basis after Sudanese war-wounded began arriving in January.

The ICRC provided 30,000 Swiss francs' worth of medical supplies to health facilities in Yirol, Bor, Kongor, Kapoeta and Leer.

In the field, ICRC medical personnel vaccinated women and children against six diseases (measles, tuberculosis, polio, tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough) and gave medical consultations. ICRC vehicles and aircraft evacuated people from isolated towns to Lokichokio or Khartoum for medical treatment.

Prosthetists/orthotists also worked at orthopaedic workshops in Khartoum and at the ICRC's Kassala orthopaedic centre. Both Sudanese and Ethiopian conflict victims were treated at the Kassala centre. The two ICRC orthopaedic centres produced 631 prostheses and fitted 500 patients with prostheses, made 221 orthoses and fitted 193 people with orthoses, and put out 238 pairs of crutches. They carried out 479 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

As part of ICRC activities aimed at ensuring proper sanitary conditions, ICRC staff participated in sanitation activities and the provision of clean water in towns in the south and at medical facilities.

#### **Assistance for the civilian population**

In 1990, the amount of food assistance supplied in southern Sudan fell in comparison with 1989, thanks to a good harvest at the end of 1989 and to ICRC and other emergency rehabilitation programmes. The ICRC concentrated on the rapid, one-off coverage of emergency food needs in 1990. There were two major relief distributions, in Leer and Malakal, reaching over 141,000 people in August and September.

The ICRC distributed 1,295 tonnes of relief goods from Kenya and 6,350 tonnes of goods from Sudan in conflict

areas of Sudan in 1990. Juba, Malakal and Wau each received about 2,000 tonnes of relief goods, and people in Leer and Kongor received over 780 tonnes and 293 tonnes, respectively. The ICRC also assisted populations in Aweil, Bor and Yirol. In addition to these distributions, the ICRC handed over more than 544 tonnes (90% of which was food) to the National Society for its relief programmes for displaced people in Omdurman and the Red Sea Hills.

The ICRC supplied food and non-food assistance to vulnerable groups in Khartoum, Wau, Malakal and Juba, and also distributed non-food assistance, including blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito netting and agricultural tools to needy people in towns under the control of the SPLA in the south, including Leer, Kongor, Yirol and smaller areas south of Shambe along the Nile river.

Another important part of the ICRC's relief activity consisted in rehabilitation work, including the distribution of over 570 tonnes of seed and 76 tonnes of agricultural tools and veterinary programmes. The Danish Red Cross implemented the ICRC's veterinary programme for the south, vaccinating more than 300,000 head of cattle against rinderpest.

#### **Dissemination and cooperation with the National Society**

In July, the ICRC's delegate for dissemination to the armed forces in Africa and the Sudanese Head of Military Justice held a three-day course for 25 Sudanese army majors and colonels. Beginning in the middle of the year, the Khartoum delegation held a series of dissemination sessions for students and staff at the Law University of Khartoum and at other institutions of higher education.

The ICRC supported Red Crescent branches in Juba, Malakal and Wau, covering the needs of up to 1,000 social welfare cases in these towns in the conflict zone and assisting in a kindergarten and education programme, and helping extend awareness of health issues, including childhood diseases, AIDS and other problems.

The delegation also supported National Society programmes for displaced people in Omdurman and in Khartoum, providing water on a regular basis and also furnishing blankets and flour. In July the ICRC handed over about 40 tonnes of relief supplies to the National Society to help it mount an assistance programme for over 4,000 people displaced by disturbances in the Darfur region.

## REGIONAL DELEGATIONS

The ICRC regional delegations in Dakar, Lomé, Lagos, Kinshasa, Harare and Nairobi were instrumental in responding to a number of emergencies in 1990.

Three regional delegations in West Africa sent delegates to assist Liberians both in Liberia and in neighbouring countries in 1990. Delegates from the Kinshasa regional delegation were instrumental in setting up the ICRC delegation in Rwanda. Regional delegates were also sent to other countries (namely, Gabon, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Zambia and the Casamance region of Senegal) when civil unrest or other disturbances occurred there.

Over and above the work done in response to new emergencies, ICRC regional delegations continued protection, tracing, medical and relief activities.

All regional delegations continued dissemination activities and cooperation programmes aimed at developing Red

Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in the region. In addition, given the specific need for dissemination among the armed forces on the continent, the ICRC posted a delegate in charge of disseminating international humanitarian law to the armed forces of sub-Saharan Africa in Nairobi in January 1990. He participated in seminars held in Gabarone and Mbabane in late July for army personnel from 10 southern African countries and a seminar held in Lomé for high-ranking military personnel from 10 West African countries in early May.

### *DAKAR: (Cape Verde, Guinea (Conakry), Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Senegal)*

The Dakar delegation carried out tracing and protection work in connection with the events that struck Mauritania and Senegal in 1989.

ICRC delegates visited 89 Mauritanian security prisoners in four places of detention in Senegal in 1990. Of these, 60 were registered for the first time. Food, blankets and personal hygiene items were distributed to prisoners as well. In addition, the delegation regularly sent staff to these prisons to carry out tracing work.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Dakar distributed 723 Red Cross messages, nearly all relating to the tension between Mauritania and Senegal, and participated in family reunifications involving 29 people.

### *Casamance unrest*

The ICRC offered its services to visit people arrested in connection with the strife in the Casamance region of southern Senegal. Discussions on this matter continued at the end of the year.

After civil unrest broke out in the Casamance region the ICRC distributed



medical supplies at the Ziguinchor hospital, and the ICRC and the National Society distributed about five tonnes of relief supplies at the end of May.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with National Societies**

In April, the regional delegation held a seminar in Conakry for Guinean journalists on the promotion and dissemination of the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles.

The Dakar delegation organized a regional training seminar on tracing activities for representatives of 10 West African National Societies in November.

The delegation assisted the Senegalese Red Cross in a first-aid training course for Red Cross personnel in three departments beginning in the middle of the year. The ICRC supplied stretchers, first-aid kits and other supplies for Red Cross activities in the Casamance region. The Mali Red Cross also received first-aid kits at the end of the year.

### **LAGOS: (Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra Leone)**

The ICRC delegate in Lagos was instrumental in contacting ECOMOG representatives in Lagos for discussions on ICRC activities in Liberia.

**GAMBIA** — ICRC delegates visited 38 security prisoners in one Ministry of the Interior place of detention in February. Assistance was also provided for the families of those security prisoners. In addition, the delegation provided 16,600 Swiss francs' worth of relief goods and 3,800 francs' worth of medical supplies to prisons in Gambia through the Gambian Red Cross. The ICRC Tracing Agency in Lagos processed 191 Red Cross messages in 1990.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with National Societies**

**CAMEROON** — The ICRC organized a workshop in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in June for Secretaries General and information officers of National Societies in the sub-region.

High-ranking members of the Cameroonian armed forces attended a special seminar organized by the ICRC and the Cameroon Red Cross Society in the beginning of the year. In August, the ICRC held a workshop for Ghanaian prison personnel in Accra on international humanitarian law, the Red Cross principles and the activities of the Red Cross.

### **LOMÉ: (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, Togo)**

In September, the ICRC offered its services to visit people held for reasons of state security in Burkina Faso and Niger.

**TOGO** — In November, ICRC delegates visited three places of detention in Togo run by the Ministry of the Interior and saw 19 sentenced security prisoners.

The Lomé delegation distributed 7,650 Swiss francs worth of relief supplies to detained people in Togo and also provided financial assistance to the families of detainees in Burkina Faso and a number of other countries in the region.

The ICRC Tracing Agency in Lomé handled 67 Red Cross messages in 1990.

### **Dissemination and cooperation with National Societies**

In December the ICRC, together with the Benin Red Cross and the Benin armed forces, held a train-the-trainers seminar for 30 army instructors, covering aspects of international humanitarian law. The ICRC also assisted in the creation of a

documentation centre on the subject in Cotonou.

Forty officers from the armed forces of the ANAD<sup>1</sup> countries (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo), the two ANAD observer States (Benin and Guinea) and Guinea-Bissau attended a seminar on international humanitarian law from 3 to 11 May.

The Lomé delegation held a seminar for 30 officers of the "Gendarmerie Nationale" in June.

**KINSHASA: (Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Zaire)**

At the end of March, the President of the ICRC visited Zaire and met the Zairian head of state and other high officials.

The ICRC President gave speeches at Kinshasa University and participated in an hour-long televised round table.

Throughout the year, delegates visited security prisoners in facilities under the jurisdiction of various Zairian ministries, agencies and authorities. In all, 35 visits were paid to seven places of detention, and 120 security prisoners were seen, including 82 who were visited for the first time. The Kinshasa delegation also sent delegates to these facilities to carry out tracing work for detained people.

**BURUNDI** — The ICRC sent delegates to visit six prisons run by the Ministry of Justice in April and May. A total of 93 security prisoners were seen.

**RWANDA** — The ICRC carried out a series of visits to Rwandan prisons at the end of June and beginning of July (i.e.,

before the events later in the year). Delegates based in Kinshasa visited 40 security prisoners during this series of visits.

The delegation distributed food and non-food relief supplies to prisoners and to the families of detained people.

**GABON** — When disturbances broke out in May and June, an ICRC delegate went to Port Gentil to carry out a survey and help distribute food to needy people.

**Dissemination**

The ICRC held a regional seminar on the implementation of international humanitarian law at the university in Kinshasa for legal specialists from five countries. A four-day information seminar for army staff, government employees, representatives of the press and National Society staff was held in June in Kinshasa, and a similar course was held in late October for officers of the Congolese People's Army in Brazzaville.

The directors of the penitentiary services of most of the French-speaking African countries attended a seminar given in Bujumbura, Burundi, in September.

Throughout the year, the ICRC gave presentations on international humanitarian law to members of the Zairian armed forces, the Garde Civile and local authorities, and the delegation carried out dissemination activities aimed at the general public, including the use of radio spots.

**Cooperation with National Societies**

In June, the delegation handed over to the Red Cross Society of Zaire about 3.5 tonnes of relief goods to assist in the relief effort for victims of the flood which struck Bandalungwa in late May. The ICRC also assisted with training for

<sup>1</sup> Accord de non-agression et de coopération en matière de défense.

Zairian Red Cross disseminators and helped refurbish a first-aid post in Limete, in the middle of the year.

***HARARE: (Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe)***

The Harare delegation played an important logistic role in support of major ICRC operations in Mozambique and Angola. The delegation also maintained technical assistance for the orthopaedic centre in Bulawayo and carried out food and non-food relief distributions in Zambia and Zimbabwe for people affected by the war in Mozambique.

**Visits and tracing activities**

**ZAMBIA and ZIMBABWE** — Together with National Society teams, delegates visited Mozambican refugees detained at police posts in Zambia and Zimbabwe and interceded on their behalf.

The Tracing Agency in Harare resolved tracing requests involving 174 people and handled 7,176 Red Cross messages, mainly for Mozambican refugees.

**Medical activities**

***Distributions of medical supplies***

Hospitals and medical facilities in about 30 communities in the eastern border regions of Zambia and Zimbabwe received ICRC medical assistance, including dressing material, first-aid kits, surgical gloves and disinfectant.

***Orthopaedic activities***

Under the terms of the 1984 agreement between the ICRC and the Zimbabwean Ministry of Health, the ICRC handed over responsibility for the management of the Bulawayo orthopaedic centre to the ministry in the middle of the year.

The ICRC completed three-week training courses for local orthopaedic technician apprentices from Swaziland and Lesotho in the beginning of the year, and left one expatriate orthopaedic technician at the Bulawayo centre until the end of the year to finish the second two-year training course for orthopaedic technicians and to ensure a smooth transition.

In 1990, the Bulawayo orthopaedic centre produced 301 prostheses and fitted 273 patients with prostheses. It made 243 orthoses and fitted 182 patients with orthoses, and put out 740 pairs of crutches. The centre carried out 121 major repairs to prostheses.

**Assistance for civilians**

People displaced by the spill-over effects of the Mozambican conflict received assistance from the ICRC and the National Societies of Zambia and Zimbabwe in the eastern border areas of the two countries. In addition, in western Zambia the ICRC assisted people affected by the Angolan conflict.

Distributions in Zambia and Zimbabwe for displaced people and refugees along the Mozambican and Angolan borders amounted to about 90 tonnes of food, three tonnes of seed and farming tools, and 13 tonnes of non-food assistance, including blankets, clothing, tents and kitchen utensils.

**Cooperation with National Societies**

The ICRC provided over three tonnes of tents, blankets, kitchen utensils, buckets and storm lanterns to local branches of the Zimbabwe Red Cross as part of a disaster preparedness programme, and partially financed the salaries of Provincial Programme Officers in eastern Zimbabwe. The delegation provided six tonnes of similar assistance to the Zam-

bian Red Cross disaster preparedness programme. In Malawi, the delegation furnished National Society personnel responsible for working with Mozambican refugees with first-aid kits and financed information tours led by local staff. The Botswana Red Cross received assistance for its programme for the handicapped, blood bank and ambulance service. The Harare delegation also supplied bicycles and other material for the Zambian and Zimbabwe Red Cross tracing programmes and assisted in the training of National Society tracing staff. A large proportion of the tracing activities of the two National Societies was centred on assistance for Mozambican refugees.

**NAIROBI:** (*Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Tanzania*)

**KENYA** — The President of the ICRC visited Kenya in March and held talks with the President of Kenya and other high government officials. The ICRC President took this opportunity to thank the Kenyan government and National Society for their support for ICRC operations in neighbouring countries, and most notably, in Sudan.

### Tracing Agency

The delegation issued 839 travel documents for 960 people (including many children), mainly refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia. In addition, the delegation handled 474 Red Cross messages and resolved tracing requests involving 140 people in 1990.

### Dissemination

In January, the ICRC based a regional delegate for dissemination to armed forces throughout Africa at the Nairobi regional delegation. By the end of 1990, some 800 officers from 35 of the 46 sub-Saharan

African countries had taken in-depth courses or participated in seminars on international humanitarian law, rules for combatants and respect for the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems. The delegate participated in special seminars throughout Africa.

In January and March, ICRC and National Society disseminators held talks on the Red Cross and Red Crescent principles for prison officers in Kenya and Tanzania.

In March, the ICRC gave a three-day workshop on the Red Cross for 25 Kenyan journalists.

### Cooperation with National Societies

Early in the year, the ICRC provided financial backing to enable the Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS) to open a branch in Turkana, northern Kenya, near the ICRC logistic centre and hospital in Lokichokio. The KRCS and the ICRC held joint dissemination sessions for the armed forces, the police, members of the prison service, and at universities. The delegation also financed the basic salary of dissemination and information officers of the National Societies in Kenya, Tanzania and Djibouti, provided material support and publications, and financed the purchase of first-aid kits.

In 1990, the ICRC continued a programme begun in August 1989 under which 128 first-aiders were trained for the as yet unrecognized Comoros Red Crescent.

The Nairobi delegation also provided video material and publications for the information section of the still to be recognized Seychelles Red Cross.

The Tanzanian Red Cross received assistance in the tracing field and the

ICRC helped the National Society to open a branch in Zanzibar. The delegation also helped cover the costs of producing the

Society's quarterly newsletter, and paid the salaries of an information officer and a dissemination officer.

## RELIEF SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED BY THE ICRC IN 1990

### AFRICA

Country (in French alphabetical order)	Medical assistance	Relief		Total Sw. fr.
	Value in Sw. fr.	Value in Sw. fr.	(Tonnes)	
South Africa .....		469,887	227.6	469,887
Angola .....	419,445	6,547,150	7,842.6	6,966,595
Angola (south-east) .....	387,732	560,482	465.7	948,214
Benin .....		6,500	6.5	6,500
Burundi .....		7,553	2.7	7,553
Djibouti .....	2,718			2,718
Ethiopia .....	1,590,945	1,769	3.1	1,592,714
Ethiopia (Eritrea, via Sudan) ....	127,620	311,073	235	438,693
Gambia .....	3,757	16,653	8	20,410
Liberia .....	153,518	399,986	158.4	553,504
Mali .....	10,820			10,820
Mozambique .....	601,605	1,911,699	1,782.6	2,513,304
Namibia .....		72,446	66.3	72,446
Uganda .....	92,894	4,170,220	5,934.6	4,263,114
Rwanda .....	35,750	28,401	12.9	64,151
Senegal .....	16,594	12,408	11.7	29,002
Somalia .....	910,812	2,105,243	2,326.6	3,016,055
Sudan .....	282,651	5,667,200	7,041	5,949,851
Sudan (conflict in southern Sudan, via Kenya) .....	479,259	1,728,787	1,298.2	2,208,046
Swaziland .....		26,178	2	26,178
Togo .....		7,639	1.3	7,639
Zaire .....		69,472	44.6	69,472
Zambia .....	9,962	114,891	59.3	124,853
Zimbabwe .....		112,299	54.8	112,299
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>5,126,082</b>	<b>24,347,936</b>	<b>27,585.5</b>	<b>29,474,018</b>